

Delmas Pride Logistics blocks mine gates over fleet reduction dispute

Read More on Page 3



Nkangala Business Breakfast puts environmental and waste innovation on the agenda



More on Page 4

MTPA reflects on Meetings Africa investment and gains for local tourism businesses

Full Story on Page 2

9 YEARS ON, STILL THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



MPUMALANGA PREMIER UNVEILS 2026 GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AT SoPA

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: 360 ● 06 MARCH 2026

FREE



highveldchronicle.co.za



DA MAKES FIRST MOVE IN STEVE TSHWETE MAYORAL RACE

Full Story on Page 5

NEW. INFORMATIVE. LOADED.

highveldchronicle.co.za
hconline.co.za



STRUGGLING with SALES? WANT MORE VISIBILITY?

If your answer is YES, talk to us

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



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

CALL OR WHATSAPP
081 303 7023

MTPA reflects on Meetings Africa investment and gains for local tourism businesses

Pan African Tourism Board visits Mpumalanga's growing reputation as a destination for business events, incentive travel and Pan-African gatherings.

● KATLEGO MKHONTO

SANDTON — Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) has reflected on its participation at Meetings Africa, held from 23 to 25 February 2026 at the Sandton Convention Centre, generated business leads and exposure for local tourism businesses.

MTPA enabled six Mpumalanga tourism businesses to exhibit at the event, which brought together 375 buyers from 53 countries and facilitated over 6,400 confirmed business meetings.

The exhibition featured 325 exhibitors from 21 African countries. The selected businesses each contributed R7 000 exhibition fee, while the agency invested approximately R740 000 to cover all logistics.

Through engagements with hosted buyers, including associations and academic institutions, the agency and exhibiting businesses generated multiple strong leads. Interest was

expressed in key provincial economic sectors such as mining, agriculture and tourism.

According to MTPA, over 200 meetings were held by Mpumalanga tourism businesses, including opportunities to present during Speed Marketing group sessions. These engagements created valuable connections within the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector.

While MICE engagements often do not produce immediate results, they typically translate into long-term opportunities through confirmed bids, secured events and repeat engagements over time.

MTPA used the platform to showcase Mpumalanga's readiness to host business events, highlighting ongoing infrastructure upgrades, improved road maintenance and expanded air services that

position the province competitively as a distinctive business tourism and events destination.

"Mpumalanga is well positioned to host small to medium-sized MICE events and incentive programmes that combine business objectives with the province's natural and cultural attractions," MTPA stated.

"The province's game reserves and luxury lodges near the Kruger National Park, as well as boutique venues in areas such as Dullstroom and the Panorama Route, offer ideal settings that blend business events with safari and nature experiences," MTPA pointed out, adding that the province's accessibility is strengthened by air connections through Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport and Skukuza Airport, linking Mpumalanga to major South African cities and regional destinations.

MTPA emphasised that its support for tourism businesses extends beyond creating access to major industry platforms. "The entity works collaboratively with event venues, conference centres and accommodation providers to co-bid for national and international events," the agency said.

According to MTPA, support also includes hosting industry sessions focused on incentive programmes, grading systems, certification requirements and compliance standards to ensure that businesses meet key industry requirements.

MTPA also highlighted a milestone from the event — an inspection visit to Mpumalanga attractions by the Pan African Tourism Board, representing tourism stakeholders from 20 African countries.

"The visit is expected to strengthen continental collaboration and open doors for future conferences, tourism forums and association gatherings across the continent."

"This growing relationship with the Pan African Tourism Board will not only enhance the province's continental visibility and endorsement potential but also create opportunities to position Mpumalanga as a preferred host destination for Pan-African meetings and sector-specific events," the agency said.

Shortly after Meetings Africa, the agency hosted three post-event familiarisation (FAM) trips, which it described as a strategic win for the province's MICE sector.

"It reinforces the message that Mpumalanga is not only a premier leisure and safari destination, but also a strong and credible contender in the business events space," MTPA concluded.

Speaking at the event, Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille highlighted the economic contribution of MeetingsAfrica.

"Over the past three years alone, the economic impact of Meetings Africa on our GDP has nearly doubled, from

R371 million in 2023 to R690 million in 2025. During this period, Meetings Africa has created and sustained over 2,600 jobs," she said.

The 2026 edition marked the 20th anniversary of the event under the theme "20 Years of Connecting Africa to the World." Final reports on the event's full economic impact are expected in the coming months.

Local tourism businesses that attended the event said the platform created valuable networking opportunities.

Netto Maluka, owner of Mbombela Experience Tours and Safaris, which conducts tours across Mpumalanga including the Kruger National Park and the Panorama Route, said the opportunity created valuable connections.

"We have met with potential buyers and interacted with quality buyers. It has been a successful two days for us. Thank you to MTPA for giving us the platform to be here and connect with people from across the world," he said.

Emmanuel Wela, Sales Executive at Graceland Hotel Casino and Country Club in Secunda, who also attended the event last year, said the results from previous participation were already visible.

"Many people came to the hotel after last year's event. This is not just a talk show, people do business. We got a lot of traction, not only from international buyers but also from local tour companies. Compared to last year, the connections made this year were even better," he said.

Nomkhosi Tshabalala, representing the Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (KLCBT), said the quality of buyers had improved.

"We have seen a definite increase in the quality of buyers compared to 2025. We also participated in the speed networking sessions, and it has been exciting to see people showing interest in learning more," she said.

Tshabalala also thanked MTPA for creating access to international markets.

"It's a great platform and we are grateful for the opportunity to access the market," she said.



Netto Maluka, owner of Mbombela Experience Tours and Safaris



Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) exhibition stand at the Meetings Africa

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



Affiliate with:



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



Life's Joy Stealers

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. (Philippians 1:9-10)

Life's joy stealers are many, and you will need to get rid of them if you hope to attain the kind of happiness described by Paul's pen. If you don't, all attempts to receive (or give) a joy transfusion will be blocked. One of the ringleaders you'll need to do battle with sooner rather than later is that sneaky thief who slides into your thoughts and reminds you of something from the past that demoralizes you (even though it is over and done with and fully forgiven) or conjures up fears regarding something in the future (even though that frightening something may never happen). Joyful people stay riveted to the present—the here and now, not the then and never.

As I attempt to probe the mind of Paul, trying to find some common denominator or secret clue to his joy, I have to conclude that it was his

confidence in God. To Paul, God was in full control of everything. Everything! If hardship came, God permitted it. If pain dogged his steps, it was only because God allowed it. If he was under arrest, God still remained the sovereign director of his life. If there seemed to be no way out, God knew he was pressed. If things broke open and all pressure was relieved, God was responsible.

My point? God is no distant deity but a constant reality, a very present help whenever needs occur. So, live like it. And laugh like it! Paul did. While he lived, he drained every drop of joy out of every day that passed. How do I know? This little letter to the Philippians says so.

