

# TIMELESS

# NEWS

INCORPORATING LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA - FRIDAY, 15 MARCH 2024

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## PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA CHAMPIONS GRASSROOTS EMPOWERMENT AT EMALAHLENI DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL IMBIZO



Emalahleni Residents attending Presidential Imbizo addressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa at Sy Mthimunye Stadium in Ackerville. Photo: Supplied.

**Mpumalanga** - In a pivotal moment for the Emalahleni community in Mpumalanga Province, President Cyril Ramaphosa led a significant community engagement event aimed at addressing critical development challenges.

The District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo, held at the Sy Mthimunye Stadium, promoted inclusivity and participatory democracy under the theme "Leave No One Behind."

Gathered in anticipation, community members eagerly awaited the opportunity to voice their concerns directly to President Ramaphosa and his Cabinet.

The 12th Presidential Imbizo served as a platform for stakeholders to propose solutions and articulate grievances regarding district or provincial conditions.

Many of the attendees felt as Japther Maseko from Emalahleni did when he said, "We want the President to hear our

problems and concerns directly from us.

"This sentiment underscores the importance of direct engagement with government officials.

Among the pressing issues raised during the Imbizo were challenges related to water scarcity, inadequate electricity supply, and housing shortages. Residents highlighted the urgency of these issues, stating their impact on their daily lives and livelihoods.

Sinethemba Mgabadelo from Siyabuswa echoed these concerns, mentioning the need for immediate action.

"Sometimes we go for days without water," Mgabadelo lamented. "If allowed to speak to the President, I'll tell him to fire officials who do not care about people's lives."

Nkululeko Skhosana from Malelane also stressed the dire need for government intervention.

"Our lives are miserable without proper services," Skhosana stated.

"We are appealing to the government to create jobs for our children."

President Ramaphosa, accompanied by Cabinet ministers, listened attentively to these concerns and pledged to address them comprehensively.

The Imbizo showcased the government's commitment to transparent and constructive exchanges with communities, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are met.

The DDM Presidential Imbizo represents a holistic approach to government service delivery and monitoring, employing an integrated, district-based strategy to address community needs.

Since its inception in March 2022, these Imbizos have empowered millions of South Africans to engage directly with the President, contributing to policy

discussions and acknowledging government efforts to improve service delivery.

President Ramaphosa's leadership in spearheading such engagements underscores the government's dedication to fostering inclusive growth and development, ensuring that no community is left behind in South Africa's journey towards prosperity.



President Ramaphosa addressing community at Imbizo Photo: Supplied.

# PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CLINIC OPENS, MEETING GROWING NEEDS IN BOTLENG EXTENSION 6

## BOTLENG EXTENSION 6 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

### MAIN ENTRANCE



New state-of-the-art primary healthcare clinic to meet growing health demands in Botleng Extension 6.

Photo: Supplied.

**Mpumalanga** - In a significant milestone for the community of Botleng Extension 6, in the town of Delmas, a new primary healthcare clinic was recently officially opened, promising to meet the evolving healthcare needs of residents in the area.

The inauguration ceremony, held in the Nkangala District of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, marked the culmination of efforts to enhance local healthcare infrastructure.

The Botleng Extension 6 Community Health Centre, officially opened by Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality on Friday, October 20, 2023, represents an investment of approximately R75 million towards turnkey construction and comprehensive equipment provisioning, under scoring a commitment to uplifting the community's healthcare standards.

Equipped to provide a wide range of

services, the facility is poised to play a pivotal role in addressing the healthcare challenges faced by the community and its surrounding areas.

With the capacity to serve up to 100,000 local beneficiaries, the clinic offers comprehensive primary healthcare services, including 24-hour emergency care, maternity services, dentistry, eyecare, a medical dispensary, and mental healthcare services.

This comprehensive range of services ensures that residents have access to essential healthcare without the need to travel long distances.

Before the establishment of the new clinic, Botleng Extension 6 relied on a mobile health facility with limited services, visiting the area only twice a week.

This posed significant challenges for residents, necessitating lengthy journeys to access quality healthcare.

The opening of the new facility alleviates this burden, bringing essential services closer to home.

One of the standout features of the clinic is its modern maternity ward,

equipped with premium GE Healthcare ultrasound/V-scan equipment.

This state-of-the-art technology ensures precision healthcare for expectant mothers and their babies, enhancing maternal and child health outcomes within the community.

Moreover, GE Healthcare has implemented technical, clinical, and soft skills training programmes for nurses and midwives at the clinic.

This investment in capacity-building not only enhances the quality of healthcare services but also empowers local healthcare professionals to deliver compassionate and effective care to their communities.

The opening of the Botleng Extension 6 Community Health Centre represents a triumph for community-driven healthcare initiatives, demonstrating the power of collaboration between government, healthcare providers, and private sector partners.

