

**eMalaheni Municipality fails to account as Phola residents go weeks without water**



Read More on Page 3

**Liberty Coal's aggressive donation of 1,000 uniform packs change lives in Steve Tshwete**



More on Page 4

## SONA 2026: Ramaphosa targets water crisis and municipal dysfunction

**9 YEARS ON, STILL THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS**

Full Story on Page 2

# MURDER ACCUSED ADRIAAN VAN TONDER FATALLY SHOT NEIGHBOUR IN THE EYE OVER WATER DISPUTE

Read More on Page 3

## BLACKLISTED!

Let us help Clear your name from the Credit Bureaus Permanently



076 308 6238  
073 521 4558  
071 757 1619  
010 880 1885



www.gezdura.com | info@gezdura.com | thami.gezdura@gmail.com

Office No 2 Majarisda Building 29 Third. Street Delmas

ISSUE: 357 • 13 FEBRUARY 2026

FREE



highveldchronicle.co.za

**FOREK**  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
EST. 2008  
artisans & skills training centre

### LATE REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

AVAILABLE PROGRAMMES:

- Electrician
- Boilermaker
- Plumber
- Welder
- Occupational Health & Safety Practitioner
- Office Administrator
- Early Childhood Development Practitioner
- Project Manager
- Computer Technician

**CLOSING DATE 28/02/2026**

APPLY TODAY:  
forekonline.co.za/Applications/Apply  
CALL: 068 048 6967 | WA NO: 060 728 6757

Kabokweni | Malelane

f i d

NEW.  
INFORMATIVE.  
LOADED.

highveldchronicle.co.za  
hconline.co.za

## STRUGGLING with SALES? WANT MORE VISIBILITY?

We offer structured advertising and media packages designed to deliver real visibility with traceable returns - *not guesswork.*



More exposure



The right audience



Measurable results

*If your answer is YES, talk to us*

Reach out to us today and let us build you a package that works.

CALL OR WHATSAPP  
081 303 7023

HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

Visibility.  
Credibility.  
Results.

# SONA 2026: Ramaphosa targets water crisis and municipal dysfunction

● LUCAS SHONGWE

CAPE TOWN - President Cyril Ramaphosa placed South Africa's deepening water crisis and failing municipal administration at the centre of his 2026 State of the Nation Address, delivered on 12 February 2026 at the Cape Town City Hall, warning that both threaten service delivery and public trust.

"Water is now the single most important issue for many people in South Africa," he said, acknowledging growing frustration as taps run dry in metros, towns and rural communities. Protests over unreliable supply have intensified, exposing what he described as a breakdown in local governance.

Ramaphosa confirmed that he had directed the Ministers of Water and Sanitation and Cooperative Governance "to attend to the water shortage problem" and engage directly with affected communities. While emergency interventions are underway, "the pipes that had been damaged are being repaired," the President admitted the crisis runs deeper.

"Poor planning and inadequate maintenance" by municipalities are "the reason that taps often run dry," he said. He cautioned that "there is no silver bullet" because the problem stems from "systemic failures" and years of infrastructure neglect.

Government has committed "more than R156 billion" over the next three years for water and sanitation infrastructure. Major projects such as the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

are advancing, but Ramaphosa stressed that "the real challenge lies not in the availability of water, but in getting water to people's taps."

Accountability will now be tightened. Government has already "laid criminal charges against 56 municipalities" for failing to meet their obligations and will pursue municipal managers in their personal capacity. If a municipality "is not willing or able to provide a service," he said, "it must be done by another structure."

Beyond water, the President acknowledged that outages are "a symptom of a local government system that is not working."

In many areas, administrations are "weak and governed by patronage rather than technical capacity and merit." Quoting the Auditor-General's findings, he noted "insufficient accountability, failing service delivery, poor financial management and governance" within municipalities.

To address this dysfunction, government will finalise a revised White Paper on Local Government. The current system, he said, is "too complex and fragmented," placing unrealistic expectations on weaker municipalities. Stronger national intervention powers and a differentiated approach to

municipal responsibilities are being proposed. "These changes may be difficult," Ramaphosa concluded.



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivers the SONA

Image: South African Government

## Discovery of buried person in Buhlebesizwe backyard and rumour of more dead bodies leads to vigilantism

● NELISIWE SKHOSANA

BUHLEBESIZWE — A 23-year-old first reported missing at Buhlebesizwe, Kwaggafontein, was found buried in a backyard garden three streets away from his home.

The deceased, Karabo Kitima, was last allegedly seen with acquittance Sanele Mngomezulu (30). He has since been charged with murder and defeating the ends of justice.

Mngomezulu appeared before the Mkobolo Magistrate's Court on 09 February 2025, where he abandoned his bail application and will make his second appearance on 12 March 2026.

Mngomezulu became a prime suspect after it emerged that on 01 February he and Kitima had an altercation allegedly about money at his home.

When Kitima did not return home, his family began searching for him the following day and took to social media asking for assistance. By Thursday, 05 February, community members mobilised for a manhunt and opened a missing person case at Kwaggafontein SAPS.

"Someone suspected that he might be buried in the backyard. On Saturday, we went there and searched the place as a community but we couldn't find anything. That's when I called Kwaggafontein police to assist us with sniffer dogs," said Ward 16 Councillor Sunnyboy Dube.

The SAPS K9 Unit picked up a scent and began digging, alerting officers on the scene. Emergency services assisted with digging at the scene, where a body was found at Mngomezulu's backyard garden.

The deceased's relative, July Kitima said, "We are so sad that Karabo has left us in such a hurtful manner, it's now beyond us, what we want is the law to take its course, we just want justice, that's all."

The discovery sparked outrage within the community. When Mngomezulu made his first court

"But they must be done." In the year of local government elections, Ramaphosa's message was clear that fixing water means fixing municipalities and reform can no longer be delayed.

appearance, residents gathered in large numbers in support of the victim's family.

However, later on that day an online rumour emerged on social media claiming that there were several more dead bodies found in the backyard, leading the community to torch Mngomezulu's home.

"People must stop taking the law into their own hands. The house that was burnt is now a crime scene," said Mpumalanga SAPS spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Jabu Ndubane.

Ndubane strongly condemned both the spreading of misinformation and acts of vigilantism. "In social media people say that there are more deceased bodies found, but the truth is that only one deceased body was found. We highly condemn people who are spreading lies about that of which that is a case on its own. People must stop spreading lies, which is false information," said Ndubane.



Karabo Kitima (23) deceased who was killed and buried at the backyard



Sanele Mngomezulu (30) the suspect who allegedly killed and buried Karabo Kitima at the backyard



Home of the suspect, Sanele Mngomezulu that was torched by community members on Monday (9 February) night.

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



## The Effects of Overexposure

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Is it really possible for a Christian to become overexposed to spiritual things? Yes, if having blessings from God in such abundance makes us hardened to them. It can happen when we become the benefactors of a great number of God's blessings. Our business goes well. Our health is good. Our children are fine. Our marriage is strong. Our church is good. The music is great. Our pastor is solid. Our home is lovely. Our ministry is bearing fruit. Our cars are new.

