

# TIMELESS NEWS

INCORPORATING LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA - FRIDAY, 12 APRIL 2024

# NEWS


+27 72 525 4778 [www.timelessnews.co.za](http://www.timelessnews.co.za) Timeless News @news\_timeless

"Thought Leaders in Community News"

**MPUMALANGA'S GRAIN CORRIDOR PROJECT**  
- Page 2



**ANC Treasurer Suspended**  
- Page 4



**Zanele Mkhonto Sentenced**  
- Page 6



**Born White Zulu Bred**  
- Page 7



## PRESIDENTS RAMAPHOSA AND MASISI VISIT SITE OF TRAGIC BUS CRASH



By *Thembekile Mzimba*

**Mokopane, Limpopo** – Presidents Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana made a solemn visit to the site of a tragic bus crash that claimed the lives of 45 Botswana nationals on Thursday.

The incident occurred on March 28, 2024, when a bus carrying Botswana citizens to the Saint Engenas ZCC Easter conference in Moria, Polokwane, crashed near the Mmamatlakala Bridge along the R518 route in Limpopo.

During the visit, both presidents received a full briefing on the status of identification and DNA processes of the deceased at the Mogalakwena Municipality offices.

They then proceeded to the crash site at Mmamatlakala Bridge to pay their respects to the victims.

The tragic incident left 45 Botswana nationals dead, with the sole survivor being 8-year-old Lorraine Atlang Siako, a Standard 4 learner.

Lorraine was treated medically and survived the crash despite the horrors she had experienced.

After being released from a Limpopo hospital, she was escorted by medical professionals, such as Minister of Health

Dr. Joe Phaahla and Limpopo MEC of Health Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, to return to Botswana.

President Ramaphosa conveyed condolences on behalf of the South African government to Botswana, expressing sorrow over the loss of lives in the crash.

Both presidents expressed gratitude to emergency personnel and government officials who responded to the scene.

Investigations into the cause of the crash are ongoing, with preliminary findings suggesting human error. Meanwhile, efforts to identify the deceased are progressing, with six bodies positively identified and ready for repatriation.

The process of identifying the remaining deceased is underway, with authorities working swiftly to provide closure to the families.

Residents of Mmamatlakala village have called for road improvements to prevent future tragedies, emphasising the need for enhanced safety measures.

The visit by Presidents Ramaphosa and Masisi underscores the importance of cooperation between South Africa and Botswana in times of crisis, as both nations mourn the loss of lives and work together to support the affected families.

President Ramaphosa Delivers Insights Amidst the Scene, While President Mokgweetsi Observes Closely. Photo: GCIS.

**TIMELESS NEWS**  
"Thought Leaders in Community News"

**LOOKING TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS?**

GET ADVERTISING SPACE IN OUR WEEKLY PUBLICATION



[www.timelessnews.co.za](http://www.timelessnews.co.za) Timeless News @news\_timeless

**CALL TODAY**  
**+27 72 525 4778**





# MEC MAJUBA LEADS LAUNCH OF RHANDZA XIKOLO XA WENA CAMPAIGN



MEC Majuba assists in planting a tree as he led from the front the 2024 during the launch of the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign at Intfuthuko Primary School. Photo: Facebook.

By Staff reporter

**Nkomazi, Mpumalanga** - The 2024 launch of the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign at Intfuthuko Primary School in Langloop witnessed a strong display of commitment to education led by MEC Majuba, who emphasized the importance of collective effort in realizing children's dreams and aspirations.

Officials from the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs, and Nkomazi Local Municipality graced the occasion, reflecting the collaborative spirit driving the campaign.

MEC Majuba commended the school for its exemplary organization of activities and underscored the imperative of collaboration among parents, stakeholders, and communities in advancing education.

"We make a clarion call to all and sundry and especially parents to work hand in hand with us and all stakeholders towards the actualization of their children's education, dreams, and aspirations for the future," Majuba urged.

Drawing inspiration from former President Nelson Mandela, Majuba emphasized the power of collective action, quoting Mandela's famous words: "It always seems impossible until it is done."

He rallied attendees to overcome challenges and unite in building a brighter future for the nation's children.

"As the Mpumalanga Department of Education, we envisage a domino effect of activities and programs that seek to promote the values advocated by the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign," Majuba asserted, highlighting the campaign's inclusive approach.

In his closing remarks, Majuba reiterated the campaign's commitment to leaving no one behind, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and unity in driving educational initiatives forward.

The launch of the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign serves as a testament to the dedication of leaders like MEC Majuba and the collective resolve to prioritize education as a cornerstone of national development.



The occasion was graced by the officials from the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, Agriculture, rural development and land affairs and Nkomazi Local Municipality. Photo: Facebook.