As the clinic begins its operations, it stands as a beacon of hope for improved health and well-being in Botleng Extension 6 and beyond.

# MPUMALANGA PRIORITISES EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND JOB CREATION IN R61 BILLION BUDGET



MEC for Finance, Economic Development, and Tourism, Nompumelelo Hlophe. Photo: Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

**South Africa** - Mpumalanga's Provincial Government unveiled its 2024/25 budget on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Provincial Legislature. MEC for Finance, Economic Development, and Tourism, Nompumelelo Hlophe, presented a budget prioritising social services, economic development, and job creation.

The budget, totalling R61,608,377,000, allocates a significant portion—R47.4 billion (77%)—to the social sector.

This investment aims to improve the overall well-being and prospects of Mpumalanga communities.

Education receives the largest share, with R26.3 billion (43%) going to the Department of Education.

This prioritises access to quality education and equips future generations with valuable skills.

Healthcare is another major beneficiary, receiving R18.7 billion to ensure access to quality and equitable healthcare services.

This allocation reflects the government's commitment to the health and well-being of Mpumalanga residents.

The budget allocates R8.5 billion to the Economy, Investment, and Employment Cluster.

This aims to generate job opportunities and foster balanced economic development in the province.

A portion of this allocation goes towards the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (R1.4 billion).

Notably, R167.7 million is specifically dedicated to completing the long-delayed Mpumalanga Fresh Produce Market project.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) expressed reservations about the budget, calling it "fiscal dumping" by an administration nearing the end of its term.

The DA criticises the continued spending on the Mpumalanga Fresh Produce Market project, which has already seen significant cost overruns and delays.

Additionally, the DA questions the allocation of a school for the blind and deaf, a project that seemingly stalled despite being announced 14 years ago.

While concerns exist, the budget prioritises key areas like education, health, and job creation.

It is too early to tell if these allocations are successful, and additional investigation is necessary in light of the DA's concerns.

Regardless, the budget allocation signifies the Mpumalanga government's focus on social upliftment and economic development in the coming year.

## MINISTER NKADIMENG URGES COMMUNITIES TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AS TROPICAL STORM FILIPO MAKES LANDFALL

**Limpopo** - As Tropical Storm Filipo makes landfall in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Thembu Nkademeng, issues a stern warning to communities to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions.

To guarantee the safety of communities that are anticipated to be affected by the storm, Minister Nkademeng has instructed the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) to work with stakeholders.

The National Joint Floods Coordination Committee (NJFCC) convened on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, to receive updated weather reports from the South African Weather Service (SAWS) and to activate preparedness and response measures in the affected provinces.

According to SAWS updates, Tropical Storm Filipo is forecasted to affect the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo from the night of March 12, 2024, until March 14, 2024.

Specifically, the eastern districts of Mpumalanga and districts in the northeast of KwaZulu-Natal, including Nkomazi LM, Malelane, and Crocodile River, are expected to experience heavy rains, storms, and potential flooding.

Contingency arrangements have been activated at national, provincial, and local levels, with all relevant structures and stakeholders placed on high alert to

support the three provinces at risk.

Minister Nkademeng urges communities in low-lying and high-risk areas to exercise extreme caution and cooperate with local authorities.

"Communities are urged to avoid driving or walking through flooded roads and bridges," highlights Minister Nkademeng. "It is imperative to stay informed through various media channels and platforms for updates and announcements."

This warning comes in the wake of recent heavy rains and storms that have already impacted communities, as seen in the Elias Motswaledi Municipality. Executive Mayor Cllr. Minah Bahula extends sympathies to families affected by the severe weather conditions, stressing the need for unity and support during these challenging times.

Meanwhile, in Nkomazi Local Municipality, heavy rains have led to dangerous conditions in rivers, streams, and low-level bridges.

The municipality urges residents to exercise caution and avoid crossing flooded areas, following reports of several individuals swept away by the floods.

As communities brace for the impact of Tropical Storm Filipo, cooperation, preparedness, and adherence to safety measures remain paramount in safeguarding lives and property.

