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Delmas murder case postponed as Van Tonder prepares bail bid

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — The murder case against Adriaan van Tonder who is accused of fatally shooting Calvin Mthoa on 08 February 2026 in Eloff, Delmas, has been postponed to 01 April 2026 to allow the accused to formally apply for bail. Van Tonder appeared in the Delmas Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, 24 March 2026, for his third appearance.

Van Tonder remains in custody until the next hearing. The case has drawn public and political attention, with community members and political organisations closely following developments. Outside the court, members of Delmas First for Women and the Umkhonto Wesizwe Party in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality gathered to show support for Mthoa's family and call for justice. They were joined by former Public protector advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane, who serves as the Umkhonto Wesizwe Party Mpumalanga provincial chairperson.

Florah Siteo, representing the Umkhonto Wesizwe Party's Nkangala Regional Detachment, expressed frustration over the delays in the legal process.

"We remain concerned about the continued postponements in this matter. The community is seeking justice, and every delay deepens the pain of the victim's family. While we respect the legal process, we urge that this case be handled with the urgency and seriousness it deserves," Siteo said. Attempts by *Highveld Chronicle* to obtain comment from the deceased's wife, Hlanganisile Dlongolo, were unsuccessful.

In a brief response, she asked: "How were you going to feel if you were in my shoes?"

The matter is expected to return to court on 01 April 2026, where the formal bail application is set to be heard.



Murder case against Adriaan van Tonder during his last court appearance



Umkhonto Wesizwe Party members who came to support the Mthoa family

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



Jesus Emptied Himself

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:7b-11)

Paul points to Jesus as the perfect illustration of selflessness. Read Philippians 2 very carefully, preferably out loud.

Jesus "did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped." Though Jesus deserved all the respect, all the worship, all the adoration, all the fear due Him as God, He let it all go. He released His grip on all of it.

Further, "He emptied Himself." While retaining every aspect of His deity, Jesus relinquished the independent use

of His divine attributes during His earthly sojourn. Before the Son became a flesh-and-blood man, He had absolute autonomy as God, being coequal, coeternal, and coexistent with the Father.

When He became a man, He voluntarily gave up the independent use of His divine attributes; and while on this earth, He submitted to the Father. He waited on the Father for His will, for His timing. He followed the Father's guidance as to where He would go and what He would do and what He would say and when He would do those things. He relinquished the voluntary use of His divine prerogatives. He gave up what was rightfully His for the sake of others—including you and me.

Moreover, He took "the form of a bondservant" and was made "in the likeness of men." He did this so that He could suffer "a cross-kind of death" (the Greek sentence suggests such a rendering). The excruciating, humiliating anguish of a common criminal became His kind of death. And in death He personified surrender.

The Son of Man gave up His will for the Father's. As a result, the Father glorified Him.

Is it any wonder, then, that the author of Hebrews encourages us to fix our eyes on Jesus, to focus our gaze on Him, to study Christ? Focusing intently on Christ naturally results in a lifestyle of increasingly greater selflessness.

Turning personal scars into a story of resilience and hope

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MACHADODORP — Gospel minister and self-taught author Sandile Sibande (33), has turned his personal struggles into a source of inspiration with his first book, *My Journey, My Scars*, which chronicles his journey toward faith, resilience and self-discovery.

The book explores challenges such as rejection, isolation, and a serious health scare in 2024 that had him hospitalised for two weeks. These experiences, Sibande says, helped him appreciate gratitude, mental and physical well-being, and the importance of human connection.

Sibande explained that the lessons learned from these experiences inspired him to share his story through the book. He said it serves as a beacon of hope for individuals who have grappled with loss, particularly those navigating the complexities of ministry, seeking clarity in their divine calling amidst persecution and pressure to uphold the Gospel. Adding a deeply personal layer to his narrative, Sibande revealed a recent health battle that required a period of isolation and reflection.

He reflected on his period of isolation due to illness, acknowledging the internal struggle between acceptance and the drive for improvement.

He discovered that pursuing better health isn't an act of denial, provided one reconciles with their current circumstances. He emphasised that relinquishing anxieties about the future and embracing the present reality is crucial for regaining one's life and opening oneself to unforeseen possibilities.

"This introspective time illuminated the profound importance of gratitude, the prioritisation of both mental and physical well-being, and the fundamental necessity of human connection," he said.

Sibande further elaborated that the two-week period of isolation felt exceptionally protracted, akin to a full year. This time, he explained, was an involuntary opportunity for introspection and acquiring new knowledge.

It necessitated finding novel

approaches to communication and involved a process of absorbing insights from both personal experiences and those of others.

"This learning extended to understanding internal states, the dynamics of his relationships, and the atmosphere within my home," he said.

Sibande continued by sharing the depth of his suffering, which at one point led him to contemplate estrangement from his faith. "How could a benevolent, magnanimous, and empathetic God permit His children to endure such hardship?" he wondered.