A believer who wades through God's favor and God's blessing and God's bounty day after day, week after week,

year after year can begin to court the dangers of erosion. How? Things get to be predictable. They become routine. You grow cynical. And before you know it, you can be lusting while you're singing a gospel song. You can be thanking God for His forgiveness of your sins while you harbor bitterness toward your brother or sister in Christ. What you're doing is just another religious duty. A. W. Tozer writes, Familiarity may breed contempt even at the very altar of God. How frightful a thing it is for the preacher when he becomes accustomed to his work, when his sense of wonder departs, when he gets used to the unusual, when he loses his solemn fear in the presence of the High and Holy One; when, to put it bluntly, he gets a little bored with God and heavenly things.1

What's true in the pulpit is true in the pew. Something has drifted far off course if, when you worship, there isn't a sense of awe and respect for your heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what concerned Jesus so much about the first-century Ephesian church—their perfunctory, ho-hum, business-as-usual attitude about life and ministry. Jesus has that same concern for us in the twenty-first century.

Drop us a message: 081 303 7023



**YES, OFCOZ, WE WANT THAT GOOD STORY!**

We are for the people! Join our reporters and share any news happening in your area

First with the People, First with the News

## WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

FOR FEEDBACK  
FOR COMMENTS  
PLEASE EMAIL  
THE EDITOR ON

info@highveldchronicle.co.za

**HIGHVELD**  
CHRONICLE

Editor

Magnificent Mndebele

064 785 9746

Advertising

081 303 7023

info@highveldchronicle.co.za

Journalist

Lucas Shongwe

071 499 8950

Simphiwe Jennifer Motau

072 802 8592

Rodney Hlatshwayo

076 691 6658

Nelisiwe Skhosana

076 567 0552

PUBLISHER,

Layout & Design

HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

info@highveldchronicle.co.za

Contact Numbers

081 303 7023

www.hconline.co.za

## DISTRIBUTION AREAS

- \* Delmas
- \* Sunda
- \* Eloff
- \* Ogies
- \* Phola
- \* Kriel
- \* Emalahleni
- \* Machadodorp
- \* Belfast
- \* Waterval Boven
- \* Middelburg
- \* Mhluzi
- \* Hendrina
- \* Kwaggafontein
- KwaMhlanga
- Tweefontein

Call 081 303 7023  
to find out  
the exact spots  
where you can  
get the paper

**AIP** | ASSOCIATION OF  
INDEPENDENT  
PUBLISHERS

Affiliate with:

Press  
Council  
**FAIR**

# Murder accused Adriaan van Tonder fatally shot neighbour in the eye over water dispute

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

**DELMAS** — Grief and anger filled the Delmas Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 as Adriaan van Tonder (71) made his first court appearance on a charge of murder after fatally shooting Calvin Mothoa (33), allegedly during a dispute over water access at shared property in Eloff. Speaking outside court, Mothoa's mother, Glory Mothoa, said tensions over water access had been ongoing. "The suspect is always closing the water since the meter box is on his side," she said. "The painful part is that he shot my son straight in the eye. We are going to bury him without an eye. After shooting him, he just sat and smiled like nothing happened, even in court he was smiling." She added that Mothoa's wife is now left caring for their children while pregnant. "My daughter-in-law is left alone with the children, and she is pregnant." Police said that due to the

water supply interruptions, the landlord had installed a JoJo tank in the garage to be used when municipal water was unavailable. The tank was located on the suspect's side of the property. The deceased allegedly attempted to enter the garage to access the pressure pump but van Tonder refused him entry. "The deceased then allegedly forced his way to the tap, at which point the suspect shot him at close range, striking him in the left eye," said the Mpumalanga Provincial Commissioner via a media statement. The deceased's wife tried to assist her husband but was allegedly threatened by van Tonder. Police said the suspect warned that he would also shoot her, forcing her to flee the scene. About more than 100 community members gathered after the

shooting and became "extremely agitated", threatening to kill the suspect and burn down the house. Police intervened and arrested him. The matter was postponed to 17 February for a formal bail application. There were claims on social media that the dispute was ignited by a municipality's water supply shortages. Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM) has rejected claims that the killing was linked to a local water supply crisis. In a statement the municipality said, "We wish to place on record that this narrative is misleading and factually incorrect. At the time of the incident, there was water supply available in Sundra and Eloff. Municipal records and operational reports confirm that the area was receiving water and there was no service outage reported that could have contributed to the incident."



Murder accused Adriaan van Tonder (71) during his first court appearance. He remains in custody, with his bail hearing set for Tuesday, 17 February 2026.



The late Calvin Mothoa (33), a husband, father of two and an ICT Systems Administrator at Rossagro, whose life was cut short over a water dispute. IMAGE: Facebook

## eMalahleni Municipality fails to account as Phola residents go weeks without water

● MATHABATHA MAILA

**PHOLA** — It has been 14 days without water supply for Phola residents and some have gone as long as three months. The community took to the streets on 11 February 2026, accusing the eMalahleni Local Municipality of failing to provide a basic service despite households continuing to pay their municipal bills. The protest began early in the morning, with residents burning tyres and blocking roads with stones. Traffic came to a standstill while police monitored the situation. Local resident Musa Seloga provided proof of her municipal water bills, saying residents are paying for a service they are not receiving. "We have been asking in the community groups about when we will ever get water, but officials fail to provide answers," Seloga said. "Our children need to bathe to attend school, we need to flush toilets, cook and do other things." Her frustration reflects the wider anger of hundreds of households who believe the municipality is failing to deliver the most basic of services. Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) Betty Maphosa, who is responsible for Environmental and Waste Management Betty Maphosa, admitted that the Municipality's internal communication is collapsing. She said even officials are not receiving proper updates from the department responsible for water systems in Phola. "We

have been asking those who are responsible for water in Phola about when they will restore water for the community, but no one will respond," said Maphosa. "We are fighting with the community because we do not know what to say to them, because no one is willing to give us answers." Community leaders have called for an urgent meeting between the municipality and residents to create a clear communication plan and warned that the protest will continue if water is not restored. "The municipality must take full accountability," said Seloga. "We cannot live like this." The water outage has led to local businesses crumbling down. Bongani Nkosi from the Office of Municipal Manager said, "We are working very hard to restore water. The temporary solution is the truck water tanker, and we will make sure it goes to the clinic, the schools and everywhere."



### SUPPLY AND DELIVERING OF BOTTLED WATER AND WATER FOR THE DISPENSORS

### EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY!

Exxaro Coal (PTY) LTD, company registration no 2000/011078/07, is a private company registered in terms of the Company Laws of the Republic of South Africa is looking for a drinking water supplier service provider.