# MPUMALANGA'S GRAIN CORRIDOR PROJECT: PAVING THE WAY FOR RURAL PROSPERITY



Amidst a hopeful atmosphere, Honourable Premier R.M. Mtshweni-Tsipane joins jubilant beneficiaries in celebrating the official handover of the revitalised Nkangala Grain Corridor Project. This moment shines as a beacon of promise, illuminating the path towards vibrant rural development. Photo: Facebook.

By Staff Reporter

**Thembisile Hani, Mpumalanga** - In a pivotal ceremony held in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Honourable Premier R.M. Mtshweni-Tsipane hailed the official handover of the revitalised Nkangala Grain Corridor Project as a beacon of hope for rural development in Mpumalanga.

"Today marks a significant milestone in our journey towards agricultural sustainability and economic empowerment," declared the Premier, emphasising her administration's unwavering commitment to uplifting rural communities.

Reflecting on her previous State of the Province Address, the Premier reiterated her dedication to revolutionising grain production within the region.

"We made a promise to embark on massive agricultural programmes, and today, we stand here to fulfil that promise," she affirmed, underscoring the transformative potential of the Nkangala Grain Corridor Project.

The initiative, piloted in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, signifies a proactive approach towards bolstering agricultural sustainability.

"This project is not just about agriculture; it's about revitalising our communities and empowering our people," remarked the Premier, highlighting the collaborative efforts between government entities and local farming communities.

"The voices of our people drove this initiative," stated the Premier, acknowledging the proactive engagement of the region's residents in advocating for government support.

"Their vision and determination have laid the foundation for a brighter future," she added, commending the establishment of the Iphakeme Secondary Cooperative as a testament to grassroots innovation.

Addressing the audience, the Premier

outlined significant investments in agricultural infrastructure, emphasising the project's role in enhancing primary production capabilities.

"We have equipped our farmers with the tools they need to succeed," she affirmed, citing the installation of silos, harvesters, and milling equipment as pivotal steps towards agricultural revitalization.

Echoing the principles of the District Development Model (DDM), the Premier emphasised the project's holistic approach towards socio-economic development.

"Through collaboration and integration, we are building resilient communities and fostering sustainable growth," she declared, highlighting the government's commitment to empowering rural communities to chart their destinies.

Looking towards the future, the Premier outlined ambitious plans to position the Nkangala Grain Corridor as a key player in the international agricultural landscape.

"We are opening doors to global

markets and unlocking new opportunities for growth," she proclaimed, underscoring the project's potential to stimulate economic prosperity within the province.

In her closing remarks, the Premier issued a heartfelt call to action, urging aspiring farmers to emulate the success of the Iphakeme Mill Secondary Cooperative.

"Together, we can achieve greatness," she asserted, assuring government support for grassroots initiatives aimed at driving agricultural innovation and prosperity.

As the ceremony concluded, sentiments of hope and determination reverberated throughout the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.

The launch of the Nkangala Grain Corridor Project symbolizes not only a transformative chapter in Mpumalanga's agricultural narrative but also a testament to the resilience and determination of its people.

With unwavering resolve and collective effort, Mpumalanga stands poised to realize its vision of rural prosperity and economic empowerment.

**Editorial Team**  
**Publisher:** Thulane Madalane  
**Editor In Chief:** Tulani Ngwenya  
**Graphic Designer / Layout Artist:** Boitumelo Maloma  
**Book and Podcast Reviewer:** Duncan Mnisi  
**Investigative Journalist:** Montsho Matlala  
**Beat Reporter:** Thembekile Mzimba  
**Political Reporter:** Nothando Makhubele  
**Logistics:** Happy Mabena  
**Sales and Advertising Director:** Thulane Madalane  
 076 382 6055  
**Digital Marketing:** Thabang Thorn Mashabela  
 Tranquility Media  
 hello@tranquilitymedia.co.za  
 071 324 6725

**AIP** ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS

**FOR NEWS YOU CAN TRUST...**

... look for publications that display the FAIR logo of the Press Council, indicating that they strive to adhere to the Press Code

**Press Council FAIR**

Factual - Accountable - Independent - Responsible





# CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

## DIVISION OF REVENUE BILL, 2024

The **Portfolio Committee on Premier's Office, Finance; Economic Development and Tourism** and its Chairperson, Hon TS Thomo, MPL, hereby invite members of the public, interested parties and stakeholders wishing to make comments or inputs, on the above-mentioned Bill.

### Purpose of the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024

To ensure an equitable division of nationally raised revenue between the three spheres of government the, in accordance with the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

### Public Involvement

The Committee will conduct public hearings on the above Bills as follows:

Public hearings on the **Division of Revenue Bill, 2024** as follows:

| DATE                     | VENUES   | TIME          |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Wednesday, 17 April 2024 | Nkangala District: Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality – Dikgwale Community Hall               | 10:00 – 13:00 |
| Thursday, 18 April 2024  | Gert Sibande District: Chief Albert Lithuli Local Municipality – Ekulindeni Community Hall | 10:00 – 13:00 |
| Friday, 19 April 2024    | Ehlanzeni District: Bushbuckridge Local Municipality – Merriam Mogakana Community Hall     | 10:00 – 13:00 |

Copies of the Bills can be obtained from the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature website at [www.mpuleg.gov.za](http://www.mpuleg.gov.za).

