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INCORPORATING LIMPOPO, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG - FRIDAY, 03 MAY 2024

# NEWS

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## SOUTH AFRICA MARKS 30 YEARS OF WORKERS' DAY AMIDST UNEMPLOYMENT CONCERNS



International Workers' Day, or May Day, marks the labour movement's efforts to uphold workers' rights and improve working conditions Image Unsplash. Photo: Supplied.

By Staff Reporter

**Emalaheni, Mpumalanga** - Every May 1st, South Africa pauses to honour the unwavering dedication of its working-class

citizens.

International Workers' Day, also known as May Day, is a day dedicated to commemorating the historical struggles of workers and their trade unions for solidarity and equitable employment standards.

This year, the theme for Workers' Day and the entire month is "30 Years of Freedom," marking a significant milestone in the nation's journey towards equality and justice.

The roots of Workers' Day in South Africa can be traced back to the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) in December 1985.

Since the advent of democracy in 1994, Workers' Day has been officially recognised and observed in South Africa.

It serves as both a celebration of workers' rights and a poignant reminder of the pivotal role played by trade unions, the Communist Party, and other labour organisations in the struggle against apartheid.

Workers' Day holds deep cultural significance in South Africa, symbolising not only the sacrifices made for fair employment standards but also the relentless fight against apartheid, where labour unions were at the forefront of the resistance.

During this year's Workers' Day celebrations, the government paid tribute to all workers, particularly frontline workers who continue to provide essential services, even on holidays.

From healthcare professionals to law enforcement personnel, farmers, and supermarket staff, their contributions are hailed as the backbone of the nation.

However, amidst the festivities, voices of concern and critique emerged.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) took advantage of the event to draw attention to the problems that many South Africans face, most notably unemployment.

Party leader John Steenhuisen empha-

sised that the festivities are tainted by the fact that over 32% of the population is unemployed.

He demanded reform, claiming that the African National Congress's (ANC) continued rule would only make things worse for the unemployed.

Similarly, Build One South Africa (BOSA) leader Mmusi Maimane addressed the pressing issue of unemployment during a rally in the Eastern Cape.

He unveiled his party's comprehensive Jobs Plan, aimed at creating millions of new jobs and revitalising the economy.

Maimane underscored the need for urgent action to address the unemployment crisis, particularly in provinces like the Eastern Cape, where joblessness rates are alarmingly high.

Meanwhile, the South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU) raised concerns about the recent petrol price increase, coinciding with Workers' Day.

SAFTU leader Mosima Maredi condemned the government's decision, citing its impact on workers already grappling with meagre salary increases and rising living costs.

Maredi also highlighted the plight of vacant teaching positions in Limpopo, attributing it to ongoing budget cuts.

As South Africa reflects on 30 years of freedom on International Workers' Day, the celebrations are tempered by the realities of unemployment, economic challenges, and the ongoing struggle for social justice.

Amidst the festivities, calls for meaningful change resonate, echoing the spirit of resilience and solidarity that defines the nation's labour movement.

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# PRESIDENT CALLS FOR UNITY ON FREEDOM DAY



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered a profoundly moving address at the Union Buildings in Tshwane on Saturday, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Freedom Day. Photo: GCIS.

By Staff Reporter

**Union Buildings, Tswane** - President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered a profoundly moving address at the Union Buildings in Tshwane on Saturday, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Freedom Day.

His words resonated with hope, reflecting on the historic significance of April 27, 1994, when South Africa embraced democracy after decades of apartheid rule.

Addressing a diverse audience that included Deputy President Shipokosa Paul Mashatile, former President Thabo Mbeki, government officials, judiciary representatives, and community leaders, President Ramaphosa began by greeting the crowd in various languages, highlighting the unity and diversity of the nation.

"Exactly thirty years ago on this day,

freedom's bell rang across our great land," President Ramaphosa declared, his voice echoing with conviction.

"It rang in every city, every town, and every village. It rang in Musina and Thohoyandou in the furthest reaches of the north; in Soweto, in Sharpeville, Soshanguve, and Umlazi."

Reflecting on the weight of oppression that had burdened generations of South Africans, President Ramaphosa spoke passionately about the liberation that came with casting their votes for the first time in 1994.

"Our shackles had been cast off.

The weight of centuries of oppression was no longer holding us down," he said, his words stirring emotions in the crowd.

President Ramaphosa paid tribute to the heroes and heroines who had fought for

justice, peace, and freedom, particularly honouring Nelson Mandela as the father of South Africa's democracy.

"In his memory, we will continue to work tirelessly to achieve the democratic ideals to which he and many other heroes and heroines dedicated their lives," he affirmed, his voice filled with reverence.

In recounting the progress made since 1994, President Ramaphosa acknowledged the persistent challenges facing the nation, including unemployment, poverty, and crime.

"Our people confront every day the apartheid legacy of unemployment, poverty, and underdevelopment," he admitted, his tone solemn yet resolute.

Despite these challenges, President Ramaphosa expressed confidence in the resilience and optimism of the South African people.

"Our journey since 1994 has proved that we are a nation of optimism, resilience, and hope," he proclaimed, his voice infused with determination.

He concluded his address with a powerful call to action, invoking Mandela's vision of a democratic breakthrough that would endure as a beacon of hope.

"Let us stand together, united in purpose, to build a future where the promise of freedom rings true for every single South African," he urged, his words resonating with the crowd.

As President Ramaphosa stepped away from the podium, the audience rose to their feet, applauding his unwavering commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable society.

His speech reaffirmed the nation's collective resolve to uphold the promise of freedom for all South Africans, echoing Mandela's timeless words: "Let freedom reign."

## ACDP ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE DURING FREEDOM DAY



Hon. Wayne Thring, Deputy President of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) engaging locals during Freedom Day. Photo: Supplied.

By Staff Reporter

**Sekhukhune, Limpopo** - On Freedom Day last Saturday, Hon. Wayne Thring, Deputy President of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), embarked on a visit to the Sekhukhune Region in Limpopo, marking the occasion with a call for transformative action in South Africa.