### Editorial Team

**Publisher:**  
Thulane Madalane  
**Editor In Chief:**  
Tulani Ngwenya  
**Graphic Designer:**  
Boitumelo Maloma  
**Book and Podcast Reviewer:**  
Duncan Mnisi.  
**Investigative Journalist:**  
Montsho Matlala  
**Special Assignments:**  
Justice Mashego.  
**Beat Reporter:**  
Thembekele Mzimba.  
**Sales and Advertising Director:**  
Thulane Madalane  
076 382 6055

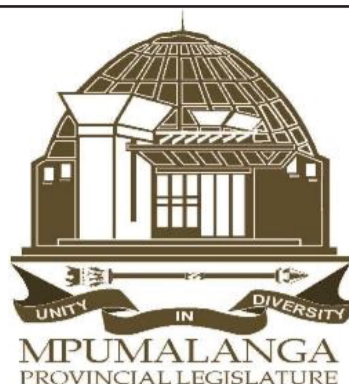


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## MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature hereby invites unemployed graduates who meet the minimum requirements to apply for enrolment in the Internship Programme for the duration of a twelve (12) months period as stated below:

**Name of the Programme:** Internship

| Section                             | Qualification / Field of Study   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Communications                      | Diploma / Degree in Communication Studies / Information Science  |
| Financial Management and Accounting | Diploma / Degree in Accounting / Supply Chain Management   |
| Public Participation and Petitions  | Diploma / Degree in Public Administration / Public Management / Public Affairs                               |
| Human Capital Management            | Diploma / Degree in Human Resource Management / Public Administration / Management (with HR related modules) |
| Legal Services                      | Bachelor of Laws (LLB)   |

**Total Number required:** Twenty (20) Interns are required for placement in the above five (5) Departments / Sections of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.

**Duration:** The Internship programme is offered for a period of twelve (12) months. All applicants will be required to sign a contract which is not renewable and shall be placed within Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature for the duration of the programme.

**Remuneration:** All successful candidates will be given a stipend of R6 000 per month.

### Who is eligible to apply?

- Unemployed graduates in a possession of a National Diploma or Degree in specified field of study.
- All applicants should reside within Mpumalanga Province.
- The appointment is subject to verification of qualifications.
- Applicants should *NOT* have participated in any internship programme before.
- Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
- A driver's licence will be an added advantage.

### How to apply?

**NOTE:** Applications must be submitted on form Z.83, obtainable from any Public Service Department and must be accompanied by a comprehensive CV and certified copies of ID and qualifications. Please forward your application quoting the relevant reference number, to:

The Secretary Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Private Bag X11289, Mbombela 1200 or hand delivered to Baobab Building No. 1 Government Boulevard; Legislature & Government Complex; Riverside Park Ext 2; Mbombela or e-mailed to [recruitment@mpuleg.gov.za](mailto:recruitment@mpuleg.gov.za). **(Only one attachment per application)**. If you do not hear from us within thirty 30 days after the closing date, please regard your application as unsuccessful. Correspondence is limited to shortlisted applicants only. Late or faxed applications will not be considered.

**Enquiries:** Mr Xolani Mlambo at 013 766 1210

**Closing Date:** 28 March 2024

# SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY PARTNERS WITH PHAAHLA TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY TO BOOST SERVICE DELIVERY



**Kgoši Letsiri Phaahla of Ga-Phaahla Traditional Authority flanked by the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula and her team during their official visit at the royal house. Photo: Supplied.**



**The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula having a lighter moment on her visit at Ga-Phaahla Traditional Authority outside Jane Furse. Photo: Supplied.**

**Limpopo** - The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula, led a delegation of council members in a constructive meeting with the council of the Phaahla Traditional Authority at Ga Phaahla village.

The meeting, held under the leadership of Kgoši Letsiri Phaahla, Ngwato 'a Phogole, aimed to accelerate vital service delivery projects, with a particular focus on water infrastructure.

Continuing from previous engagements, the discussions centred on addressing critical issues, notably the enhancement of water infrastructure projects within the area.

The council of Kgoši Phaahla raised concerns regarding the security and protection of borehole project areas, advocating for the installation of fencing.

Additionally, inadequate sanitation infrastructure was identified as a pressing issue.

In response to these concerns, the Executive Mayor committed to a thorough investigation and swift resolution of the raised issues.

A dedicated repairs and maintenance team will be deployed to the Mohlakeng

water treatment plant for a week to assess and rectify existing challenges, ensuring the delivery of clean and potable water to the community.

Moreover, to expedite the borehole programme, efforts will be extended to all Magoši within the district.

This initiative aims to provide easier access to water for communities across the district, with announcements regarding the selection of contractors for the programme expected in the coming weeks.

To express gratitude for Kgoši Phaahla's leadership role in the community, the Executive Mayor gave 100 chairs as a token of appreciation. Cllr. Bahula reiterated the municipality's steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents within the Sekhukhune district, emphasising the significance of collaborative efforts between traditional authorities and local government in achieving developmental goals.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of partnership and dedication to advancing service delivery initiatives, marking a significant step towards the betterment of the Sekhukhune community.