Scope of Work includes:

- The suppliers is required to supply Exxaro Leeuwpan Coal with the relevant bottled water and water for the water dispensers as described in paragraph 7 of this scope of work according to the relevant standards
- Periodic cleaning and servicing of dispensers
- Supply of empty 20L bottles (if part of a bottle return/ refill system)
- Refill dispensers and optional accessories as requested.
- Dispensers must include basic safety features (e.g., child-safety locks on hot taps) and be suitable for office use.
- Maintenance logs and delivery records to be maintained and shared as required.

REFERENCE Nr.	##222969		
NAME OF BU:	Leeuwpan		
DESCRIPTION OF ENQUIRY:	REQUEST FOR A QUOTE FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BOTTLED AND WATER FOR THE DISPENSERS SUPPLY FOR LEEUWPAN COAL MINE		
ACTION REQUIRED FROM RESPONDENTS:	<p>1. All interested parties should follow the instructions below:</p> <p>a) For new suppliers, register their company as a prospective supplier using the link below and the Reference Number indicated above: <a href="https://www.exxaro.com/suppliers#Prospective-Supplier">https://www.exxaro.com/suppliers#Prospective-Supplier</a></p> <p>b) Existing suppliers do not complete point (a), instead, please include your current vendor number in an email as per the point 2 below.</p> <p>Send an email to <a href="mailto:SCMOPENRFI@exxaro.com">SCMOPENRFI@exxaro.com</a></p> <p>NB: Emails sent to <a href="mailto:SCMOPENRFI@exxaro.com">SCMOPENRFI@exxaro.com</a> must include the reference number indicated above as the Email Subject.</p>		
ISSUED ON:	2026/02/13	DUE DATE & TIME:	2026/02/20 AT 12H00
CONTACT PERSON:	Kekeletso Seala	CONTACT DETAILS:	<a href="mailto:Kekeletso.seala@exxaro.com">Kekeletso.seala@exxaro.com</a>

For more information and to request the scope of work, email us today at [Kekeletso.Seala@exxaro.com](mailto:Kekeletso.Seala@exxaro.com)

# LEEUPPAN MINE INVESTS IN EDUCATION TO EMPOWER VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Exxaro's Leeuwpaan mine continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to education and youth development in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM), reaffirming its belief that education is a cornerstone for sustainable communities and a prosperous future.

This commitment was highlighted at the recent Matric Excellence Awards held on 11 February 2025, where learners from the Victor Khanye circuit were celebrated for their outstanding performance in the 2025 matric examinations.

In 2025, Leeuwpaan mine supported matric learners across the circuit through targeted academic matric camps. These camps provided focused revision, additional academic support and a structured learning environment aimed at boosting confidence and performance ahead of final examinations. The impact of this

support was evident in the circuit's overall pass rate of 86%, reflecting a significant improvement across schools.

As part of recognising excellence and investing in the future, Leeuwpaan mine sponsored the Top 10 learners with laptops, bags and headsets. This initiative aims to ensure that top-performing learners are digitally equipped to continue their studies, access information, and pursue further education or skills development opportunities.

As part of Exxaro's Sustainable Growth and Impact Strategy, Leeuwpaan mine takes a holistic and long-term approach towards education. In 2026, the mine will continue the implementation of the 5-year Early Childhood Development (ECD) support roll out to twelve ECD centres in the area, reinforcing the importance

of quality learning from the earliest stages of development.

The mine will also introduce a Foundation Phase programme focused on strengthening literacy, numeracy and life skills at two pilot schools in Victor Khanye circuit, ensuring that learners gain competences in reading, problem solving and a basis for academic success.

In addition, the mine will carry out psychometric testing across seven secondary, high and combined schools in the area. This programme will assist grade 9 learners with career guidance, helping them make informed decisions about their futures in time for when they are meant to make subject choices.

Leeuwpaan mine reinforces its investment in education by providing social impact bursaries towards learners within the local municipality. Since 2023, the mine has granted three bursaries to deserving learners of which two of them have completed their qualifications already. This initiative will continue in 2026 as the mine continues to power better lives in the community and beyond.

The mine also acknowledges that learner development goes hand in hand with school leadership development, and as part of employee volunteerism 10 leaders from Leeuwpaan mine are paired with 10 school principals in the Victor Khanye circuit. This structured leadership programme enables a partnership between business and government that supports the creation of functioning eco-systems that deliver high quality teaching and learning. Leeuwpaan mine's school development initiatives span early childhood development, school development, learner and educator support, career guidance and bursary opportunities. These efforts reflect Exxaro's commitment to creating shared value by empowering communities through education.

Ronald Teffo, GM of Leeuwpaan mine said, "The learners of the Victor Khanye municipality today will be the leaders of tomorrow. Exxaro is excited to be giving a helping hand to these deserving learners' as we understand that the transformative power of education is life-changing." By working closely with the Department of Education, schools,



One of the laptops awarded to Masirda Albert from Hoërskool Delmas, the best learner in Computer Application Technology



Mahlangu Gratitude from Hoërskool Delmas, the best learner in Consumer Studies, receives one of the laptops from Exxaro



Bosiu Cleopatra from Phaphamani Secondary School, the best learner in Accounting, receives one of the laptops from Exxaro

parents and community stakeholders, Leeuwpaan Mine continues to play an active role in shaping a brighter future for learners in Victor Khanye. The mine remains committed to

supporting education not only as a social responsibility, but as a long-term investment in people, potential and progress.



Kuhle Khanyile (left), Exxaro Community Development Intern, and Busiswa Gxumisa (right), Exxaro Education Specialist, hand over an award to Chabvuri Elish from Hoërskool Delmas, the best learner in English Home Language.



Ten Exxaro-sponsored laptops were handed to the best-performing learners to assist them as they further their studies

## Businesses show unwavering support in VKLM's Mayoral Academic Awards

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

**DELMAS** – Victor Khanye Local Municipality, in partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Education and local businesses, celebrated the academic achievements of the Class of 2025 at Mafa Max Motlouloung Secondary School hall on 11 February 2026.

The Mayoral Academic Awards recognised top-performing learners, teachers and schools from all six high schools in the municipality. The awards were supported by Mbuyelo Coal, Exxaro, Standard Bank and Old Mutual.



VKLM Executive Mayor Vusi Buda delivers the keynote address

Humphrey Mokwena, General Manager at Mbuyelo Manungu, said the company values supporting initiatives that uplift young people. "It is very important for us to be part and parcel of this ceremony because it is a heart-warming event. We are giving back to the community because we value education a lot," he said.

Lawrence Ntimane, Head for Provincial Public Sector at Standard Bank, said the bank has a strategic focus on education nationwide. Ntimane said teachers would receive monetary rewards for excellence, with the municipality determining the amounts while the bank provides financial support.

Exxaro contributed laptops to the best-performing learners in each subject, equipping them for their tertiary studies.

Among the top achievers were Thundezwa Siyanda, Msibi Andile and Cekiso Kholeka. Their accomplishments were

celebrated alongside other learners who excelled in various subjects.

Msibi received a bursary from Exxaro to study Mechanical Engineering at Wits University. His mother, Jabile Shabangu said, "I am very excited for my son and very proud of him."

