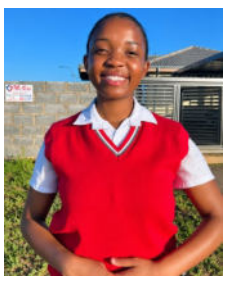
HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM LAUNCHED IN MIDDELBURG

Deputy President Mashatile says 'promises on paper are no longer enough'

Read More on Page 3





Beyond the diagnosis: Kriel learner selected for USA educational tour, appeals for financial support

NODICAH FUNDAMA

KRIEL – Diagnosed with kidney failure at just seven years old, Boitumelo Mnisi has spent much of her childhood balancing her health challenges with school and everyday life. But seven years later, the 14-year-old remains determined to pursue her dreams, with an opportunity to travel to the United States of America (USA) now within reach.

Mnisi, a Grade 8 learner at Hoërskool Kriel, has been selected to participate in the 12th Annual STADIO Academic Achievers Tour in 2027, which will give her an opportunity to visit some of the world's leading universities and experience different cultures.

For the teenager, the tour is more than just an overseas trip. It is an opportunity to learn, gain confidence and explore possibilities beyond her hometown.

Despite the challenges brought by her condition, Mnisi describes herself as brave, hardworking and determined not to let her health stand in the way of her ambitions.

"One of my biggest challenges is dealing with my health while also trying to focus on my education and daily life. My family, my dreams and my hope for a better future give me the strength to keep going," she said.

Her family has been a source of strength throughout her journey, while her teachers and school community have continued to encourage her to pursue her education.

Mnisi hopes to complete her studies, build a successful career and inspire other young people facing similar challenges.

Organised by Travel & Sport, the educational tour is scheduled for the September/October 2027 school holidays.

The itinerary includes visits to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Princeton universities in the USA.

Participating learners will also attend private lectures covering subjects such as artificial intelligence, international relations, anthropology, economics, e-commerce and global business challenges.

Mnisi said she looks forward to visiting new places, meeting people from different backgrounds and learning about American culture.

"I believe this trip will teach me many new things, help me become more confident and give me a better understanding of the world," she said.

However, while she has secured a place on the tour, raising the money needed to participate remains her biggest obstacle.

The programme costs R91 890, of which she has so far raised R350, leaving her with R91 540 still to raise.

Her family has approached individuals and businesses for assistance, but securing enough financial support has proved difficult.

They are now appealing to community members, businesses and organisations to help through financial contributions, sponsorships, donations in kind or referrals to potential sponsors.

For Mnisi, the opportunity represents another step towards proving that her health challenges do not have to define her future.

"I want people to know that even though I have kidney failure, I still have dreams and goals that I want to achieve," she said.

As she works towards raising the required funds, Mnisi hopes the people of Kriel and the wider community will rally behind her and help turn her dream of travelling to the USA into reality.

Help Boitumelo Mnisi realise her dream

Boitumelo Mnisi is seeking financial support to raise R91 890 for her 2027 USA educational tour.



For contributions and enquiries: 073 173 3693 / 063 616 9532

Every contribution, no matter how small, will help bring her closer to this educational opportunity.

eMalahleni residents urged to prioritise cancer screening

NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI – Healthcare professionals have urged residents to go for regular cancer screenings instead of waiting until they fall ill, warning that delaying medical attention could affect early detection and treatment.

The call was made during the Nkangala District Cancer Awareness and HIV & AIDS Comprehensive Campaign held at Jumbo Mall in eMalahleni on 13 November 2026.

The campaign brought healthcare professionals and community members together to raise awareness about cancer, HIV and other health conditions while encouraging residents to make use of available healthcare services.

A representative from Community Health Base Services raised concerns that some residents only visit clinics when they are already sick, instead of going for routine check-ups.

Residents were encouraged to undergo cervical, breast and prostate cancer screenings, as well as HIV testing.

The representative also expressed concern about patients who undergo tests but fail to return to clinics to collect their results, stressing that follow-up care is just as important as screening.

Residents experiencing symptoms such as persistent coughing and night sweats were advised to seek tuberculosis (TB) screening, while parents were reminded to ensure their children receive scheduled immunisations.

Community members were also encouraged to cooperate with healthcare workers conducting household visits, as these services help bring basic healthcare closer to families.

Adelaide Khoza from Witbank Hospital's Oncology Unit urged residents not to view a cancer diagnosis as a death sentence, saying treatment options and outcomes depend on the type of cancer and how early it is detected.

She explained that cancer can be treated through surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, depending on the patient's condition.

According to Khoza, Witbank Hospital provides surgery and chemotherapy, while patients requiring radiotherapy are referred to Steve Biko Hospital.

She also called on families to support relatives undergoing cancer treatment, explaining that chemotherapy can cause side effects such as fatigue and dizziness.

Khoza said patients often need assistance with hospital appointments and everyday activities during treatment.

She further called for better cooperation between local clinics and Witbank Hospital to allow oncology patients to undergo routine blood tests closer to home, reducing travel expenses and the burden of frequent hospital visits.

Meanwhile, Sibongile Ramotshela from Afia Tai encouraged women to undergo regular Pap smear screenings, even when they feel healthy.

She explained that cervical cancer may develop without noticeable symptoms in its early stages, making screening important for detecting abnormal changes before the disease progresses.

Ramotshela warned women not to ignore symptoms such as unusual vaginal discharge, bleeding after sexual intercourse or unusually heavy and prolonged menstrual bleeding.

She said fear of receiving a cancer diagnosis should not prevent women from seeking medical attention, as cervical cancer is treatable, particularly when detected early.

The campaign concluded with a call for residents to take their health seriously by attending regular screenings, collecting their test results and seeking medical attention as soon as they notice unusual symptoms.



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

SPIRITUAL CIRCLE

Can We Really Ever Forget?

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. (1 Corinthians 13:4–5) Can our minds actually allow us to forget?

The way God has made us with that internal filing system we call "memory"—it is doubtful we can fully forget even the things we want to forget.

Please understand that I'm not referring to forgetting in the technical or literal sense of the term. Rather, I'm thinking about forgetting the same way Paul did in 1 Corinthians 13:4–5 when he said:

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered. (NASB 1995)

True servants, when demonstrating genuine love, don't keep score. That's the thought. A couple of verses of Scripture illustrate and encourage this greathearted virtue. Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble. (Psalm 119:165 NASB 1995)

The psalmist openly declares that those who possess a deep love for God's Word will have great measures of His shalom . . . and, in addition, they will be big enough to resist stumbling over offenses.