The event started at the Four-Way close to Crossing, where Provincial Leader Joel Makola and a delegation led Thring in interactions with street vendors and a tour of nearby businesses.

This grassroots interaction underscored the ACDP's commitment to understanding the challenges faced by ordinary South Africans.

Subsequently, the entourage proceeded to the Morena complex opposite the plaza, where Thring delivered a stirring Freedom Day speech.

Addressing a diverse audience, he reiterated the ACDP's dedication to addressing the nation's urgent needs, encapsulated in the acronym S.O.S: Safety, Order, and Service.

"South Africa is in need of hope," declared Thring. "The ACDP has heard the nation's call for safety, order, and service, and we are committed to bringing hope to every corner of our country."

While acknowledging the milestone of freedom from apartheid, Thring said that true freedom had yet to be realised.

He lamented the persistently high unemployment rates, especially among the youth, which have left many families struggling with hunger and poverty.

Thring also highlighted the alarming deficiencies in education, with Grade 4 learners across the country still grappling with basic literacy skills.

"Freedom Day is a reminder that while we have overcome one form of oppression, many challenges persist," Thring asserted. "We cannot consider ourselves free when our people continue to suffer from preventable hardships."

Wayne Thring raised concerns about the prevalence of violent crimes and the need for stricter measures against offenders.

He condemned the parole of criminals convicted of serious offences, advocating for their continued incarceration to ensure the safety of communities.

Moreover, Thring criticised the government's failure to provide adequate infrastructure in schools, citing the recent incident of a three-year-old child falling into a pit toilet at a creche.

He urged South Africans to consider the ACDP as a beacon of hope and highlighted the importance of making informed decisions at the ballot box.

"In the upcoming elections, every South African must choose hope over despair," Thring urged.

"By placing their voting cross beside the ACDP, they can contribute to building a brighter future for our nation."

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# 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM COMMEMORATED IN SEKORORO



**Premier Stanley Mathabatha delivering a stirring address at the Calais Stadium in Sekororo, marking the 30th anniversary of South Africa's freedom. Photo: Instagram.**

*By Staff Reporter*

**Sekororo, Limpopo** - Premier Stanley Mathabatha delivered a stirring address on Saturday at the Calais Stadium in Sekororo, marking the 30th anniversary of South Africa's freedom.

The event brought together dignitaries, government officials, traditional leaders, and community members to reflect on the nation's journey towards democracy and to renew their commitment to building a united and prosperous society.

In his speech, Premier Mathabatha underscored the significance of the day, not only as a celebration of South Africa's birth as a free nation but also as a tribute to the heroes and heroines whose sacrifices paved the way for liberation.

He highlighted the pivotal role of international solidarity in the struggle against apartheid, acknowledging the support of allies such as Russia and Cuba.

"We single out and salute the people of Russia and Cuba, who through their determined struggles and efforts, ensured

that South Africans today can build a just, united, and prosperous country," Premier Mathabatha remarked.

Reflecting on the challenges facing the nation, Premier Mathabatha pointed out the importance of addressing poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

He called for unity and collaboration among all South Africans to overcome these challenges and build a better future for all.

"As we celebrate this day of freedom, let us strengthen our partnerships and work together to defeat poverty, inequality, and unemployment," Premier Mathabatha urged.

The Premier also highlighted the progress made in various sectors since the advent of democracy, including improvements in healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

He cited achievements such as increased access to electricity and water as well as investments in enterprise development and healthcare infrastructure.

Premier Mathabatha reiterated the government's commitment to addressing pressing issues such as gender-based violence and corruption.

He called on all sectors of society to join hands in the fight against these scourges and to uphold the values of democracy and justice.

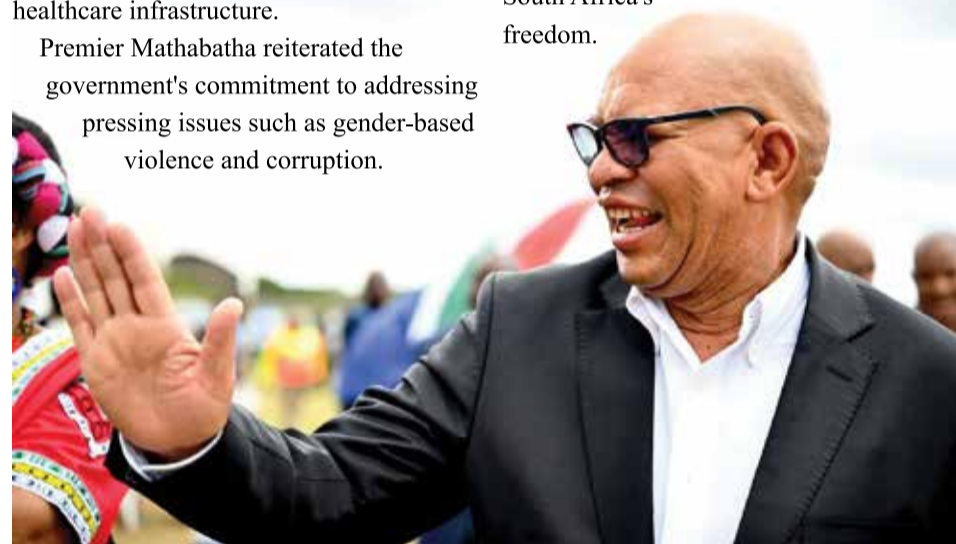
"As we celebrate thirty years of freedom and democracy, we also call upon all of you, young and old, to participate in the coming election," Premier Mathabatha urged.

"Exercise your right to vote and determine your destiny."

In closing, Premier Mathabatha expressed gratitude to all those who had contributed to the nation's progress and reiterated his commitment to building a brighter future for all South Africans.

"With those few words, I say, 'Let's do more together'," Premier Mathabatha concluded, to resounding applause from the audience.