Mafa Max Motlouloung Secondary

School was named Best Performing School, while Botleng Secondary School received the Most Improved School award. Hoër Skool Delmas and Mafa Max Motlouloung Secondary School produced the highest number of Bachelor passes.

The VKLM Executive Mayor Vusi Buda said, "The awards are to

support the Department of Education and also to bring community cohesion. We are guided by the Constitution, which states that municipalities must promote the safety and social well-being of the people."



Mafa Max Motlouloung Secondary School educators receive the trophy for the best-performing school in 2025.

# Schwarz Coal Mine workers go months without full payment due to financial woes

● SIMPHIWE JENNIFER MOTAU

**MIDDELBURG** — Workers at the Schwarz Coal Noordhulp site say they have gone months without full payment due to financial troubles facing the mine. In addition to this, the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources slammed the mine with a section 54 notice on 21 November 2025.

This is issued under the Mine Health

and Safety Act, allowing for an immediate, partial or total suspension due to serious health and safety issues.

The situation has left several employees and their families in financial distress. "I don't sleep at night because of stress," said Slyvia Mahlangu, a community liaison officer at the mine. She started working for the company in December 2025. "I had to borrow money from *abomashonisa* to pay for my child's university registration." Excavator Operator Bongani Nhlapo said

he has worked at the site for about a year without a formal contract and was repeatedly told contracts were coming but never received one. "We don't get payslips. We don't even know about UIF. Overtime is not paid."

Nhlapo said his last full salary was in July 2025.

On 09 December 2025, workers boycotted work and following this, the mine apparently dispersed partial salaries where each received R2,000, but were allegedly warned against raising complaints. "He said whoever complains about not getting paid would be fired and will not get their outstanding salaries," Mahlangu claimed.

During the tools-down protest, one

worker allegedly took a machinery key home. "He said he will not give the company the key back until they pay him. But security was sent to threaten him and take the keys," Mahlangu explained. Mahlangu claims workers were told coal would be sold to pay salaries. "They loaded the coal and told us they are going to sell it so they can pay us. Later they came back and said the money was stolen," she said, adding that management continued to demand that workers report for duty despite unpaid wages.

The continuation of partial payments led workers to stop operations on 02 February 2026. Schwarz Coal denies allegations of threats or intimidation against

employees, saying no formal complaints or evidence have been submitted to the company.

The company says it received no income between October 2025 and January 2026 and that operations resumed properly on 13 January 2026.

The company proposes paying half salaries for September, November and December 2025, arguing these were not full working months. Outstanding salaries are proposed to be paid in two instalments but no payment date has been given.

Once operations stabilise, the company said it plans to use a registered labour service provider to manage payroll and compliance. It says outstanding employment matters will be regularised according to labour laws.

## Liberty Coal's aggressive donation of 1,000 uniform packs change lives in Steve Tswete

● UNITY NDHLOVU

**MIDDELBURG** — About 250 learners at Mthobeni Primary School in Middelburg received school uniforms from Liberty Coal. This is part of the mine's drive to donate 1,000 uniform packs (shoes, shirts, trousers and tunics) to schools in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. "Learners who come to school without proper uniforms face several challenges. They are often ridiculed by other learners and this negatively affects their self-esteem," said Deputy Principal Themba Sibande. The donation is part of Liberty Coal's year-long community support campaign, targeting schools within a 25 kilometre radius of its operations. The campaign will continue for the

next 12 weeks to support other schools in the area.

Phillis Masilela, whose Grade 7 sister attends the school, said the donation would ease financial pressure on her aunt. "This donation means a lot to us because we don't have a mother and our father is not working. We tried to cover the school uniform, but it was not enough. We are grateful for the donation; it will ease a financial burden on my aunt," she said.

Liberty Coal Head of Communication Mpumelelo Mashifane said the initiative aims to reduce inequality by creating equal opportunities for learners. He said the company also supports STEM education through structured school, holiday and weekend camps. "Learners attending the camps are provided with meals during weekends and school holidays," he said.



Mthobeni Primary School learners waiting for the names to be called



### Invitation to Join the Community Audience Advisory Council (CAAC) of Emalahleni FM

Emalahleni FM invites members of the community to become part of the Community Audience Advisory Council (CAAC). This council plays a vital role in shaping the station's programming by providing valuable feedback and community perspectives. Participation in the upcoming CAAC meeting is scheduled for the **19th of February 2026 at 10:00 AM**.

The CAAC is designed to be inclusive, welcoming individuals and groups from diverse sectors such as arts and culture, early childhood development, business, religion, tradition, and many others. This diversity ensures that the station's content reflects the varied interests and needs of the entire community.

Those interested in joining the CAAC can apply either as individuals or as groups. Application forms are available for collection at the Emalahleni FM premises. Membership fees are set at R60 for individuals and R120 for groups.

By joining the CAAC, members will have a direct voice in influencing the radio station's programming and community outreach initiatives. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to local media, ensuring it serves the community's interests effectively and inclusively.

We encourage all interested community members and organisations to seize this chance to participate actively in Emalahleni FM's growth and development. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected community through meaningful communication and collaboration..

Issued By:

Emalahleni FM Programming Sub-Committee and Station Manager

### AUCTION NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA MPUMALANGA DIVISION, MIDDELBURG (LOCAL SEAT)

Case no: 359/2023

In the matter between: -

**THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED**  
(Reg No: 1962/000738/06)

PLAINTIFF

and  
**MOHAMED SHAH**  
(Identity Number: 630325 5130 08 2)

DEFENDANT

In pursuance of a judgment and a Writ of Execution of the abovementioned Court, a sale in execution of the undermentioned property is to be held subject to without a reserve price as set by the High Court of South Africa, Mpumalanga Division, Middelburg (Local Seat), as per Court Order dated **05 MAY 2025** at the Sheriff of the High Court **VICTOR KHANYE (DELMAS), 63 RENNIE AVENUE, SUNDRRA, VICTOR KHANYE. ON 25 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 10:00**, to the highest bidder. Full conditions of sale can be inspected at the office of the **SHERIFF VICTOR KHANYE (DELMAS)**, at the same address as above and will also be read out prior to the sale. No warranties are given with regard to the description and/or improvements.

**CERTAIN:**

A Unit consisting of-

(a) **SECTION NO. 3** as shown and more fully described on **SECTIONAL PLAN NO. SS468/1990**, in the scheme known as **ESRA** in respect of the land and building or buildings, situate at **DELMAS TOWNSHIP, LOCAL AUTHORITY: VICTOR KHANYE MUNICIPALITY** of which section the floor area, according to the said sectional plan, is **97 (NINETY SEVEN)** square metres in extent; and

(b) An undivided share in the common property in the scheme apportioned to the said section in accordance with the participation quota as endorsed on the said sectional plan.