For any enquiries, kindly contact the Committee Coordinator, Mr Henry Khuvutlu on **072 691 6233**.

Written submissions on the Mpumalanga Appropriation Bill, 2024 can be sent to **Sbuisok@mpuleg.gov.za** or on the Legislature WhatsApp number **067 428 3345** on or before **Saturday, 20 April 2024**.

Follow us on:



Share-Call Number: 0860 77 4455

# MAYOR OFFERS SUPPORT TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY TRAGIC ACCIDENT

By Duncan Mnisi

**Maserumule Park, Limpopo** - In the wake of a devastating accident that claimed the lives of four individuals from two families in Maserumule Park, Makhuduthamaga Mayor Merah Masekwele Mahlase extended her condolences and support to the grieving families.

The tragic incident occurred on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, along Maserumule Park Road, leaving the community and two families reeling from the loss.

Mayor Mahlase visited the Mosotho family in Riverside B, Ward 9, and the Makunyane family in Maserumule Park, Ward 5, to offer comfort and solidarity during this difficult time.

Among the victims were Assistant Inspector of Booyensdal Mining Company, Johannes Pholwane Mosotho (40) and his brother David Phai Mosotho (37) who was an employee.

The Mosotho brothers were the sole providers for their household, leaving behind a profound void in their family.

Additionally, Elias and Doris Makunyane, prominent figures in the community, were also tragically lost in the accident.

Elias Makunyane was a dedicated educator and community leader, known for his commitment to education and his involvement in various community organisations, including the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU).

Expressing her condolences on behalf of the government, Mayor Mahlase described the accident as a disaster requiring collective action from all sectors. "We offer our support to the bereaved families as they navigate through this most difficult period," she stated.

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune County, Honourable Cllr Minah Bahula, and National Council of Provinces

(NCOP) member Dr. Dickson Namane Masemola also offered their support to the affected families, emphasising the importance of community solidarity in times of tragedy.

During her visit, Mayor Mahlase encouraged relatives and community leaders to collaborate in providing support and assistance to the surviving children, particularly in ensuring their continued education.

"Today, we laid to rest individuals who were pillars of their communities. As we mourn their loss, we also pledge to support and uplift the futures of their surviving loved ones," she affirmed.

The remains of Elias and Doris Makunyane were laid to rest in Nebo Cemetery, while Pholwane and Phai Mosotho were interred in Riverside B Cemetery, leaving behind grieving families and a community in mourning.

As the families grappled with their loss, the mayor reiterated her commitment to providing ongoing support and assistance to ensure a brighter future for the children left behind.



Makhuduthamaga Mayor Merah Masekwele Mahlase offers heartfelt condolences at the somber funeral service held in Maserumule Park. Picture source: Photo: Supplied.

## ANC TREASURER SUSPENDED FOR ALLEGED SABOTAGE OF JANUARY 8 RALLY



Mandla Msibi, the Treasurer of the African National Congress (ANC) in Mpumalanga, has been suspended by the party following allegations of sabotage. Photo: Nothando Makhubela.

By Nothando Makhubela

**Mbombela, Mpumalanga** – Mandla Msibi, the Treasurer of the African National Congress (ANC) in Mpumalanga, has been suspended by the party following allegations of sabotage during the January 8 rally celebration at Mbombela Stadium.

The ANC's decisive action comes after Msibi was found guilty of misconduct and incitement against President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The suspension, which will last for three years with conditional terms, aims to address Msibi's actions and uphold party discipline.

This development has sparked concerns about internal dynamics within the ANC leadership in Mpumalanga.

Provincial Secretary Muzi Chirwa announced the suspension during a media

briefing at the ANC provincial offices in Mbombela.

Additionally, Sibusiso Buddha Mdluli, Msibi's chief of staff, has been expelled from the ANC, while Mandla Mhlanga has been declared not guilty.

This is not Msibi's first brush with controversy. In 2021, he was asked to step aside from his position as Mpumalanga Agriculture MEC due to facing murder and attempted murder charges related to a shooting incident in August of that year.

However, in September 2022, the murder charges against him were provisionally withdrawn by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in the Mpumalanga Division of the High Court in Mbombela, leading to his reinstatement as MEC for Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

## SIU HALTS SALE OF FARM LINKED TO MISAPPROPRIATED NLC FUNDS



Advocate Andy Mothibi, the dynamic leader at the helm of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), brings energy and tenacity to the fight against corruption and injustice. Photo: X (Twitter).

By Staff Reporter

**Limpopo** - The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has secured an interdict from the Special Tribunal to halt the sale of a farm in Limpopo linked to former National Lotteries Commission (NLC) Chief Operations Officer Pillemon Ledwaba and his brother Johannes Ledwaba.