Jesus hinted at this when He spoke out against a judgmental spirit. Read His words carefully.

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1–5 NASB 1995)

So, as we talk about "forgetting," let's understand that we mean:

Refusing to keep score (1 Corinthians 13:5)

Being bigger than any offense (Psalm 119:165)

Harboring no judgmental attitude (Matthew 7:1–5)



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16 Days of Activism launched in Middelburg

Deputy President Mashatile says 'promises on paper are no longer enough'

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – The 2026 national campaign for the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children was officially launched in Middelburg on Friday, 20 November 2026, with government leaders calling for stronger action against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

Deputy President Paul Mashatile delivered the keynote address virtually on behalf of President Cyril Ramaphosa during the launch hosted by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, Nkangala District Municipality and Steve Tshwete Local Municipality at the Destiny Exclusive Hotel and Conference Centre.

"Mpumalanga is not merely the host of today's event. It is a vital part of the national effort that must carry the commitments we make here into homes, schools, streets, workplaces, farms, mines, and communities," Mashatile said.

Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu welcomed the national launch and reflected on the province's efforts to address GBVF.

He recalled asking at the 2024 launch whether existing laws and programmes were making a difference. Two years later, he said the question remained unanswered and had become even more urgent.

Ndlovu referred to the killings of mothers and children in September, which left families living in fear.

"As a father, I understand that fear that when children leave for work or school or to go for a morning run, they might not return. Unfortunately, Mpumalanga has not been spared this pain," he said.

Between January and March 2026, Mpumalanga recorded 900 sexual offences reported to police. Although the figure was lower than during the same period in 2025, Ndlovu said it remained unacceptable, particularly as many incidents go unreported.

He also raised concerns about pregnancies among girls aged 10 to 14, calling for criminal cases to be opened against those responsible.

Ndlovu linked GBVF to economic challenges facing women. In the second quarter of 2026, female unemployment in Mpumalanga stood at 40.1%, compared with 33.9% among men.

He said financial dependence often made it difficult for women to leave abusive relationships and encouraged young girls to pursue education, become financially independent and avoid relying on blessers for financial support.

The Premier also remembered Thembi Lukhele of Bethal, Goodness Mandlazi and Kedibone Sigudu of eMalahleni, expressing hope that their families would find healing.

"We must work together to ensure that the sun rises again for the women of South Africa!" he said.

The 2026 campaign is held under the theme, 'Letsema: Men, Women, Boys and Girls working together to end Gender-Based Violence and Femicide'.

Mashatile said Letsema, a tradition of neighbours coming together to share work, should guide the country's response to GBVF.

"Violence against women and children is not a private family matter, and ending it cannot be left to survivors, women's organisations, courts, or the police alone," he said.

Referring to a study by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Mashatile said more than one in three adult women had experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

"Behind every number is a mother, a daughter, a sister, or a friend whose life, dignity, and future were ripped away in the very spaces where they should feel safest," he said.

He warned that "promises on paper are no longer enough", stressing that the fight against GBVF must continue throughout the year rather than being limited to the annual campaign from 25 November to 10 December.

Earlier that day, a new Thuthuzela Care Centre was officially opened at King Nyabela Hospital in Middelburg. The centre brings medical care, counselling and legal support together under one roof for survivors of violence.

Mashatile also announced that the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities had been allocated an additional R157.4 million over the medium term to strengthen coordination of the national GBVF response.

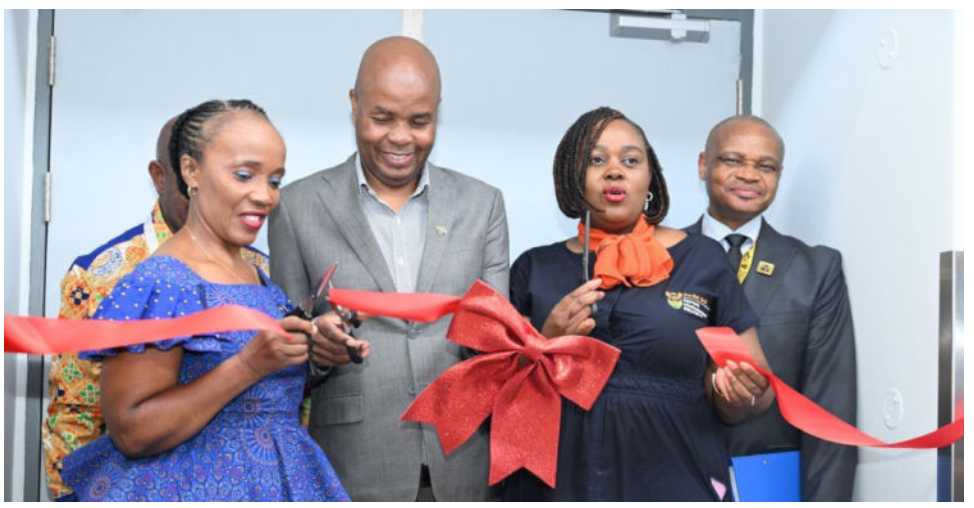
He outlined four key interventions, including a National Case-Recovery Operation, clearing forensic backlogs, conducting Women's Safety Audits in every municipality and addressing alcohol-related violence.

However, progress in implementing the National Strategic Plan on GBVF remains a concern.

Of the 191 indicators assessed, only 65 had been achieved, while 104 were still in progress and 22 had not been met. Only six of the 42 targets relating to prevention and social cohesion had been achieved.

Mashatile said these figures showed the need to move beyond commitments and focus on practical action that would make communities safer.

"To anyone enduring abuse today, hear this clearly: you are not invisible, your story is not over, and you still hold the power to reclaim your life and your future. We stand with you," he said.



Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Sindisiwe Chikunga (left), Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu (centre) and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development Mmamoloko Kubayi (right) cut the ribbon to officially open the new Thuthuzela Care Centre at King Nyabela Hospital in Middelburg on Friday, 20 November 2026

Learner's fatal stabbing sends shockwaves through Mhluzi

Six suspects arrested as MEC condemns violence and calls for calm

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – The fatal stabbing of a 21-year-old learner outside LD Moetanalo Secondary School in Mhluzi has sent shockwaves through the community, prompting strong condemnation from Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison Jackie Macie.

The learner was allegedly attacked by a group of young men during an altercation outside the school premises on Thursday, 19 November 2026.