## MINISTER OF TRANSPORT LAUNCHES GROUNDBREAKING TRUCK DRIVER SAFETY AND WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM, SUPPORTED BY MICHELIN



**The Minister of Transport, Ms. Sindisiwe Chikunga, hosted over 220 truck drivers at the first ever Truck Driver Safety and Wellness Symposium held in Boksburg on 6 and 7 March. Photo: Arrive Alive.**

**South Africa** - The Minister of Transport, Ms. Sindisiwe Chikunga, spearheaded a pioneering initiative to address the holistic well-being of South Africa's truck drivers.

Hosted in Boksburg on the 6th and 7th of March, the first-ever Truck Driver Safety and Wellness Symposium gathered over 220 truck drivers in a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors.

Themed "Your Wellness is Our Concern," the symposium underscored the critical importance of prioritising the mental and physical health of truck drivers, who are integral to the nation's road freight industry.

Minister Chikunga emphasised the industry's significant contribution to the economy, citing 48% growth over the last decade and the transportation of approximately 140 million metric tonnes of goods annually.

"Health, as defined by the United Nations, encompasses complete physical, mental, and social well-being.

The Department of Transport stands committed to demonstrating our care for truck drivers and their wellness," stated Minister Chikunga during her inaugural address at the symposium.

Highlighting the event's relevance coinciding with Human Rights Month, the Minister stressed the government's dedication to advancing human dignity, equality, and freedom.

She stressed the necessity of healthy truck

drivers to ensure a safe and efficient transport sector.

Truck drivers across Mpumalanga and South Africa face a myriad of challenges, including balancing the demands of fleet operators with governmental regulations.

The symposium welcomed key sponsors, including Michelin Tyre Company South Africa and MICHELIN Connected Fleet.

Charl Lensley, B2B Director of Michelin, reaffirmed the company's commitment to global road safety initiatives, emphasising the importance of well-maintained tyres and vigilant drivers for safer roads.

Shivani Pillay, Country Manager of MICHELIN Connected Fleet South Africa, echoed the sentiment, highlighting the company's dedication to understanding and addressing the safety concerns of transporters through innovative solutions.

The symposium, organised in collaboration with the Safer Stops Association (SSA) and 35 other private sector organisations, aims to provide an interactive and informative platform for truck drivers.

The event emphasises a holistic approach to driving wellness through workshops, discussions, and partnerships with health and wellness providers.

In conclusion, the Truck Driver Safety and Wellness Symposium marks a pivotal step towards enhancing the health and safety of South Africa's truck drivers, underscoring the importance of collaboration between stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

## ANCIENT VILLAGE AND HISTORIC OBSERVATORY: TOPPIESHOEK EARNS NATIONAL HERITAGE STATUS



**The unveiled Blue Plaque by TUT's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke. Photo: Supplied.**



**The Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi. Photo: Supplied.**

**Toppieshoek** - The Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the Magaliesberg Association for Culture and Heritage (MACH) joined forces to celebrate the unveiling of Toppieshoek as a National Heritage Site on March 9, 2024, in Toppieshoek, Gauteng, South Africa.

The event, graced by the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi, marked a significant achievement in preserving the region's rich history.

Toppieshoek, nestled on the banks of Hartbeespoort Dam within the UNESCO-designated Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve, boasts two unique heritage treasures.

The Broederstroom Early Iron Age archaeological site, dating back to around 350 AD, is the earliest known black village in the area.

The other treasure is the former Leiden University Observatory Southern Station, featuring historic telescopes built in the early 1900s and operational for 25 years until 1978.

TUT's Toppieshoek has long served as a valuable resource for experiential learning and teaching.

Recognising its importance, a year-long collaborative effort between MACH and TUT focused on restoring these sites.

Vincent Carruthers, Professor Jane Carruthers, astronomers, and archaeologists all contributed to developing a comprehensive plan for responsible restoration, curation, and public use.

The project's success culminated in the unveiling of a Blue Plaque by TUT's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke.

The celebration further included an exhibition showcasing archaeological artefacts, the launch of the book "The Heritage Treasures of Toppieshoek," documenting the site's history, and a captivating talk delving into the history of the telescopes and the ancient African village.

The unveiling of Toppieshoek as a National Heritage Site signifies a commitment to preserving the past for future generations.

Through responsible restoration and public education initiatives, these treasures will continue to inspire, educate, and offer invaluable insights into the region's fascinating history.

# LEARNING UNDER TREES? LIMPOPO SCHOOL ROW PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERNS

**South Africa** - Limpopo's education department is facing criticism from the Democratic Alliance (DA) regarding the learning conditions at Laersdrift Combined School and Sango Combined School in Elias Motsoaledi.

The DA, in a March 6th media statement, outlined concerning situations at Sango Combined: "Up to 90 learners per class in the junior phases, while senior students are having their classes under trees without desks," they wrote.

The statement further alleged, "The principal of Laersdrift Combined School is refusing or rejecting the realignment or directive from the department."

The department swiftly responded, clarifying the situation through a media release.

