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9 YEARS ON, STILL THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

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SUSPECTED TOXIC SNACKS LEAVE MHLUZI LEARNERS VOMITING BLOOD

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EDITORIAL: Protecting lives must remain the priority during initiation season

While ingoma remains a crucial sacred rite in the lives of young men, safety precautions and legality must never be reduced to a culture and governance debate, as this undermines the responsibility to protect initiates and uphold accountability

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

As the winter initiation season approaches in Mpumalanga, the provincial government's decision to tighten regulations and intensify oversight of initiation schools is both timely and necessary. For years, initiation-related deaths and injuries have cast a dark shadow over what is meant to be a sacred cultural rite of passage. While initiation, or *ingoma*, holds deep cultural significance, the loss of young lives due to negligence, illegal practices, and lack of accountability cannot continue to be justified in the name of tradition. The firm stance taken by MEC Speedy Mashilo signals a shift toward prioritising human life above all else. His message is clear: initiation is not a commercial enterprise, and those who exploit it for profit while disregarding safety regulations will face consequences. This is a necessary intervention in a sector that has, for too long, been vulnerable to abuse. The introduction of special courts and dedicated investigators represents a decisive move to clamp down on illegal initiation schools. These measures must be supported and, more importantly, consistently enforced. Too often, regulations exist on paper but fail in practice due to weak monitoring and limited accountability. Equally important is the role of municipalities. The provision of basic resources such as water tankers may seem like a simple intervention, but it directly addresses one of the leading causes of fatalities/dehydration. This highlights a broader truth: safeguarding initiates requires not only cultural custodianship but also

practical, life-saving support systems.

Encouragingly, traditional leaders and *ingoma* practitioners are beginning to align themselves with the call for reform. Voices such as Solomon Skosana and Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena reflect a growing acknowledgment that preserving the dignity of initiation must go hand in hand with ensuring its safety. Tradition is not weakened by regulation; it is strengthened by it.

However, cooperation alone is not enough. There must be stricter control over the issuing of permits, greater transparency in the approval process, and zero tolerance for those who operate outside the law. The reported influx of over 200 applications for legal initiation schools suggests progress, but compliance must be verified, not assumed.

At its core, this is not a debate between culture and modern governance. It is a matter of protecting children. Parents entrust initiation schools with the lives of their sons, and that trust must never be betrayed.

The path forward requires a united front — government, traditional leaders, communities, and families all working together with a shared objective: zero deaths, zero abuse, and full accountability.

As the season draws closer, the message must remain unwavering: no tradition, no matter how sacred, should come at the cost of a child's life.



MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Speedy Mashilo, during an all-inclusive stakeholder initiation dialogue session held at the KwaMhlanga Government Offices, with Thembisile Hani Municipality Mayor Lesetja Dikgale (left) and CONTRALESA President Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena (right).



Library week launch encourages youth to reclaim knowledge and explore opportunities

● SIMPHIWE JENNIFER MOTAU

MIDDELBURG — The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Cultural Services Department launched the National Library Week on 17 March 2026 at Adelaide Tambo Community Hall, encouraging young people to access information, develop skills, and explore economic opportunities.

The programme runs from 16 to 22 March 2026 under the theme “Reclaiming Knowledge, Empowering Futures.”

Ward 24 Councillor, Monty Phetla, welcomed the youth and local small businesses who attended, encouraging them to take full advantage of the initiative. “Let's make this Library Week a success and memorable by embracing the knowledge shared today,” he said. Assistant Director for Cultural Services, Shirley Xulu, outlined the purpose of the programme, calling on young people to unlock their potential. “This platform is about allowing young people to unleash their creativity, network, and share information that can change their lives,” she said, adding that such initiatives are aimed at helping reduce

unemployment in the municipality.

MMC for Arts, Culture, Sports, Recreation and Environmental Health, Bathobile Shabangu, highlighted the importance of youth participation in economic development. “Remember, entrepreneurship is not only about starting a business, but about creating jobs for young entrepreneurs and their families,” she said.

She further encouraged attendees to visit the Local Economic Development (LED) Office to access business opportunities and government-supported training programmes.

Some of the young attendees welcomed the initiative and shared their experiences. “This programme opened my eyes to opportunities I didn't know existed. I feel motivated to start something of my own,” said Thabiso Nkosi.

Lerato Mthembu said the event was both informative and inspiring. “I've learned the importance of using the library not just for studying, but also for gaining knowledge about business and personal growth,” she said.



Community members during the program

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



Struggling with Self-Control

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. (Romans 7:14–15)

I've eaten too much, interfered where I had no business meddling, and spoken when I should have remained silent. Those are pretty common problems, aren't they? Universal, in fact. We have all exceeded the bounds of wisdom by failing to restrain ourselves. We all suffer from the same ailment: lack of self-control.

I would be a lot harder on myself were it not for Romans 7:14–15. I derive a lot of comfort from what the apostle Paul writes of his own experience. This man was an undisputed spiritual giant, called on by God to write God-breathed words and to lead thousands of believers on the journey to Christlikeness.