The event concluded with cultural performances and festivities as attendees celebrated the milestone anniversary of South Africa's freedom.



**Premier Stanley Mathabatha expressed gratitude to all those who had contributed to the nation's progress and reiterated his commitment to building a brighter future for all South Africans. Photo: Instagram.**

# ACTIONSA PROTESTS FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATIONS

*By Staff Reporter*

**Mbombela, Mpumalanga** - Thoko Mashiane, the Premier Candidate for ActionSA in Mpumalanga, announced on Saturday that the party will not be participating in Freedom Day celebrations in the province.

Mashiane cited a series of unresolved issues affecting local communities, including the ongoing plight of the families of Lily Mine victims, the disappearance of a Kruger National Park employee, and the lack of basic services like water and sanitation in various areas.

"The people of Mpumalanga are still waiting for justice and resolution on several critical matters," Mashiane declared.

"Celebrating Freedom Day would be inappropriate until the relevant authorities address these issues."

Among the concerns highlighted by ActionSA are the families of Solomon Nrirende, Pretty Nkambule, and Yvonne Mnisi, who have been awaiting closure since the Lily Mine tragedy.

Additionally, there are unanswered questions regarding the disappearance of Kruger National Park employee

Mr. Cherkers Mashego, as well as ongoing challenges in healthcare and education.

"ActionSA has been actively engaging with provincial authorities to address these pressing issues," Mashiane stated.

"However, the lack of meaningful progress leaves us with no choice but to voice our discontent and demand action."

The party also drew attention to the dire living conditions faced by residents, including months-long water shortages in eMalahleni and the persistent use of pit toilets in communities like Charles Celliers.

Furthermore, Mashiane criticised the failure of local municipalities to address sanitation issues in farming communities.

"We cannot ignore the suffering of our people while celebrating a day that commemorates freedom and equality," Mashiane highlighted.

"ActionSA is committed to advocating for pro-poor governance that prioritises the needs of the most vulnerable members of society."

As ActionSA continues to press for solutions to these challenges, Mashiane urged South Africans to consider the party as a viable alternative for addressing their concerns and ensuring a better future for all.



**The families of Solomon Nrirende, Pretty Nkambule, and Yvonne Mnisi, who have been awaiting closure since the Lily Mine tragedy holding Power-of-Attorney document. Photo: ActionSA.**

# DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE ENGAGES COMMUNITY

## IMBIZO FOCUSED ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN SAPS AND RESIDENTS TO COMBAT CRIME

By *Thembekile Mzimba*

**Tzaneen, Limpopo** - In an Imbizo last Friday, community members in and around Lenyenye, which is under the Maake policing area, were brought together by SAPS management and Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale (MP), to strengthen partnerships for safer neighbourhoods.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba underlined in a press release that the event, which was attended by a wide range of stakeholders such as the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms. F. Radzilani, MPL, traditional authorities, representatives of the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, and numerous SAPS officials, emphasised the collaborative efforts crucial in reducing crime within communities.

The itinerary included a courtesy visit to the Bakgaga Ba Maake Tribal Council, highlighting the importance of traditional

policing and rural safety.

Subsequently, a briefing session held at the Assemblies of God Church in Lenyenye provided insight into the crime landscape of the Maake police precinct and outlined existing interventions to ensure area security.

Transitioning to the main event venue at the Lenyenye Community Hall, the Mayor for Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, Cllr G. Molapisane, extended a warm welcome to all attendees, setting the tone for discussions aimed at strengthening police-community collaboration in combating crime.

Lieutenant General MJ Mamotheti, Divisional Commissioner for Visible Policing and Operations, elucidated the event's purpose, indicating the imperative of joint efforts in ensuring community safety.

During the interactive session, community members voiced concerns, including the handling of a 2016 rape case, prompting immediate action from Deputy Minister Mathale.

Ordering thorough investigations by the SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences Unit, he underscored the government's commitment to protecting vulnerable groups and ensuring justice.

Addressing resource challenges raised

by residents, Deputy Minister Mathale acknowledged the need for increased police resources, promising to address the matter through ongoing initiatives such as Project 10,000 aimed at bolstering police numbers nationwide.

He also lauded PSIRA for their contribution to community policing structures, providing operational gear to enhance their effectiveness.

Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner of Limpopo SAPS, pledged follow-up actions on resource allocation and emphasised the importance of community engagement in exposing misconduct within the police force.

MEC Radzilani highlighted increased budget allocations for Community Policing Forum structures, reaffirming the government's commitment to collaborative crime prevention efforts.

In his keynote address, Deputy Minister Mathale assured the community of ongoing efforts to improve service delivery and reiterated the government's dedication to enhancing community safety.

With more Crime Prevention Imbizos planned, the event signifies a step forward in fostering trust and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and residents in the fight against crime.



**Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale (MP) engages community to enhance safety partnerships in Maake policing area. Photo: Supplied.**

# STATE-OF-THE-ART SOCIAL AMENITIES UNVEILED IN HLALAMNANDI

## R23 MILLION PROJECT MARKS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By *Thembekile Mzimba*

**Hlalamnandi, Mpumalanga** - The small township witnessed a momentous occasion on Monday as the community celebrated the inauguration of a cutting-edge community hall and childcare centre.

The goal of the project is to enhance community well-being and encourage inclusive growth. The province's Department of Human Settlements and the Mpumalanga Provincial Department are in charge of it.

The unveiling ceremony, which was attended by Executive Mayor Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela and Lindiwe Mahlangu, Nkangala District MMC for Local Economic Development, Expanded Public Works, and Tourism, marked a major advancement in the provision of social amenities.

In the company of prominent stakeholders such as Community Development Workers (CDWs), Ward Committee Members, Municipal Manager Mandla Mnguni, and members of the Mayoral Committee, the political leadership emphasised the value of teamwork in improving local communities.

Residents rejoiced as they witnessed the official opening of the state-of-the-art Community Hall and Childcare Centre, which will serve as vital hubs for community engagement and early childhood development.