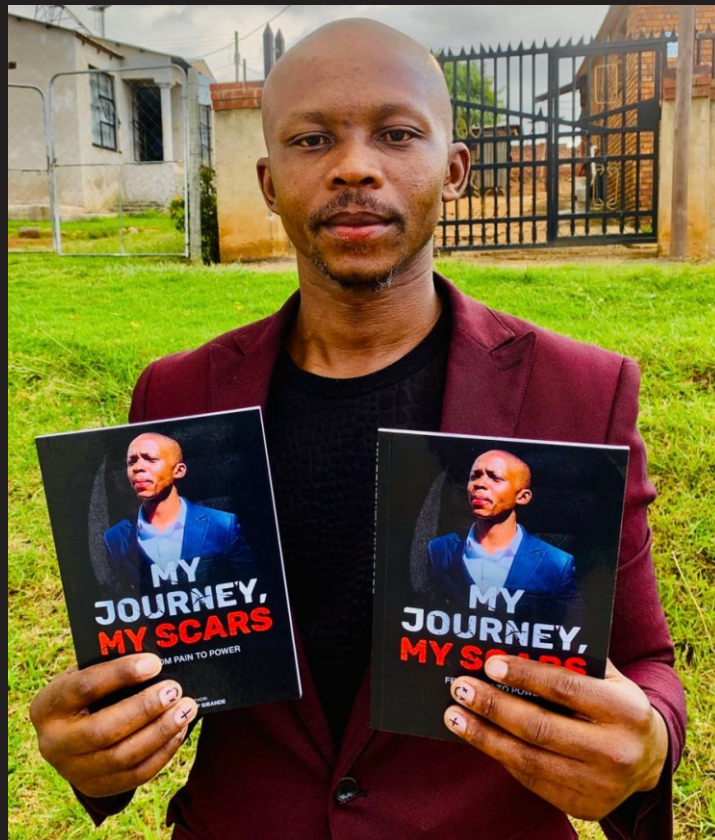
Yet, he concluded, divine faithfulness proved immense, as the Lord filled the void left by his distress with an overwhelming sense of joy.

He shared that his upbringing led him to realise life's realities were far from a fairytale, ultimately discovering his personal strength and voice through the act of writing.

"In 2025, I resolved to write a book, and this ambition materialised in January 2026. At the outset, I was unsure of the specific subject matter, but I was certain it would chronicle my journey, a path that, at times, bore unbearable scars," he says.

The book draws inspiration from the indelible marks left by his experiences with hardship and his dedicated service as a minister and apostle. He elaborated on its structure, explaining, "The narrative is thoughtfully arranged.

The initial part delves deeply into the process of discovering faith amidst various trials, while the subsequent section highlights the abundant rewards and divine blessings that emerge from our struggles." The book, published by *Sell Your Book*, will be launched on 18 April 2026 at Greys Inn in Machadodorp, and will be available at a cost of R150.00. He further added that R150 will also be paid at the luncheon which will be attended by many dignitaries including other writers, politicians, pastors and business people.



Sandile Sibande of Machadodorp says his book *My Journey, My Scars*, to be launched on 18 April

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Motorists feel early fuel price shock ahead of April increase

The Competition Commission urges the public to report unfair and premature fuel price increases

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA - Motorists across the province are already feeling the impact of rising fuel prices, even before the official adjustments come into effect.

Recent data from the Central Energy Fund (CEF) shows that diesel prices are expected to increase by between R9.86 and R10 per litre, depending on the grade. Petrol prices are also projected to rise, with 93 and 95 octane expected to increase by between R5.24 and R5.76 per litre.

The sharp increases have been linked to ongoing geopolitical tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran, which have pushed global oil prices beyond \$100 per barrel, up from about \$71 per barrel prior to the escalation.

The official fuel price adjustments are expected to take effect on Wednesday, 1 April 2026. However, motorists in some areas say they are already paying significantly more at the pump.

From late Wednesday, 25 March, several fuel stations in the Delmas area were already charging around R26 per litre for diesel, while images circulating from other parts of the province showed prices reaching as high as R33 per litre. One driver expressed concern over the sudden spike. "Can you believe it? It's

R33.33 a litre," he said. "I'm worried—if this is the price now, what will happen next week?"

The potential knock-on effects are expected to be severe, particularly for the agricultural sector. Fuel accounts for up to 50% of grain input costs, and rising fuel and fertiliser prices are likely to increase production costs, squeeze profit margins and reduce planting capacity. This could ultimately lead to higher food prices for consumers.

Meanwhile, the Competition Commission has warned businesses against implementing premature fuel-related price increases.

Commission spokesperson Siyabulela Makunga said businesses that increase prices ahead of actual fuel cost increases, or raise prices beyond justified levels, risk being found guilty of price gouging.

"The same applies to businesses that continue to charge higher prices after the oil price shock has subsided," he said.

Makunga said there is a real risk that some businesses may exploit the current uncertainty by inflating prices unfairly. He noted that the risk is particularly high in

unregulated sectors such as diesel, jet fuel, fertilisers, plastics, transport and logistics, as well as food and delivery services.