He was rushed to a local medical facility, where he was declared dead on arrival.

The incident has raised concerns about violence involving young people, with Macie describing the killing as barbaric and calling for those responsible to face the full might of the law.

Police have since arrested six suspects, aged between 16 and 20, in connection with the murder.

Macie welcomed the swift arrests but urged investigators to ensure that everyone involved in the attack is brought to justice.

"We appreciate the efforts of the police for arresting the suspects. We further encourage them to thoroughly investigate so that the perpetrator(s) do not go unpunished. We are also calling for calm in the community while the police are doing their work," he said.

The MEC stressed that violence could never be justified, regardless of where the incident occurred.

"While we acknowledge that the 21-year-old learner was stabbed outside the school, there is nothing that justifies such barbaric behaviour and acts of violence anywhere in our society. We must all work together to end these levels of violence in our society," Macie said.

He also extended his condolences to the learner's family, friends and fellow learners following the tragedy.

Mpumalanga police spokesperson Donald Mdluli confirmed the arrests while speaking to the media on the sidelines of the national launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children at Destiny Hotel in Middelburg.

"Police have so far arrested six suspects in connection with the murder," Mdluli said.

He confirmed that some of those arrested were minors and said investigations were continuing, with further arrests possible.

Mdluli also appealed to parents to take greater responsibility for their children's behaviour, saying discipline should begin at home.

He warned against leaving the responsibility of raising and disciplining children entirely to teachers and police officers.

The killing comes at a time when government and communities are being urged to work together to address violence in society.

Macie's condemnation and the police's appeal to parents have placed renewed attention on the role families, schools and communities must play in preventing violence among young people.

The six suspects are expected to appear before the Middelburg Magistrate's Court on Monday, 23 November 2026, facing a charge of murder.

Police investigations are continuing, while the community has been urged to remain calm and allow the law to take its course.



Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison Jackie Macie condemns the fatal stabbing of a 21-year-old learner in Mhluzi, welcomes the arrest of six suspects and calls for calm as police continue their investigations.

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

DIVISION OF REVENUE AMENDMENT BILL, 2026
&
MPUMALANGA ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION BILL, 2026

The Chairperson, of the Portfolio Committee on Finance Hon CL Dlamini, MPL, hereby invite members of the public, interested parties and stakeholders wishing to make comments or inputs, on the above mentioned Bills.

Purpose of the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill, 2026
To amend the Division of Revenue Amendments Bill, 2026, in accordance with the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Purpose of the Mpumalanga Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2026
To effect adjustments to the appropriation of money from the Provincial Revenue Fund for the requirements of the province in respect of the 2026/27 financial year; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

Public Involvement
The Committee will conduct public hearings on the above Bills as follows:

Public hearing on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill, 2026 and
Public hearings on the Mpumalanga Adjustments Appropriation Bill, 2026:

DATE	VENUES	TIME
Tuesday, 24 November 2026	Msongelwa Mamba Community Hall - – Ehlanzeni District (City of Mbombela Municipality)	10:00-13:00
Thursday 26 November 2026	Zwelisha Community Hall – Ehlanzeni District-City of Mbombela Local Municipality	14:00 – 17:00
Tuesday, 01 December 2026	Cana Combine School -Gert Sibande- Mkhondo Local Municipality	10:00- 13:00
Wednesday, 02 December 2026	Mloto Community Hall - Nkangala Region-Thembisile Hani Local Municipality	10:00-13:00

Copies of the Bills can be obtained from the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature website at www.**mpuleg.gov.za.**

For any enquiries, kindly contact the Committee Coordinator, Mr Alex Mndebele on **072 435 5456**.

Written submissions on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill, 2026 can be sent to AlexM@mpuleg.gov.za or on the Legislature WhatsApp number **067 428 3345** on or before **Friday, 04 December 2026**.

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New Airlink route opens Mpumalanga to more tourists

Direct flights from Gqeberha to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport create new opportunities for tourism growth

NODICAH FUNDAMA

MBOMBELA – Mpumalanga has taken another step towards becoming a more accessible tourism destination following the successful launch of Airlink's new direct flight route connecting Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA).

The new route, which commenced operations on 16 November 2026, offers three weekly flights on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, making it easier for travellers from the coast to explore the province's world-class wildlife, breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage.

The official launch, held at the Southern Sun Hotel in Mbombela, brought together representatives from Airlink, KMIA, government and the tourism industry to celebrate another milestone in strengthening air connectivity to the Place of the Rising Sun.

The additional route expands travel opportunities to Mpumalanga, providing convenient access to popular attractions such as the Kruger National Park, Panorama Route, God's Window and Blyde River Canyon, alongside the province's many cultural and adventure tourism experiences.

Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) Acting Chief Executive Officer Pamella Ntuli welcomed the development, saying improved air access would help attract more visitors, encourage longer stays and create opportunities for local tourism businesses.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Head of Department Immy Serakalala described the new connection as more than just an additional flight route.

"Today marks the very first scheduled direct air service between Gqeberha and KMIA – a development that brings two of our nation's most dynamic Provinces closer together than ever before, therefore, we are not merely here celebrating the addition of a new flight schedule; we are celebrating the opening of an economic bridge," Serakalala said.

She said the provincial government, through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and MTPA, had consistently prioritised air route development to attract investment, strengthen tourism and create opportunities for local businesses.

The route is expected to benefit accommodation establishments, tour operators, restaurants, transport providers, crafters and other tourism businesses through increased visitor spending.

Serakalala emphasised the importance of public-private partnerships in ensuring that tourism growth benefits small businesses and communities across the province.

Representatives from Airlink and KMIA also highlighted the need for continued collaboration to ensure the route's long-term sustainability. For MTPA, the launch supports efforts to position Mpumalanga as a destination of choice rather than merely a transit point, encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore more of what the province has to offer.

From the coastline to world-class wildlife, scenic wonders and unforgettable experiences, Mpumalanga is ready to welcome you.



Grant Ponting, Chief Executive Officer of Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA), and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) Acting Chief Executive Officer Pamella Ntuli welcome passengers following the successful landing of the first Airlink direct flight from Gqeberha to Mpumalanga.



Head of Department Immy Serakalala delivers the keynote address during the official launch of Airlink's new direct flight route connecting Gqeberha to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) in Mbombela.