In the first chapter of Philippians, we learn there is laughter in living—whether or not we get what we want, in spite of difficult circumstances, and even when there are conflicts.

In the second chapter we learn there is laughter in serving. It starts with the right attitude (humility), it is maintained through right theology (God is God), and it is encouraged by right models and mentors (friends like Timothy and Epaphroditus).

In the third chapter, we learn there is laughter in sharing as Paul shares three happy things: his testimony, his goal of living, and his reason for encouragement. Finally, in the fourth chapter we learn there is laughter in resting. These have to be some of the finest lines ever written on the principle of personal contentment.

Mpumalanga premier unveils 2026 government priorities at SoPA

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA — The Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu has outlined government priorities for the 2026/27 financial year, including over R4 billion in infrastructure investment, new schools and clinics, and partnerships aimed at boosting agriculture, research and economic growth.

The plans were announced during the State of the Province Address (SoPA) delivered on Thursday, 05 March 2026, in Mbombela.

The Premier said the provincial government will invest over R4 billion over the medium term to enhance economic and social infrastructure, paving the way for the construction of additional clinics and schools to improve access to education and healthcare in the province.

Health

He shared that last financial year, a substantial R1.7 billion was allocated for health infrastructure, including R183 million dedicated to maintenance of current facilities.

“Mapulaneng Regional Hospital is planned for completion this year. Other ongoing projects include KwaMhlanga Hospital Maternity Unit, New Troya Clinic, New Dumphries Clinic, MN Cindi Clinic, Barberton Clinic, Alexandria Clinic, Lebohang Clinic, Vezubuhle

Clinic, Kinross Clinic, Langkloof Clinic, Lefisoane Clinic, and the upgrade of Siyabuswa Community Health Centre (CHC),” he said.

He also said that they are intensifying awareness campaigns and encouraging earlier clinic visits during pregnancy to reduce maternal mortality rate. Ndlovu said the department of health is also working to exceed targets for those defaulting on HIV/AIDS treatment, while implementing quality improvement plans across hospitals to meet ideal healthcare standards.

Education

He said that they are currently prioritising upgrading and replacement of 53 aging, community-built schools and that an additional 10 schools will be built during the current financial year, including the much-anticipated school for the deaf and blind. “To further fast-track progress, we are introducing a special programme to build 10 more schools, implemented in phases, each comprising two blocks of eight classrooms,” the Premier said.

Water and Sewer Bulk Lines

Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu announced that approximately R1,4 billion from infrastructure grants, including the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), has been allocated for the development of bulk sewer and water infrastructure in Nkomazi, Govan Mbeki and Bushbuckridge local municipalities.

He said ageing infrastructure is also being addressed, including the replacement of asbestos bulk water lines in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, from the water treatment plant to Kuilen Phase 2 and from the plant to the Bloedfontein Reservoir Phase 2. Ndlovu added that the Delmas Wastewater Treatment Works upgrade, increasing capacity from 4 to 12 megalitres per day, is 68% complete, while the Loskop Bulk Water Scheme is at 90% completion.

Once completed, residents of Thembe Hani Local Municipality are expected to benefit from a reliable water supply of 20 megalitres per day, while the province continues

working with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Rand Water to optimise supply from existing infrastructure.

Economic growth, Trade and Investment

The provincial economy is said to be growing by more than 1%, and is projected to grow at 1.3% for 2026. The Premier further projected an average growth rate of 2% per annum from 2027–2029.

In efforts to achieve higher growth and job creation, the provincial government has set a target to reduce unemployment to 25% through the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP). The current unemployment rate in the province stands at 32,3%.

Ndlovu added that R25 billion, of the R238 billion investment commitment announced at the Mpumalanga Investment and Mining Conference held in Middelburg in October last year, has already been signed off. “These investments focus largely on the green economy which marks a significant turning point and a major boost for the provincial economy.”

Premier also shared that the provincial government has formalised a partnership with the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) through a memorandum of agreement. He said this collaboration aims to tap into the university's rich expertise, research capabilities, and skilled workforce to address key provincial priorities.

He emphasised that this alliance will foster various initiatives, including sustainable agriculture, innovation, applied research, job creation, and skill development in health, education and conservation.

A flagship initiative stemming from the agreement is the hybrid rice project — a comprehensive industrial ecosystem expected to



Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu stands alongside Speaker of the Legislature Makhosazane Masilela

drive employment and GDP growth.

The project plans to dedicate 1,2 million hectares to hybrid rice cultivation, producing 14,4 million tons annually, with a projected turnover of R40,32 billion. The project is expected to create about 388,000 jobs across all phases.

He added that other partnership programs with UMP will focus on advanced maize, sorghum and vegetable production.

Panel of experts

Ndlovu announced that he will appoint a Premier's Advisory Panel of experts to give guidance on strategic investment, trade, and provincial economic development. He said this decision follows a decision taken to drive strategic and evidence-based development.

Seriti Green Initiatives

He said that Seriti Green, through its Social and Economic Development portfolio, has committed to align its programmes with the Mpumalanga government priorities.

“Central to this commitment is enterprise development, focused on supporting SMMEs alongside structured entrepreneur programmes designed to catalyse sustainable job creation and broaden economic participation,” he said.

“Investment to date totals approximately R15 billion, with a further R25 billion planned over the next two years. Job creation remains central to the company's work.

He said more than 1,700 jobs have

been created, with 53% allocated to local residents within a 15 km radius. Seriti Green has committed to build a tower that is 16 metre high with 5,5 metre diameter surrounding one of its turbines, which will be painted using artwork inspired by Gogo Esther Mahlangu.

Gender Based Violence and Femicide

Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), he highlighted that the province supports 22 victim assistance centers operated by non-profit organisations, as well as two government-owned shelters.

During the 2025/26 financial year, 494 victims found refuge in these shelters, including 23 individuals affected by human trafficking. He emphasised that the province is actively collaborating with the National Gender-Based Violence Command Centre.

“Communities are actively using this toll-free number to report incidents, with 26 reports logged in just the past nine months,” he said.

He also announced plans to launch the GBVF Brigade project, which will deploy 554 young people across 90 policing precincts to support GBVF interventions.

“These brigades will conduct community assessments to gauge the prevalence of GBVF cases, facilitate referrals, and promote awareness programs in the communities,” he said.

Delmas Pride Logistics blocks mine gates over fleet reduction dispute

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — Operations at a mine near Delmas were disrupted after trucks belonging to Delmas Pride Logistics blocked the entrance gates in protest against a decision to significantly reduce the number of trucks allowed to operate at the site. According to information obtained by *Highveld Chronicle*, members of the Delmas Pride Logistics parked their trucks at the mine gates, preventing vehicles from entering or leaving the facility.

The dispute stems from a letter issued by mine management under the Salungano Group, communicated through Neosho Trading 86 (Pty) Ltd, informing Delmas Pride Logistics of the conditional upliftment of a suspension previously imposed on the company.