He emphasised that businesses may not increase prices in anticipation of future fuel cost increases.

"They may only increase prices once they experience actual fuel cost increases, and only in proportion to those increases," he said.

Makunga added that prices should return to normal as soon as fuel costs decline.

The Commission has urged members of the public to report suspected cases of price gouging, providing details such as the business name, location, product affected, and price changes.

Residents experiencing high fuel costs are encouraged to share their experiences on [\[www.hconline.co.za\]](http://www.hconline.co.za)



Two receipts from a motorist—one from 22 March (left) charging about R22 per litre, and the other from 27 March (right) charging R25 per litre—an increase imposed a week before the official adjustment on 1 April.

Mpumalanga MEC warns public about scammer using his name to solicit money

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA — Thulasizwe Thomo Mpumalanga Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Public Works, Roads and Transport, has issued a warning to the public about a scammer impersonating him to solicit money from individuals.

According to Thomo, the impersonator — whom he says he doesn't know, is allegedly contacting victims through the phone number 0732271642, falsely claiming to be connected to the MEC's office in order to solicit funds from unsuspecting individuals.

In a statement issued by the department on Wednesday, 25 March 2026, MEC Thomo categorically distanced himself from the scam.

"Neither me nor my office has authorised any individual to request or collect money on my behalf for any reason," he said.

"The abuse of my name to defraud innocent people is deeply

concerning. I strongly urge the public not to fall victim to such scams and to verify any information through official government communication channels," Thomo said.

The MEC said the matter is being treated with urgency, and that he is in the process of opening a criminal case with law enforcement authorities. Investigations will be pursued to identify the perpetrator.

He called on residents, stakeholders, and businesses to remain vigilant and exercise caution when approached with such requests for money. Any suspicious communication should be reported immediately to the nearest police station.

The department reiterates its commitment to transparency and accountability and encourages anyone who may have been approached or affected by this scam to come forward and assist with the investigation.



Stay vigilant and don't fall for deceitful tactics of a scammer using this number 0732271642 to ask for money pretending to be MEC Thulasizwe Thomo. IMAGE: Facebook (MEC Thulasizwe Thomo)



EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

CELEBRATING EASTER HOLIDAYS

As we commemorate the sacred period of Easter, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all residents of eMalahleni.



EXECUTIVE MAYOR
CLLR VJ NHLAPHO

While embracing the joy and meaning of this season, it is essential to celebrate safely and responsibly.

All road users are urged to exercise patience and vigilance, and to adhere to road safety rules. Drinking and driving must be strictly avoided, seatbelts should always be worn, and distractions should be minimised.

Drivers are reminded to respect speed limits, watch for pedestrians, especially during nighttime, and consider the safety of all road users.

Let us celebrate Easter with faith, love, and care for one another, ensuring that every journey—whether to a place of worship, family home, or gravesite is safe and secure.

Easter is a time of spiritual reflection, renewal, hope, and jubilation.

Families and communities across eMalahleni, representing diverse churches and faiths, come together in devotion and unity.

Many will be travelling to various cities to attend Easter celebrations, while others will be visiting loved ones, including those who will be visiting cemeteries to honour and remember their loved ones.

LET US ALL MAKE THIS EASTER A JOYFUL, MEANINGFUL AND SAFE SEASON FOR ALL.

Mpumalanga Municipalities on brink of blackouts over R31 billion Eskom debt

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA — Residents and businesses in 12 Mpumalanga municipalities face possible electricity interruptions after failing to pay more than R31 billion owed to Eskom over the past 18 months.

Eskom has warned that without credible repayment plans, it will enforce credit control measures, including scheduled supply cuts.

The most affected areas are in Nkangala District, eMalahleni, Emakhaseni, Victor Khanye and Steve Tshwete local municipalities, owe a combined R13,97 billion. In Gert Sibande District, Dipaleseng, Goven Mbeki, Lekwa, Mkhondo and Msukaligwa local municipalities owe Eskom a combined R12,24 billion.

The three municipalities in Ehlanzeni District —City of Mbombela, Thaba Chweu and Nkomazi local municipalities, owe Eskom a sum of R5,11 billion.

“Should the municipalities fail to take corrective action, Eskom will proceed with credit control measures, which may include interrupting electricity supply at predetermined times, as permitted by law. If defaults persist, Eskom will be compelled to limit supply to levels commensurate with payments received,” Eskom said in a statement.

Eskom told *Highveld Chronicle* that none of the municipalities have proactively submitted repayment proposals, prompting the power utility to issue notices under the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA). This process allows parties to make representations before Eskom takes further action. This process, Eskom said, comes after having exhausted all reasonable avenues through the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (IRFA).

A PAJA notice has already been issued for Goven Mbeki Municipality which failed or refused to settle its debt which has increased to R6,58 billion from 31 December 2025. The notice signals

Eskom's intention to interrupt bulk supply from 08 May 2026, with public submissions invited until 13 April 2026.