EMALAHLENI
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

RESCHEDULING OF THE INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Inaugural Council Meeting, which was scheduled to take place on **Thursday, 19 November 2026, at 10:00,** has been rescheduled to take place as follows:

NEW DATE:	**Thursday, 26 November 2026**
TIME:	**10:00**
VENUE:	**City Hall, Mandela Street**

The meeting will be convened for the purpose of formally constituting the new Council for the **2026–2031** term of office.

Members of the public, stakeholders and media representatives are warmly invited to attend. We encourage everyong planning to attend to take note of the revised date and make the necessary arrangements.

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	24 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

National coalition talks could shape Mpumalanga's hung councils

LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA – The outcome of coalition negotiations in major metros such as Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and eThekwini could determine who governs several municipalities in Mpumalanga, where the ANC has lost its outright majority in most councils.

With 14 of the province's 17 local municipalities now facing coalition governments, political parties are looking beyond provincial boundaries as national negotiations continue.

The ANC remains the largest party in Mpumalanga, but its support has dropped significantly. The party secured 43.7% of the provincial vote, representing 480 851 votes, compared to 58% in the 2021 local government elections.

The DA came second with 14.6%, followed by the EFF with 10.3%, the MK Party (MKP) with 9.5%, the Service Delivery Party (SDP) with 5.3% and the SACP with 3.8%.

The ANC secured outright majorities in only three municipalities: Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli and Nkomazi.

In 2021, the party needed coalition partners in just three municipalities, Steve Tshwete, Govan Mbeki and Lekwa. Five years later, that number has risen to 14.

Among the hung councils, the SDP leads in Victor Khanye, while the MKP leads in Mkhondo. The ANC remains the largest party in the other hung councils, including the City of Mbombela, where it received 48.91% of the vote, followed by the DA with 14.02% and the EFF with 12.1%.

ANC provincial secretary Muzi Chirwa has already indicated that the province will take direction from the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) on coalition negotiations.

This means agreements reached at national level could influence which parties work together in Mpumalanga.

The ANC is reportedly in advanced discussions with the MKP, EFF and ActionSA over coalition arrangements in Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and eThekwini.

The talks reportedly exclude the DA following disagreements over ActionSA's demand that Helen Zille should not become mayor of Johannesburg and Cilliers Brink should not return as mayor of Tshwane.

Under the proposed arrangement, ActionSA would lead Johannesburg and Tshwane, while the ANC would retain Ekurhuleni. An ANC-MKP partnership is also being discussed for eThekwini.

The DA has indicated that it is prepared to serve in opposition in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and Tshwane if it cannot secure coalition agreements.

Should the ANC-MKP-EFF-ActionSA arrangement succeed nationally, it could make it politically difficult for ANC negotiators in Mpumalanga to enter into agreements with the DA, even in municipalities where the two parties could form a majority.

In Steve Tshwete, the ANC holds 19 seats and needs another 11 to reach the 30 required for a majority. In Govan Mbeki, it has 23 seats and needs 10 more to reach 33.

In both municipalities, the ANC could secure a majority through partnerships with the MKP, EFF and SACP, parties involved in or aligned with the coalition discussions taking place nationally.

The DA, meanwhile, needs another 14 seats in Steve Tshwete and 15 in Govan Mbeki to reach a majority. Without support from the MKP or EFF, its options are limited.

An ANC-DA agreement would offer another possible route, although such a partnership could conflict with the direction emerging from national negotiations though cannot be ruled out.

SDP emerges as potential kingmaker in Victor Khanye

In Victor Khanye, the SDP, formed less than a year ago by former ANC figures, secured 39.53% of the vote, becoming the largest party amid growing frustration over water shortages, unemployment and poor service delivery.

The party has indicated its willingness to work with any party that prioritises service delivery, making it a potential coalition leader.

However, the ANC, DA and Our Last Hope (OLH), led by a former Victor Khanye council speaker, could also join forces to secure a majority, leaving the SDP out of government.

This shows that winning the most votes does not guarantee control of a municipality.

Mkhondo could challenge national coalition arrangements

Mkhondo presents a different political picture, with the MKP emerging as the leading party in the municipality, recording its strongest performance outside KwaZulu-Natal.

However, MKP elections manager in Mkhondo, Siphiwe Mathebula, has said the party would not work with the ANC, arguing that doing so would betray voters who rejected the governing party.

If the MKP maintains this position, the ANC may have to explore agreements with the DA, EFF, SACP or smaller parties, while the possibility of an MKP-led council remains.

Mkhondo could therefore become an important test of whether national coalition agreements can be applied across municipalities or whether local political differences will require separate arrangements.

Coalition talks intensify across the province

Coalition negotiations are expected to be particularly important in Mbombela, Emalahleni, Govan Mbeki, Steve Tshwete, Lekwa, Thaba Chweu, Victor Khanye and Mkhondo.

In Thaba Chweu, the ANC fell below 50% for the first time since 1995, ending 31 years of outright political dominance.

The party received 41.05% of the vote, down from 58.33% in 2021, while the DA secured 19.51% and the EFF increased its support to 14.78%.

These results have left political parties facing difficult decisions over which partnerships could deliver stable governments.

The question is whether the ANC will follow the coalition approach being discussed nationally or enter into separate agreements with parties such as the DA and SDP where local circumstances demand it.

Local negotiations already underway

The DA in Mpumalanga, led by provincial leader Jane Sithole, has already held discussions with the provincial leadership of the ANC and SDP.

The party says no agreements have been reached and that its Federal Executive will have the final say on any coalition arrangements.

Sithole has welcomed the election outcome, saying the failure of any single party to secure outright majorities in most municipalities creates opportunities for coalition governments.

The DA is also reportedly involved in national discussions with the EFF and MKP, despite previously ruling out cooperation with either party.

This reflects the uncertainty surrounding coalition negotiations, with parties exploring different options while awaiting decisions from their national leadership structures.

What this means for Mpumalanga

If the proposed ANC-MKP-EFF-ActionSA arrangement is concluded nationally, similar partnerships could emerge in several Mpumalanga municipalities, including Steve Tshwete and Govan Mbeki.

However, if national negotiations fail or local parties refuse to cooperate, municipalities could see different arrangements. These could include ANC-DA partnerships, an MKP-led council in Mkhondo or an SDP-led coalition in Victor Khanye. Minority governments could also emerge where parties fail to secure working majorities.

Mpumalanga Premier and ANC provincial chairperson Mandla Ndlovu has urged political parties to establish stable coalitions that put residents' interests first.