**HELD BY DEED OF TRANSFER NO. ST4433/2015**

**ALSO KNOWN AS: SECTION 3 ESRA, CORNER 2<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE & 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET, DELMAS.**

**Zone: RESIDENTIAL**

**IMPROVEMENTS:**

**NOTHING GUARANTEED IN THIS REGARD:**

**INVENTORY: ERF: SECTION NO:3 ON SECTIONAL PLAN NO SS468/1990 IN THE SCHEME KNOWN AS ESRA, DELMAS TOWNSHIP, REGISTRATION DIVISIONI.R; MPUMALANGA DIVISION.**

Take note of the following requirements for all prospective buyers:

- As required by the specific Sheriff, a refundable registration fee is payable on date of auction.
- Presentation to the Sheriff of the following FICA documents:
  - Copy of Identity Document.
  - Proof of residential address.

**SIGNED AT PRETORIA**

**HAASBROEK & BOEZAART INC**

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

HB FORUM

13 STAMVRUG STREET VAL DE GRACE, PRETORIA

TEL NO: (012) 481 3551

FAX NO: 086 673 2397

(REF:JVDMERWE/ns/S1234/9607)

## ISIKO LETHU

## Our Story

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBWA

ABANTU ABAVUMA  
UKUSIZWA NGUZIMUBAZOKUFUMANA  
IIMBUSISO

Akhuze nesibonelo esitjengisa ukuthi nasizakujamelana nemimoya emimbi kufuze sibe nesibindi.

fuze sibe nesibindi khulukhulu nange abangani neenhlobo basigandelela bona sifake isandla ezintweni ezibandakanya imimoya emimbi. Nokho uJehova uyababusa abantu ababanesibindi sokujamelana nezinto ezinjalo. Akhucabange ngendaba kadadwethu u-Erica ohlala eGhana. Nakathoma ukufundelwa bekaneminyaka ema-21. Yeke njengombana uyise bekangusomlingo bekulindleke ukuthi azibandakanye ezintweni ezenziwako ezikhambisana nemimoya, njengokudla inyama ebeyihlatjelwe abozimu bakayise. Kwathi u-Erica nakabhala ukwenza izintwezo umndenakhe wathi uhlambalaza abozimu, wacabanga nokuthi abozimu bazakwenza bona umndeni lo ugule ngokomkhumbulo bebabange namanye amalwele. Umndeni ka-Erica walinga ukumkatelela bona azibandakanye esikweneli kodwana

akhenge avume ngitjho nanyana lokho kwenza ukuthi aqothwe nekhaya. Nokho omunye umndeni waboFakazi wamthatha wahlalana naye. UZimu wabusa u-Erica ngokumupha umndeni omutjha. AmaKrestu la abamndeni ku-Erica, wazifumanela abodade nabafowabo. Ngitjho nanyana iinhlobo zakhe zamhlala bezatjhisana nepahlakhe, u-Erica wahlala athembekile kuJehova wabhajadiswa begodu sikhuluma nje uliphayona lesikhathi esizeleko. Akawasabi amadimoni. Nakakhuluma ngomndenakhe u-Erica uthi:

“Qobe langa ngihlala ngithandaza ngibawela abantu bakwethu, ngifisa kwanga bangathabela iimbuiso zokwazi uJehova. Babone nokuthi ukulotjha uZimu onethando kwenza umuntu atjhapfuluke.” Iye khona asitjho ukuthi soke sizokulingwa ngendlela efana neyaka-Erica. Nanyana kunjalo kufuze silwisane nemimoya emimbi begodu sithembele kuJehova. Nasenza njalo sizokufumana iimbuiso begodu sizokugegeda ukudurhiswa nguSathana ngamalakhe.

Ukungezelela kilokho angeze sivumele ukusaba amadimoni bona kusikhandele ekulotjheni uJehova. Ngaphezu kwakho koke sizokuqinisa ubuhlobo bethu noJehova. Umfundi uJakopo wathi: “Zithobeni kuZimu; kodwana nilwisane noDeveli, begodu uzonibalekela. Tjhideleni kuZimu, naye uzokutjhidela kini.” Nasithemba uJehova sifumana ziphi iimbuiso?

Umtloli  
(Themba Emanuel Mashobane)  
Umhlaziyi  
(Ngemani S'busiso Mahlangu)

## IVUNULO Kababa osele athetheko

Ivunulo iqakatheke khulu ngombana yembesa izitho zomzimba ekungafanele zibonwe zingaphandle. Kubonakala ngevunulo bonyana umuntu ukuliphi ibanga lokukhula. Ngiyo begodu ehlatjululako bonyana umuntu usenyaweni nofana awa. Nangabe uya endaweni ethize, kubonakala ngayo ivunulo bona lapha uyakhona ubujamo bezinto bunjani. Ivunulo yokuya emnyanyeni ihlukile kuneyomsebenzi. Begodu ivunulo yabantu abaduna yehlukile kuneyabasikazi.

Akhesiqale ivunulo kaBaba osele athetheko.

1. Isiba – Lithwala yikosi kwaphela. Lembathwa ehloko
2. Inaka – Ikosi imbatha inaka elenziwe ngesikhumba sengwe. Liyatjhukwa mantanzi ngaphambi kobana

lisikwe. Ubaba abanye bembatha inaka elenziwe ngesikhumba sanofana ngiyiphi inyamazana. Ngenzasi inaka lisikwa libe rono kanti ngaphezulu lisikwa likhuphe intamo. Libotjhwa ngimitja entanyeni

3. Iporiyana – Yenziwa ngesikhumba esithambileko, yona iyagwa entanyeni ngomutjha wakhona bese ilenge esifubeni sikababa ngaphezu yindoda esele iwesele izibulo layo nayimsana, nanyana esele ithombise izibulo layo nayimntazana. Kuba mnyanya nakwembathwa iporiyana. Ubaba nakabhuhako iporiyanakhe ithathwa lizibulo lakhe.

4. Isirholwani – Ubaba ufaka isirholwana esikhulu entanyeni sibuye ngamahlombe silenge

5. Amabhetjha – Indoda inebhetjha langaphambili elifitjhani nelangemuva elide. Nalo ibhetjha lenziwa ngesikhumba esitjhukwe mantanzi. Ibhethjha lendoda kuthiwa yincangu.

6. Iminayilana – Ibotjhwa ezithweni Enyaweni eminye ibotjhwa emkhonweni

7. Amapatlagwana – afakwa eenyaweni. Nawo enziwa

ngesikhumba.

8. Umqhele- Wenziwe ngesikhumba wethwalwa ehloko kuthi ngemva ulengile

**Iftolwe ngu Nelisiwe Skhosana no Simphiwe Jennifer Motau**



Isithombe nguKgotso "Nyabela Ka Mabhoko" Mahlangu

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION (BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA)) APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED FILLING STATION AND TRUCK STOP DEVELOPMENT ON THE FARM HOLDING 127 OF MODDER EAST ORCHARDS AH IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF DELMAS, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. REF NO.: 1/3/1/16/1N-478**

This newspaper advertisement serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an EA application has been lodged with the (Competent Authority) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended that M Energy solution Pty Ltd has appointed **Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd** to carry out environmental authorization process [Basic Assessment (BAR)] for the above-mentioned application.