"We are fully aware of the situation in Laersdrift Combined and Sango Combined School," they stated, "and it should also be clear that the principal of Laersdrift is not refusing or rejecting the realignment or directive from the department."

The department elaborated on an approved realignment plan.

"An application for the realignment of the two schools was approved, meaning the two schools were to swap learners," they explained.

Sango's secondary learners would move to Laersdrift, while Laersdrift's primary learners would relocate to Sango. The department justifies this decision based on the legal framework.

"We only have two types of schools, which are primary and secondary," they quoted from the South African Schools Act. They argue that Sango's central location benefits younger learners, and Laersdrift has the capacity for all secondary students.

However, the Governing Body of Laersdrift Combined reportedly disagreed with the realignment.

"This association took the matter to the High Court to challenge the departmental decision, and the outcome of the court is that the approval by the accounting officer be set aside," concluded the department's

statement.

The department has pledged to address the situation. "We will dispatch a team to conduct more investigations and provide necessary support," they promised.

While the department has provided its perspective, some questions linger.

The specific reasons behind the governing body's objections are unknown.

Additionally, no timeline was provided for the investigation team's visit or the resolution of overcrowding at Sango Combined.

The most pressing question remains unanswered: what about the learners currently attending classes under trees?

This situation highlights the complexities of managing educational resources in Limpopo.

The department's realignment plan has some basis, but it's evident that a comprehensive solution is needed to ensure a quality learning environment for all students at Laersdrift Combined and Sango Combined Schools.

This solution must address the concerns

raised by the DA and the governing body.



Matriculants at Sango still learning under trees. Photo: Supplied

**SANNI SATURDAY**

FE ♥ ALE

WITH MAGLERA DOE BOY

013PEOPLE

**30 MARCH 2024**

**ZAI O.A.T HOTEL (LADUMA)**

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NO ALCOHOL MAY BE SOLD TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18. aware1.org

Schweppes DsireFlair Durex FLYING FISH

## TRAGIC END TO HARTBESPOORT DAM BOATING INCIDENT: BODY OF MISSING MAN RECOVERED



Station-25-Hartbeespoort-Dam-02 supplied NSRI divers at Hartbeespoort Dam. Photo: Supplied.

**Hartbeespoort Dam** - In a tragic turn of events at Hartbeespoort Dam on Saturday, the body of a 40-year-old man who went missing after falling from a boat has been recovered.

Identified as Sibusiso Mchunu, the man's disappearance sparked a two-day search effort by police and National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) divers.

The incident occurred on Saturday afternoon, March 9, 2024, near Caribbean Estate, when Mchunu reportedly fell from a boat into the waters of Hartbeespoort Dam.

The boat was carrying a group of friends, including two women, when the accident unfolded under unspecified circumstances. Fortunately, the two women managed to survive the ordeal without injuries.

Private boaters in the vicinity immediately initiated search efforts, which prompted the activation of NSRI Hartbeespoort Dam emergency personnel at 14:28 on the same day.

NSRI rescue vessels, including Sea Legs and Rotary Endeavour, were deployed alongside the South African

Police Services (SAPS) and the Strategic Rescue Unit (SRU).

Despite exhaustive search efforts, Mchunu remained missing until Monday afternoon, March 11, 2024, when his body was finally recovered from the dam's waters.

The presence of hyacinth in the dam posed challenges to the search and rescue operation, according to NSRI officials.

Speaking of the tragic outcome, NSRI Hartbeespoort Dam wrote on their website, expressing condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

"The missing man's family was present throughout the search efforts and received counselling support," NSRI stated, emphasising the solidarity of the community during such difficult times.

Sibusiso Mchunu's family is surrounded by the steadfast support of NSRI employees and their loved ones as they cope with their loss.

The tragic incident serves as a stark reminder of the dangers associated with recreational activities on water bodies, urging the public to prioritise safety measures while enjoying such outings.

## MANHUNT LAUNCHED FOR FAKE LAWYER WHO FLED MURDER TRIAL



Fake attorney, Doctor Sobetha. Photo: Supplied.

**Mpumalanga** - Authorities in Mpumalanga are on the hunt for Doctor Sobetha, a 31-year-old man who impersonated a lawyer during a murder trial last year.

Sobetha's elaborate scheme unravelled in March 2023 while he was representing Mhlabuyaxega Mntungwa, a suspect in the fatal shooting of Nkosinathi Emmanuel Ngongo, a former manager at Sam Holdings, in September 2019.

Mntungwa was already a wanted man at the time.

Red flags were raised during a bail application for Mntungwa when inconsistencies in Sobetha's legal knowledge became apparent to the court.

An investigation swiftly revealed Sobetha lacked any qualifications to practice law, leading to his arrest on charges of impersonating an attorney.