Best of all, Paul led by example! He lived in submission to Christ no matter what. He was beaten, stoned, starved,

shipwrecked, imprisoned, called a devil on one day and a god on another and ultimately martyred for this faithfulness to the gospel. We might be tempted to think that he lived as close to perfection as the Lord Himself, were it not for his own admission.

Paul's candid confession in Romans 7 sounds exactly like yours or mine: “For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate” (Romans 7:15).

Look at that! The apostle Paul is openly declaring that he can't always follow the very commands he writes under inspiration. He's not saying that theoretically he sometimes behaves differently than he knows to be right. He's saying, “This is life as I live it. This is the unending struggle of life as I experience it. I don't understand this about myself. I decide one way, and then I wind up acting another.”

Check out what he said a little later. It gets worse: “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not” (Romans 7:18). How honest is that? Isn't that true for all of us? I can't count the times I have asked myself, “Why? Why did I do something so foolish?” Paul's analysis exposing the root cause comes back, loud and clear.

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Suspected toxic snacks leave Mhluzi learners vomiting blood

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG - More than 40 learners from Ekwazini Secondary School in Mhluzi were hospitalised after falling ill on Tuesday, 17 March 2026, after consuming snacks bought from a school vendor and local tuck shops. The Mpumalanga Department of Health is investigating whether the snacks were contaminated.

The learners reported symptoms including headaches, dizziness, stomach cramps, and vomiting blood. They were rushed to King Nyabela Hospital for treatment.

A grade 8 learner, who cannot be named because she is a minor, said she became ill shortly after eating the snacks. "After eating, I went back to class. That's when I started feeling dizzy and had cramps in my stomach," she said. She said she was taken out of class while waiting for medical assistance and later began vomiting blood.

A grade 9 learner reported similar

symptoms. "I had a huge headache and pains in my stomach. I started crying and panicking," the learner said, adding that he also vomited blood.

All affected learners were later discharged after receiving medical treatment.

The Mpumalanga health department said laboratory tests are underway to determine whether the snacks were contaminated. "Samples are being processed in the National Health Laboratory Service. The root cause will be determined once results are available," said departmental spokesperson Christopher Nobela.

The department added that some tests take longer to process and that measures have been put in place at the school, including monitoring cases and raising awareness.

Some parents blamed the school for not monitoring food sold to learners. School Governing Body (SGB) member Mavis Shabangu said the school has stopped a tuckshop operator from trading while investigations continue. She urged parents to be cautious about giving children money for snacks.

"Even if the individual can be stopped completely, the fact that the learners always have money, they can buy similar products elsewhere on their way to school. They will obviously get sick inside the school premises," she said.

Department of Education spokesperson Gerald Sambo said the SGB is responsible for overseeing food sales at schools but emphasised that the wider community also has a role to play. He added that the department has issued guidelines and trained food handlers to ensure hygiene and safe food preparation.



The Mpumalanga health department says it is waiting for the results of samples sent to a laboratory to determine if the snacks eaten by Ekwazini Secondary School learners were contaminated.

EFF calls for stricter monitoring of food sold in Steve Tshwete community

● SIMPHIWE JENNIFER MOTAU

MIDDELBURG — The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has called for stricter monitoring of food safety standards in the area following incidents that raised concerns about food sold to residents and learners.

This follows a recent complaint after a customer had noticed mould on the kota he bought from a restaurant in town on Thursday, 19 March. Following this incident, is one that sent shock waves throughout the entire municipality when more than 40 learners of Ekwazini Secondary School were reportedly fallen ill after eating snacks during a lunch break at the school on Tuesday, 17 March.

"EFF strongly condemned the irresponsible sale of suspected contaminated food at local spaza shops within our communities," said party chairperson in Steve Tshwete, Joseph Ngubeni.

EFF also said after receiving reports that the children became ill after consuming snacks, its MMC, Joana Mthombeni, from the Public Safety office in the municipality

immediately intervened and visited the identified shops to address the matter with urgency. "As part of this intervention, the MMC invited the Food Safety Department of the municipality to conduct inspections and ensure that all unsafe, expired, or questionable products are immediately removed from the shelves.

"The MMC also visited Ekwazini Secondary School to engage with the school management and assess the well-being of the affected learners. We are relieved that the children who consumed the snacks are currently stable," said the statement.

"This incident raises serious concerns about the quality and

safety of food products sold in our communities, particularly those easily accessible to school learners."

The EFF maintains that all businesses operating in the communities must respect the health and dignity of residents and comply fully with food safety regulations. "Any business found selling unsafe food products must face the full consequences of the law."

The EFF also said it will continue to monitor the situation and work with municipal authorities to ensure that food safety standards are upheld and that communities are protected from harmful products.



The EFF in Steve Tshwete says food safety standards must be monitored to ensure safety of communities within the municipality

Middelburg resident raises concern over moldy kota

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — A Middelburg resident has raised concerns about food safety after allegedly discovering mold in a kota he purchased from a shop in the central business district on Thursday, 19 March.