**Project Description:** The proposed project will entail the establishment of a new public filling station inclusive of truck stop. Roughly 3.38 hectares was allocated for the purpose of constructing a petrol station, with a supermarket and one quick-service independent restaurants and a truck stop along the N12 in Delmas.

**Project Location:** Project site GPS coordinates: **26° 6' 52.79" S; 28° 35'56.33" E** on holding 127 of MODDER EAST ORCHARDS AH within Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Delmas Magisterial District, Mpumalanga Province.

**Applicable Legislation:** The proposed project requires EA for the following listed activities in terms of EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended:

- GNR. 517 of 21 June 2021 (Listing Notice 1), as amended: Activity No. 14; and
- GNR. 517 of 21 June 2021 (Listing Notice 1), as amended: Activity No. 27.
- GNR. 517 of 21 June 2021 (Listing Notice 1), as amended: Activity No. 4.

The above-mentioned activities require a Basic Environmental Assessment process to be conducted in support of the EA application and the process is underway.

**Invitation to Comment:** The public participation process for this application is conducted according to the requirements of Chapter of the EIA Regulations of 4 December 2014, as amended. Should you wish to register as an I&AP for the proposed project and be kept informed of the progress of the project and public participation opportunities, please request and complete an "Interested and Affected Party" registration form (obtained from the EAP, Rudzani Shonisani on the details below) and completed I&AP registration forms should be submitted no later than **Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2026** using the contact details provided below. The public is also invited to review and comment on DBAR and EMP which will be available for review at: **Library (Cnr Mlambo & Julies, Botteng Ext 3)** for 30 days (excluding public holidays) from **15<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 to 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2026**.

**Invitation to a Public Meeting:** no public meeting has been scheduled, however should the need arise, it will be communicated.

Lesi sikhangiso sephephandaba sisebenzela ukwazisa bonke abantu abanentshisekelo nabathintekayo ukuthi isicelo se-EA sifakwe kwi-(Competent Authority) ngokwemigomo yoMithetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo (NEMA) (uMthetho No. 107 ka-1998) njengoba uchitshiyelwe, kanye neMithethonqubo Yokuhlolwa Komthelela Wezemvelo (EIA), ka-2014 njengoba ichitshiyelwe ukuthi i-M Energy solution Pty Ltd iqoke i-Singo Consulting (Pty) Ltd ukuthi yenze inqubo yokugunyazwa kwemvelo [Ukuhlolwa Okuyisisekelo (BAR)] yesicelo esishiwo ngenhla.

**Incazelo Yeprojekthi:** Iprojekthi ehlongozwayo izobandakanya ukusungulwa kwesiteshi esisha sokugcwalisa umphakathi esihlanganisa indawo yokuma kwamaloli. Ciske amahlekha angu-3.38 abekelwe injongo yokwakhona isiteshi sikaphethiloli, esinesitolo esikhulu kanye nezindawo zokudlela ezizimele ezisheshayo kanye nendawo yokuma kwamaloli eceleni komgwaqo i-N12 eDelmas.

**Indawo Yeprojekthi:** Indawo Yeprojekthi izixhumanisi ze-GPS: **26° 6' 52.79" S; 28° 35'56.33" E** ngokubamba i-127 ye-MODDER EAST ORCHARDS AH ngaphakathi koMasipala Wendawo waseVictor Khanye, eDelmas Magisterial District, eSifundazweni saseMpumalanga

**Umthetho Osebenzayo:** Iprojekthi ehlongozwayo idinga i-EA yemisebenzi elandelayo ebhalwe phansi ngokwemigomo ye-EIA Regulations, 2014, njengoba ichitshiyelwe:

- GNR. 517 yomhla zingama-21 kuNhlanguvana 2021 (Isaziso Sohlu 1), njengoba ichitshiyelwe: Umsebenzi No. 14; kanye
- GNR. 517 yomhla zingama-21 kuNhlanguvana 2021 (Isaziso Sohlu 1), njengoba ichitshiyelwe: Umsebenzi No. 27.
- GNR. 517 yomhla zingama-21 kuNhlanguvana 2021 (Isaziso Sohlu 1), njengoba ichitshiyelwe: Umsebenzi No. 4.

Imisebenzi eshiwo ngenhla idinga inqubo yokuhlolwa kwezemvelo okuyisisekelo ukuze kusekelwe isicelo se-EA futhi inqubo iyaqhubeka.

**Isimemo Sokuphawula:** Inqubo yokubamba iqhaza komphakathi yalesi sicelo iqhutshwa ngokwezidingo zeSahluko seMithethonqubo ye-EIA yangomhlaka-4 Disemba 2014, njengoba ichitshiyelwe. Uma ufisa ukubhalisa njenge-I&AP yeprojekthi ehlongozwayo futhi uhlale unolwazi ngentuthuko yeprojekthi kanye namathuba okuhlanganyela komphakathi, sicela ucele futhi ugcwalise ifomu lokubhalisa elithi "Iqembu Elinentshisekelo Nelithintekayo" (elitholwe kwi-EAP, uRudzani Shonisani ngeminingwane engezansi) futhi amafomu okubhalisa ama-I&AP agcwalisiwe kufanele athunyelwe kungakadluli iSonto mhla ziyi-19 kuMbaso 2026 usebenzisa iminingwane yokuxhumana enikezwe ngezansi. Umphakathi uyamenywa futhi ukuthi ubukeze futhi uphawule nge-DBAR kanye ne-EMPr ezizotholakala ukuze zibuyezwe ku: Umtapo wolwazi (Cnr Mlambo & Julies, Botteng Ext 3) izinsuku ezingama-30 (ngaphandle kwamaholide omphakathi) kusukela mhla ziyi-15 kuNdasa 2026 kuya kumhla ziyi-19 kuMbaso 2026.

Isimemo Somhlangano Womphakathi: akukho mhlango womphakathi ohleliwe, kodwa uma kunesidingo, uzokwaziswa.

Consultant contact person (EAPs):



EAP: Rudzani Shonisani  
Office 870, 5 Balalaika Street Tasbet Park Ext  
2, Witbank 1035. Tell: 013 692 0041  
Cell: 071 361 2235 Fax: 086 5144 103  
Email: rudzani@singoconsulting.co.za

Applicant contact person:



APPLICANT: Mr Mgwili, Simundile Lundi  
Postal Address: 152 Emfihlweni Section, Tembisa, Ekurhuleni Gauteng, 1632  
Tell: 073 025 5285 Cell: 065 918 5388 Fax: 086 514 4103  
Email: Lsmgwili@businessact.co.za/info@mernergy.co.za

# ANC and EFF power-sharing deal removes Mathunyane as Steve Tshwete speaker

● LUCAS SHONGWE

**MIDDELBURG** — The African National Congress (ANC) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) supported a motion of no confidence against the first Speaker from the Middelburg and Hendrina Residents Front (MHRF), Thato Mathunyane, on 10 February 2026.