For residents, however, the real test will not be which party secures the mayoral position, but whether the new governments can deliver reliable water supplies, repair roads, improve basic services and remain stable over the next five years.

Victor Khanye swearing-in was not a council meeting, says CoGHSTA

LUCAS SHONGWE

DELMAS – The swearing-in of Victor Khanye Local Municipality's 17 newly elected councillors at the Delmas Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, 18 November 2026, has raised questions among residents after the ceremony ended without the election of a Speaker, Mayor or Chief Whip.

No municipal manager presided over the proceedings, leaving some residents questioning whether the process had followed the required procedures.

However, Mpumalanga Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) spokesperson Freddy Ngobe said there was nothing irregular about the process, explaining that the ceremony was not an official council sitting.

"That was not a council meeting, it was a swearing in of councillors," Ngobe said.

"The municipality decided to deal with the administrative part of the process before the election of the troika and members of mayoral committee."

Ngobe said the municipality had chosen to separate the swearing-in ceremony from the formal council sitting, where the political leadership would be elected.

"What is important is that they must be sworn in as councillors," he said.

"Instead of swearing them in and electing a speaker, mayor and chief whip all in one day, they have decided to separate the process."

He said the next step would be for the municipal manager to convene the inaugural council sitting.

"The next step is for the municipal manager to convene a formal council meeting where the election of the troika and the mayoral committee will be dealt with," Ngobe said.

Coalition talks to determine new leadership

Although all 17 councillors have taken their oaths of office, Victor Khanye is yet to elect its new political leadership.

The council has 17 seats, with nine required for a majority.

The Service Delivery Party (SDP) holds seven seats, followed by the ANC with five, the DA and Our Last Hope (OLH) with two each, and the Freedom Front Plus (FF Plus) with one.

With no party holding an outright majority, political parties will have to negotiate agreements to secure enough support to elect the new leadership.

The SDP, as the largest party, could form a majority with support from other parties. However, an alternative arrangement involving the ANC, DA and OLH could also secure nine seats, potentially leaving the SDP out of government.

The municipal manager must now convene a formal council meeting where the election of the Speaker and other political leadership positions will take place, in line with Section 29(2) of the Municipal Structures Act.



Newly elected Victor Khanye Local Municipality councillors following the 2026 Local Government Elections.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

PUBLIC NOTICE ON REMOVAL OF ILLEGAL ADVERTISING SIGNS ON THE ROAD RESERVES

The Steve Tshwete Local Municiplaity has noted the proliferation of advertising signs that are illegally erected on the road reserves with a great concern. The public is therefore, in terms of Section 56 (1) of the By-laws for the Control of Outdoor Advertising in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, 2013, notified to remove all illegally erected advertisings in the road reserves within 7 days from the date of this notice. Should the signs not be removed within 7 days of this notice the municipality will, as per Section 56 (2) - (4) of the latter by-laws, remove all the illegally erected signs at the cost of the transgressor. Further, a poundage fee shall be payable to the municipality per sign per working week or part of the week.

Enquiries in this regard can be directed to the Director Town Planning and Human Settlements at (013) 249 7068

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
MNGUNI SM

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality
HEREBY INVITES TENDERS

BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	POINT SYSTEM	MINIMUM FUNCTIONALITY POINTS	BRIEFING SESSION	CLOSING DATE/TIME	ENQUIRIES:
BS05/11 /2026	BULK METER INTEGRATION TO MUNSOFT	80/20	60	01/12/2026 AT 12:00 (NON-COMPULSORY)	07/12/2026 AT 12H00	S.ROSSOUW 013 283 6850

NB: FULL DETAILS OF BRIEFING SESSIONS, COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS REQUIRED AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF EACH BID IS AVAILABLE ON THE MUNICIPALITY'S WEBSITE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK: https://stlm.gov.za/tenders. TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE BRIEFING SESSIONS.

Tender documents will be obtainable from 24/11/2026 from Room B207, 1ST Floor, Civic Centre, c/o Walter Sisulu Street & Wanderers Avenue (Tel: 013 249-7365) during office hours from 07:30 to 16:30 weekdays and from 07:30 to 13:30 on Fridays against payment of a non-refundable tender amount **of R880.00.** Only payments made in cash or debit/credit card will be accepted. Fully completed tender document enclosed in a sealed envelope marked with "TENDER NO", "DESCRIPTION OF TENDER" and THE NAME OF THE TENDERER, shall be deposited in the tender box provided at the abovementioned address. Bids may only be submitted on bid documentation provided by the Municipality. The tenders will be opened in public. No late tenders or tenders submitted via facsimile or e-mail will be accepted. Tenders shall remain valid for a period of minimum 90 days from the closing date.

Bids will be pre-qualified in accordance with functionality criteria as outlined in the tender. Only the bids that meet the minimum number of points out of the total number of points for functionality will proceed to the price and preference goals evaluation stage. A preferential point system shall apply whereby a contract will be allocated to a tenderer in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, Act No 5 of 2000 and as defined in the Conditions of Tender in the tender document, read in conjunction with the Supply Chain Management Policy of the Municipality where 80/90 points will be allocated in respect of price and 20/10 points in respect of Specific Goals. Tenderers must have the necessary skills, experience and capacity to perform the required work.

The municipality reserves the right to withdraw any invitation to tender and/or re-advertise or to reject any tender or to accept a part of it. The Municipality does not bind itself to accepting the lowest tender or award a contract to the bidder scoring the highest number of points.

S.M. MNGUNI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

ISIKO LETHU Our Story

ILIZWI

Umndeni wakwaMabena uhlangele ukusekela iNgwenyama uMkhutjhwa II nje Ngwenyama yes'tjhaba

EMMANNUEL N MTHIMUNYE.

Umndeni wakwaMabena ube ngade unomhlangano omkhulu nobe yi nopumelelo ngoSondo, nge15 kuSinyikhaba 2026,

Umhlangano lo bewumayelana noku khulumisana kanye nokuvuselela ubukhosi besitjhaba.

Yeke bekubizwe amakhosi, amakhosana, amaduna, amalunga womphakathi kanye nabo Mabena ngokuhluka kwabo njengoba bekumhlangano wekaba yakwaMabena, okunguPofu, Somlokothwa, Marhagwa, Kolonja noNdidi. Ngeemilambo, neendawo ngokuhluka kwayo hlangana nazo iSprings, iLeandra, iKwadlawulale neDelmas.