The farm, valued at R7 million and currently under offer for R5 million, is subject to preservation pending the outcome of a civil action by the SIU.

In an order dated 28 March 2024, the Special Tribunal prohibited the Ledwaba brothers and any other party from selling, transferring, or dealing with the farm in any manner.

The farm, registered under the Mosokoti Business Trust controlled by the Ledwaba brothers, was purchased using funds traced back to the NLC.

The SIU initiated its investigation

following a tip-off about the sale of the farm and its connection to misappropriated NLC funds.

The investigation uncovered a complex web of transactions involving NLC-funded organizations and entities linked to Ledwaba.

One such organization, Lulamisa Community Development Organisation NPO, received substantial grant funding from the NLC, part of which was diverted to Iron Bridge Travelling Agency, owned by Ledwaba's wife.

Funds subsequently flowed through various entities before being used to purchase the farm.

Similarly, funds earmarked for Tshikovha Graduate Academy were redirected to companies associated with Ledwaba's cousin, ultimately facilitating the purchase of the farm.

The SIU's evidence suggests that Ledwaba violated the NLC's conflict of interest clause and misappropriated funds for personal gain.

The interdict forms part of the SIU's efforts to recover assets lost due to alleged corruption or negligence within state institutions.

President Cyril Ramaphosa authorized the SIU to investigate allegations of corruption and maladministration within the NLC, and to recover financial losses suffered by the state.

Kaizer Kganyago, spokesperson for the SIU, emphasized the organization's commitment to fighting corruption and seeking justice.

The SIU will pursue civil action in the Special Tribunal or the High Court to rectify any wrongdoing uncovered during its investigation.





# EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is invited to community outreach meetings (Mayoral Izimbizo) according to Section 29 (b)(i)(ii)(iii) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act No.32 of 2000, as per the dates mentioned below:

| WARD NO. | VENUE                       | DATE          | TIME  |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1        | Hlalanikahle Community Hall | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 2        | Hlalanikahle Community Hall | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 4        | Hlalanikahle Community Hall | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |

| WARD NO. | VENUE                   | DATE          | TIME  |
|----------|-------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 5        | Empucukweni High School | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 6        | Extension 7 Park        | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 07       | KwaGuqa Primary School  | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |

| WARD NO. | VENUE                       | DATE          | TIME  |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 08       | Singobile Community Hall    | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 09       | Clewer Community Hall       | 13 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 03       | Extension 11 Community Hall | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |

| WARD NO. | VENUE                       | DATE          | TIME  |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 10       | Kopanang High School        | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |
| 11       | Khonzimfundo Primary School | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |
| 13       | Bonginsimbi High School     | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |

| WARD NO. | VENUE                      | DATE          | TIME  |
|----------|----------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 14       | Mmagobana Primary School   | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |
| 16 & 17  | Lynnville Community Hall   | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |
| 23       | P.Ndimande High School     | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |
| 29       | Empumelelweni Sport Ground | 13 April 2024 | 14h00 |

| WARD NO. | VENUE                                 | DATE          | TIME  |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 12       | Klarinet Ext.6 Community Hall         | 14 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 15       | Klarinet Ext.3 Thusong Service Centre | 14 April 2024 | 09h00 |

| WARD NO. | VENUE   | DATE          | TIME  |
|----------|---|---------------|-------|
| 18       | Reyno Ridge Pub & Grill Open Space                | 16 April 2024 | 17h00 |
| 20 & 22  | Emalahleni City Hall                              | 16 April 2024 | 17h00 |
| 33       | Ronelle Park (Cnr. Ronelle & Van Rensburg Street) | 16 April 2024 | 17h00 |

| WARD NO.    | VENUE   | DATE          | TIME  |
|-------------|---|---------------|-------|
| 19          | Benicon Hostel  | 20 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 21          | T.P Sililo Secondary School   | 20 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 28, 30 & 31 | Masakhane Sport Ground  | 20 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 24 & 34     | Open Space ( Smokey Mountain)<br>Corridor Crescent Ben Fleur Ext.11 | 20 April 2024 | 09h00 |
| 25          | Thubelihle Community Hall   | 20 April 2024 | 14h00 |
| 26 & 27     | Ga-Nala Community Hall  | 20 April 2024 | 14h00 |
| 32          | Rietspruit Rugby Field  | 20 April 2024 | 14h00 |

**Mr. HS MAYISELA**  
**MUNICIPAL MANAGER**  
 Civic Centre, 29 Mandela Street,  
 eMalahleni  
[www.emalahleni.gov.za](http://www.emalahleni.gov.za)



## ZANELE MKHONTO SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS PRISON FOR KILLING HER EX-COP BOY-FRIEND WITH HIS OWN GUN.



Zanele Mkhonto's dramatic fate: sentenced to 20 years in prison for a crime of passion using her ex-cop boyfriend's own gun to end his life. Photo: Supplied.