“I’ve come to realise and accept that I’m simply a casualty of coalition dynamics. I stand before you with great pride... I have never let you down,” Mathunyane said after the vote. Joseph Ngubeni of the EFF was elected speaker without opposition after his party introduced the motion. The ANC supported the motion while the Democratic Alliance (DA), MHRF and Freedom Front Plus (FF+), chose to abstain.

ANC Nkangala Secretary Sello Matshoga confirmed the political cooperation between the two parties. “Our relationship with the EFF in the

Nkangala region is strong. When they bring up concerns, they communicate these with the ANC, and we engage in discussions to find resolutions together. Our collaboration in council is also evident,” he said. Matshoga added, “They [EFF] stood by us in council, and in return, we committed to backing them during the motion of no-confidence.”

The role of public safety MMC, previously held by Ngubeni, is now occupied by Ernest Nkwana from the ANC.

Mathunyane of the MHRF will now have to attend council meetings as an ordinary councillor.

He became speaker on 22 August 2023 following the resignation of the previous speaker Thomas Mpye, an independent candidate. Mpye stepped down just before a special session on 16 August

2023, which was convened to address a no-confidence motion against him. This move came in the wake of allegations regarding his misuse of the official vehicle designated for his position, alongside accusations of leading council meetings with a biased manner that tarnished the council's reputation. Mathunyane faced his own set of challenges as well. In May 2024, MEC Speed Mashilo from the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) tasked Municipal Manager Mandla Mnguni with investigating allegations of improper use of the municipal garage and the speaker's credit cards. Reports indicated that over R5,000 may have been charged to the petrol card between April 12 and May 02.

A previous motion of no-confidence in 2025 against Mathunyane failed due to insufficient signatures.

On 11 February morning, Mathunyane shared with the publication that he had accepted the council's decision to vacate his position. He emphasised that he bears no resentment and clarified that his removal stemmed from coalition agreements, not his performance as speaker. Mathunyane said he would continue serving as an ordinary councillor and focus on oversight work in Section 79 committees.

“The MHRF will convene its municipal executive committee to determine my next role as a representative in the Section 79 committees focused on oversight. Our key priority will be to revitalise the MHRF's programmes in preparation for the upcoming local government elections. Lastly, I want to extend my congratulations to the new Speaker, Cllr Ngubeni, and wish him all the best in his new role.”



EFF Chief Whip and former MMC for Public Safety, now Speaker, Joseph Ngubeni

## Scores of learners show up to get their books covered

● PORTIA NKAMBULE AND NODICAH FUNDAMA

**EMALAHLENI** – The Cover My Book Foundation SA hosted its fourth annual flagship charity drive at Hlalanikahle Primary School on Saturday, 07 February 2026. Volunteers wrapped schoolbooks for learners from five primary schools in the area.

The initiative under the theme, “Wrap, Protect, Educate” aimed to assist 255 learners from Nkonjane, Hlalanikahle, Khonzimfundo, Maloma and Siyanqoba primary schools.

Local parent Busiselwa Abhenta, whose two children attend Hlalanikahle Primary School, described the initiative as both practical and uplifting.

“Not every parent can afford to buy book covers because each household's finances are not the same. This programme helps our children focus on their education and encourages them to go to school feeling confident. As parents, we are truly grateful that there is a way we can be assisted,” she said.

Hlalanikahle Primary School principal Lungile Zwane said the initiative highlighted the importance of community involvement in education.

“It reminds us that the school is not working alone, but together with caring parents and a supportive community. It teaches learners to take responsibility for their learning materials, and when books are covered, they last longer. This brings pride and confidence to our learners and unites educators, parents and children around a shared purpose,” she said.

Founder of the Cover My Book Foundation, Bongani Nkosi, acknowledged the success of the event while reflecting on the disappointment of low learner turnout.

“We had many volunteers who were ready to assist 255 learners but fewer children came on the day. I believe some parents still feel shy or uncomfortable asking for help, especially when facing financial hardship. This is something we, as a community, still need to work through. Nonetheless, the event was a success, we welcomed new stakeholders, and the impact we made still matters,” he said.



Volunteers covering the books



Bongane Nkosi the founder of Cover My Book Foundation SA Motivating the learners.

The book covers donated by different stakeholders

## Health MEC Sasekani Manzini deploys four doctors to Thembisile Hani clinics

● SIMPHIWE JENNIFER MOTAU

**THEMBISILE HANI** — The Mpumalanga Health MEC Sasekani Manzini announced during an oversight on 09 February 2026 that residents of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality now have access to four full-time doctors deployed at Moloto, Thembalethu, Vlaklaagte and Kwaggafontein clinics.

“People used to be given referral letters to go to KwaMhlanga Hospital even for services that could be provided at clinic level. That will no longer be the case. These doctors will now attend to patients here in their own communities,” said Manzini.

The deployment forms part of the provincial government's *Ezempilo Ebantwini* campaign, a programme aimed at improving conditions at public healthcare facilities and accelerating interventions where challenges exist.

“We urge people to utilise departmental healthcare services optimally. Come to our clinics to

get tested for various diseases so that necessary interventions can be made. Our doors are always open,” she said. Manzini added that bringing doctors closer to residents would not only lessen burdens to hospitals but also make healthcare more accessible and convenient.

“These doctors were trained by the government and sent to school to acquire these skills. Now they are back to serve the very communities they come from,” Manzini said. The MEC acknowledged that long waiting times remain one of the department's biggest challenges, largely due to staff shortages.

“Even when nurses are doing their best, patients still wait long hours because facilities are understaffed. Deploying doctors is one of the steps we are taking to improve service delivery,” she said.

Residents welcomed the news, saying it would save them time, transport costs and long hours in hospital queues.

Mfathelwa Mashiyane, an elderly resident said, “I’m very happy about this. It means I won’t have to wake up very early to travel to KwaMhlanga

Hospital and stand in long queues. I just hope the doctors will treat us with respect.” Resident Sarah Nkos said the presence of doctors would especially benefit pregnant women. “It will now be easier for women when they go into labour. Before, we had to wait for an ambulance to take us to the hospital during emergencies. Now help will be closer to us,” she said.

The initiative also aligns with the goals of the upcoming National Health Insurance (NHI), which seeks to ensure equal access to quality healthcare for all South Africans.

“The Mpumalanga Department of Health remains committed to building a healthy and developed society, as guided by Section 27 of the Constitution. We will continue investing in the people we serve and improving healthcare services across the province,” she said.



MEC Sasekani Manzini together with members of the department of health along with the newly appointed doctor, Dr. Ginindi next to her (left)



# Smezi Da Artist's purpose is to produce healing music

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

**EMALAHLENI** — “I want my music to meet people where they are, whether they are in joy or in pain, and always leave them with hope and direction.”

This is how recording artist and producer Stephen Zulu Shongwe (32), known as SMezi Da Artist, describes his music—medicine for the heart.