Executive Mayor Masilela gave attendees a tour of the facilities during a walk-about and highlighted the municipality's dedication to inclusivity and transparency. Addressing the gathering, Mayor Masilela

expressed gratitude for the community's support and stressed the pivotal role of these amenities in fostering social cohesion and empowerment.

"These facilities were established to benefit our communities," he remarked, urging residents to safeguard the infrastructure and maximise its potential for the collective good.

He underscored the government's commitment to addressing the evolving needs of a growing population through strategic investments in social infrastructure.

The newly inaugurated Childcare Centre, equipped with modern amenities including ablution facilities, a kitchen, and play areas, signifies a significant step towards nurturing the next generation and providing equitable access to quality education.

Meanwhile, the 600-capacity Community Hall stands as a beacon of community pride, offering a versatile space for various events and gatherings.

With a total construction budget exceeding R24 million, this initiative represents a substantial investment in the socio-economic development of Hlalamnandi and surrounding areas.

Residents expressed gratitude to the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements and the Provincial Government for bringing essential services closer to home, eliminating the need to travel long distances for community events and meetings.

In conclusion, the unveiling of the R23 million social amenities facility in Hlalamnandi Township signifies more than just bricks and mortar; it symbolises a commitment to empowering communities, fostering social inclusion, and building a brighter future for all.

As residents embark on this new chapter, they do so with optimism and renewed hope for a thriving and resilient community.



**Executive Mayor Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela during his address expressed gratitude for the community's support and stressed the pivotal role of these amenities in fostering social cohesion. Photo: Facebook.**



**Municipal Manager Mandla Mnguni and Executive Mayor, Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela cutting the ribbon. Photo: Facebook.**

# SOUTH AFRICA REFLECTS ON DEMOCRACY 30 YEARS AFTER APARTHEID

By *Nothando Makhubela*

**Emalahleni, Mpumalanga** - South Africa recently marked a significant milestone as it commemorated 30 years since the end of apartheid and the birth of its democracy.

April 27th, celebrated as Freedom Day, holds profound significance, symbolising the nation's liberation from racial oppression and the advent of a new era of equality and freedom.

However, amidst the celebrations, there are growing concerns about the trajectory of the country, particularly regarding the prolonged rule of the African National Congress (ANC) since the landmark 1994 elections.

With a new generation of leaders emerging within the ANC, questions have arisen about the party's ability to address the myriad challenges facing South Africa today.

Economic woes, rampant corruption, nepotism, frequent power outages (loadshedding), high unemployment rates, pervasive crime, and escalating living costs are among the pressing issues that have fueled discontent among certain segments of society.

Additionally, there are observations that unity among black South Africans, a cornerstone of the struggle against apartheid, has diminished over time.

In light of these challenges, Timeless News conducted interviews with residents in Emalahleni on April 27th to capture their perspectives on the significance of Freedom Day and the upcoming national elections scheduled for May 29th.

These elections are seen as pivotal in determining the country's future leadership and trajectory.

Slindile Maziba expressed her sentiments, stating, "Today, we celebrate Freedom Day, marking 30 years of democracy.

While I am grateful for the end of apartheid and the democracy ushered in by Nelson Mandela, the ANC, which we once trusted, has failed us with corruption and unemployment."

Zweli Luthuli echoed similar concerns, indicating the impact of corruption on the country's youth.

"We are suffering due to the greed of those in power. Despite being free from racism, unemployment plagues our youth, casting a shadow over the promise of a better future."

Bongiwe Mokoena raised issues of economic exploitation and political disillusionment, lamenting the lack of effective governance.

"In Emalahleni, we are rich in resources, yet foreigners benefit while our people suffer.

The ANC is divided, and alternative political parties offer little clarity, leaving us feeling lost."

As South Africa reflects on its journey since the end of apartheid, these voices underscore the complexities and challenges that continue to shape the nation's democratic landscape.

As the country prepares for the upcoming elections, the need for accountable and effective leadership remains paramount in addressing the aspirations and grievances of its diverse populace.

# MINISTER OF POLICE LEADS IMBIZO YA MADODA



**Minister of Police, General Bheki Cele reiterated the imperative for every man to actively condemn and combat GBV at Imbizo ya Madoda in Kanyamazane Stadium during his address. Photo: Supplied.**

By *Duncan Mnisi*

**Kanyamazane Stadium, Mbombela, Mpumalanga** - In a proactive effort to address the alarming rise of Gender-Based Violence and femicide (GBVF) in Mpumalanga province, Minister of Police General Bheki Cele spearheaded the Imbizo Ya Madoda, a community engagement initiative aimed at mobilizing men to take an active stance against violence against women and children.

The event, held on Monday, April 29, 2024, at the Kanyamazane Stadium in Mbombela, drew an impressive turnout of community members, faith-based leaders, and law enforcement officials.

The impetus behind the Imbizo Ya Madoda stemmed from the disconcerting statistics revealing over 700 reported cases of GBV within a mere three-month period in Mpumalanga province.

Minister Cele, accompanied by various stakeholders, embarked on a symbolic two-kilometer walk to symbolize solidarity and commitment to eradicating GBVF and serious violent crimes plaguing communities.

During the dialogue, residents from areas around Nelspruit, where incidents of GBV are prevalent, voiced their concerns and suggestions for combating the scourge.

Many emphasized the need for adequate resources and support for law enforcement agencies, including the provision of stipends to motivate local police officers.

Addressing the gathering, one resident highlighted the importance of open communication and dialogue between men and women to foster understanding and seek solutions collaboratively.

Reverend Micah Nthali, president of the Moral Regeneration Movement, underscored the significance of nurturing strong family values as a cornerstone for building resilient communities.

"To eradicate this scourge, we must go back to our roots and realize that women are just like us, they are no different," Reverend Nthali remarked, echoing the sentiments echoed by many attendees.

Minister Cele reiterated the imperative for every man to actively condemn and combat gender-based violence.