Both Mntungwa and Sobetha were

initially held in custody.

However, in May 2023, Sobetha was granted bail of R5,000, while Mntungwa remained behind bars.

This turn of events presented Sobetha with an opportunity to abscond from court, prompting authorities to issue a warrant for his arrest in February 2024.

"The public's assistance is crucial in locating Doctor Sobetha," said Major General Gerber, the Provincial Head of the Hawks in Mpumalanga.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts is urged to contact the investigating officer, Thembinkosi Daniel Nkambule, at 082 303 9874. All information received will be treated confidentially, authorities assure.

This incident highlights the importance of verifying legal representation in court proceedings.

## TITLE DEEDS GRANTED TO HUNDREDS IN MPUMALANGA EMPOWERMENT THROUGH OWNERSHIP: NEARLY 700 FAMILIES RECEIVE LONG-AWAITED DOCUMENTS



Ms. Mapule who is 74 receives her title deed from Nkangala District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Thomas Ngwenya. Photo: Supplied.

Some of the beneficiaries who received title deeds on 6 March 2024. Photo: Supplied.

**Mpumalanga** - Hundreds of families in Mpumalanga celebrated a significant milestone on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, as the government distributed nearly 700 title deeds to beneficiaries of government-subsidised housing at the Siyanqoba integrated settlement in eMalahleni Local Municipality.

This momentous occasion served as a prelude to the Presidential Imbizo that was scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, in Ackerville Township.

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements, in collaboration with various national and local government agencies, facilitated the title deed handover ceremony.

For many beneficiaries, like 74-year-old Ms. Mamarake Mapule, the day marked the culmination of a long wait for full legal ownership of their homes.

Ms. Mapule received her title deed from Nkangala District Municipality's Executive Mayor, Councillor Thomas Ngwenya, who stood in for Human Settlements MEC, Mr. Speed Mashilo. Sharing her experience, Gogo Sarah Nkosi, a 72-year-old resident with a

disability, expressed her relief and gratitude to the government.

"I am so relieved to finally receive my title deed," she said. "No one will come and unlawfully claim my house." Her words echoed the sentiments of many beneficiaries who finally have legal documentation confirming their ownership.

Beyond simply securing ownership, Nkangala District Executive Mayor Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya emphasised the broader economic opportunities unlocked by these title deeds.

He explained how beneficiaries can leverage these documents to improve their social status, potentially by using them as collateral for loans.

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements remains committed to ensuring all eligible beneficiaries receive their title deeds.

The rollout programme will continue across the province. Looking ahead, the upcoming Presidential Imbizo aims to create a platform for dialogue between communities and government leaders, focusing specifically on service delivery concerns.

## POLICE CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL MINING: FOUR ARRESTED IN OPERATION VALA UMGODI

**Limpopo** - In a decisive move to combat illegal mining activities and enforce immigration laws, the police in Lebogakomo apprehended four male suspects, all foreign nationals aged between 22 and 35, during a targeted operation as part of the ongoing High-Density Operation Vala Umgodi.

In the Lebogakomo policing area on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at around 20:30, members of the SAPS Capricorn District Illicit Mining Task Team conducted an operation that resulted in the discovery of an illegal mining site in Makurung village within the Capricorn District.

Upon arrival at the scene, police officers noticed an idling power generator, prompting them to investigate further.

Their inspection revealed the four suspects actively engaged in illegal mining activities. The suspects were swiftly caught by police despite their attempts to flee.

During the arrest, a significant cache of mining equipment was seized, including shovels, electrical cables, fans, spades, picks, a container containing chrome, a jackhammer, a power generator, a drill point, and cellphones.

This confiscation underscores the seriousness of the illicit operations and the resources dedicated to disrupting them.

In a separate incident, the SAPS Vhembe District Illicit Mining Task Team, as part of Operation Vala Umgodi, recovered

abandoned mining equipment at an illegal site in Muchipise village outside Malamulele.

The recovered items included picks, spades, a hammer, headlamps, cellphones, and a bag filled with precious stones.

Moreover, during the course of Operation Vala Umgodi in Malamulele, a thorough search was conducted on 30 vehicles and 122 individuals. Despite the arrests made, the police remain vigilant in pursuing individuals involved in illegal mining activities and those who evade arrest.

The apprehended suspects appeared before the Thabamopo Magistrate's Court on Friday, March 8, 2024, where they faced charges related to illegal mining and contravention of immigration laws.

The success of Operation Vala Umgodi reflects the commitment of the police to combating illicit activities and upholding the rule of law in the province.

Such operations serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders and reinforce the importance of law enforcement in safeguarding communities and natural resources.



Police seizing various mining equipment utilized in the illicit mining activities. Photo: Supplied.