In the letter dated 26 February 2026, management stated that the suspension would only be lifted if several conditions were met. One of the most contentious conditions was a requirement that Delmas Pride Logistics reduce the number of trucks operating at the mine.

“The upliftment applies strictly under the following conditions: Delmas Pride must reduce its fleet according to the maximum allocation for certified trucks. The

maximum allocated trucks to Delmas Pride is 30–40 trucks,” the letter states.

It further notes that only trucks fully compliant with mine and Eskom safety and contractual requirements will be permitted access to the site. The company was also instructed to submit a list of approved trucks for verification.

Additional conditions include dash-cam verification before site entry, weekly submission of dash-cam footage, subcontractor monitoring, implementation of corrective action plans and ongoing compliance audits. Management said the measures are intended to ensure compliance with supply obligations.

“It is important to emphasise that Salungano supports local businesses, and this objective is to ensure that our Coal Supply Agreement is secured and protected. We want to work collaboratively with Delmas Pride to ensure that we consistently meet all Eskom compliance requirements,” the letter states.

However, Delmas Pride Logistics rejected the condition requiring a reduction in its fleet. In a formal response, the

cooperative stated that it consists of 34 locally based companies operating approximately 120 trucks, many of which have been servicing the mine for several years.

“We do not agree with the proposed reduction of our fleet,” the cooperative said in its letter. “The 120 trucks within our cooperative have been operational within the framework for many years and represent the livelihoods of numerous local operators.”

The company further indicated that it fully supports all safety and compliance measures, including camera verification, monitoring systems, submission of footage and audits, but maintains that the fleet reduction would negatively impact local businesses and workers.

“We fully agree with compliance, camera verification, subcontractor oversight, footage submission and audits, as Delmas Pride commits itself to all safety precautions for all 120 trucks,” the letter states.

Sizwe Sibanyoni, a member of Delmas Pride Logistics, told the publication that the situation has already had a serious impact on their operations.

“It's been over a month now our trucks are not working. We are about 34 members and our trucks had stopped, but they told us to at least

use 30 trucks because Eskom reduced the mine tons. But there is a white-owned company, SG Coal and Legends Logistics, which didn't reduce their tons but increased. So we want fairness and equal treatment from the company,” he said.

Sibanyoni added that the decision is negatively affecting local businesses that have depended on the mine for years.

“It's killing our business and we are a local company. We only work here and we have been here for years. Even when the mine was going through difficulties we were here, but now that everything is good on their side, they turn their backs on us,” he said.

The blocking of the mine gates highlights growing tensions between

local trucking operators and mine contractors over the allocation of transport work linked to coal supply agreements with Eskom.

Highveld Chronicle contacted Thulani Ndlovu, a line manager at the mine, for comment through repeated phone calls seeking a right of reply regarding the matter. However, no response had been received at the time of publication.

At the time of publication, the company indicated that it was awaiting a response from mine management regarding its objections to the fleet reduction condition. Negotiations between the parties are expected to continue.



Nkangala Business Breakfast puts environmental and waste innovation on the agenda

MEC Calls for stronger public-private partnerships and compliance with environmental laws to drive climate resilience and circular economy

PORTIA NKAMBULE AND
NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI — Mpumalanga MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA), Khethiwe Moeketsi has called for stronger partnerships between government and the private sector and to build climate resilience and unlocking opportunities within the circular economy.

Speaking at the Nkangala Environmental & Waste Circular Business Breakfast held at the Dome in eMalahleni on 03 March 2026, where business leaders, farmers, waste recyclers, government officials and civil society organisations gathered to discuss practical solutions for the province's emerging green economy.

A call to the business sector to comply with environmental laws

MEC Moeketsi said mining, agriculture and tourism remain the key sectors sustaining and driving the growth of Mpumalanga's economy. She called on these industries to continue investing in strategies aimed at countering the impact of climate change and to strengthen partnerships with government to grow the economy and create employment opportunities. She urged businesses to leverage opportunities arising from challenges such as climate change, pollution and waste by investing in solutions that create jobs, support small enterprises and contribute to community development.

"Thousands of waste materials end up in our landfill sites unnecessarily. Eighty percent of household waste, for example, can be translated into thousands of sustainable jobs and small businesses through waste management and recycling, while also supporting buy-back centres and protecting the environment," said Moeketsi.

Leaders from the business and mining sectors shared strategies and programmes already being implemented to address the effects of climate change, emphasising that building climate resilience requires collaboration across sectors.

Floods highlight climate risks

Officials delivered a sobering assessment of recent floods that severely impacted agricultural communities across Mpumalanga. An estimated 96 agricultural projects were affected, with damages reaching approximately R681 million.

The Nkangala District Municipality

accounted for about R124 million in losses, affecting more than 2000 farmers. Crops were submerged for days, livestock were killed, irrigation systems destroyed and access roads were washed away.

Entire harvests of maize, soya beans, sunflower and vegetables destined for school nutrition programmes were wiped out. In one instance, 60 cattle were struck by lightning, while another farmer lost 300 hectares of soya beans.

In her keynote address, Moeketsi said the floods demonstrate that climate change is no longer a distant threat. "Climate change is a real threat, manifesting through extreme events such as floods and droughts, which undermine livelihoods, human health, food security and economic stability," she said.

She stressed the importance of proactive planning. "We must move from reactive responses to proactive planning. Climate resilience must be embedded in municipal planning, infrastructure investment and budgeting processes."

Temvelo from provincial initiative to national benchmark

Central to the discussions was the Temvelo Flagship Programme, a Mpumalanga initiative designed to promote environmental stewardship and circular economy practices.

Programme representative Marilyn Sibiyi said Temvelo focuses on research, awareness and practical environmental action.

"We speak about climate change, but do we all understand what it means? Temvelo seeks to create awareness, build capacity and empower action," Sibiyi said.

The programme, which was first launched in Mpumalanga, is now being prepared for expansion into other disaster-prone provinces.

"It is not an event. It is not a principle. It is a programme open to all of us because we are all affected by the environment," she added.

Moeketsi emphasised that the programme is designed to deliver measurable results rather than symbolic compliance.

"Temvelo is not about compliance for its own sake; it is about



MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Khethiwe Moeketsi, with the Nkangala Business Chamber leadership alongside business, government and municipal leaders.

changing behaviour, influencing investment decisions and creating sustainable livelihoods.

She added that women, youth, children and persons with disabilities should not only benefit from environmental programmes but participate as leaders in the green economy."

Waste-to-Wealth proposal

One of the major proposals emerging from the breakfast was the establishment of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) — a regional recycling hub that would convert waste into economic opportunity.

Currently, much of Mpumalanga's recyclable waste is transported to Johannesburg, resulting in lost revenue and employment opportunities for the province.