He emphasized the harrowing reality faced by women, citing alarming statistics of rape incidents, with a significant portion occurring within the victims' own homes.

Calling for a paradigm shift in societal norms, Cele stressed the importance of educating young boys to become responsible men who respect and protect women.

The Imbizo Ya Madoda served as a platform for constructive dialogue and collective action, with a focus on empowering men to become catalysts for change in the fight against GBVF and violent crimes.

The event underscored the government's commitment, through the Police Ministry and the South African Police Service (SAPS), to actively engage communities and foster meaningful participation in tackling societal challenges.

As the dialogue concluded, Minister Cele reaffirmed the government's resolve to continue prioritizing initiatives that promote gender equality and ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens.

The Imbizo Ya Madoda stands as a testament to the power of collective action and community mobilization in the pursuit of a safer, more equitable society.

Members of the media were invited to attend the Imbizo Ya Madoda, which served as a pivotal moment in the ongoing fight against gender-based violence and femicide in Mpumalanga province.

# INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEALTHCARE BOOST IN MPUMALANGA

**MOGALITWA PRIMARY SCHOOL AND COAL HAULAGE ROAD P29/1 (R555) AMONG PROJECTS OFFICIALLY OPENED**

By *Thembekele Mzimba*

**Kendal, Mpumalanga** - Premier Ms. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane and her team embarked on a transformative journey, inaugurating key infrastructure projects and bolstering healthcare services across the province.

In a significant move aimed at enhancing healthcare accessibility, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane, alongside MEC for Health, Ms. Sasekani Manzini, unveiled a fleet of ambulances, mobile clinics, and forensic pathology vehicles during a ceremony held in Kendal, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, on Thursday last week.

A total of 10 ambulances, 15 mobile clinics, and 18 forensic pathology vehicles were proudly handed over to bolster emergency medical services and forensic capabilities in the region.

The allocation plan ensures equitable distribution, with mobile clinics earmarked for districts in need and EMS ambulances strategically allocated across Nkangala, Gert Sibande, and Ehlanzeni districts.

However, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane did not stop at healthcare enhancements.

She also addressed concerns about the newly reconstructed Coal Haulage Road P29/1 (R555), indicating the importance of its maintenance, especially amidst heavy transportation activities.

Calling upon mining CEOs to collaborate in preserving the road's integrity, she

highlighted the collective responsibility in ensuring safe and efficient transportation networks.

In a separate event, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane, alongside MEC for Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba, unveiled the Mogalitwa Primary School at Klarinet Ext6 in Emalahleni Local Municipality.

This state-of-the-art institution stands as a testament to the government's commitment to providing quality education infrastructure.

With 23 classrooms, a math laboratory, fully equipped facilities, and administrative support, Mogalitwa Primary School is poised to offer an optimal learning environment for students from diverse backgrounds.

MEC Majuba echoed the sentiments of gratitude, acknowledging the historic significance of providing equal educational opportunities as envisioned in the Freedom Charter.

He indicated that the inauguration of Mogalitwa Primary School symbolises the realisation of this fundamental right, wherein children from all walks of life can access quality education in modern facilities.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane reaffirmed the government's dedication to educational excellence, emphasising the proactive measures taken in response to the school's relocation.

The construction of additional classrooms and amenities underscores the administration's commitment to fostering an environment conducive to effective teaching and learning.

As Mpumalanga continues its journey towards progress and development, these initiatives spearheaded by Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane serve as pillars of hope, promising a brighter future for the province and its residents.

# PROTECTION OF SCHOOLGIRLS URGED AMID RISING RAPE CASES



**Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane and Mpumalanga Department of Education MEC Bonakele Majuba, Khoi-San traditional leaders and a Representative from the Department of Correctional Services after planting a tree at Mogalitwa Primary School during handover. Photo: Nothando Makhubela.**

By *Nothando Makhubela*

**Emalahleni, Mpumalanga** - Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane has issued a heartfelt plea to teachers and the community to prioritize the safety and well-being of young girls in schools amid a concerning surge in cases of rape involving schoolgirls.

The Premier's impassioned call to action came during the official handover ceremony of Mogalitwa Primary School in Klarinet on Thursday, April 25th.

The event marked a significant milestone for learners who previously conducted their studies outdoors, under trees.

The newly constructed school, with a capacity to accommodate over 2000 students, was completed at a cost of R48 million, aiming to provide a conducive learning environment for the 1200 current learners.

The handover ceremony witnessed the presence of Mpumalanga's Department of Education MEC Bonakele Majuba, Khoi-San traditional leaders, representatives from the Department of Correctional Services, and community members.

"As the government of the ANC, we cannot turn a blind eye to the ongoing rape of young girls in schools.

Our innocent young girls are being subjected to situations they should never encounter," stated Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane.

"This heartbreaking trend not only harms our young girls but also damages their futures.

We urge school principals, as pillars of strength (imbokodo), to ensure the safety of our girls within the school premises.

This is a grave concern that weighs heavily on us as leaders," she emphasised.

The Premier underscored the gravity of the situation, highlighting the need for collective action to safeguard young girls in educational institutions.

"Every parent sends their child to school with the expectation of education, not to become a wife," she added.

Emalahleni Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Leah Mabuza, expressed excitement about the school's completion, and stressed its significance in restoring dignity to Black African children who had long endured education under inadequate conditions.

As Mpumalanga grapples with the distressing rise in rape incidents involving schoolgirls, the Premier's call serves as a clarion call for concerted efforts to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable learners within the educational system.

# TRAGIC HEAD-ON COLLISION ON N4 TOLL ROAD – FOUR LIVES LOST



**Car crash claimed four lives in Belfast. The fatal collision occurred on Saturday night, April 27, on the N4 toll road in Wonderfontein near Belfast. Photo: Supplied.**

*By Nothando Makhubela*

**Belfast, Mpumalanga** - In a tragic turn of events, the N4 toll road near Belfast in Mpumalanga became the scene of a devastating head-on collision between a Volkswagen Polo and a Chevrolet light delivery vehicle, resulting in the loss of four lives and leaving several others seriously injured.