Victor Hlakudi said he stopped eating immediately after noticing the issue and reported it to the shop owner.

"I saw it had fungus on it, which made me stop eating and contact the store owner immediately," he said. "It's truly disgusting to find this in the kota I enjoy so much."

Hlakudi said a friend had eaten a similar kota earlier but did not report any issues. He added that neither of them had experienced any symptoms at the time of reporting.

According to Hlakudi, the shop owner apologised and issued a full refund.

However, he believes this is not sufficient and has requested that the owner cover the cost of precautionary medical examinations for both himself and his friend.

"I want him to pay for the doctor's fees for both of us," he said.

Hlakudi said he is concerned about potential health risks and wants assurance that consuming the food will not lead to complications. He also raised concerns about other customers who may have purchased food from the same shop.

"This is a busy shop where many people buy food and may not be aware of the issue," he said.

The shop owner declined to comment when approached.

At the time of publication, arrangements were being made for Hlakudi and his friend to undergo medical examinations.



A kota loving customer finds fungus on the bread used to make his Kota.

Dr JS Moroka residents voice service delivery challenges during Premier's Imbizo

● LUCAS SHONGWE

NONKANENG – During a recent Premier's Imbizo held at Nonkaneng Sports Grounds on Friday, 20 March 2026, residents of the Dr JS Moroka Municipality voiced a range of significant concerns.

Among the most pressing issues highlighted were persistent shortages of water and electricity. Beyond these essential services, community members also expressed concerns about the deteriorating state of road infrastructure, as well as the existing housing backlog.

Premier Mandla Ndlovu, accompanied by members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government Executive Council (EXCO), attended the community engagement initiative, which spanned from 18 March to 20

March 2026.

The Premier also received first-hand accounts of the challenges faced by local youth, including high unemployment rates and limited support available for local entrepreneurs and persons with disabilities, who expressed a need for greater opportunities and assistance.

The programme featured an evaluation of service delivery progress, alongside visits to government-led initiatives and direct engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, including the business community and civil society organisations.

The outreach initiative aimed to foster dialogue between the community and the Provincial

Government on pressing service delivery issues, offering the government a platform to address obstacles hindering effective service provision.

During his address to residents, the Premier reiterated the Provincial Government's commitment to resolving the issues raised. "We have listened to your concerns, and we will address the challenges you have presented," he said.

He further outlined proactive strategies to combat unemployment, highlighting a hybrid rice project and agro-processing ventures expected to create up to 388,000 jobs across the province. The project is supported by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Provincial Government and the University of Mpumalanga.

In addition, the district municipality announced plans for water infrastructure projects to address ongoing water shortages. Agricultural support programmes were also introduced as part of efforts to tackle poverty in the community.



Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu

IMAGE: Dr JS Moroka Municipality

Mpumalanga takes bold stand in fight against TB and HIV/AIDS

● LUCAS SHONGWE

EMALAHLENI — The Mpumalanga Provincial Government reaffirmed its commitment to combating tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS during the World TB Day commemoration held on 14 March, 2026, at Sy Mthimunye Stadium in Ackerville.

The event, organised under the theme "Yes! You and I Can End TB," brought together government leaders, civil society, healthcare workers and community members in a united effort to address one of South Africa's most pressing public health challenges.

Delivering the keynote address, MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Speedy Mashilo, emphasised that TB remained both preventable and curable, provided patients adhered strictly to treatment.

"Today we [have] gathered not only to commemorate World TB Day, but to reaffirm our collective commitment to ending one of humanity's oldest and deadliest diseases," Mashilo said, adding that TB continued to claim over a million lives globally each year.

He said that while progress had been made in Mpumalanga through mobile clinics, community health workers and awareness campaigns, significant challenges remained. These included drug-resistant TB, stigma and poor treatment adherence, which continued to undermine efforts to eliminate the disease.

Mashilo also called on communities to take personal responsibility in the fight against TB, aligning with the national "Cheka Impilo" wellness campaign, which encouraged individuals to prioritise their health and undergo regular testing.

According to statistics, South Africa remained among the 30 countries that accounted for 87% of the global TB burden. In 2022 alone, the country recorded approximately 270,000 new TB cases and an estimated 54,000 deaths, highlighting the scale of the epidemic.

In Mpumalanga, the burden was further intensified by high rates of TB and HIV co-infection, with the province also recording the highest rate of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) at 7,8%, exceeding the national average.

The provincial government had identified eMalahleni as one of the highest-burden areas and prioritised targeted interventions. These included the deployment of mobile clinics to improve access to healthcare services and the rollout of anti-stigma campaigns aimed at encouraging early testing and treatment.

Mashilo said TB and HIV/AIDS were not only health concerns but also socio-economic challenges that affected communities' well-being, productivity and development. He noted that poverty remained a key driver of TB infections, creating a cycle where illness and economic hardship reinforced each other.