"In Mpumalanga we do not have a recycling hub. We take our waste to Johannesburg. That is a cost to business and a loss of economic opportunity for our communities," the MEC said.

The proposed facility aims to:

- Divert 60–80% of household waste from landfill within five years
- Create 150–300 direct jobs
- Support buy-back centres and youth-led recycling enterprises
- Reduce illegal dumping and environmental degradation

"Environmental compliance is a moral responsibility. We cannot continue withdrawing from the environment without replenishing it," Moeketsi said.

She urged the private sector to view waste innovation as an investment opportunity.

"The circular economy is not a slogan; it is a pathway to job creation, enterprise development and climate mitigation."

Industry perspective: sustainability in manufacturing

Adding an industry perspective, Riaan van Coller, Chief Operating

Officer of Columbus Stainless, said highlighted how large-scale manufacturing is adapting to sustainability imperatives while remaining competitive.

"Columbus Stainless is the only stainless steel plant in South Africa and the largest producer on the African continent, supplying roughly 50% of the regional market," Van Coller said.

"About 40 to 50% of our production is exported, while the rest supports the local market. Our operation employs around 1,400 permanent staff and approximately 600 contractors, with a melting capacity of about 600,000 tonnes of steel annually."

Van Coller said the company has implemented a five-year sustainability strategy aimed at reducing Scope 1 and Scope 2 CO₂ emissions.

"We aim to reduce electricity consumption by 45%, which is important given that electricity costs for industry have increased by more than 900% since 2009."

He added that recycling plays a major role in stainless steel production.

"Around 90% of stainless steel is recyclable, and between 80% and 90% of the material we melt comes from recycled sources, making stainless steel one of the most sustainable industrial materials available."

The company is also exploring ways to reuse by-products from its production processes.

"Through our operations we generate slag and dust, but we recover valuable metals from these materials and return them to the furnace. We are also exploring opportunities to convert some of these by-products into paving bricks and other construction materials, while certain processed materials can be used in agriculture."

Van Coller added that water conservation is another critical area. "We are proud to operate as a zero-effluent plant, meaning most of the water used in our processes is treated and reused internally."

Despite global market pressures and rising energy costs, he said the company continues to explore renewable energy options, including solar and wind power.

Business urged to match government efforts

Government representatives also outlined plans to integrate climate resilience into Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and Local Economic Development (LED) strategies.

Businesses were urged to integrate environmental considerations into Social and Labour Plans (SLPs), Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programmes and operational strategies

"The government creates the enabling environment, but sustainable growth requires business to integrate environmental stewardship into core strategy, not treat it as an add-on,"



MEC Khethiwe Moeketsi delivers the keynote address

Moeketsi said.

The mining sector, a cornerstone of the provincial economy, was urged to invest in climate mitigation initiatives. "If we do not act decisively, global pressures will dictate the future of our industries. Let us lead the transition responsibly and protect both jobs and the environment."

Temvelo symposium and awards

The breakfast also promoted the upcoming Temvelo Symposium, Expo and Awards, scheduled for August, which will feature 11 categories and 62 awards recognising environmental leadership across sectors including mining, construction, logistics, agriculture and waste management.

Projects demonstrating best practices in waste separation, energy efficiency, water conservation and land rehabilitation are encouraged to participate.

"Recognition drives change. When we celebrate responsible practices, we inspire replication and raise standards across all sectors," Moeketsi said.

A call for collaboration

The breakfast concluded with a call for stronger collaboration between government and the private sector.

Delegates acknowledged the swift response from businesses during the recent floods including donations, relief efforts and infrastructure support, but emphasised that long-term resilience will require sustained partnerships.

These include investments in climate-smart agriculture, wetland preservation, waste innovation and youth-driven green enterprises.

"Temvelo yinzaba yetfu sonkhe, Temvelo is everybody's matter," Moeketsi concluded.

With Mpumalanga set to become the first of four disaster-prone provinces to roll out the Temvelo programme, stakeholders left with a clear message: collective action, responsible investment and strong partnerships will be essential to building a resilient and green economy. As part of the programme, MEC Moeketsi also joined delegates on a site visit to Columbus Steel near Middelburg, where they toured the facility and gained first-hand insight into the company's waste management practices.



MEC Khethiwe Moeketsi (left) during a site visit to Columbus Steel in Middelburg with the department's senior officials, alongside the company's top management and Nkangala Business Chamber President, Daniel Skhosana.

DA unveils Steve Tshwete mayoral candidate Bosman Grobler: "Your days are numbered"

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG - Democratic Alliance (DA) mayoral candidate Bosman Grobler, has warned that municipal officials involved in corruption will face investigation and possible prosecution if the party takes control of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality after the 2026 local government elections.

Grobler, who also serves as the DA's provincial chairperson, was recently nominated as the party's mayoral candidate for the municipality. Speaking to the publication on the



Bosman Grobler, nominated as Steve Tshwete mayoral candidate

sidelines of an event at the Sydney Choma Banquet Hall in Middelburg on Wednesday, 4 March 2026, he said addressing corruption within the municipal administration would be a top priority.

Grobler said the DA intends to confront corruption within the municipality through stricter oversight and forensic investigations.

"We will convene with the municipal administrators and declare that today marks the end of such practices. If you choose to persist, we will hold you accountable. We will implement forensic audits, uncover the wrongdoings, and ensure prosecution," he said.

He added that tackling corruption is necessary to improve service delivery and ensure that municipal funds are used for infrastructure and development.

"At the forefront of our concerns is corruption. Naturally, our aim is to enhance service delivery, but

that requires financial resources. We must tackle corruption head-on to secure the funding necessary for our infrastructure and initiatives," he said. "This is crucial because with available funding for various projects, we can achieve our short and medium-term objectives."

The DA has previously taken legal action against the Steve Tshwete local municipality over alleged failures to act against employees implicated in wrongdoing linked to the construction of the Mhluzi Intake Substation.

A forensic report revealed that there were payment irregularities, procurement irregularities, oversight failures and financial mismanagement. The investigation found that the municipality spent more than R158 million on the substation despite an approved budget of R30 million.

As part of its accountability

measures, the DA is advocating for lifestyle audits of senior officials, including Executive Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Councillors, and the Municipal Manager.

Grobler also outlined plans to improve the local economy by reducing bureaucratic barriers for businesses and introducing incentives for companies that employ local residents, particularly young people. He said improving service delivery would also be a priority, including ensuring reliable water supply, consistent electricity, well-maintained yards, and efficient waste removal services for businesses. In addition, Grobler said the party would prioritise efforts to address crime in the Central Business District (CBD) and throughout the entire municipal region.

During his acceptance speech, Grobler, who currently serves as the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Culture, Sport and

Recreation in the Mpumalanga Legislature, reflected on his extensive years of service as a public representative for the people of Steve Tshwete and the broader province. "I have dedicated my life to serving the community. And although we have had our ups and downs, we have had victories and defeats, both in our careers and our personal lives.