The incident has prompted an urgent plea from Acting MEC Busisiwe Shiba of the Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security, and Liaison department, urging motorists to adhere strictly to road rules to prevent further deadly crashes.

The fatal collision occurred on Saturday night, April 27, on the N4 toll road in Wonderfontein near Belfast.

According to Moeti Mmusi, spokesperson for Community Safety, Security, and Liaison, the collision claimed the lives of three males and one female, all of whom perished at the scene.

Additionally, three individuals sustained serious injuries, with two occupants of the LMV and one from the LDV currently receiving treatment at a nearby hospital in Belfast.

While the exact cause of the crash remains under investigation, preliminary reports suggest that one of the drivers may have lost control of their vehicle, veering

off the road and colliding with the oncoming vehicle.

The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident is already underway.

In response to the collision, Acting MEC Busisiwe Shiba emphasised the critical importance of road safety measures and responsible driving practices.

"Motorists must always obey the rules," stated MEC Shiba, attributing many crashes to the attitude of drivers.

"Most of the crashes are avoidable, and mainly they are caused by the attitude of most motorists," she added.

MEC Shiba's plea serves as a stark reminder of the need for vigilance and adherence to road regulations to mitigate the risk of accidents on Mpumalanga's roads.

"Obeying the rules is a key and non-negotiable requirement for every person who drives on our roads," she reiterated, underscoring the collective responsibility to ensure road safety for all.

As investigations into the tragic collision continue, the Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security, and Liaison department urge motorists to exercise caution, remain alert, and prioritise adherence to road rules to prevent further loss of life on the province's roads.

*By Nothando Makhubela*

**Kwa-Mhlanga, Mpumalanga** - Lucas Nkuna, the head of Kwa-Thando Care Centre, underscored the necessity for parents and community members to closely monitor children in their early developmental stages for potential signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

At an awareness campaign held at Kwathando Care Centre Sun City A in KwaMhlanga on Thursday, last week, Nkuna emphasised the critical role of early detection and intervention for children with autism.

The event drew participation from officials of the Department of Social Development, Zenzeleni Primary School, Thembisile Hani Fire and Rescue, along with numerous community members. Nkuna stressed the importance of parents

observing children as young as three years old for any deviations from typical behaviour.

Seeking professional assistance and guidance at the earliest indications of abnormal behaviour can mitigate the progression of the child's condition.

"We advise parents and other community members to observe these children in their early stages (3 years) and consult professionals for assistance and advice if their behaviour deviates from the norm, to prevent the condition from worsening," Nkuna stated.

The campaign organised by Kwa-Thando Care Centre aimed to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and educate KwaMhlanga community members about this developmental disability stemming from brain differences.

# PHOLA/OGIES RESIDENTS DEMAND IMPROVED SERVICES

*By Nothando Makhubela*

**Phola/Ogies** – Frustrated residents of Phola/Ogies in Emalahleni made their voices heard during a presentation of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) budget by the Mayor, Cllr Leah Mabuza at Masakhane sport grounds on Saturday.

The event, attended by various municipal officials and community members, turned into a platform for residents to air their grievances regarding neglect and inadequate service delivery.

Residents expressed concerns over what they perceive as a disparity in resource allocation, accusing the municipality of favouring youth and businesses in Emalahleni at the expense of Phola/Ogies.

"We've been overlooked for too long. It's time the municipality starts investing in our community and providing opportunities for our youth," remarked one resident.

In addition to economic concerns, residents highlighted the dire state of essential services in the area.

"For almost a decade, we've been dealing with overflowing and blocked toilets. Our children's safety is at risk, and it's unacceptable," said Gladys Xosana, a resident from Nkanini.

"We've been complaining for years, but

Sibongile Nkuna echoed similar sentiments, emphasising the lack of job opportunities and allegations of nepotism in hiring practices.

"We're unemployed and desperate for opportunities. But instead of fairness, we see jobs going to friends and family of councillors," lamented Nkuna.

In response, Mayor Mabuza acknowledged the municipality's financial challenges but urged residents to participate in the budget process.

"We welcome community feedback on the budget. However, we also face financial constraints, partly due to unpaid services," explained Mayor Mabuza.

Despite the mayor's assurances, residents remained sceptical and called for tangible action.

"It's heartbreaking to hear empty promises from the mayor. How long must we suffer while unemployment remains rampant?" questioned Nkuna.

The emotional exchanges underscored the urgent need for improved services and inclusive development in Phola/Ogies.

As residents continue to demand accountability, the spotlight remains on the Emalahleni Local Municipality to address their concerns and prioritise the well-being of all communities.

nothing changes. We're tired of empty promises," she added.

# LUCAS NKUNA ADVOCATES EARLY AUTISM DETECTION



**Kwa-Thando Care Centre community celebrating Autism awareness campaign. Photo: Supplied.**

Nkuna highlighted the challenges posed by autism, particularly the stigma and discrimination individuals with the condition face within the community.

He addressed misconceptions surrounding the care center, emphasising its role in providing support and activities to improve the lives of families and children with disabilities.

"Through education and advocacy, we aim to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals with disabilities.

The center ensures that families and children with disabilities have a dedicated space and access to activities aimed at their improvement," Nkuna added. He also outlined the financial constraints faced by the center, citing the lack of funds to employ professionals such as physiotherapists, social workers, and

psychologists.

Currently, the center relies on funding from the Department of Social Development and care fees from parents.

Beauty Teme from Thembisile Hani Municipality elaborated on the significance of the Freedom Charter concerning persons with disabilities.

The event was further enriched with engaging activities, including demonstrations by Thembisile Hani Fire & Rescue, which captivated the audience.

By advocating for early detection and intervention, Kwa-Thando Care Centre seeks to address the challenges faced by individuals with autism and promote a more inclusive society.