By Nothando Makhubela

**Mbombela, Mpumalanga** – The Mpumalanga Division of the High Court sentenced 30-year-old Zanele Mkhonto to 20 years in prison on April 5th for the murder of Sergeant Mandlenkosi Happy Thwala, a former police officer assigned to the Ka Bokweni police station.

Mkhonto's conviction stems from the tragic killing of Sergeant Thwala, whose lifeless body was discovered near his residence in Gedlembane, Pienaar, Mpumalanga, with fatal gunshot wounds to his head and upper body.

The incident sent shockwaves through the community, shedding light on the dangers faced by law enforcement officers in their line of duty.

According to reports, Mkhonto and Sergeant Thwala were in a romantic relationship, having lived together from January to July 2022 in Gedlembane, Pienaar, and Mbombela.

However, the relationship turned volatile, prompting Mkhonto to leave for her parental home.

On August 2, 2022, Mkhonto visited Sergeant Thwala in Gedlembane, resulting in a heated altercation. Subsequently, while Thwala was asleep in bed, Mkhonto took his service pistol and fatally shot him

multiple times.

"After committing the crime, Mkhonto fled the scene, taking the deceased's firearm and vehicle," stated Monica Nyuswa, spokesperson for the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in Mpumalanga.

"She later discarded the firearm at a roadblock in Zwelisha, near KaBokweni, before returning home to Masoyi, where she confessed to a friend.

The police were alerted, and Mkhonto was subsequently arrested." Phindile Mashaba, a representative of the Thwala family, expressed relief at the sentencing, albeit amid ongoing mourning.

"My brother did not deserve to meet such a tragic end, with his body being discarded in the bushes. It's heart-wrenching for our family.

We have long awaited justice, and now it has been served."

Mashaba cherished her memories of Sergeant Thwala, who was well-liked by many in the community and was a modest man with a wonderful sense of humour.

"We will always miss him dearly," she added.

The case serves as a grim reminder of the consequences of domestic violence and the importance of seeking help in volatile situations.

## POLICE SEIZE MINING EQUIPMENT DURING OPERATION VALA UMGODI

By Thembekile Mzimba

**Sabie, Mpumalanga** - In a concerted effort to combat illegal mining activities, a multi-disciplinary police team deployed for Operation Vala Umgodi achieved significant success on Thursday last week.

This operation targeted Sabie, where illegal mining operations were reportedly rampant, with a particular focus on the Sabie informal settlements.

The team's diligent efforts led to the seizure of 36 Phendukas, 8 gas bottles, 5 gas regulators, and a cutting torch.

Upon their arrival, numerous suspected illegal miners fled into the bushy river banks, evading apprehension. However, the confiscation of mining equipment marks a crucial step in disrupting illegal mining activities in the area.

The Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela, commended the team for their resolute actions in addressing illegal mining operations.

"We will continue these disruptive activities until we put a complete end to illegal mining activities everywhere," affirmed General Manamela.

The commitment of the police to curbing illegal mining did not go unnoticed, as the Thaba Chweu Municipality and plantation company York Timbers joined forces to assist in demolishing illegally erected structures commonly used for illegal mining activities.

During the demolition, police ensured the safety of both the working team and the community, prioritising the prevention of harm throughout the process.

Temporary structures identified as sites for illegal mining operations were found vacant, with mining equipment such as Phendukas and gas bottles seized from the majority of these structures.

Notably, police uncovered a Phenduka hidden beneath the soil in one of the structures, highlighting the covert nature of these illegal activities.

Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela reaffirmed the commitment of police and other stakeholders to eradicate illegal mining, emphasising that such criminal activities have no place in the community.

As Operation Vala Umgodi continues, authorities remain steadfast in their resolve to stamp out illegal mining operations and uphold the rule of law.

## FIVE CIT ROBBERY SUSPECTS KILLED IN POLICE SHOOTOUT



Crime scene investigators meticulously examine the aftermath of a daring police shootout that left five robbery suspects outgunned. Amidst the chaos, emergency services stand ready, a testament to the intense confrontation's gravity.

Photo: SAPS

By Thembekile Mzimba

**Emalahleni, Mpumalanga** - Five suspected cash-in-transit (CIT) robbers met their demise in a fierce gun battle with Mpumalanga police on Wednesday last week.

The exchange of gunfire occurred in Tasbet Park, Emalahleni, during a high-stakes operation.

According to Police Spokesperson, Lieutenant Colonel Mavela Masondo, law enforcement received intelligence regarding CIT robbery suspects en route to Mpumalanga.

"Further information indicated an attempted robbery unfolding in Witbank," Masondo stated. Acting swiftly, the police tracked the suspects to a safe house in Tasbet Park.

As officers closed in on the residence, the suspects, driving a Toyota Quantum, detected the police presence and initiated gunfire.

In response, both police and private security personnel engaged the suspects in a fierce firefight.

The intensity of the exchange resulted in the fatal shooting of five suspects on the scene.