It is a call that gives purpose to my life, and energy to my body every day," he said.

He said many residents continue to pay municipal rates and taxes while experiencing poor service delivery, and emphasised the need for a municipality that delivers basic services fairly to all communities.

Grobler said the DA's vision is to build a municipality that provides reliable services, supports economic growth and ensures accountability in local government.

NEWLY LAUNCHED WEBSITE!

SAME GREAT NEWS. BRAND NEW LOOK.

Connect with us. Stay informed.

Visit us today: www.hconline.co.za www.highveldchronicle.co.za

First with the People, First with the News

EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



NOTICE

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (MPAC) SPECIAL MEETING FOR PROBING THE DRAFT 2024/25 FY ANNUAL REPORT

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 21A of the Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 and Section 130 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No. 56 of 2003, that a Public Hearing by the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) on the 2024/25 financial year Draft Annual Report as well as other financial management and governance reports for the 2024/25 financial year period will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2026
Venue: Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre
Time: 09h00

Members of the public, business and stakeholders are invited to attend the Public Hearing as observers, wherein the Executive will be responding to the probing questions from the Municipal Public Accounts Committee on the Draft Annual Report.

For further enquiries, contact Mr M. Mngomezulu on 0136906208/0716060117 and you can enquire by e-mail to mngomozulum@emalahleni.gov.za between 07h30 and 16h30 during office hours.

Mr H.S. Mayisela
Municipal Manager
Civic Centre
PO Box 3
Mandela Street eMalahleni
eMalahleni 1035
www.emalahleni.gov.za



Local Municipality

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: ELECTRICITY COST OF SUPPLY(COS)STUDY

In terms of Chapter 4, 17 (1), Local Government Municipal Systems Act No.32 of 2000 and Regulations is that, participation by local community in the affairs of the municipality must take place through inter alia: "The mechanisms, processes and procedures for participation in municipal governance established in terms of this Act

Other appropriate mechanisms, processes and procedures established by the municipality"

The Emalahleni Local Municipality invites all residents, businesses, and stakeholders to participate in a public engagement process on the Electricity Cost of Supply (COS), in line with NERSA regulatory requirements. The COS report will be loaded on the municipality website for perusal, and also be available to access the report at the Municipal offices. Your input will help shape fair, transparent, and accountable pricing for electricity services.

The following municipal documents have been referred for community participation by Council to engage and make inputs:

The Cost of Supply Study (COS) Report

The Cost of Supply (COS) is the true cost incurred by the municipality to supply electricity, including generation charges, transmission, distribution, maintenance, debt service, and operational expenses. It informs transparent tariff setting, cross-subsidization, and investment planning specific to electricity services. Public participation ensures electricity tariffs are fair, affordable, and economically sustainable.

All community members, businesses, professional bodies and other interested stakeholders are invited to collect documents as from Tuesday, 03 March 2026 at the following Municipal Offices:

VENUE: eMalahleni Civic Centre
Phola/Ogies Municipal Offices
Ga-Nala Municipal Offices

The above-mentioned COS report is accessible on the municipal website at www.emalahleni.gov.za closing date is **01 April 2026**. Comments may be submitted electronically via the link provided in this notice. In addition, hard-copy comments may be placed in the suggestion/comment boxes at the various venues (Municipal offices before the set closing date)

For more information please do not hesitate to contact:

Technical Services Directorate
MB Masango
013 690 6909
masangonb@emalahleni.gov.za
and/or
NP Msomi
013 690 6909
msominp@emalahleni.gov.za

H.S. MAYISELA MUNICIPAL MANAGER
Civic Centre
Mandela Street
eMalahleni
www.emalahleni.gov.za

P.O Box 3
eMalahleni

ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

UMKHUBA NESIKO

Umkhuba yidlela yesenzo eyenziwa linengi labantu ngoku hlukahluka. Umkhuba ukuze ube khona, uhlumiswa lirhahla ekusisenziso esithile esenziwe mumuntu. Unobangela wakho koke lokho kunga faka hlangana izinto ezimbadlwana efanele zilandelwe kilobo bujamo namtjhana kuloyo muzi njill. Ngoku jayekekileko kungaba ligadango elithethwe ngomunye welungu lomndeni namtjhana umdosi phambili wabantu abathile. Kungaba mdosi phambili orhola isitjhaba namtjhana inyanganjill.

Isenzo lesi somkhuba singa tsumuka ekukhandeleni okuthile namtjhana idlela abantu abazi phatha ngakhona. Umkhuba ubelethwa ngemva kobanyana kube nesenzo esenziwako kungaba lesenzo senziwa emntwini poro! Namtjhana entweni ethile, indawo ethile.

Isiko indlela eligugu yoku phila sisitjhaba samaNdebele. Isiko kumrabhu wendabuko wekolo yabokhokho bethu efanele siyaqade kiyo.

Njengombana sembethwe iinbongo kuyasi katelela bonyana sikhamba lapha kwakhamba khona abokhokho bethu. Siyimbethe lento kungakho akukhona akali bonyana senze ngendlela esifisa ukwenza ngakhona ngonobangela yesibingo ekuyidlela yesiko. Woke amasiko ongamele abezimu bethu. Asidzubhule indlela yesiko lesikhethu ukufakazela lento engiyitjhoko... ukuphahla kuli siko lethu soke simaNdebele nanyana

ukusiphi isigodlo. Ukuphahla yidlela esikghona ukudibana ngayo nabezimi bethu yeke ke angeze kwaba mkhuba. Inengi labantu bekhethu lithethe iimkhuba layenza isiko, kwaba yidlela esele ephilwako.

Lokho kulethe ukutjharagana ekambisweni yesiko kunye noku phethelwa isiko ngendlela. Idlazana labantu liphethe sele likhombana ngemino emehlweni. Umkhuba nesiko pheze kwakhamba kufana nanyana kutjhiyatjhiyana ukuya ngomrabho wakhona. Njengombana sisazi ukuthi isiko kuyinto ethethelwe kibokhokho bethu esele babhubha, silandela idlela yokwenziwa kwezinto ekufaka hlangana ukukholelwa kileyo mrabhu yabo yokwenziwa kwezinto ekuligugu abasitjhiyela Lona sisitjhaba.

Asitjheje isenzo somkhuba esijayekekileko sokobanyana unganenisi amanzi ngekhyala ilanga selitjhingile. Kuyavela bonyana hleze kiloyo muzi baphunga ngamanzi ilanga lingatjhunga ekuvikeleni umuzi loyo.

Esinye sesenzo kungaba ukuthi ungaqophi phakathi kobusuku, ngomkhuba wokuthi ngaleso sikhathi kuqotjhiswa isidumbu njill.