The provincial Cooperative Governance Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) department said re-enforcing existing strategies to enhance revenue collection and find alternative revenue sources.

It added that the strategies include revenue enhancement committees to provide support, guidance and assisting in finding alternative revenue sources, and government debt forum where the department is playing a role in monitoring the commitment by departments in honouring their debts to municipalities.

“In cases where the departments are not honouring their debts, the department engages the respective departments and facilitates payments. This is to assist municipalities to collect more revenue to have sufficient cash to service the Eskom debt,” the department said in response.

It also stated that it has established a panel of debt collectors with the aim to allow municipalities to tap-in the services of these experts to boost the collection of old debt by businesses, residents and other entities. “And the implementation of the Municipal Property Rates Act (MPRA). The department is the custodian of the MPRA. The MPRA was enacted to assist municipalities to collect additional revenue from non-exchange services.”

The Nkangala District Municipality (MDM) emphasised that it is actively engaging with the affected local municipalities as demonstrated by the adoption of the District Development Model (DDM) council resolution.

“Advanced consultations are underway with municipalities and

key stakeholders to establish the Nkangala District Revenue Collection Centre. This strategic intervention will focus on the recovery of historic debts owed to municipalities, currently exceeding R1 billion,” said district mayor Thomas Ngwenya.

He added that the recovery of these funds will significantly enhance municipal liquidity and enable the settlement of long-standing obligations, including Eskom debt.

Ngwenya added:

“The Eskom debt challenge must be understood as a systemic issue rooted in structural, fiscal and operational constraints within the local government sphere. It is not merely a question of compliance, but one of capacity, sustainability and equitable resource allocation. Nkangala District Municipality remains resolute in exercising its constitutional obligation to support and coordinate, while ensuring that local municipalities uphold their financial responsibilities.”

He further said that through strengthened intergovernmental cooperation, targeted interventions, and ongoing institutional reforms, we are confident that the current challenges will be stabilised and progressively resolved.

He also called for national policy and fiscal reforms to provide municipalities with adequate resources to fulfil their developmental mandate.

List of municipalities currently indebted to Eskom:

Ehlanzeni District

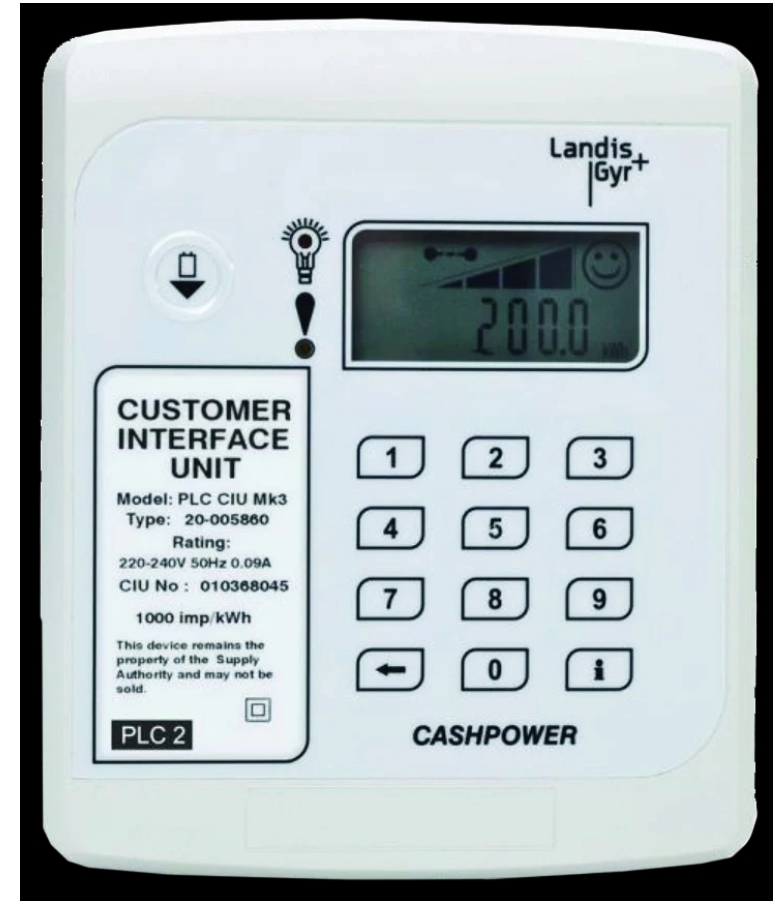
- City of Mbombela R 2 907 892 376
- Thaba Chweu R 2 021 584 961
- Nkomazi R 184 846 590

Gert Sibande District

- Dipaleseng R 456 394 791
- Govan Mbeki R 6 526 139 665
- Lekwa R 3 273 149 284
- Mkhondo R 866 469 843
- Msukaligwa R 1 120 182 958

Nkangala District

- eMalahleni R 12 305 326 543
- Emakhaseni R 407 971 926
- Victor Khanye R 1 208 420 317
- Steve Tshwete R 51 110 437



Twelve Mpumalanga municipalities collectively owe the power utility more than R31 billion after they failed to settle their account for the last 18 months

IMAGE: Eskom



EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE: OVERSIGHT REPORT ON THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 129 (3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No. 56 of 2003 and in accordance with Section 21(A) of the Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 that the Council has adopted the 2024/25 Financial Year Oversight Report and also approved the 2023/24 Financial Year Annual Report without reservations during an Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday, 26 March 2026, in the Council Chamber, eMalahleni.