Umnqopho omkhulu womhlangano lo bekuku kwabelana ngeemibono, ngendabuko yomndeni, ubukhosi kanye nobu Ngwenyama, bamaNdebele.





INgwenyama uMkhutjhwa II Mabena

Ngokuya komkhulumeli womndeni u UGambani Mabena, Uthi umhlangano lo ubegade ufaka khulu isibawo kuMengameli weSewula Afrika, u Cyril Ramaphosa sokobana amukele ngokomthetho uNgwenyama uMkhutjhwa II njenge Ngwenyama yesitjhaba samaNdebele, ngemva kokubekwa kwakhe esihlalweni sobu Ngwenyama engamele amaNdebele ngonina nge26 kuVelabahlinze 2026.

Ngokwehlathululo enikelwe emhlanganweni, wokuphakanyiswa kwe Ngwenyama uMkhutjhwa II kususelwa emasikweni nemithethweni yesintu samaNdebele elawula ukulandelana esihlalweni sobukhosi. Amasiko la aveza bona nakungenzeka ikosi ebusako idlule ephasini ingakatjhiyi indlalifa yesihlalo sobukhosi, ubukhosi budlulela kumfowabo wekosi engasekho.

Lokhu kuhlathululwa njengendlela yesintu esele ikhona kusukela mandulo,ekadeni begodu akusiyinto etja eyenzeke ngemva kokuhlongakala kweNgwenyama uMakhosoke II.

Isibonelo esivezwe mndeni ngeseNgwenyama uMbulawa, owadlula ephasini angakatjhiyi indlalifa, okwathi ngemva kwalokho ubukhosi badlulela kusonghwanakhe, uMbhongo I.

Umndeni uveze bona isiko leli lisasebenza nanamhlanje. INgwenyama uMakhosoke II akhange atjhiye indlalifa yesihlalo sobu Ngwenyama kuNdlovukazi uSekhothali Mabena (naSeeiso), okwenze umndeni weNgwenyama bona ulandele isiko ngokukhetha umfowabo bona athathe isikhundla sobuNgwenyama.

UGambani Mabena uthi ngokuhlathulula, komndeni, isiko leli liqiniswa neemfiso ezatjengiswa yiNgwenyama uMakhosoke II ngesikhathi ashiya ividiyo nge7 kuNobayeni 2024, lapho abeka khona uMkhutjhwa II esikhundleni sokuba Mrholi weNdabuko omkhulu weManala Mbhongo Traditional Council.

Ngaphezu kwalokho, iNgwenyama uMakhosoke II watjhiya nomtlolo owahlelwa mndeni wobukhosi, wasayinwa nguye ngoNtaka 2026. Umtlolo lo ubizwa ngokuthi Amandebele Kingship Royal Family Customary Laws of Succession Genealogy, begodu unikela iinqophoso ezimalungana namasiko nemithetho yokulandelana esihlalweni sobukhosi besitjhaba samaNdebele.

Emaswapheleni womhlangano, iNgwenyama uMkhutjhwa II ithokoze woke amalunga womndeni wakwaMabena ngokuzibandakanya kwawo nokuphumelela komhlangano lo. iNgwenyama ibuye yathokoza amaduna kanye namalunga womphakathi kanye namakhosi ngoku hluka kwawo begodu nangokuzinikela ekusekeleni iindaba zobukhosi, nobu Ngwenyama.

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

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 4908/2021 passed** by **VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY** in favour of **PHINDILE DAPHNEY MASEKO.** **(ID No: 8607071430785)** in respect of **ERF 9447 BOTLENG EXTENSION 7, TOWNSHIP** Registration Division I.R, Transvaal which has been lost or destroyed.

All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds Mpumalanga at Mbombela within two weeks after the date of the publication of this notice.

Enquiries: COMBRINK GREYLING ATTORNEYS. SUITE 7A,27 ROODTS STREET MBOMBELA CELL: 013 752 6995

LOST OR DESTROYED DEED

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 2967/2013 passed** by **DELMAS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY** in favour of **REYMOND MOHLALA.** **(ID No: 5705225490084)** in respect of **ERF 8248 BOTLENG EXTENSION 5, TOWNSHIP** Registration Division I.R, Transvaal which has been lost or destroyed.

All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds Mpumalanga at Mbombela within two weeks after the date of the publication of this notice.

Enquiries: COMBRINK GREYLING ATTORNEYS. SUITE 7A,27 ROODTS STREET MBOMBELA CELL: 013 752 6995

EnviroMAX Consulting

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR TORBANITE/OILSHALE IN RESPECT OF THE FARM ONSPOED 500(EXCLUDING PORTION 9 & 10) JR, CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE.

DMRE REF NO: GP30/5/1/1/2/11019 PR

Applicant	Bovinco Holdings (Pty)Ltd
Consultant	Enviromax Consulting (Pty) Ltd
Project Location	Farm Onspoed 500 JR (excluding Portion 9 & 10), City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng Province.
Details of applications, Activities, and Water Uses Triggered	Notice is hereby given in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No.28 of 2002) (MPRDA), that Bovinco Holdings (Pty)Ltd has applied for a Prospecting Right and would like to engage the local property owners, Interested and Affected Parties in respect of activities proposed on the Farm Onspoed 500 JR ,20 km from Bronkhorstspruit in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng Province of South Africa.
Project Proposal	Bovinco Holdings (Pty)Ltd intends to prospect various minerals on Farm Onspoed 500 JR, 20 km from Bronkhorstspruit. The resource will be prospected via geomagnetic surveys and diamond core drilling. The Prospecting Right activity triggers a Basic Assessment (BA) in terms of the NEMA regulations, which will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Authorization Application Process. A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be available for review for 30 days from the 19th of November 2026 to 19th of December 2026. Reports will be made available electronically upon request
Opportunity to Participate	As part of the public participation process, the public is provided a 30-day period from **19th of November 2026 to 19th of December 2026** to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and review and comment on the application. I&AP are invited to submit comments and/ or register on the stakeholder database by contacting the consultant on the contacts listed below.
Contact Details	Mr Kuhlula Jeff Maluleke can be contacted telephonically on **071 771 2921** or via email at **Kuhlulamax26@gmail.com /info@enviromaxconsulting.co.za**

PEF seeks partnerships to boost township businesses

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

SIYABUSWA – The Phiwokuhle Empowerment Foundation (PEF) is seeking partnerships with traditional leaders, financial institutions and other stakeholders to help township businesses grow and create sustainable economic opportunities.