Kazi izenzo zomkhuba zifaka hlangana izinto ezinengi ezenziwa qobe ngamalanga. Nanyana kunjalo isenzo lesi sine hlangothi elihle nehlangothi



elimbi. Asitjhejeni ihlangothi elihle lesenzo lesi. Kunga thiwa umntwana angadli amaqanda, amaqanda anezakha mzimba ezinga thusa umzimba esikhulukhulu ebantwaneni ababantazana, Uthole umzimba sele uthukiwe ongabangela bonyana udose amehlo wabantu abadala nakuye. Ngalokho ke ukungadli ukudla okwenza umzimba uthele kuya zilwa, umntwana akhona ukukhula kuhle ngeengaba zokukhula. Kungaba kuhle khulu nange isizukulwani samuva nje singa kwazi ukuhlukanisa hlangana komkhuba irhahla nesiko. Ukubalekela iimphambo kunye noku lahlekelwa lisiko ekungilo lendabuko. Ukulahleka kwesiko lethu, ukutjhabalala kwesintu sekhethu kunye nobuntu, ubungithi bethu. Kanti sizabe silahle ekuligugu kithi.

Umtloli (Themba Emanuel Mashobane)
Umhlaziyi (Ngemani Sbusiso Mahlangu)

SP MAHAMBA PEST CONTROL

NEED LONG TERM PEST CONTROL SOLUTION?

LOOKING FOR COMPLIANCE?

LOOK NO FURTHER... GET RID OF PESTS FOR GOOD!

OUR RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE PEST CONTROL SOLUTIONS ON OFFER:

- ✓ Rodent Control
- ✓ Cockroach Control
- ✓ Ants Control
- ✓ Termite Control
- ✓ Flies Control
- ✓ & MORE

CALL US TODAY... OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

- ✓ Effective & Efficient Solutions
- ✓ Professional work by experienced technicians
- ✓ Use of Eco-friendly and safe products
- ✓ Competitive pricing

CLAIM YOUR FREEDOM BACK, Don't Let Pests Take Over!

Reach out to us today and qualify for a 10% discount for first time service when you mention this flyer!

FOR A FREE QUOTE, CALL OR WHATSAPP 060 650 2413

TRUSTED FOR OVER 8 YEARS IN HOME AND INDUSTRIAL SOLUTIONS

www.spmahambatrading.co.za

NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION OUTCOME AND APPEAL PROCESS

Xivono Mining (Pty) Ltd: Ntmeni Colliery OC1 Optimisation Project

in respect of Portion 3 and 7 of the farm Weltevreden 381 JT in the Magisterial District of Belfast, eMakhazeni Local Municipality and Nkangala District.

Project DMPR REFERENCE NUMBER MP 30/5/1/2/3/2/1 (10250) EM

You are hereby notified that an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the above-mentioned project was granted by the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended. The authorisation was granted on 27 February 2026 and received from the DMPR on 03 March 2026.

The EA outlines, amongst others, the decision, the activities authorised, conditions of authorisation, reasons for the decision and the appeal process in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended). In terms of regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation of 2014, as amended, the applicant must within 14 days of receipt of the EA, ensure that all interested and affected parties are notified of the decision. Should you require a copy of the Environmental Authorisation, and reasons for the decision, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, Zyntha Consulting on email admin@zyntha.co.za, fax 086 410 8267 or via telephone 013 243 7110.

Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, you must submit a written appeal to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) within 20 days from the date of notification. The appeal should be lodged as prescribed in Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations of 2014 (as amended). A copy of the lodged appeal should also be submitted to the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR), Mpumalanga Regional Office. The prescribed appeal form and assistance related to the appeal process is obtainable from the office of the appeal authority. Appeals must be submitted as prescribed below:

Appeal to Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)

Attention: Directorate Appeals and Legal Review

Email: appeals@environment.gov.za

By post: Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001

By hand: Environmental House, Corner of Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

Copy of Appeal to DMPR

Attention: Regional Manager: Mpumalanga Region

By facsimile: (013) 656 1474

Email: lydia.maphopha@dmpr.gov.za

By post: Private Bag X7279, Witbank, 1035

By hand: First floor Saveways Centre, Nelson Mandela Drive, eMalahleni, 1035

Date of Notice: 06 March 2026

NOTICE OF APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 98 (1) OF VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW OF 2015 READ TOGETHER WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT 2013 (ACT 16 OF 2013), and read with Section 56 of the Town Planning and Township Ordinance, 1986 (Ordinance 15 of 1986).

We, KAYC MOLENKA (PTY) LTD (Reg No. 2020/800838/07), being the authorised agent of the owner of Erf 313, Eloff, hereby give notice in terms of Section 98 (1) of Victor Khanye Local Municipality By-Law on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management of 2015, read with Section 56 of the Town Planning and Township Ordinance, 1986 (Ordinance 15 of 1986), that we have applied to the Victor Khanye Local Municipality for the amendment of Victor Khanye Land Use Scheme, 2020, by rezoning and formalising existing land uses of Erf 313, Eloff, from 'Residential 1' to 'Residential 2' for the purposes of group housing/flats.

Particulars of the application will lie for inspection during office hours at the Corner Van Der Walt Street and Samuel Road Delmas, for a period of 30 days from 06 March 2026.

Objections to or representations in respect of the application must be lodged with or in writing to the Municipal Manager, Victor Khanye Local Municipality at the above address or posted to P.O. Box 6, Delmas, 2210, within a period of 30 days from 06 March 2026. Any person who cannot write may during office hours visit Victor Khanye Local Municipality (Town Planning Unit: 087288-0729) for assistance with transcribing their comments, objection or representations.

Address of the Agent:
KAYC MOLENKA (PTY)
LTD, P.O. Box 765 Tlhabane, 0300
(Cell: 083 735 9327),
mbulelodala@gmail.com

KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEK INGEVOLGE ARTIKEL 98 (1) VAN DIE VICTOR KHANYE PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT RUIMTELIKE BEPLANNING EN GRONDGEBRUIKSBESTUURSVERORDENING VAN 2015 SAAMGELEES MET DIE BEPALINGS VAN DIE RUIMTELIKE BEPLANNINGEN GRONDGEBRUIKSBESTUURSWET 2013 (WET 16 VAN 2013), en saamgelees met Artikel 56 van die Stadsbeplanning- en Dorpsordonnansie, 1986 (Ordonnansie 5 van 1986).