Members of the public can access the documents for public inspection on the Municipal website at www.emalahleni.gov.za and in all Municipal paypoints at the following buildings:

1. Civic Centre, 2nd Floor, Records Section;
2. Ga-Nala Regional Office, Rates Hall;
3. Phola Municipal Office, Rates Hall;
4. Lynnville Municipal Pay Point and
5. Ext 5 Municipal Pay Point

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact Ms M.B. Mavimbela on 0136906470 / 0818619982 and or Mr. M. Mngomezulu on 0136906334 / 0716060117. You can also enquire by e-mail to mngomozulum@emalahleni.gov.za

Mr. H.S. MAYISELA
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Mpumalanga ANC retains Mandla Ndlovu as leader while Mandla Msibi is dropped

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA - Mandla Ndlovu has been installed as the leader of the African National Congress (ANC) in Mpumalanga for the second time. The party convened its 14th elective provincial conference at Mbombela Stadium, scheduled for 26 to 28 March, bringing together more than 700 delegates to deliberate on unity, economic exclusion, and service delivery. The conference saw a gathering of more than 330 branches and over 770 delegates.

In a smooth process, Speedy Mashilo, Muzi Chirwa, and Nompumelelo Hlophe were retained as the deputy chairperson, secretary, and deputy secretary, respectively, all without facing any opposition. However, it was not without competition for the provincial treasurer role, as Sibongile Makushe-Mazibuko, the mayor of Mbombela, went head-to-head with Mandla Msibi, one of the province's influential politicians. In what turned out to be a

significant upset, Msibi was left nursing serious wounds following a decisive loss to Makhushu-Mazibuko, who now steps in as the new provincial party treasurer. Notably, Msibi failed to garner the necessary 25% threshold to remain in contention for the position. Msibi was charged with murder in 2021, stepped aside, had charges provisionally withdrawn in 2022. He returned as ANC provincial treasurer then got suspended in 2024 over claims he tried to disrupt an ANC event; his suspension was lifted in

2025 and he returned to the post. This conference takes on added significance as the ANC aims to recharge its support after experiencing a decline in three out of Mpumalanga's 17 municipalities, which have remained in a stalemate after the 2021 local government elections. Addressing delegates on Thursday, ANC deputy secretary-general Nomvula Mokonyane acknowledged past failures. "We didn't go to the voter, we didn't look after the voter, and we didn't satisfy the voter. We were happy with ourselves in our gazebos, in our yellow t-shirts, taking selfies and calling big meetings thinking that the voter is happy. The voter did not vote for us." She added the party suffered what she described as "strategic setbacks" in the 2024 national and provincial elections. "All of us were shocked to see a party that never campaigned and canvassed, here in Mpumalanga, coming out and having a presence," she said. Mokonyane urged delegates to work together through the conference to

build partnership with the private sector and within civil society to improve and accelerate the rollout of basic services and infrastructure development. "That it will not be only through government, but through partnership that we improve poor governance and ensure that our policy choices are enhanced through the capacity to implement," she said.



Mandla Ndlovu, re-elected as the chairperson IMAGE: ANC



Speedy Mashilo, re-elected as the deputy chairperson IMAGE: ANC



Sibongile Makushe-Mazibuko, the new treasurer IMAGE: ANC



Muzi Chirwa, re-elected as the secretary IMAGE: ANC



Nompumelelo Hlophe, re-elected as the deputy secretary IMAGE: ANC

Delmas political movement intensifies pressure on authorities over jobs and corruption

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — The Our Last Hope Party has intensified pressure on local authorities, police, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, and the private sector after marching through the town and submitting memorandums alleging corruption, poor governance and economic exclusion. The party marched through the streets of Delmas on 13 March 2026 concluding at the Delmas Rugby Field, where three memorandums were formally handed over to local South African Police Service (SAPS) station and McCain Foods South Africa. "We cannot continue to watch our people suffer while opportunities are reserved for a few. This is a call for fairness, accountability and urgent action," said president of Our Last Hope Khaya Robert Segone. The movement gave the institutions seven working days to respond, warning that failure to do so could result in legal action, provincial intervention and community mobilisation. More than seven days have now passed with limited or no formal public response from some of the institutions involved. According to the party, the march was organised to highlight long-standing grievances, including high unemployment, unresolved criminal cases, allegations of corruption, and what residents describe as ongoing economic exclusion. Supporters marched peacefully through the town, chanting slogans before gathering at the rugby field for the official handover. In its memorandum to the South African Police Service, the Our Last Hope Party alleges serious failures in policing within Delmas. The party claims that authorities have failed to adequately investigate multiple murder and attempted murder cases dating back to 2017. It further alleges that some of these incidents may have been misclassified or staged as motor vehicle accidents, raising concerns about possible cover-ups. Additional claims include political intimidation and suggestions that the local police station may be compromised or influenced by external actors. These allegations remain unproven and have not been confirmed by SAPS. The movement is calling for an external specialised task team and has warned it may escalate the matter to oversight bodies and the Minister of Police. Responding to media enquiries from Highveld Chronicle, SAPS Mpumalanga confirmed receipt of the concerns but declined to engage through the media.