The MEC also emphasised the importance of partnerships, calling on government departments, civil society, traditional leaders and the private sector to work together in strengthening prevention efforts, improving treatment outcomes and ensuring that no patient was left behind.

In a message of support, traditional health practitioners raised concerns about patients seeking treatment outside formal healthcare systems. However, they reaffirmed their commitment to referring patients to local clinics for proper diagnosis and care, strengthening collaboration between traditional and modern healthcare systems.

The commemoration formed part of the broader National TB Strategic Plan, which aimed to test five million people for TB by March 2026 as part of intensified case-finding efforts. This initiative was expected to significantly reduce TB incidence and mortality in the coming years.

Closing his address, Mashilo urged communities to reject stigma and discrimination against those living with TB and HIV/AIDS.

"United, we can end TB. When we stand together as a society, we can overcome this disease," he said.



MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Speedy Mashilo



Ms Makhosazane Masilela
Speaker of the Mpumalanga
Provincial Legislature



**TAKING
THE LEGISLATURE
— TO THE —
PEOPLE**

The Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela invites community members of the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, in the Gert Sibande District to take part in the Taking the Legislature to the People (TLP) programme, which serves as a platform for members of the public to directly interact with both the Legislature and government, as part of meaningful oversight and public involvement.

Date: 23 - 26 March 2026

Time: 09h00

Venue: Sun City Sports Field, Mayflower, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality

The TLP programme will also include oversight visits by various Legislature Committees to community projects around the municipality to ascertain if they are being accordingly implemented as per the plans and allocated budgets by government. There will also be public hearings and stakeholder engagements where-in community members will be given an opportunity to raise issues affecting them, with the Legislature and government.

The Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Mandla Ndlovu will deliver the closing address on Thursday, the 26th of March 2026 at 10h00 at the main venue, Sun City Sports Field, Mayflower.

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Touch of Life Foundation donates two wheelchairs to Middelburg residents

● UNITY NDHLOVU

MIDDELBURG — On Sunday, 15 March 2026, the Touch of Life Foundation donated its first two wheelchairs to beneficiaries in Middelburg and surrounding communities, aiming to restore independence and dignity to people living with mobility challenges. The foundation, co-founded four years ago by Dr Zamokuhle Ngozo, Stanley Maseko, and Freddy Mabulane, began as a personal calling to help others and has grown into a community-driven initiative. Ngozo said his experience with SASSA, conducting home visits for disability grant registrations, inspired the mobility project. “I met many people without wheelchairs or using broken ones. One client even offered to sacrifice her grant just to get a wheelchair so she could visit the Middelburg Mall,” he said. The wheelchairs were delivered directly to the beneficiaries’ home, and Ngozo said recipients immediately felt the impact. “One family said they would take their loved one to the clinic the next day without worrying about transport costs. Another said the wheelchair would allow their family members to attend

church again,” Ngozo said. He added that improved mobility allows people to participate in everyday activities often taken for granted. Alfred Magagula from Mhluzi Ext 2, a wheelchair recipient, said the donation relieved months of struggle. He had to hire cars to reach the clinic at high cost. “I will be able to go to the clinic and the shop by myself,” he said. The foundation has previously supported the community through food parcel distributions, school shoes donations, fun walks and soccer tournaments in Mhluzi and Belfast. Although the project is still in its early stages, the foundation aims to donate more than 10 wheelchairs this year, expanding to Mhluzi in Middelburg and Siyathuthuka in Belfast. The organisation works closely with a social worker and community partners, including local pageant representatives, to identify and support deserving beneficiaries. Ngozo said the foundation faces ongoing financial constraints and relies on private donors, friends, and

internal contributions. “We have an open-door policy and pride ourselves on transparency. We encourage individuals and businesses to support our work so we can reach more people,” he said. Angelina Mndebele, 2026 Toddler and Tween of the World finalist, praised the foundation’s initiative, saying it brings hope and freedom. She added: “We should support and include everyone. Kindness makes the world happier.” Mndebele thanked the foundation for its efforts and expressed hope for a future where more people receive the support they need. Looking ahead, the foundation plans to expand its programmes to include school uniforms, vocational training for people with disabilities, accessible healthcare initiatives, and inclusive sports and arts programmes. Ngozo said the project is deeply personal. “We want to touch as many lives as possible and make a real difference in our community,” he said. He also called on the public to treat people with disabilities with dignity and actively engage with them.