Ons, KAYC MOLENKA (EDMS) BPK (Reg. Nr. 2020/800838/07), as die gemagtigde agent van die eienaar van Erf 313, Eloff, gee hiermee kennis ingevolge Artikel 98 (1) van die Victor Khanye Plaaslike Munisipaliteit se Verordening oor Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruiksbestuur van 2015, gelees met Artikel 56 van die Dorpsbeplanning- en Dorpsordonnansie, 1986 (Ordonnansie 15 van 1986), dat ons by die Victor Khanye Plaaslike Munisipaliteit aansoek gedoen het vir die wysiging van die Victor Khanye Grondgebruikskema, 2020, deur die hersonering en formalisering van bestaande grondgebruik van Erf 313, Eloff, van 'Residensieel 1' na 'Residensieel 2' vir die doeleindes van groepbehuising/woonstelle. Besonderhede van die aansoek lê ter insae gedurende kantoorure op die hoek van Van Der Waltstraat en Samuelweg, Delmas, vir 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 6 Maart 2026. Besware teen of vertoë met betrekking tot die aansoek moet skriftelik by of tot die Munisipale Bestuurder, Victor Khanye Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, by die bogenoemde adres ingedien word, of gepos word aan Posbus 6, Delmas, 2210, binne 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 6 Maart 2026. Enige persoon wat nie kan skryf nie, kan gedurende kantoorure die Victor Khanye Plaaslike Munisipaliteit (Stadsbeplanningseenheid: 087-288-0729) besoek vir hulp met die transkribering van hul kommentaar, besware of vertoë.

Adres van die Agent:
KAYC MOLENKA
(EDMS) BPK, Posbus 765 Tlhabane, 0300
(Selfoon: 083 735 9327),
mbulelodala@gmail.com

Loveducation launches after-school support centre in Delmas to improve academic performance

● ESTHER MAHLANGU

DELMAS — A new after-school tutoring and support centre, Loveducation, was launched at Delmas Development Centre on Tuesday, 03 March 2026, to provide academic support to learners from Grade 4 to Grade 12 in Delmas and surrounding rural areas. The initiative aims to address poor academic performance, limited resources, and unequal access to quality education.

Loveducation provides structured tutoring, mentorship, and life skills development to support holistic learner growth. Learners undergo baseline assessments to identify gaps in understanding, including content from previous grades, and the programme plans to introduce aptitude tests to guide learners in making informed career choices.

Co-founder and Mathematics and Computer Applications Technology (CAT) tutor Julius Mohadi said the initiative focuses on personalised academic support and mentorship.

“We are addressing poor academic performance, lack of resources and limited access to quality education, especially in rural areas,” said Mohadi. “Our approach combines personalised tutoring with mentorship. We focus on each learner’s strengths and weaknesses to improve performance.”

Acting Circuit Manager Moses Msiza attended the launch and welcomed the initiative, describing education as essential for long-term community growth.

“Education is the key, not just to success, but to sustainable success,” he said. “This project may not solve all our problems, but it will address some of the challenges we are experiencing, especially overcrowding. A nation that does not invest in the future of its children does not deserve its future.”

He pledged support from the Department of Education and encouraged collaboration between schools, parents and community organisations.

“If you want to go fast, you need to go alone, but if you want to go far, we need to go together,” he said. “As the Department of Education, we fully support this programme.”

Loveducation offers tutoring in Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Accounting, Business Studies, Tourism, Economic and Management Sciences (EMS), English and Social Sciences.

Tutors conduct assessment tests before lessons to determine

learners’ understanding, and classes are intentionally kept small to allow individual attention. Structured lesson plans are aligned with the school syllabus, and technology is incorporated where beneficial.

Accounting and Mathematics tutor Given Shlangu said classes are kept small to allow individual attention.

“We create a safe space where learners feel comfortable asking questions, and we track each learner’s progress,” he said.

The programme provides one-on-one tutoring, small group classes, homework support, online lessons, and structured exam preparation.

Study camps are planned during peak academic periods.

Loveducation is also engaging with companies to create career exposure opportunities for learners who may prefer practical career paths.

“There are learners who are capable of working with their hands instead of only focusing on traditional academics,” said Mohadi. “We have spoken to companies that have promised to assist us by giving learners exposure and experience in fields related to their interests.”

The centre operates after school during the week and on weekends.

Registration costs R200, with subject fees ranging between R250 and R350, and a term package option is also

available. Loveducation says it plans to make its services more accessible through scholarships, payment plans and community sponsorships.

Although the centre has not specified a maximum capacity, Mohadi said the vision is to expand its reach and impact over time.

Loveducation ultimately envisions establishing a network of physical and virtual learning hubs across South Africa to broaden access to quality academic support.

“With community backing and Department support, the founders believe the initiative could play a meaningful role in improving learner performance and expanding opportunities for young people in Delmas,” Mohadi said.



Loveducation team poses for a picture with education department officials

IMAGE: Bindza Photography

Community Theatre Festival aims to develop creative talent in Delmas

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — A two-day Delmas Community Theatre Festival aimed at developing the local performers and strengthening the creative sector will take place at the Delmas Sports Centre on 13–14 March 2026, offering workshops, master classes, performances, and networking opportunities for artists and administrators in the area.

Programme Director, Sherly Mthombeni, described the festival as a long-awaited opportunity for local artists. She added that the initiative exists to develop and promote the arts in Delmas, providing a space where talent can grow and community stories can be celebrated.

“[The festival] is a space where talent can grow, voices can be heard, and stories from Delmas can be celebrated through theatre and performance,” she said.

Festival representative Sindiso Nhlabathi said the workshops are intended to enhance skills, establish networks, and contribute to the overall development of Delmas.

“The workshops are designed to enhance the skills of practitioners within the Delmas community, with the objective of cultivating proficient administrators for the creative industry,” said Nhlabathi.

“They also aim to establish a valuable network of skills within the community that can contribute to Delmas’ overall development.”

A central component of the programme is voice and body integration, which organisers describe as fundamental tools for any performer. Participants will learn techniques to maintain their physical and vocal abilities while refining their performance skills.

“The body and voice are a performer’s essential tools,” Nhlabathi explained.

“Continuously learning new ways to develop and refine them is crucial for delivering exceptional performances. These sessions are meant to equip performers with the knowledge to care for these tools so they remain sharp and reliable throughout their careers.”

The festival also addresses broader

socio-economic challenges faced by young creatives. Organisers said limited opportunities exist despite abundant talent, and the initiative aims to ignite a sustainable local creative industry while building connections that could unlock economic prospects.

“In a community where opportunities are scarce but talent abounds, the festival aims to ignite the local creative industry and build networks that can unlock economic prospects through the arts,” Nhlabathi said.

Local creative Mandla Masuku, popularly known as Mish Mosh, is supporting the festival by coordinating promotion and logistics.

Masuku said his involvement stems from his connection to Delmas and his passion for nurturing the arts sector and highlighted the importance of collaboration between artists across regions, particularly between Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

Masuku described the 2026 festival as the beginning of a long-

term cultural movement in Delmas and encouraged residents and artists across Victor Khanye Local Municipality to support the initiative.

“Let’s fill the theatre with love, laughter and standing ovations,” Masuku said in a message to the community on behalf of the #DelmasTheatreFestival team.

Organisers said the programme also aims to address the skills development gap for talented individuals who lack access to formal education in the arts. Annual master classes and workshops are intended to empower creatives and strengthen the local creative economy.