"Due to the fact that these issues were raised in the memorandum, the South African Police Service cannot therefore respond via media. An appropriate channel will be used," said provincial spokesperson Colonel Mavela Masondo. A third memorandum was directed at McCain Foods South Africa, with demands including:

- Prioritisation of local hiring
- Transparent recruitment processes
- An end to alleged nepotism

Allegations Against Delmas First In its memorandum to Victor Khanye Local Municipality, the Our Last Hope Party alleges that Delmas First operates as an informal gatekeeping structure influencing access to economic opportunities in Delmas. According to the memorandum, the allegations include:

- That businesses are allegedly pressured to surrender up to a 30% stake in order to access opportunities
- That a network linked to Delmas First benefits selected individuals while excluding others.
- That the organisation influences or interferes with the municipality's Local Economic Development (LED) processes
- That it plays a role in controlling access to jobs, tenders and business opportunities in the area

These claims form part of broader allegations that economic activity in Delmas is being influenced by informal structures rather than transparent systems. These allegations remain

unproven. The party is calling for: The dissolution of the LED structure Removal of the LED Manager An investigation by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation The memorandum named 15 individuals for alleged corruption and interference in service delivery. None of those named had publicly responded at the time of publication. In response to questions from Highveld Chronicle, Delmas First strongly rejected the allegations, describing them as unfounded and misleading. The organisation said it has no involvement in the allocation of jobs, tenders, or business opportunities. "Delmas First categorically and unequivocally denies any involvement in the allocation of jobs or economic opportunities within Delmas." It further clarified that it is a non-profit organisation focused on community development and does not participate in procurement or business dealings. Delmas First welcomed any independent investigation and said it would cooperate with lawful processes, while cautioning that unverified allegations risk creating division within the community. By the time of going to print, Victor Khanye Local Municipality and McCain Foods South Africa had not issued a public response within the seven-day deadline set out in the memorandum. While the allegations remain unproven, the events underscore rising tensions around governance, accountability and economic inclusion in Delmas. As the 7 days' deadline for responses has expired, the status of the memorandums' demands remains pending.



The Our Last Hope Party took to the streets in a peaceful march to submit its memorandum of demands to the Victor Local Municipality, SAPS and McCain Foods



Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, as Water Service Authority, that the potable water analysis can be viewed on the website www.stlm.gov.za. Under the tab; 'Publications.'

The analysis confirm that the Municipality's potable water complies with SANS 241-2015 Specifications for Drinking Water Quality Standards, for Chemical and Bacteriological limits.

The Publication of the Water Analysis forms part of the Department of Water and Sanitation's Blue Drop Certification criteria, and aims to create public awareness of the quality of drinking water in the STLM water supply area.

Mr. S.M. Mnguni MUNICIPAL MANAGER

ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

Ukuqakatheka kokufunda kanye nokufundisa iimfundo kimabanga aphakemeko ngelimi lesiNdebele esifundeni seMpumalanga.

Ukufunda kanye nokufundisa abafundi bamabanga aphakemeko, ibanga lesine ukuya phezulu ngelimi lesiNdebele kizo zoke iimfundo ezifana nembalo, isayensi nethek'noloji, emabangeni apha naphakemeko, amakhono wewilo kanye nezinye iimfundo sele

kuyinto ephasiwe esifundeni seMpumalanga. Lokha abafundi nabafundiswa ngelimi labo lekhaya, isiNdebele, bazwisa imiqondo lula ngombana ilimi balijaye. Lokhu kurhelelha

bona bazibandakanye eemfundweni zabo, bakhona nokubuzaimibuzo ngokuzithemba, begodu bakhe isisekelo esiqinileko selwazi. Lokha abafundi nabafundiswa ngelimi labo, bayakghona ukuzwisa imibuzo ngcono, bese bakhona ukubeka imibono yabo, basebenzise nalokhu abakufundileko. Ukufundisa kanye nokufunda

ngelimi lesiNdebele kuyarhelelha ukubulunga kanye nokuthuthukisa ilimi namasiko. Lokhu kwenza bona imiphakthi, ababelethi, abafundi kanye nabafundisi bazizwe bahlonipheka begodu bafakwahlangana. Urhulumente kufanele bona aragele phambili ngokusekela abafundisi kanye nabafundi ekubulungeni ilimi lesiNdebele begodu aqinisekise bona iinkolo

zinazo zoke iinsetjenziswa abazithogako ezithuthukisa nezisekela ilimi lesiNdebele ngeenkolweni.