Lean On Me calls Middelburg men to break the silence

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — Men in Middelburg are urged not to suffer in silence, says Linah Mnisi, founder of Lean On Me (LOM), a local organisation that offers support programmes for men and boys. Mnisi told the publication that LOM has observed a prevailing tendency for men to endure their struggles in silence. “Particularly concerning experiences like domestic, verbal, and physical abuse. It’s crucial to recognise that men, too, can be victims of abuse within their families or at their workplaces. A significant impediment to men reporting such incidents is the unfortunate reality of facing ridicule in society or when seeking assistance from police stations,” she said. She said men in the community are encouraged to speak openly about the challenges they face. She added that while government initiatives are prioritising the safety and advancement of women and girls, there appears to be limited focus aimed at safeguarding boys and men from acts of violence perpetrated by women. On Friday, 13 March 2026, LOM organised a walk from Mhluzi Mall to OR Tambo Park with the aim to raise community awareness regarding the organisation and its services. “This initiative proved successful, as community members engaged with us, allowing us to thoroughly explain our programs and offerings,” said Mnisi. Founded in 2018, LOM offers support programmes designed to address a variety of individual and community needs. These initiatives include programmes addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and HIV/AIDS, coupled with essential counselling services. They also provide dedicated support for mental and physical well-being, alongside practical training in financial management and anger management. Furthermore, their programmes foster positive male development through fatherhood initiatives, mentorship opportunities and men’s dialogue sessions. The organisation has a team of spiritual counselors, medical doctors, motivational speakers, marriage

counselors, financial advisors and life coaches who offer assistance through support groups. “To ensure the effectiveness of these programs, active participation from community members is very important. Recognising the unique challenges faced by young boys, we have developed specific programs aimed at equipping them with the skills and knowledge to navigate the transition into manhood responsibly,” she said. “Our collaborative efforts extend to partnerships with organisations

such as Men Can Do Better, Isibindi, Patcher, and Mental Health, among others. The specific referral pathway is tailored to the unique challenges presented by each client. Through these close working relationships, we can effectively connect individuals with the most appropriate external resources when necessary.” Mnisi concluded that they welcome all forms of support, whether financial or non-financial, including the invaluable contribution of advice. For individuals or groups interested in offering support, they can reach out to Linah Mnisi at 072 635 5199 or Siphon Elangeni at 074 419 0598.



Lean On Me organisation during a community awareness walk from Mhluzi Mall to OR Tambo Park on Friday, 13 March
IMAGE: Supplied



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER USE LICENSE AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED WETLAND DECLASSIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING OPENCAST MINING OPERATIONS, IN VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NKANGALA DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA (REF: MP 30/5/1/2/2/10025MR).

Notice is hereby given, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 108 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982, as amended), as well as the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), that **Neosho Trading 86 (Pty) Ltd** intends to submit applications to the relevant competent authorities for an **Environmental Authorisation (EA)** and a **Water Use Licence (WUL)** for the proposed **wetland declassification**.

Letsolo Water and Environmental Services has been appointed by **Neosho Trading 86 (Pty) Ltd**, (herein referred as Moabsvelden Colliery) as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake a Section 102 amendment application in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), as amended, to amend the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to obtain Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of NEMA, and to facilitate the Water Use Licence Application process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

Project overview

Neosho Trading 86 (Pty) Ltd is an existing operational coal mine with an approved Mining Right issued in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) (Reference Number: **MP 30/5/1/2/2/ (10025) MR**) by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).

The proposed project involves the expansion of mining activities into a wetland area using the opencast mining method. The proposed expansion footprint covers approximately 19.5 hectares.

The project entails the proposed wetland declassification and expansion of the existing opencast mining operations within the approved Mining Right Area of Neosho Trading 86 (Pty) Ltd.

Applicable listed activities

The Proposed project will trigger activities listed on the EIA regulations: GNR 983, Listing Notice No. 1: Activity No’s,4, 12,19, 27 and 30; and GNR 985, Listing Notice No. 3: Activity No’s 3, 4, 12, 14 and 18.

The project triggers Section 21(c) and 21(i) water uses under the National Water Act, requiring a Water Use Licence Application currently in process with DWS under Reference CT35460.

Project Location

The Moabsvelden Project is located on portion 8 of the farm Moabsvelden 248 IR, 13 km east of the town of Delmas, in the Mpumalanga province, South Africa. The R50 national road passes 4 km to the southwest of the area. Coordinates: -26.151750°S, 28.813384°E; -26.152052°S, 28.814882°E.

Public Participation Process:

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register on the project database to receive project updates. The registered I&APs will be notified of public meetings and given opportunities to review statutory reports within 30-day comment period.

For further information regarding the project, please Contact:

Letsolo Water and Environmental Services

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ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

Ukugandeleleka ngobungani

Ukugandeleleka ngobungani kungendlela bonyana wenze nanyana yini eyenziwa bangani, ngaqali bonyana into leyo yihle namkha yimbi. Umuntu angazizwa agandelelekile namkha akatelekile ukwenza into ngombana abanye bayayenza. Ukugandeleleka ngobungani kungarherha umuntu bonyana enze into ehle elungileko kanti-ke ngakwelinye ihlangothi ingarherha umuntu bonyana enze into embi engakalungi enemiphumela emikhule, nethusako nebuhlungu. Kuqakathekile bonyana umuntu ahlukane lokha nakazithethela iinquntu namkha nakandeleleka ngobungani. Igandelelo nasele likufikele, ngasikhathi lilethwa kugandelelwa ziinkinga zepilo, kulula bonyana ngazibona sewuphakathi kokugandeleleka ngobungani. Abangani bangakwenza bonyana wenze into ongakatjhaphuluki ukuyenza, njengokuthatha izinto

esitholo ungakazibhadali (ukweba), ukusela utjwala nokuthatha iindakamizwa, ukutjhayela budlabha nanyana ukuyama emsemeni ungakathaphuluki begodu ngaphambi kwesikhathi.