In the long term, festival organisers envision establishing a state-of-the-art auditorium in Delmas, which would serve as a permanent hub for theatre, training and artistic collaboration. If realised, the facility could become a key platform for artistic expression while contributing to the cultural and economic growth of the Victor Khanye community.

The Delmas Community Theatre Festival

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3 Masters | 3 Workshops | 1 Powerful Theatre Experience

PERFORMANCE • PLAYWRITING • VOICE & MOVEMENT

TRAIN WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS. TRANSFORM YOUR CRAFT!!

The big drivers of crime: Unemployment and poverty or weak law enforcement and corruption?

● PHILILE SKHOSANA

EMALAHLENI — South Africa has a reputation for having high crime rates. Many argue that the big drivers of crime are unemployment and poverty, while others believe that it is caused by weak law enforcement and corruption.

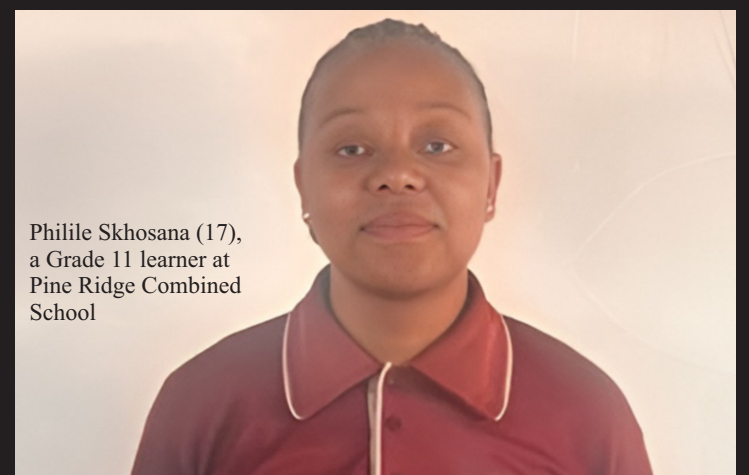
Although both factors play a huge role in perpetuating crime in the country, I believe that weak law enforcement and corruption are the principal contributors in allowing crime to persist. On the other hand, poverty and unemployment have driven a lot of people to crime. Many South Africans face unemployment, poor living conditions and limited access to basic resources and services, which have pushed some of them to turn to crime for survival.

These individuals have turned to theft, robbery and other illicit activities in order to earn an income. Being poor can cause frustration, which could lead to involvement in

crime and violence such as gangsterism. However, many people who are unemployed and live in poverty still choose to live honestly.

On the other hand, inadequate policing and corruption are the stronger causes of crime in South Africa. Criminals feel free to continue with their illegal activities because the police in the country often fail to carry out their mandates effectively. They carry out investigations that end up as ‘missing dockets’.

Not only do they arrive late at crime scenes, but they fail to make arrests and carry out justice. Corruption is mostly found within people in power. They commit serious offences and use bribery to evade punishment. When the justice system appears to be failing, public trust weakens and crime increases. Strengthening law enforcement would reduce corruption and mitigate crime in the country.



Philile Skhosana (17), a Grade 11 learner at Pine Ridge Combined School

This is a series featuring how schoolgoers experience life across different municipalities under Nkangala District. The views expressed reflect the lived realities of the concerned author.



Youth teams compete in Gattuso Birthday Celebration Tournament

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI - Youth football and netball teams competed in the Gattuso Birthday Celebration Tournament at the Lovelife Sports Grounds in Ezinambeni on 28 February 2026, where young athletes showcased their skills in front of community supporters. The tournament is held annually in honour of Vusi "Gattuso" Kabinde, Chairperson of the Ezinambeni Local Football Association (ELFA), and aims to promote youth development through sport. "This tournament is about empowering the youth, improving and developing their skills through sport and promoting true sportsmanship," said Kabinde.

"I would also like to thank the coaches and parents who continue grooming and allowing children to participate in sports."

Blackburn Rovers win U15 boys final

Blackburn Rovers defeated Pain Killers 2-1 in the Under-15 boys' football final. Both teams created scoring opportunities, but Blackburn Rovers converted their chances to secure the victory. Pain Killers

remained competitive until the final whistle, but Blackburn maintained control in key moments of the match.

Blackburn Rovers coach Thulane Khoza said the team adjusted their tactics to deal with their opponents' physical advantage. "It wasn't easy because Pain Killers used wing play and crossing, and they are tall, whereas my boys are shorter," he said.

Khoza explained that he encouraged his players to focus on combination play, movement and positioning to control the match. He added that the striker's speed and endurance helped the team secure the winning goals.

Mpumalanga Rising Stars Ladies win girls U15 final

The Under-15 girls' final between Mpumalanga Rising Stars ladies and Sboobo Ladies ended goalless after regulation time.

Mpumalanga Rising Stars Ladies secured the championship after winning 5-4 in a dramatic penalty shoot-out. The team received gold medals, training bibs, two training

soccer balls and individual awards. Buhle Tshali finished as the tournament's top goal scorer with four goals in three matches, while Siphesihle Ndaba was named goalkeeper of the tournament after keeping three clean sheets.

Apple Poison win netball final

In the netball final, Apple Poison defeated Passion Ocean 18-17 in a closely contested match. The teams remained evenly matched throughout the game, with Apple Poison securing victory by a single goal in the final stages of the match.

Lungile Mahlangu received the Best goal shooter and goal attack award for her performance during the tournament. Ayanda Khalo from Apple Poison said the team's preparation and coaching played an important role in their success. "Our coach's expertise and dedication to developing talent have truly paid off. The girls are thriving under their guidance. With a strong start to the tournament, we sailed into the finals. Despite some curveballs, we stuck to the plan and nailed it. We're beyond proud of the club's performance," she said.

The event attracted support from coaches, parents and community members, highlighting the role of sport in promoting discipline, teamwork and confidence among young people in the Ezinambeni community.



Blackburn Rovers, U15 boys champions



Mpumalanga Rising Stars Ladies, girls U15 champions



Apple Poison, the netball champions



Buhle Tshali- Mpumalanga Rising Stars Ladies Goal Scorer

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 | Website: www.chadorprojects.co.za

QUALITY SERVICES
INNOVATION
INTEGRITY

YOUR ONE-STOP SOLUTION FOR DIGITAL EXCELLENCE

Let us strengthen your digital presence and accelerate your business/brand growth and impact.

OUR SERVICES

Interactive Website Design

Professional Corporate Branding

Custom Software Solutions

UP TO 30% OFF FOR MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS

Promotional Video Clips

Social Media & Online Marketing

CONNECT WITH US FOR A FREE TECH OR BRANDING GUIDE

Ready to grow your business?

Call or WhatsApp
081 410 9337

myabamediatech.com OR m-mediatech.co.za