“People told me that my lyrics touched them mentally and spiritually, [and] that's when I realised this is bigger than entertainment. It's a calling,” he said. “If people can say I helped them heal, then I've fulfilled my purpose.”

SMezi's catalogue spans multiple genres, yet gospel remains his spiritual foundation. “Even when I explore Amapiano or R&B, the message must still speak life.”

SMezi says his earliest memories of music were shaped by community and childhood experiences. As a child, he watched artists like Mzekezeke and the late Brown Dash perform at his primary school in Tembisa, Gauteng. These moments revealed that music is a tool for connection and hope.

At age 11, he relocated to Hlalanikahle

Extension 1, Ezinambeni, where he met the late Mzayoni, a studio owner who became both mentor and father figure. “Mzayoni taught me that originality is non-negotiable, he didn't just teach me music, he taught me how to be a man,” he said.

He began as a backing vocalist and says the experience shaped both his discipline and sound. He started pursuing music professionally in 2010.

Musically, SMezi blends Amapiano, R&B, pop and soulful vocals, drawing inspiration from Zakes Bantwini locally and Usher internationally. “I admire artists who stay authentic while evolving. Growth is important, but you must never lose your identity,” he said.

### Industry challenges and independence

Breaking into the industry came with resistance. In his early years, some radio stations were reluctant to play his music. “It wasn't easy, but those moments taught me

resilience, negotiation and the business side of music,” he said.

These experiences led him to establish Stebie Records. “I realised I needed to protect my sound and my vision,” he said.

He has worked with DJ Obza, Esona and Nkaziiey, and released a collaborative EP with Esona Ntshonga titled *Uthando Luka Mama*. This project explores themes of love, gratitude and emotional depth. “Collaboration teaches you that talent has no limits when authenticity leads,” he said.

In January 2026, the singles *Le Piano* and *Thando Lwam* continued with his theme of perseverance and love. Responding to what drives his lyrics, SMezi says, “I always start with what I feel or what I've observed. Real life inspires my writing.” Smezi says faith and family keep him grounded. “God is the source that fuels my creativity and keeps me grounded,” he said.



Recording artist and producer Stephen Zulu “SMezi Da Artist” Shongwe (32)

## Kaizer Chiefs signed Royal Classic Football Club goalkeeper Kea Semeya

● NELISIWE SKHOSANA

**TWEEFONTEIN K** — Kaizer Chiefs signed Keabetswe “Kea” Semeya (14) from Tweefontein K for its Under-14 division as a goalkeeper in late January 2026. This milestone ignited pride in his community and has inspired his local club, Royal Classic Football Club.

Semeya's football journey includes notable appearances in trials and competitive matches. He participated in TS Galaxy trials in 2021 and competed against youth teams, including Sundowns Under-13 and Clapham High School in 2023. He earned multiple accolades, including seven medals, three gold, three silver and one bronze.

In 2024, TUKS signed him and competed in the Gauteng Development Promotional League. After three games, he progressed to the Gauteng Promotional League, where Kaizer Chiefs scouts noticed his potential. His signing with the Soweto giants

marks a turning point not only in his career but also for Royal Classic FC.

Coach Eucan Mathibela, who founded Royal Classic FC, said he recognised something special in him. “I saw his talent on the first day he came to the club. There was a time he wanted to give up, but I spoke to him, encouraged and supported him because of the talent I saw,” he said.

Semeya began playing football at the age of nine as a striker at Fundawazi Primary School before switching to goalkeeper in Grade 4. He joined Royal Classic FC in 2021, where his goalkeeping skills were developed.

The coach intensified Semeya's training in 2023 after the player informed him about upcoming TUKS trials. The pair committed to daily one-on-one sessions, focusing on goalkeeping fundamentals such as diving, handling and ball distribution.

“We trained one hour every day

until November 2023. Everything Semeya had was quality; he communicates well, respects others and knows how to handle and kick the ball. It took me three years to fully train him. It was all about hard work,” Mathibela said, adding that Kea being signed by Kaizer Chiefs brought “positive vibes into my life. I'm now trusting the process of building these young lions under Royal Classic”.



The talented goalkeeper Keabetswe “Kea” Semeya, recently signed by Kaizer Chiefs

**Deltech**  
T/A  
Kent Technical College

DHET CENTRE NO: 0899903864  
ACCREDITATION NO: 07-QCTO/SDP110421  
UMALUSI PROV ACCREDITED

**REGISTER TODAY**

**FULL TIME, PART TIME & EXAMS ONLY**

**MATRIC RE-WRITE**

**FREE WIFI** **TUTORS AVAILABLE GRADE 8 - 12 MATHS & PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**HIGH PASS RATE**

**REGISTER NOW WITH OR WITHOUT MATRIC**

**CONTACT US NOW**

**013 312 0265** **067 869 8482**

**No. 7 Shabangu Street, Botleng, Delmas, Mpumalanga**

www.kentcollege.co.za deltechsdcollege@hotmail.com deltechsdcollege

- ENGINEERING - NATIONAL N DIPLOMA**
  - N1&N3 ENGINEERING (MATHS, ENGINEERING SCIENCE & ENGINEERING DRAWING)
  - ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (N2 - N6)
  - MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (N2 - N6)
  - BOILER MAKING (N2 - N6)
  - DIESEL MECHANICS (N2 - N6)
  - FITTING & TURNER (N2 - N6)
  - INSTALLATION RULES (P1 & P2)
  - SPEC ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION CODES (P1 & P2)
- MANAGEMENT - NATIONAL N DIPLOMA**
  - HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (N4-N6)
  - PUBLIC MANAGEMENT (N4-N6)
  - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (N4-N6)
  - MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (N4-N6)
  - MEDICAL SECRETARY (N4-N6)
  - LEGAL SECRETARY (N4-N6)
  - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (N4-N6)
  - TRAVEL & TOURISM (N4-N6)
  - PUBLIC RELATIONS (N4-N6)
  - MARKETING MANAGEMENT (N4-N6)

**MYABA MEDIA & TECH**

**Your One-Stop Solution for Digital Excellence**

Let us elevate your brand and connect your business to the world

**Our Services:**

- Interactive Website Design** - User-friendly, responsive sites for mobile & desktop.
- Professional Corporate Branding** - Logos, identity packages, and brand guidelines.
- Promotional Video Clips** - Engaging corporate videos, explainers & ads.
- Custom Software Solutions** - Tailored applications to streamline operations.
- Social Media & Online Marketing** - Strategy, content, and targeted campaigns.

**Ready to grow your business?**

Call or WhatsApp: **0814109337**

**Click for a free branding/marketing need analysis**

**CHADOR**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION CONSULTANT

**Your Service Partner in:**

- Trucking & Logistics Admin
- Bookkeeping
- HR & Payroll Services
- RTMS Implementation & Audit Services

**Get in Touch with Us ...**

TEL: 013 880 0225  
Business WhatsApp: 072 642 2069 | www.chadorprojects.co.za

**QUALITY SERVICES**

**INNOVATION**

**INTEGRITY**