Khuyini unobangela kokugandeleleka ngobungani?

Ukugandeleleka ngobungani kungenzeka lokha abantu nabaqalene umbuso nobuso nanyana kwenzeke eenkundleni zokuthintana. Abantwana bahlala bazithola bagandeleleka ngobungani ngombana bafuna ukwamukelwa esiqhemeni thizeni, bafuna ukuduma, ukuthandwa bangani babo, ukuhlonitjwa no kuba namandla. Balangezelelwa ukuthandwa khulu kwangangokuthi abezwa ubuhlungu nabangamukelwa

nanyana basaba bonyana bangeza ihlekisa ngabo. Ukugandeleleka ngobungani eenkundleni zokuthintana kuyingozi khulu ngombana yoke into eyenziwako ibonwa ngiwo woke umuntu begodu umuntu loyo ubanombono ngento enye nentye into ozabe uyi fake eenkundleni zokuthintana, yeke ukateleleka bonyana wenze izinto ozibona khona. Iinkundla zokuthintana zingenza umuntu

bona bagandeleleke ngokomkhumbulo.

Ungalinga lokhu okulandelako ukuvimba ukugandeleleka ngobungani:

Ungatjela abangani bakho ngokuzithemba bonyana uyathokoza nabakwenzisa into engakalungi.

Ungasebenzisa amahlanya aphambukako njengesikhali sakho. Tjhida ebanganini abafunako

ukukwenzisa izinto eziphambene nokulunga.

Khuluma uninze esiquntwini sakho sokobana awufuni ukukatelelwa bonyana wenze into ongayifuniko.

Thola isekelo ukhulumisane nomuntu omthembako.

Umtloli:
Sibongile Precious Skosana

NOTICE OF ATMOSPHERIC EMISSION LICENSE (AEL) RENEWAL APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 38(8)(a)(b) of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No.39 of 2004) as amended that a renewal application will be submitted to the Nkangala District Municipality for the listed activity detailed in the address below:

APPLICANT: Omnia Fertilizer Dryden

LOCATION: Portion 1 and R/33 of the farm Weltevreden, 22IR Farm Weltevreden, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, 33, 2210

NATURE OF RENEWAL APPLICATION: Renewal Application for an Atmospheric Emissions License (AEL) is being made in respect of the following listed activity:

Listed Activity Category	Listed Activity Category Number	Listed Activity Subcategory
Inorganic Chemicals Industry	Category 7.3	Production of chemical fertilizer

DESCRIPTION: The production of superphosphates, ammonium nitrate, ammonium phosphates and or ammonium sulphate and their processing into fertilizer mixtures (NPK mixtures)

APPLICATION: All installations producing and or processing more than 10 tons per month

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT: Any person desiring to obtain more information on the application or object to the use of the premises for such purpose may do so within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice; by lodging a written notice setting out grounds of the objection by email, to the contact persons below:

Name: Nelson Lekganyane

Cell: 073 2555 425; **Email:** Nelson.Lekganyane@omnia.co.za

Name: Mankileng Moukangwe

Tel: 011 821 3300; **Cell:** 076 742 4339; **Email:** Mankileng.Moukangwe@omnia.co.za

Drop us a message: **081 303 7023**



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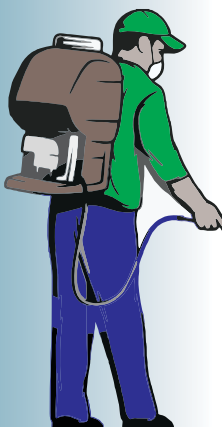
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ISAZISO SESIBAWO SOKUVUSELELWA KWELAYISENSI YOKUKHUTHWA KWE-ATMOSPHERI (AEL)

Isaziso sinikelwa lapha ngokuya kweSigaba 38(8)(a)(b) se-National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No.39 of 2004) njengombana sitjhugululiwe bona isibawo sokuvuselelwa sizokuthunyelwa kuMasipala wesiFunda se-Nkangala ngomsebenzi obhalwe ngokunabileko ekheleni elingezansi:

UMFAKISIBAWO : I-Omnia Fertilizer Dryden

INDAWO : Ingcenywe 1 ne-R/33 yeplasi Weltevreden, 22IR Ipulazi Weltevreden, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, 33, 2210

UBUJAMO BESIBAWO SOKUVUSELELWA: Isibawo sokuVuselelwa seLayisense yokuKhupha ummoya (i-AEL) senziwa malungana nomsebenzi olandelako :