The foundation brought together about 50 participants at the African Gospel Church in Siyabuswa on Thursday, 19 November 2026, to discuss financial challenges facing small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and explore ways to support local entrepreneurs.

Among those who attended were Standard Bank representative Dorah Mathebe, Ndabezitha Simon Jezi Ntuli of the Ndzundza Royal Council and Ndabezitha Siphomyendo Mrhabuli of the Ndzundza Mrhabuli Royal House. One of the key outcomes was the Ndzundza Mrhabuli Royal House's willingness to work with PEF. The King pledged to collaborate with the foundation through his existing initiatives, with further discussions expected on opportunities for its members.

Housing opportunities, particularly for members from disadvantaged backgrounds, were also discussed.

Addressing the gathering, Ndabezitha Siphomyendo Mrhabuli called on black communities to work together to rebuild their economic power and take greater ownership of businesses operating in their townships.

"Black power meant black economy. If we black people can come together and take advantage of the black economy, that is power. But a lot of people still do not see how much power we black people have. The power of the economy," he said. "If we can come together and start societies, stokvels and other kinds of coming together where people make money and save, that is the power. We should own the supermarkets. We should own the businesses in the township. We should own the malls in the township," he said.

He encouraged communities to use collective savings and investments to build wealth and reclaim a greater share of their local economies.

PEF founder and CEO Zinhle Sindane said the foundation aims to connect entrepreneurs with established businesses, investors and financial institutions to address challenges such as limited access to funding, business networks and economic opportunities.

Mathebe welcomed the invitation, saying Standard Bank valued the opportunity to engage with PEF and explore possible areas of cooperation.

However, concerns were raised about the involvement of local government.

Ndabezitha Simon Jezi Ntuli expressed disappointment with the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, questioning its lack of response despite previous attempts to engage it.

Sindane said PEF had approached the municipality seeking its participation, information on available business development programmes and possible assistance with hosting the gathering.

The gathering also saw the launch of two initiatives aimed at strengthening the foundation's work.

The first, the PEF Dimakatso Township Wallet, aims to mobilise financial resources to support township businesses.

The second is the foundation's YouTube channel, SISO – SaFa Isizwe Samakhosi-Ohlanga, which will document PEF activities and community development programmes.

Sindane stressed that the challenges facing township entrepreneurs required a united approach.

"We cannot continue expecting individual entrepreneurs to fight battles that require collective solutions. Businesses need capital, access to opportunities, strong networks and institutions that are willing to work with them," she said.

"PEF is determined to build these relationships, mobilise resources and create opportunities for our members. We will continue with this work, with or without government assistance, because the need for economic development in our communities cannot wait," she said.

Looking ahead, PEF plans to engage traditional leaders from other communities to present its economic development proposals, grow the Dimakatso Township Wallet and help more entrepreneurs gain access to funding, business networks and markets.



PEF representatives with members of the Ndzundza Mrhabuli Royal House outside the African Gospel Church in Siyabuswa following discussions on township economic development.

Thembisile Hani residents look to new coalition government improved service delivery

'Residents must take responsibility for paying municipal services to help us improve service delivery' – Municipal Manager Dumisani Mahlangu.

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

THEMBISILE HANI – Residents of Thembisile Hani are hoping the incoming coalition government will address longstanding service delivery challenges, particularly the ongoing water crisis, as the municipality prepares for its inaugural council sitting on Wednesday, 25 November 2026.

The sitting will mark the beginning of the municipality's seventh administration, with new political leadership expected to take office following the recent local government elections.

Municipal Manager Dumisani Mahlangu said preparations were at an advanced stage, with most arrangements finalised to ensure a smooth transition without disrupting municipal operations.

He confirmed that the political parties involved in the coalition had been identified, but their names would only be officially announced during the sitting.

Incoming councillors will also be required to take their oaths of office before assuming their responsibilities.

With several new councillors expected to join the council, Mahlangu said the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) would facilitate workshops to familiarise them with municipal governance, local government structures and their responsibilities.

He said the training would help councillors understand their roles and prepare them to serve their communities effectively.

Jabu Mabena, a resident of Vezubuhle in Ward 18, said residents were eager to meet their new representatives and hoped the coalition would bring positive changes.

"We are looking forward to seeing our local representatives so that we can get to know them, especially now that our municipality will be under a coalition government. With new councillors coming in, it is important for us as residents to know them and familiarise ourselves with their leadership," said Mabena.

Mabena said residents wanted an administration that would listen to their concerns and work closely with communities to find solutions.

"We hope this administration will work closely with communities and prioritise our needs. We understand that challenges will always arise, but what is important is finding solutions and working together towards progress and prosperity," Mabena said.

Water shortages remain a major concern for residents, who hope the new administration will prioritise the issue.

"Our biggest concern is the ongoing water crisis. We appeal to the incoming administration to urgently address the water challenges because residents have been struggling with this issue for a long time," Mabena added.

Meanwhile, Mahlangu raised concerns about low payment levels for municipal services, saying this affected the municipality's ability to meet its obligations.

He said the municipality was already operating under a tight budget, making it difficult to maintain and improve services when residents failed to pay.

"As a municipality, one of our main concerns is the payment for municipal services. It is very difficult for us to cater for residents when they do not pay for the services they receive. This creates a challenge for the municipality, particularly because we operate under a tight budget," he said.

Mahlangu urged residents to take responsibility for paying for municipal services, saying improved revenue collection would help strengthen the municipality's financial position.

"We hope that under the new administration, residents will take the responsibility of paying for municipal services seriously and fulfil their obligations. This will enable the municipality to improve its financial position and provide services to communities more effectively and without unnecessary difficulties," he added.

The municipality has also announced that seating for the inaugural council sitting has reached full capacity, with all places allocated through the RSVP process already taken. Residents and stakeholders who cannot attend in person will be able to follow the proceedings through the municipality's official Facebook page.

As the new administration prepares to take office, residents will be looking beyond the political arrangements to see whether the coalition can work together to improve basic services, particularly access to reliable water.

Visit Vakasha workers still waiting for over R1 million in unpaid salaries

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

EMALAHLENI – More than a month after Visit Vakasha Guest Lodge agreed to pay over R1 million in outstanding salaries to 63 former employees, the workers say they have yet to receive their money despite a settlement agreement reached at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA).