# –BOOK REVIEW–

## BREAKING FREE:

# A GUIDE TO FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

"Breaking Free" by Sakhile Mcambi is a transformative guide that navigates the intricate terrain of unemployment, wealth creation, entrepreneurship, and financial liberation.

In a world where financial stability often feels elusive, Mcambi's book serves as a beacon of hope, offering practical insights and actionable steps towards a prosperous future.

Mcambi's approachable style and knack for simplifying complex financial concepts make this book accessible to readers from all walks of life.

Through his personal anecdotes and success stories, Mcambi establishes a connection with his audience, inspiring them to embark on their journey towards financial freedom.

One of the book's most compelling aspects is Mcambi's emphasis on entrepreneurship and investment as vehicles for wealth creation.

Drawing from his own experiences and those of others, he demonstrates how determination, resourcefulness, and a willingness to take calculated risks can lead to remarkable financial success.

The narrative of the author's journey from Mozambique to Pretoria serves as a

powerful testament to the transformative power of seizing opportunities.

His ingenuity in securing funding for his business venture, despite facing obstacles, exemplifies the resilience and tenacity required to break free from financial constraints.

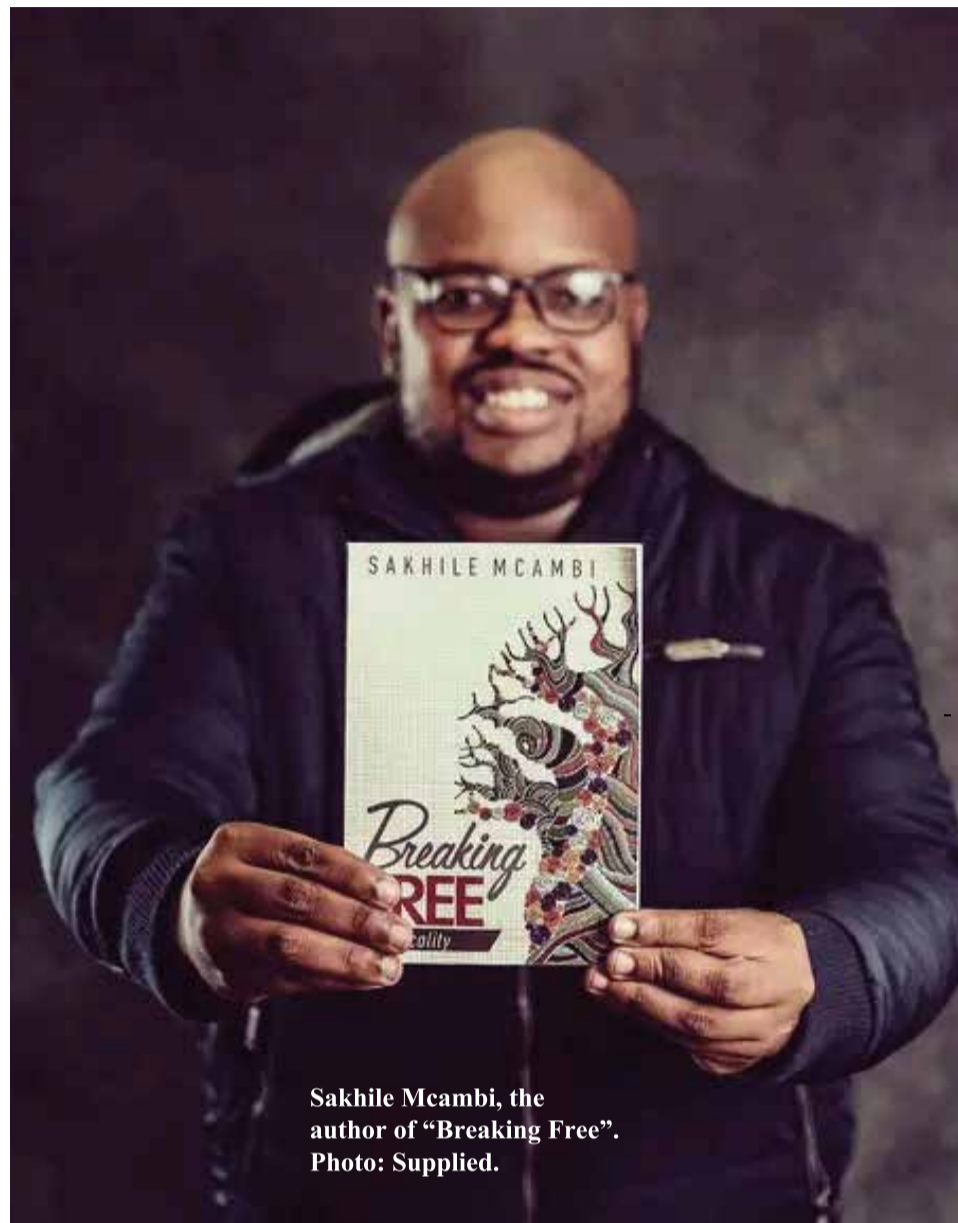
While Mcambi's methods may be unconventional, his story serves as a reminder that success often requires boldness and creativity.