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ABOUT EMALAHLENI FM

Established in 2010, eMalahleni FM is a trusted community radio station broadcasting 24/7 on 98.7 MHz across Mpumalanga's key economic hubs. With over 96,000 listeners and a strong digital presence, we connect brands directly to an engaged and loyal audience. Our dynamic mix of 60% talk and 40% music — including local news, current affairs, and diverse genres — caters to all age groups and LSM 0-8 markets. Broadcasting in four languages, we ensure inclusive, relevant communication.

Partner with eMalahleni FM — The Best Companion in the City — and grow your brand where it matters most.

VISION & MISSION

VISION
To have a continuous interaction with our listeners and clients.

MISSION
Deliver a professional, community-centred and financially sustainable broadcasting service that informs, educates and entertains the community.


KEY STATISTICS

Frequency 98.7 MHz	Listenership 96,000+	Broadcast 24/7
LSM Profile 0-8	Social Media 110 000+	Reach 50km Radius

Languages:
English 20% | Sepedi 30% | IsiZulu 30% | IsiNdebele 20%

Content mix: 60% Talk | 40% Music

OUR REACH & FOOTPRINT



Primary Areas: Emalahleni, Middleburg, Ogies, Kriel

Extended Reach: Arnot, Rietspruit, Thubelihle, Bronkhorstpruit, Belfast, Machadodorp




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We play a diverse mix of music, including House, Kwaito, Hip Hop, traditional wedding songs, Afro-pop, R&B, Gospel, Bubblegum, Reggae, and Jazz.

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One hour of unpacking top trending stories live on air with relevant officials in our current affairs show.

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We broadcast 24/7 with 20 shows catering to all age groups — from children and teenagers to adults, students, professionals, businesses, and the unemployed.

OUR FACILITIES

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Emalahleni LFA Launches Under-13 girls schools football league

● NODICAH FUNDAMA & PORTIA NKAMBULE

EMALAHLENI — The eMalahleni Local Football Association (LFA) sponsored by Glencore, officially launched the Under-13 eMalahleni Girls Schools Football League at Witbank High School on 25 March 2026, bringing together 30 schools from across the municipality. Organisers said the initiative aims to increase girls' participation in football, develop young talent and strengthen school football structures in the area. The league brings together 30 schools

from across eMalahleni, divided into three circuits. Matches will be played weekly on Wednesdays in a 9-a-side format, consisting of two 20-minute halves. Fixtures and results will be managed through the MYSAFA system. According to the organisers, the league aims to develop talent at school level while providing safe, structured competition across the region. They further said the programme aligns with Confederation of

African Football (CAF) standards aimed at ensuring proper youth development structures, age-appropriate training and quality coaching. Speaking on the technical direction of the league, eMalahleni LFA director Tebello Nyaka emphasised the importance of structured development through CAF-aligned systems. "We want to provide players with proper training and a clear understanding of youth development," Nyaka said. "At

under-13 level, small-sided games are essential for building skills and confidence." Nyaka explained that all teams will follow the Small-Sided Games (SSG) model, which maximises player involvement and technical growth. Coaches will report to a central technical director, while regular school visits will monitor programme implementation. He also highlighted inclusivity as a core principle. "You will find children who have never kicked a ball but are eager to play. We do not want coaches to turn them away, we want them on the field learning and growing."

He stressed that school football remains the foundation of national success. "We cannot build a world-class national team without a strong school system. This league is where we identify future players, coaches and leaders." Zwane also commended Glencore's contribution. "They are not just mining coal, they are investing in the social fabric of our communities and affirming that these young girls' dreams matter."



At the heart of the initiative is a broader vision of using football as a tool for community development. Clive Grinaker from Community Football (CommFoot) described the programme as a catalyst for social transformation. "Football runs in the blood of every South African, it is part of our DNA," he said. "Through this initiative, we are not only developing players but also building communities." Grinaker outlined key focus areas, including strengthening community engagement, creating pathways to employment, developing football careers, and equipping young players with essential life skills. South African Football Association (SAFA) Deputy President Linda Zwane positioned the league within the organisation's broader national development strategy. He linked the initiative to SAFA's Vision 2030, which aims to ensure equal opportunities for girls in football across South Africa — from rural areas to township schools. "While women's football is the fastest-growing sector in the country, many talented girls still lack access to structured platforms," Zwane said. "For every Banyana Banyana star like Refiloe Jane or Thembi Kgatlana, there are thousands of girls in communities like eMalahleni with talent but no opportunity."