The former employees, who worked at the company's operations linked to Kusile Power Station, accuse Visit Vakasha of failing to honour the agreement signed on 16 September 2026.

According to the CCMA settlement agreement, the company undertook to pay R1 042 445.38 directly into the employees' bank accounts by 9 October 2026.

The amount covers outstanding salaries for April, May and June 2026, including overtime payments. However, workers say the deadline passed without any payment.

Workers struggle to make ends meet

In a collective statement sent to ***Highveld Chronicle***, the former employees said months of waiting for their money had left them struggling to support their families and meet their financial obligations.

They claim the company owes them salaries for March, April and May, along with other outstanding payments.

The workers also accused Visit Vakasha of repeatedly submitting incorrect documentation required by its client, allegedly delaying the release of funds.

They said management had failed to respond to their calls or provide clear answers about when they would be paid.

Some employees reportedly faced financial difficulties, including being unable to meet household expenses, while others said they were facing demands for payment from subcontractors despite not having received their own money.

The workers are calling on the company to submit the required documents and settle the outstanding amounts.

Former employee Moele Dikgale, who worked for Visit Vakasha from 1 November 2024 until her contract ended on 31 May 2026, said salary problems began in April.

She claimed employees were not paid their full salaries, overtime and money owed for leave days.

After several promises of payment failed to materialise, the workers approached the CCMA, where a settlement agreement was signed on 16 September.

Dikgale said the company had neither honoured the agreement nor provided a clear explanation for missing the payment deadline.

"The situation has affected us badly. Some of us were renting accommodation and had to move out and return home because we could no longer afford to pay rent," she said.

She said the employees had returned to the CCMA to report the alleged failure to comply with the agreement and had applied for a court order to enforce payment.

"We will never let this matter go until they pay us," she said.

"All we want is our monies, nothing else."

Dikgale said employees also had payslips that did not match their bank statements, which they believe support their claims that the outstanding amounts remain unpaid.

Another former employee, Skhumbuzo Ralph Maseko, who worked for the company for about a year, said workers had been promised payment of outstanding salaries, leave pay and retrenchment-related amounts.

However, he said they were still waiting for the company to fulfil those promises.

Previous payment promises

Correspondence shared with the publication shows that Visit Vakasha had previously acknowledged payment delays and apologised to employees.

In correspondence dated April and 7 May 2026, management discussed a proposal to pay 50% of outstanding salaries, with the balance to follow, along with compensation calculated at a daily rate for two days.

However, workers say these assurances did not resolve the matter.

There is also a difference between the payment periods mentioned by employees and those recorded in the CCMA settlement agreement.

While the agreement covers April, May and June 2026, the workers' collective statement refers to March, April and May.

Company yet to respond

Highveld Chronicle sent media enquiries to Visit Vakasha and followed up on Thursday, 19 November 2026, seeking comment on the allegations and the outstanding settlement payment.

However, the company had not responded by the time of publication.

HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

Sports & ENTERTAINMENT

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Shakes Rotating Tournament unveils Top 32, creating a platform for talent and local businesses

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

VEZUBUHLE – The Shakes Rotating Tournament (SRT) has unveiled its Top 32 draw for the 2026 Festive Games, setting the stage for a major football showdown in December while continuing to create opportunities for young players and small businesses in KwaNdebele.

The draw was announced during the SRT Gala Dinner held at Vezubuhle Community Hall on Friday, 20 November 2026, bringing together stakeholders to celebrate the tournament's achievements and its growing contribution to community development.

A total of 80 teams entered the competition, with 32 securing places in the main tournament, which kicks off on 12 December. The final will take place on 30 December 2026 at Mavula Shakes Arena Sports Ground.

SRT Chairperson and Founder Sfiso Shakes Kabini said the Gala Dinner marked an important milestone for the tournament and demonstrated how football could be used to rebuild communities and stimulate local economic activity.

"It is for the first time in the history of KwaNdebele to have a tournament that can host a Gala Dinner. Our main objective as the SRT is to show our people that we can still rebuild our communities through sport, we can still grow our economy through sport," he said.

Kabini called on businesses and other stakeholders to support the tournament, saying its impact extended beyond football.

"We call upon all stakeholders to invest in the SRT to help us protect our young ones from illicit substance activities. We donate school uniforms to our schools, we build houses for the needy, we produce professional footballers and Sanele Bhanz is one of our products," he said.

Nkangala District Municipal Manager Mandla Lucas Mahlangu said the municipality partnered with the tournament because of its potential to develop young people and strengthen the township economy.

"We partnered with Shakes to uplift the SRT because we saw its potential in developing and grooming our young people, keeping them away from illicit activities and shaping them for a brighter future," Mahlangu said.

He pointed to players such as Sanele Bhanz, who had progressed to professional football, as an example of the opportunities created through the tournament.

Mahlangu also thanked Thembisile Hani Local Municipality for making Solomon Mahlangu Stadium available to communities.

Beyond developing football talent, the tournament has become a source of income for local traders.During the four-week Shakes Rotating Tournament activities that concluded at Gugulethu Sports Ground in Buhlebesizwe on Sunday, 15 November, residents praised the organisers for bringing communities together while creating business opportunities.

Street vendors, food sellers, spaza shops, taxi operators and barbers were among those who benefited from the crowds attending the matches. Local vendor Dina Mahamba, who sold cooked meals during the tournament, said the event had helped small businesses earn an income while giving residents an opportunity to relax and socialise.

"As people who are doing business, we were able to at least make a living because people were buying food and everything else we were selling. That's economic growth. We were able to put food on our tables at home through this tournament," she said.

Mahamba also welcomed the tournament's partnership with the Nkangala Arts and Music Awards (NkAMA), saying it helped uncover local footballers, musicians and commentators.

Food seller Zanele Sibanyoni, who attended the Gala Dinner, shared similar sentiments, saying the tournament had become an important source of income for her family.

"I am a food seller, so through the Shakes Rotating Tournament I am able to make money to sustain my family. The unemployment rate is very high, but through this tournament we are able to close the gap," she said.

Sibanyoni thanked Kabini for creating opportunities for local businesses through the tournament. With the Top 32 draw confirmed, attention now shifts to the festive competition, which is expected to attract football supporters while creating further opportunities for local businesses.



Shakes Rotating Tournament (SRT) Chairperson and Founder Sfiso Shakes Kabini says the tournament is about more than football, as it creates opportunities for young talent, supports local businesses and helps rebuild communities through sport.