By taking calculated risks and embracing opportunities, individuals can overcome adversity and achieve their financial goals.

"Breaking Free" is more than just a book; it's a roadmap to financial empowerment.

Through its pages, readers are encouraged to challenge conventional wisdom, pursue their passions, and chart their course towards financial independence. In conclusion, "Breaking Free" is a must-read for anyone seeking to transform their financial situation.

Sakhile Mcambi's expertise and passion shine through in every chapter, making this book an invaluable resource for those ready to take control of their financial destiny.



Sakhile Mcambi, the author of "Breaking Free".  
Photo: Supplied.

# –PODCAST REVIEW–

# "AGAINST THE WALL" WITH THEMBA LUKHELE NZIMANDE (SKEEM GP)



Ex convict,  
Themba Lukhele  
Nzimande (Skeem GP),  
host of podcast,  
"Against The Wall"  
Photo: Facebook

"Against the Wall," hosted by Themba Lukhele Nzimande (Skeem GP), offers a poignant exploration into the lives of ex-offenders, highlighting themes of resilience, rehabilitation, leadership, and crime prevention.

Through candid and unfiltered prison stories, the podcast provides listeners with an eye-opening journey into the complexities of life behind bars and the path towards redemption.

In the realm of prison narratives, "Against the Wall" goes beyond the surface, delving deep into the human

experience within the criminal justice system.

The podcast captures the struggles and triumphs of individuals as they strive for personal growth and rehabilitation.

Through compelling accounts of resilience and transformation, listeners gain insight into the challenges faced by ex-offenders and the potential for positive change.

One of the podcast's strengths lies in its exploration of effective leadership within correctional facilities.

By emphasising the role of supportive and empowering leadership, "Against the Wall" highlights how strong leadership can foster an environment conducive to rehabilitation and reintegration.

Through guidance, mentorship, and access to resources, leaders in the prison system play a vital role in facilitating inmates' journeys towards self-improvement.

Moreover, the podcast underscores the importance of crime prevention strategies in addressing the root causes of criminal behaviour.

By promoting education, vocational training, and mental health support, communities can work towards creating a safer and more inclusive society.

"Against the Wall"

advocates for proactive measures that not only deter individuals from engaging in criminal activities but also address systemic issues contributing to recidivism.

Each guest on "Against the Wall" brings a unique perspective to the intersection of prison stories, rehabilitation, leadership, and crime prevention.

Their narratives serve as a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the potential for positive change, even in the face of adversity.

Through empathy, understanding, and support, the podcast encourages listeners to embrace a holistic approach towards building a more just and compassionate society for all.

In conclusion, "Against the Wall" offers a compelling platform for dialogue and reflection on the complexities of the criminal justice system.

With its thought-provoking content and commitment to highlighting stories of hope and transformation, the podcast serves as a beacon of inspiration for listeners seeking to understand and support individuals involved in the journey towards rehabilitation and reintegration.

# TIMELESS SPORT

## NEDBANK CUP:

### AMAZULU WIN AGAINST A CHALLENGING SEKHUKHUNE UNITED ADVANCING TO QUARTER-FINALS



Sekhukhune United's Renaldo Leaner. Photo: Goal.com.

Victor Letsoalo and Junior Dion showcased their finest game with amazing goals that gave AmaZulu a 2-0 win over Sekhukhune United in the Nedbank Cup Last-16 on Thursday, March 15, 2024.

A controversial goal by Dion broke the deadlock and Letsoalo ended up doubling AmaZulu's lead in the incredible game.

AmaZulu has now progressed to the quarter-final round.

Usuthu enjoyed majority ball possession from the match's kickoff.

The visitors without waiting for much snatched the lead in the 26th minute with Dion's controversial goal, as the ball appeared to strike the player's hand before finding the back of the net.

Despite Sekhukhune's attempts to equalise, AmaZulu's defence remained resolute, ensuring they went into halftime

with a 1-0 lead.

The hosts made several attempts to make a comeback in the second half by putting pressure on AmaZulu's defences.

It was Renaldo Leaner's slip-up as the goalkeeper who failed to clear the ball in the 62nd minute which resulted in a goal from Letsoalo who had come in as a substitute increasing AmaZulu's lead to 2-0.

Sekhukhune United pushed forward in pursuit of goals which found Usuthu under intense pressure for the rest of the match.

The visitors mounted a strong defence and managed to withstand the onslaught securing a 2-0 victory and their advance to the Nedbank Cup last eight.