ISIGABA ESIFAKIWEKO	SOMSEBENZI	INOMBORO SOMSEBENZI OBHALIWEKO	YESIGABA SOMSEBENZI OHLELIWEKO	NGAPHASI SOMSEBENZI OHLELIWEKO	KWE-SIGABA
Ibubulo lamakhemikhali angaphiliiko		Isigaba 7.3		Ukukhiqiza umvundisi wamakhemikhali	

IDLATHULULO: Ukukhiqizwa kwama-superphosphates, i-ammonium nitrate, i-ammonium phosphates kanye nofana i-ammonium sulphate nokusetjenziswa kwazo kube ziinhlanguzela zemanyolo (imihlanganisela ye-NPK)

ISIBAWO: Zoke iinsetjenziswa ezikhiqiza begodu nofana ezisebenza amathani angaphezu amathani alitjumi qobe nyanga

ITHUBA LOKUPHAWULA: Nanyana ngubani ofuna ukuthola ilwazi elinabileko ngesibawo namkha ophikisana nokusetjenziswa kwendawo leyo angenza njalo kungakapheli amalanga ama-30 kusukela ngelanga lokugadangiswa kwesaziso lesi; ngokufaka isaziso esitolwe phasi esiveza amabanga wokuphikisa nge-imeyili, nofana ngenomboro yomtato, ungatintana no:

Igama : Nelson Lekganyane

Cell: 073 2555 425; **Email:** Nelson.Lekganyane@omnia.co.za kanye no:

Igama : Mankileng Moukangwe

Tel: 011 821 3300 ; **Cell:** 076 742 4339 ; **Email:** Moukangwe@omnia.co.za

Delmas hosts inaugural theatre festival showcasing local talent

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — The inaugural Delmas Community Theatre Festival was held on Saturday, 14 March 2026 at the Simon Gondwe Sports Centre, drawing community members from morning until late. A full-day event showcasing local theatre, dance and creative workshops. The event featured theatre and dance performances, including Sarafina, Unleash, Welcome to Jozi, Iphepha, Amathamb, Adam's Ale, as well as traditional performances by Hope Traditional Dance and Kofifi Dance. Event organiser Sherly Mthombeni said the festival exceeded expectations in its first year. "The event was well received by the local community, with approximately 80% of attendees coming from surrounding areas," she said. The festival also included workshops focused on scriptwriting, physical theatre, and acting, led by industry practitioners such as Khethukutula Dlamini, Mpho Malesa, Gift Ngobeni and James Sithole.

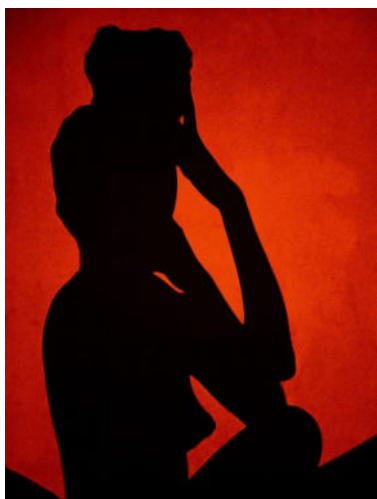
Twefontein's young shadow artist turns light into emotion

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

TWEEFONTEIN D — In Thembisile Hani Local Municipality Twefontein D, 21-year-old shadow artist Lesego Asanda Bianca Mnisi is using light and silhouettes to create emotionally driven images that reflect human experience and social issues. "The interplay between light and darkness speaks to balance," she explains. "I want people to reflect on how these opposites coexist." She transforms ordinary light into shadowed stories. Using silhouettes and careful lighting, she creates images that capture emotion, balance, and human experience — turning fleeting moments into art that lingers. Mnisi's path into shadow art was unexpected. As a child, she dreamed of becoming a fashion model, but limited access to resources pushed her to experiment with what she had. "I decided to start with whatever I

"The workshops were highly impactful, and many participants want more in-depth sessions in future," Mthombeni added. Performer Mandla Masuku, popularly known as "Mish Mosh," praised the level of preparation and commitment shown by participants. "The performances were outstanding. Groups came fully prepared and showed strong dedication to their craft," he said. Masuku noted challenges, including limited resources and a lack of sponsorship, which affected catering and water provision. However, transport and basic support were provided to participating groups. Members of the *Welcome to Jozi* production, directed by Simon Mohale, described the festival as a valuable platform for artistic growth and collaboration, noting that it provided an opportunity to share their passion with the community while strengthening

connections among artists. Audience member Relebohile Ndebele, representing Rise Mpumalanga Talent and founder of Hope of Hopeless Youth Centre, said the festival showcased strong local talent. "The festival was impactful and showcased the growth and potential of local artists. Some performances were deeply emotional and powerful," he said. Ndebele highlighted a solo performance dealing with loss and a cultural piece by an elderly performer as particularly moving, and praised Kofifi Dance as a standout act. "Kofifi Dance was on another level, I didn't just like it, I loved it," he added. Despite its success, organisers acknowledged areas for improvement, including marketing and funding. Ndebele suggested expanding outreach to rural areas and farms to boost future attendance. Mthombeni said the long-term goal is to grow the festival into a major cultural event in the region.