# A BEACON OF HOPE: "I WRITE WHAT I LIKE" BY STEVE BIKO

By Duncan Mnisi

"I Write What I Like," a profound compilation of writings, interviews, and trial transcripts by the iconic activist Steve Biko, serves as both a historical testament and a beacon of hope for those yearning for equality and justice.

Biko, a visionary leader of the Black Consciousness Movement in apartheid-era South Africa, fearlessly exposes the brutal reality of racial oppression while igniting the flames of resistance and self-discovery.

The book's structure, meticulously divided into 19 parts, provides a comprehensive exploration of Biko's life, ideas, and the struggle against apartheid.

Beginning with a poignant introduction that sets the stage for Biko's journey, each chapter delves into different facets of his activism, from the founding of the South African Students' Organization (SASO) to the impassioned advocacy for Black pride and unity.

Biko's writings resonate with unwavering determination as he challenges the psychological chains of apartheid and calls for a revolution of consciousness among

Black South Africans.

His emphasis on the importance of Black pride and unity reverberates throughout the book, serving as a rallying cry for emancipation and empowerment.

What distinguishes "I Write What I Like" is its ability to transcend mere historical documentation; it is a timeless manifesto that continues to inspire generations.

Biko's insights into the significance of Black consciousness reverberate beyond the confines of apartheid-era South Africa, offering invaluable lessons for those fighting against oppression worldwide.

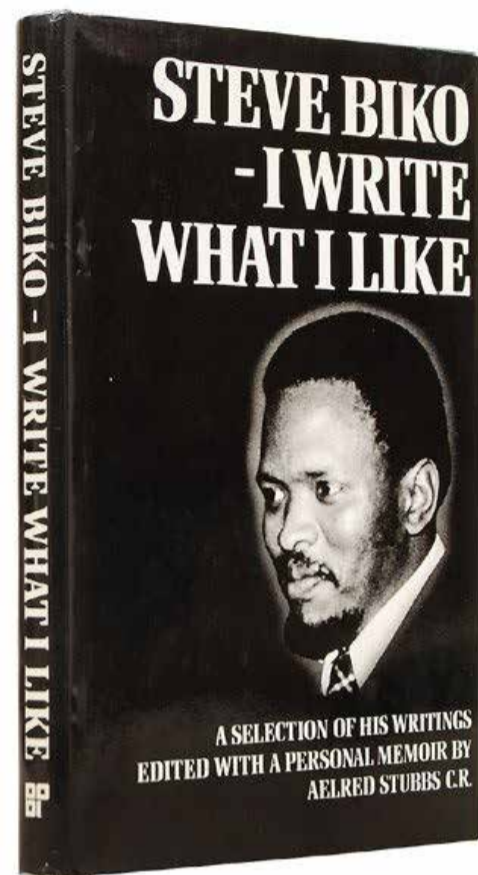
The book not only sheds light on Biko's remarkable life but also serves as a mirror for readers to confront their own prejudices and initiate meaningful change.

Biko's words, infused with passion and precision of vision, remind us that the truest liberation comes from the unity of the oppressed and the unwavering commitment to breaking the shackles of oppression.

In conclusion, "I Write What I Like" stands as a literary gem that not only captures the essence of Biko's

revolutionary spirit but also serves as a guiding light for all who seek truth, justice, and freedom.

It is a testament to the enduring legacy of Steve Biko and a reminder that, even in the darkest of times, the power of the human spirit to resist and transcend prevails.



**I Write What I Like, is a profound compilation of writings, interviews, and trial transcripts by the iconic activist Steve Biko. Photo: Supplied.**



**Freedom fighter and a political activist, Steve Biko the writer of I Write What I Like. Photo: Supplied.**

# NOCHILL VODCAST: INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION WITH INNOVATIVE LEADERS

By Duncan Mnisi

"NoChill Vodcast," hosted by the renowned author, influencer, and comedian Ndivhuwo Muhanelwa, aka "NoChill God," is a podcast that transcends entertainment to delve into the realm of innovative leaders shaping young minds.

Muhanelwa, whose comedic content on Facebook initially catapulted him into the limelight, seamlessly transitions into the world of

podcasting, offering listeners a platform to explore thought-provoking discussions inspired by his book, "The Influencers Code."

At the heart of "NoChill Vodcast" is a mission to spotlight trailblazing leaders who are making a tangible impact on the future generation.

The podcast serves as a beacon for those seeking inspiration and guidance from individuals who dare to push boundaries and ignite curiosity in young minds.

A standout episode is the recent interview with Junior Khoza, a groundbreaking leader dedicated to empowering youth.

Khoza's insights on fostering creativity and curiosity resonate deeply, leaving a lasting impression on listeners. Muhanelwa's dynamic interviewing style adds an extra layer of depth, as he skillfully