Additionally, eight suspects were

apprehended and taken into custody, while approximately nine others managed to evade capture, fleeing from the scene unharmed.

Masondo disclosed that authorities recovered an arsenal of weaponry from the scene, including five rifles and two pistols, along with four vehicles.

These vehicles, he noted, were linked to previous hijackings in various areas of Gauteng.

Among the hijacked vehicles were a Mazda CX5 involved in a case in Jeppe, an Audi Q5 stolen in Yeoville, and a Haval taken in Rabie Ridge.

Another Mazda CX5 was discovered with a tampered engine number, further complicating the investigation.

The apprehended suspects are set to face a litany of charges, including murder, attempted murder, and possession of prohibited and unlicensed firearms and ammunition, in addition to CIT-related offences.

As investigations continue into this deadly confrontation, the incident serves as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by CIT robberies and the unwavering commitment of law enforcement to combat such criminal activities.

## TRUCK DRIVERS AT KOMATIPOORT LEBOMBO BORDER FACE RISING CRIMINAL THREATS

By Nothando Makhubela

**Komatipoort, Mpumalanga** - Truck drivers operating at the Komatipoort Lebombo border in Nkomazi, Mpumalanga, are facing escalating security threats as they transport valuable commodities to Mozambique, with reports indicating prolonged waiting times and vulnerability to criminal attacks.

Truck drivers, responsible for transporting goods such as coal, iron ore, and manganese to Mozambique, often find themselves stranded at the border gate for days, enduring extreme heat and security risks.

Criminal gangs, particularly from the nearby town of Ressano Garcia in Mozambique, have targeted these drivers, leading to robberies, harassment, and even fatalities.

Bongani Nyundu, a trucker, emphasized the urgent need for 24-hour patrol teams to ensure the safety of drivers not only at the border post but also along the N4 highway where trucks queue.

He revealed that over twelve freight truckers have fallen victim to criminal activities this year alone.

Vusi Nyathikazi, transporting coal from South Africa to Mozambique, highlighted the challenges faced by drivers during nighttime queues, including lack of access to facilities and safety concerns.

The queue at the Lebombo border post extends up to 16 kilometers, exacerbating the vulnerability of drivers to criminal elements.

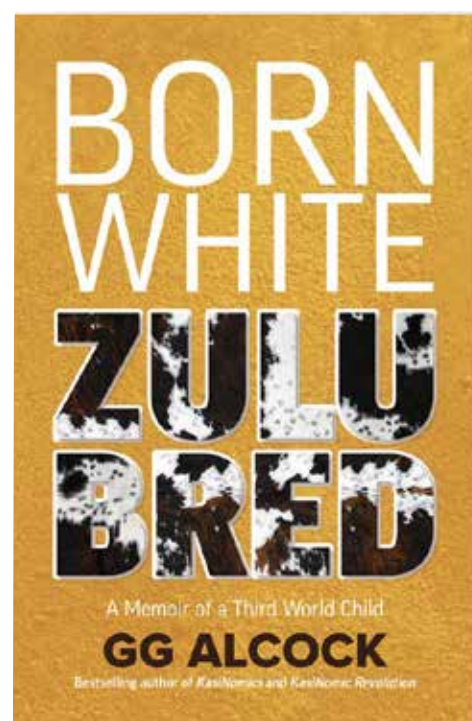
The lack of 24-hour operations at the border crossing has led to increased crossing times, causing traffic congestion and headaches for residents of Komatipoort, Malelane, and KamaQhekeza.

Gugu Ngwenya, a resident, expressed concerns over the damage caused to roads by heavy truck traffic, particularly during peak periods.

As truck drivers continue to endure security threats and logistical challenges at the Komatipoort Lebombo border, stakeholders are urged to implement measures to safeguard the well-being of drivers and ensure the efficient flow of goods across the border.



# GG ALCOCK'S "BORN WHITE ZULU BRED"



Raised in a mud home without basic amenities, Alcock's upbringing among the Zulu community instilled in him invaluable survival skills.

His journey from herding goats to becoming an entrepreneur reflects his resilience and determination.

Alcock is not only a successful author but also a dynamic businessman, activist, and speaker committed to social justice and environmental causes.

#### About the book:

In "Born White Zulu Bred," GG Alcock takes readers on an enlightening exploration of cultural intersections, challenges, and the evolution of democracy.

Through a blend of personal anecdotes, historical narratives, and political theory, the book offers a comprehensive understanding of the complexities inherent in democratic societies, particularly in multicultural contexts.

Alcock skillfully navigates diverse cultural landscapes, shedding light on the obstacles and opportunities that arise when democratic principles intersect with varying cultural norms.

From marginalised communities to grassroots movements, the book provides a nuanced perspective on the intricacies of democratic governance.

Moreover, "Born White Zulu Bred" fearlessly addresses the tensions that arise when democracy encounters cultural

diversity.