Organisers believe the league will also play a role in tackling social challenges such as gender-based violence and youth delinquency. "This country needs girls playing football. When they are on the field, they are off the streets. Sport builds discipline, creates role models, and helps reduce social ills," Grinaker said. The programme also incorporates life skills development, with coaches expected to mentor players beyond the game and instil values such as discipline, respect and responsibility. Jabu Nzima from the Mpumalanga Sports Confederation highlighted the importance of balancing sport with education. "While we encourage participation in sport, academics must remain a priority. The two should go hand in hand," he said. Meanwhile, SAFA Nkangala secretary Simon Mashabela described the initiative as a long-term investment. "This is more than a competition, it is the start of a movement. Football provides a platform to build confidence, teamwork and leadership. By investing in our girls, we are shaping a more inclusive future." Organisers say they expect the league to grow as more schools and communities support the programme. The first round of matches is expected to begin soon, with weekly fixtures scheduled across the three circuits.

Derby ends in goalless at Gomasakho Sports Ground

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — Delpark United and PJ Stars FC drew 0-0 in a derby match at Gomasakho Sports Ground on Sunday, 22 March 2026, with both sides creating chances but failing to score. The result denied Delpark United an opportunity to move to the top of the table. Delpark United head coach Paul Phiri said his side fell short in the final third. "It was a big opportunity for us, and the boys gave everything," Phiri said. "We attacked from the wings and through the middle, but we were not clinical enough. That's something we must improve going forward." Phiri added that although his team had anticipated PJ Stars FC's defensive structure and counter-attacking approach, they still created enough chances to secure victory. "We defended well and didn't concede, but converting chances remains our main concern. These are young players who are still developing, and we believe we will come back stronger in the next match." Delpark United, playing at home, entered the fixture with a chance

to move to the top of the table. They demonstrated attacking intent throughout the match, utilising both the flanks and central channels in search of a breakthrough. However, their efforts were consistently thwarted by a disciplined PJ Stars FC defence and a vigilant goalkeeper. PJ Stars FC also created promising opportunities, particularly in the first half, but struggled to convert their chances. PJ Stars FC coach Blessing Pinash Ngavi praised his side's defensive organisation while conceding that missed chances proved costly. "Defensively we were solid and dealt well with everything that came into our box," said Ngavi. "We had clear chances early in the game that we should have converted, but we failed to capitalise." Ngavi highlighted decision-making in the final third as an area requiring improvement. "Our midfield did well to create opportunities, but our finishing and decision-making let us down. We had the better first half, while they improved in the second, so overall a draw is a fair result."

Despite the stalemate, Ngavi remained encouraged by his team's performance, particularly given the absence of several key players. "We had to deploy players out of position, and several regular starters were unavailable. Still, securing a point away from home is positive. This is our first season in the regional league, and we are building a strong, youthful squad." The match unfolded as a tactical contest, with Delpark United enjoying longer spells of possession, while PJ Stars FC posed a threat on the counter-attack. Ultimately, both sides' lack of clinical finishing defined the outcome. Although neither team claimed bragging rights, the match reflected a closely contested derby marked by discipline, effort and organisation, but also by missed opportunities. Both teams will now shift focus to their upcoming fixtures, aiming to sharpen their attacking edge and translate performances into victories.



PJ Stars FC



Liberty Coal, Happy Jele Foundation Easter Games set for kick-off as teams and draws finalised

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG - The countdown to the Liberty Coal-Happy Jele Foundation Middelburg Easter Games is officially on, with teams selected and all draws finalised ahead of the three-day tournament scheduled for 3 to 5 April 2026 at Themba Senamela Stadium.

The multi-sport event is expected to bring Mhluzi to life over the Easter weekend, with thirty-two football teams (32), alongside eight (8) basketball teams and eighteen (18) netball teams, set to compete for top honours. The tournament carries a total prize pool of R120 000 and forms part of a broader three-year partnership valued at over R3 million, aimed at driving youth development and community upliftment.

Liberty Coal CEO Hlayiseka Chauke said the initiative goes beyond sport. "Sport has the power to transform lives, building discipline, confidence, and opportunity," he said.

"This partnership is not just about sponsorship; it is about investing in young people and strengthening the communities in which we operate."

In football, champions will walk away with R30 000 in Stream 1, while Stream 2 winners will take home R20 000. Basketball and netball champions will each receive R20 000.

Beyond the sporting action, the event is expected to offer

a full fun fair experience, with live music and halftime entertainment, food stalls and a beer garden, as well as fan prizes up for grabs.

Happy Jele said the partnership presents an opportunity to nurture local talent. "This partnership gives us as the foundation a platform to develop talent in the community I grew up in. I'm hoping that out of this partnership we will produce more soccer stars and give more youngsters a chance to make it," he said. Adding to the programme is the Middelburg Easter Games Fun Run, which is open to the public. The race will take place on 5 April 2026, with registration starting at 05:30 and the race beginning at 06:30. Participants can choose between 5km and 30km distances, with entry set at R50, including T-shirts and goodie bags.

The Easter Games are expected to deliver a vibrant mix of sport, entertainment and community engagement, positioning the event as one of the key highlights on the local sporting calendar.



The legendary Happy Jele, former Orlando Pirates defender and captain, with over 400 caps for Pirates

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