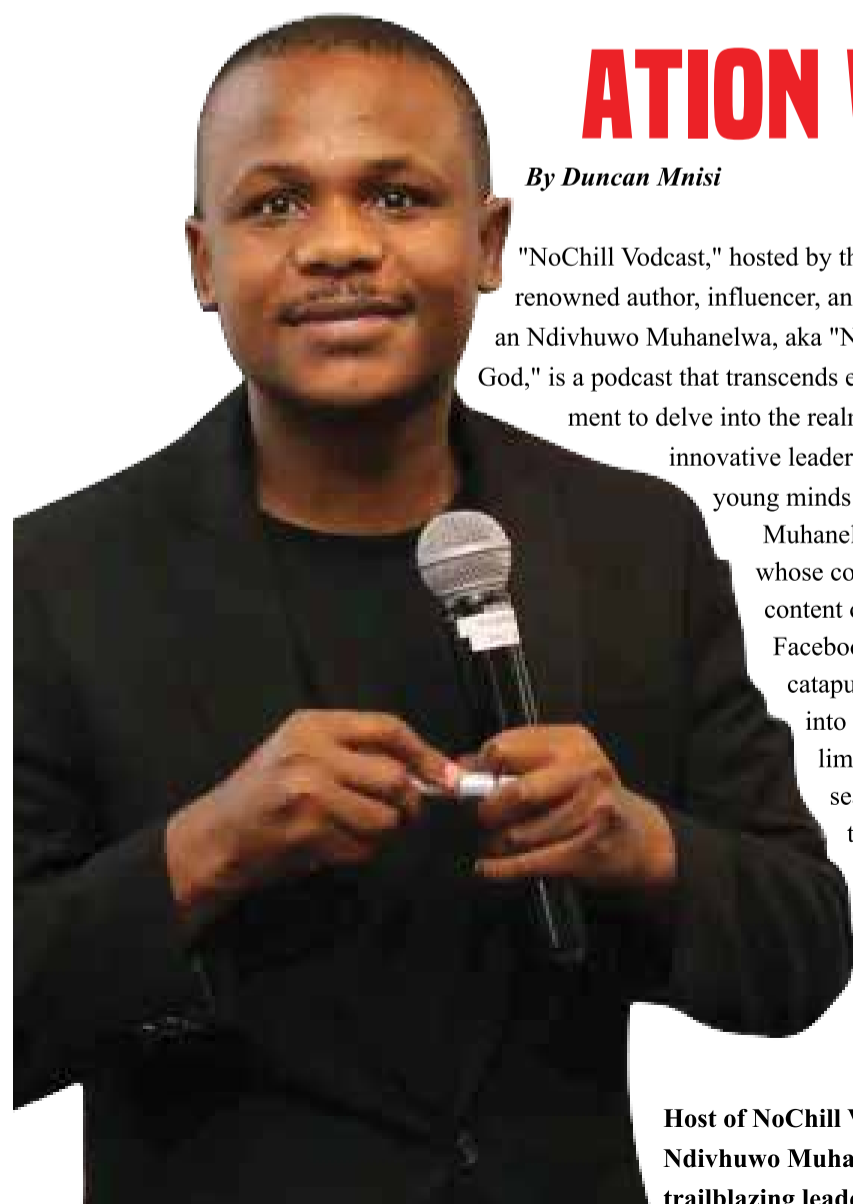
navigates thought-provoking questions that challenge conventional thinking and promote critical discourse.

What sets "NoChill Vodcast" apart is its diverse lineup of guests, ranging from tech entrepreneurs to social activists.

Each episode offers a unique perspective on how these leaders are shaping the minds of tomorrow, providing listeners with a rich tapestry of insights and inspiration.

In conclusion, "NoChill Vodcast" is an essential listen for anyone passionate about the future generation and the pivotal role of innovative leaders in shaping young minds.

Tune in to gain valuable insights and motivation from the trailblazers who are paving the way for the next generation of changemakers.



**Host of NoChill Vodcast who is also an influencer and comedian Ndivhuwo Muhanelwa, aka NoChill God on a mission to spotlight trailblazing leaders. Photo: Supplied.**

# TIMELESS SPORT

## ERASMUS MAPS SPRINGBOKS' PATH LEADERSHIP, TALENT INTEGRATION, AND WORLD CUP ASPIRATIONS



Siya Kolisi, two-time Rugby World Cup winning captain. Photo: X (Twitter).

By Staff Reporter

**Potchefstroom, North West** - In a press conference held on Thursday, Rassie Erasmus, the esteemed head coach of the Springboks, addressed a myriad of topics ranging from leadership decisions to the team's aspirations for the future. Fresh from receiving an honorary doctorate from North-West University, Erasmus engaged with the media, providing insights into the team's upcoming tests, integration of young talent, and ambitions for a World Cup hat-trick.

One of the focal points of the discussion was the speculation surrounding Siya Kolisi's future as the team's captain. Erasmus elucidated that Kolisi's continuity in the leadership role hinges upon his availability for training camps and the support he receives from his French club, Racing 92. This clarification lays to rest lingering doubts and underscores the importance

of stability in leadership for the Springboks.

As the team gears up to face Wales, Ireland, and Portugal in upcoming matches, Erasmus hinted at a nuanced approach to leadership decisions.

With the first game against Wales falling outside the international window, a separate captaincy decision will be made for that specific test.

Erasmus assured that the leadership role for this match will be meticulously deliberated, taking into account various factors such as player availability and form. Erasmus also stressed the imperative of integrating young talent into the Springboks' squad.

Despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, he underscored the need for renewal as the team embarks on the next World Cup cycle.

This commitment to nurturing emerging talent reflects the Springboks' proactive stance towards building a

sustainable future for South African rugby.

Addressing concerns about the team's front-row depth, Erasmus exuded confidence in the squad's capabilities.

Despite potential absences, he highlighted the inclusion of Sampie Swiegers from the Pumas in the virtual alignment camp.

Moreover, with the possibility of players from various franchises participating in the United Rugby Championship play-offs, the Springboks remain well-positioned to navigate any challenges.

Looking ahead to the 2027 World Cup, Erasmus articulated the team's lofty ambition of securing a third consecutive title. However, he cautioned against underestimating the competition, particularly in light of recent coaching appointments in Australia and New Zealand. Erasmus's astute assessment underscores the Springboks' unwavering

determination to cement their status as a rugby powerhouse on the global stage.

Lastly, Erasmus addressed concerns regarding the team's match strategies in the wake of the "Chasing the Sun 2" documentary.

He assured fans that while the documentary offered insights into the team's inner workings, strategic adjustments would be made to maintain their competitive edge.

This commitment to safeguarding proprietary strategies underscores the Springboks' meticulous approach to preparation and execution.

In sum, Rassie Erasmus's remarks offer a comprehensive glimpse into the Springboks' strategic vision, blending short-term imperatives with long-term ambitions.

As the team navigates leadership transitions, talent integration, and the pursuit of World Cup glory, Erasmus's steady guidance serves as a beacon of hope for South African rugby enthusiasts worldwide.