Alcock prompts readers to critically examine power dynamics, representation, and inclusion, challenging preconceived notions along the way.

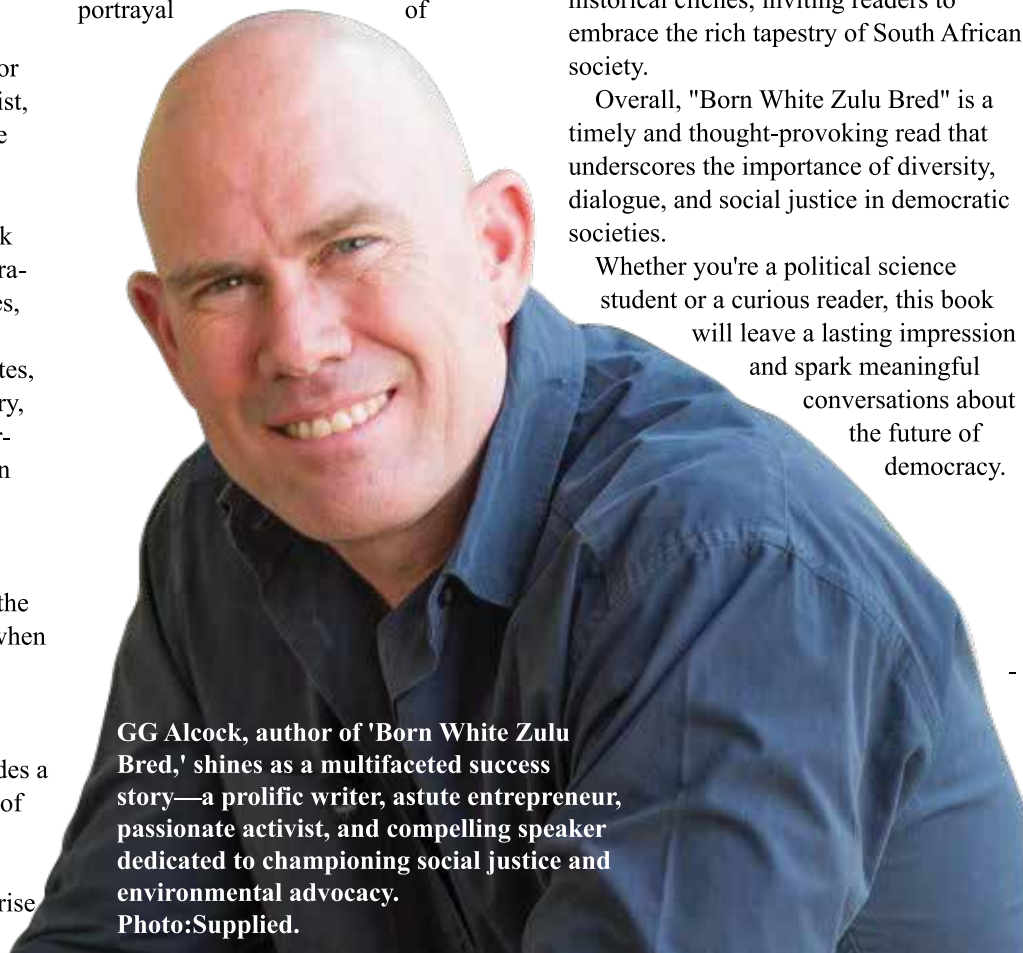
The book also offers a vivid portrayal of

contemporary South African life, showcasing the diversity and vibrancy of urban entrepreneurs who contribute to the informal economy.

Alcock's narrative transcends racial and historical clichés, inviting readers to embrace the rich tapestry of South African society.

Overall, "Born White Zulu Bred" is a timely and thought-provoking read that underscores the importance of diversity, dialogue, and social justice in democratic societies.

Whether you're a political science student or a curious reader, this book will leave a lasting impression and spark meaningful conversations about the future of democracy.



GG Alcock, author of 'Born White Zulu Bred,' shines as a multifaceted success story—a prolific writer, astute entrepreneur, passionate activist, and compelling speaker dedicated to championing social justice and environmental advocacy. Photo: Supplied.

**Born-White-Zulu-Bred.**  
Source: Supplied.

By Duncan Mnisi

#### About the Author:

GG Alcock, a multi-talented individual born in the impoverished and volatile region of Msinga in KwaZulu-Natal, has emerged as a prominent figure in literature, business, activism, and public speaking.

# MACG'S PODCAST AND CHILL LONGING FOR PARLIAMENTARY SEAT



Meet Mac G, the creative genius behind Podcast And Chill—an engaging host and visionary podcaster. Photo: Supplied.

By Duncan Mnisi

#### MacG Podcast and Chill Network

In a bold move that shook the podcasting world, MacG, host of Podcast and Chill, alongside Eugene Khoza and Sol Phenduka, embarked on a mission to bring their voices to the hallowed halls of parliament.

What began as a casual conversation on Episode 535 of Podcast and Chill quickly evolved into a passionate campaign for political representation and change.