had," she says. That decision marked the beginning of her exploration in April 2025 into shadow art, a medium she has since made her own. Her work focuses on the interplay between light and darkness. Using silhouettes, she captures life's contrasts: joy and pain, presence and absence, light and shadow. Creating each piece is both technical and personal. Mnisi starts with a concept, experiments with poses and lighting, and often uses her own body to form the silhouettes. "Shadows allow me to play with perception and create unexpected visuals," she says. Lighting is central to her art. She works with natural and improvised light sources, carefully adjusting each to create mood and impact. Capturing the perfect shadow requires patience. One challenging piece involved combining multiple silhouettes, testing her technical skill and creativity. Because shadows are fleeting, Mnisi preserves her work through digital photography, capturing moments that would otherwise vanish. The resulting images feel both temporary and permanent, reflecting the ephemeral nature of light itself. South Africa's distinctive light and contrasts also shape her compositions. Beyond aesthetics, Mnisi engages with social issues through her work, including gender-based violence, showing that shadow art can be visually striking and socially meaningful. Audiences have responded with curiosity and intrigue, drawn to the simplicity and emotional depth of her work. Looking ahead, Mnisi plans to explore themes of identity and the environment while experimenting with new techniques to evolve her craft. She believes that unconventional art forms like shadow art open new ways of seeing and thinking. Her advice to young creatives is clear: "Experiment fearlessly and trust your instincts." She has lived by this philosophy, turning limitations into a unique artistic voice.

NOTICE OF CONSULTATION: MINING PERMIT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION

Notice is given in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA) and Chapter 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations (as amended) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended), of an application for a Mining Permit and an Environmental Authorisation to explore for mineral deposits in the North West Province of South Africa. This involves a Mining Permit application in terms of the MPRDA and an Environmental Authorisation application following a Basic Assessment process.

Nature of Activity:

Robin Island2024 (Pty) Ltd has lodged an application with Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR MP 30/5/1/1/3/15611MP) for a purpose of mining Aggregate and Silica Sand on Portion of the remaining extent of the farm Kameelpoortnek 218 JR, situated in the Magistrate District of Kwamhlanga, Mpumalanga Province.

It is anticipated that the following NEMA EIA listed activities will be triggered by this application:

1. Listing Notice 1: Activity 21 of GNR 983 of 2014, as amended on 11 June 2021: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the mining permit.

Basic Assessment Process

An application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation, 2014, as amended. Khona Group Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent environmental consultant responsible for undertaking the required BA and Public Participation Process (PPP) for the project.

Registration and Comment:

If you would like to register as Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) to receive information or if you have any question please contact us via any of the following channels by no later than 25 April 2026: E-mail: info@khonagroup.co.za, Tell/WhatsApp 060 6331868. Please include the project reference number in all correspondence.





Vukuzenzele United Palace stage second-half comeback to defeat Delpark 5-2

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — Vukuzenzele United Palace delivered a commanding second-half performance to defeat Delpark LFA 5-2 in a VKFA Promotional League fixture at Delpark Ground on Saturday, 14 March 2026, after scoring four unanswered goals in the second half.

Delpark led 2-1 at halftime, with Sabelo Ngwenya netting both goals for the home side. Vukuzenzele returned from the break with renewed intensity and turned the match around with a dominant attacking display.

Ayanda Radebe delivered a standout performance, scoring two goals and providing three assists. Additional goals came from Siphesihle Vilakazi, Nkosinathi Mwandla, and Sphamandla Khoza, completing a clinical turnaround that exposed Delpark's defensive vulnerabilities in the second half.

Delpark LFA coach Kobie Ramothibe expressed disappointment at his team's

inability to maintain their first-half advantage. "We had control of the game and created enough chances to extend our lead in the first half, but we didn't take them," he said. "In the second half, we lost concentration, especially in midfield and Vukuzenzele punished us."

Ramothibe said the team remains focused on long-term development, with several young players gaining valuable match experience. "We are building for the future. These matches are part of the learning process, and we will continue working on improving our decision-making and composure," he said.

Vukuzenzele United Palace coach Sello Midise praised his team's response after the break and their ability to take their chances. "The character the boys showed in the second half was impressive. We adjusted well, stayed compact,

and used our chances effectively," Midise said. "There is strong unity in the team, and that is helping us grow with every game."

Despite the convincing win, Midise acknowledged brief defensive lapses that led to Delpark's goals, citing communication issues at the back. "We lost structure for a short period, and that cost us two goals. It's something we are working on improving," he said.

Midise also highlighted the leadership within his squad, singling out captain Nkosinathi Mwandla, assistant captain Siphesihle Vilakazi, and playmaker Radebe for their influence on the game.

The result strengthens Vukuzenzele's ambitions in the VKFA Promotional League as they look to build momentum and push for promotion to SAB League level.

Meanwhile, Delpark LFA will take positives from their first-half display while continuing to prioritise youth development.



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