Initially hesitant about entering the

realm of politics, MacG eventually warmed up to the idea of using their platform to advocate for the voiceless and marginalised in South Africa.

With the looming 2024 elections on May 29, 2024, the trio saw an opportunity to make a tangible impact on the future of their country.

Following the fateful episode, MacG, Eugene, and Sol wasted no time launching a last-minute campaign to secure a seat in parliament ahead of the upcoming elections.

With the unwavering support of their loyal fanbase, affectionately known as "Chillers," the team set out to gather the necessary signatures to qualify as independent candidates.

Under the new election rules set by the SA Electoral Commission, independent candidates needed just 1,000 signatures to stand in the 2024 general election.

Despite facing criticism from some quarters for venturing into politics, MacG clarified their intentions, emphasising that they were not seeking to form a political

party but rather to amplify the voices of their constituents.

The campaign garnered significant attention on social media, with supporters rallying behind MacG and his team.

However, as the anticipation grew, updates on the campaign's progress remained scarce.

During a recent episode, JJ provided a sobering update on the situation, revealing that while there were promising signs in the Free State provincial election, the national results were still uncertain.

Despite the challenges and uncertainty, MacG and his team remain hopeful and determined to secure a parliamentary seat as independent candidates.

Their unwavering commitment to representing the interests of ordinary South Africans underscores the power of grassroots activism and the potential for change in the country's political landscape.

As the countdown to the 2024 elections continues, all eyes are on MacG and his team as they navigate the complexities of the political arena with courage and determination.

Whether they succeed in their quest for parliamentary representation remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: their journey is a testament to the transformative power of podcasting and the unwavering spirit of activism in South Africa.



# TIMELESS SPORT

## SIX ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH MURDER AND HIJACKING OF KAIZER CHIEFS SOCCER PLAYER



Luke Fluers, an aspiring talent who represented South Africa at the Tokyo Olympics, tragically passed away before earning his senior cap. Despite this, he showcased his skill on the field as a key player for one of the nation's premier clubs, the Kaizer Chiefs. Photo: Zhizhao Wu Getty Images

*By Staff Reporter*

**Soweto, Johannesburg** - Six suspects have been apprehended in connection with the horrific kidnapping and killing of a well-known Kaizer Chiefs football player, marking a major breakthrough in the investigation team under the direction of Lieutenant General Tommy Mthombeni, the Gauteng Provincial Commissioner.

The tragic incident, which shook the soccer community, occurred last week on Wednesday when the 24-year-old Premiership player fell victim to a fatal attack in Honeydew.

According to reports from the Gauteng Provincial Police Office, the victim, driving a red VW Golf 8 GTI, had innocently pulled into a petrol station on 14th Avenue, corner Hendrik Potgieter, awaiting service. However, his routine errand swiftly

turned into a nightmare as two armed assailants arriving in a white BMW 1 Series accosted him.

Brandishing firearms, they forcibly removed him from his vehicle before callously shooting him in the upper body.

Subsequently, the suspects callously absconded with the victim's vehicle, leaving behind a trail of shock and grief. Despite the swift emergency response and the victim being rushed to the nearest medical facility, his injuries proved fatal, marking a tragic end to a promising career and leaving the soccer fraternity in mourning.

In the aftermath of this despicable crime, the Gauteng Provincial Commissioner took decisive action, mobilising a specialised task force comprising seasoned detectives and law enforcement agencies.

Their relentless pursuit of justice

culminated in the apprehension of six suspects in Slovoville, Soweto, during the early hours of Wednesday.

Furthermore, authorities successfully recovered the victim's vehicle, albeit stripped, on Monday.

Investigations have unveiled a sinister nexus, suggesting the arrested individuals may be part of a broader syndicate implicated in car hijackings across Gauteng.

While the immediate apprehension represents a significant breakthrough, law enforcement remains vigilant, with ongoing efforts to identify and apprehend any additional suspects.

The collaborative efforts of the investigative team, under the leadership of Gauteng Deputy Provincial Commissioner Crime Detection Major General Mbuso Khumalo, underscore the unwavering commitment to ensuring perpetrators of such reprehensible acts

are swiftly brought to justice.

The arrested suspects; Ndumiso Moswane (26), Fernando Sive (25), Nhlakanipho Dlamini (21), Franky Xaba (25), Maredi Mphahlele (36) and Theminkosi Hlomikhawu (31) are scheduled to appear before the Roodepoort Magistrate's Court on Friday, facing charges related to murder and car hijacking.

In light of this development, the Gauteng Provincial Police Commissioner extends appreciation to all law-abiding citizens who provided invaluable information and support throughout the investigation.

However, the appeal for assistance remains open, urging anyone with pertinent information to come forward and aid in the ongoing pursuit of justice.

As the soccer fraternity mourns the untimely loss of one of its own, the resolve to combat such criminality and uphold the sanctity of sport remains resolute.