

TIMELESS

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NEWS

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MATHABATHA RESIGNS AS LIMPOPO ANC PROVINCIAL CHAIR AMID ETHICAL CONCERNS



Stanley Mathabatha resigns as Limpopo ANC provincial chair amid ethical concerns, signaling a critical juncture for the party's future. Credits: Inside Out News (X)

By Duncan Mnisi

Limpopo – In a significant development that has shaken Limpopo's political landscape, Premier Stanley Mathabatha has resigned with immediate effect as the ANC provincial chairperson.

The move follows mounting allegations of misconduct and internal conflicts that have cast a shadow over the party's integrity in the province.

Mathabatha, a veteran ANC leader, cited concerns over widespread unethical behavior and the erosion of organizational values as key reasons for his departure.

In a letter dated September 1, addressed to ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula, he expressed disapproval of recent conduct within the party's provincial structures, particularly during regional conferences in Vhembe and Waterberg.

The recent leadership elections in these regions have further heightened tensions, with newly elected leaders assuming office amid controversy.

Reiterating his commitment to transparency and accountability, Mathabatha stated: "This decision is driven by concerns over misconduct and the erosion of ANC values observed within the organization, especially during regional conferences."

Despite stepping down, he assured that

he remains open to dialogue and will continue cooperating with national party authorities.

The political atmosphere in Limpopo is now tense, with uncertainty mounting ahead of the 2026 local government elections.

The resignation of such a prominent figure raises questions about the ANC's stability and future trajectory in the region.

Meanwhile, the party's national leadership is closely monitoring developments.

Several local officials, including Polokwane Mayor John Mpe, are under investigation for alleged irregularities in tender processes and accusations of political patronage. These issues have intensified debates about governance standards and ethical conduct within the ruling party.

As Mathabatha steps back from his provincial role, political analysts view this as a potentially pivotal moment for the ANC in Limpopo.

It could prompt internal reflection and a renewed focus on integrity ahead of the upcoming electoral cycle. For now, the party faces the challenge of restoring public trust and fostering unity amid ongoing investigations and political turbulence.

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NORTH WEST POLICE NET OVER 1 200 SUSPECTS IN CRIME CRACKDOWN



Photo credit: SAPS Facebook

By Buchule Putini

The police in the North West have hit back hard at criminals, arresting more than 1 200 suspects in just one week as part of their intensified Operation Shanela 2.

Between August 25 and 31, law enforcement swept through all five districts, targeting everything from murder and rape to drug dealing, illegal mining, and armed robberies.

“Our detectives were relentless this week, tracking down suspects on our wanted lists and ensuring that those who think they are above the law are brought to justice,” said the SAPS.

Out of the total arrests, 460 suspects were already wanted by the police, while 20 undocumented foreign nationals were detained for violating the Immigration Act.

The operations also tackled crime hotspots. “We are shutting down illegal shebeens and cracking down on illicit trading because these are often breeding grounds for violent crime,” the SAPS added.

During the week, 13 illegal liquor outlets

were closed, and authorities confiscated large quantities of liquor, 25 stolen cellphones, copper cables, seven firearms, 303 rounds of ammunition, precious metals, and tobacco products.

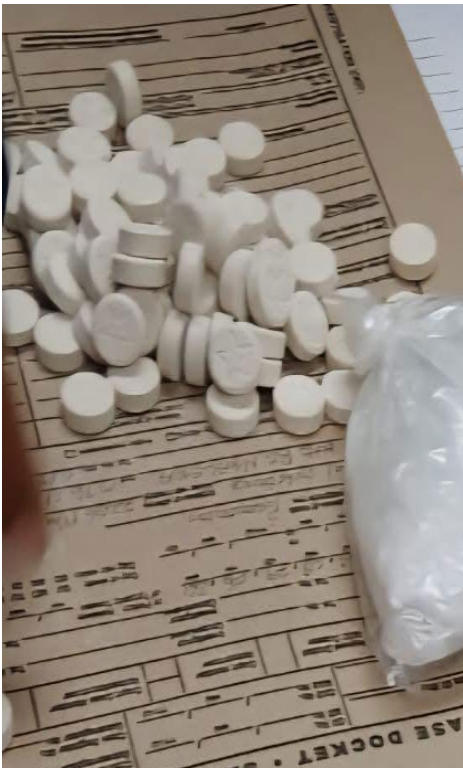
In the fight against illegal mining, police teamed up with the Hawks (DPCI) and the Department of Mineral Resources. “Illegal mining destroys communities, endangers lives, and robs the country of its resources. We will not tolerate it,” said the police statement.

At Bapong, near Mooinooi, authorities confiscated heavy machinery, including an abandoned excavator, two generators, and jackhammers used in illicit mining operations.

Provincial authorities say these efforts are part of a broader strategy to “stamp out crime and reclaim our communities from syndicates, gangs, and illegal operators.”

But the real test, as many residents will tell you, is whether these arrests and confiscations will translate into safer streets and lasting change for the people of North West.

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Operation Shanela arrests 1200 criminals

PODCAST EXPOSES SOUTH AFRICA’S CORRUPTION CRISIS :

“DRUG MONEY FUNDS POLITICS”



A forensic look by Thabang Bogopa into the nexus of drug money, politics, and police shortcomings threatening South Africa’s stability. Credits: King David Studio’s Podcast (YouTube)

By Duncan Mnisi

Podcast Review: In recent episodes of King David Studio’s hard-hitting podcast series, hosted by King David Mashabela, a startling narrative has emerged—one that exposes the deep-rooted issues of corruption, organized crime, and police failures plaguing South Africa.

The series features insights from experts such as Thabang Bogopa, a renowned crime analyst, who sheds light on how illicit funds—particularly drug money—flow into political systems and undermine governance.

Bogopa stresses that organized crime extends far beyond street-level drug deals; it’s a sophisticated network that channels illegal proceeds into political campaigns and public institutions.

“Drug money funds politics,” he asserts, revealing a complex web where criminal enterprises shape policy decisions, often with devastating consequences for society. Listeners have responded with a mix of shock and reflection.

One viewer commented: “Many people are surprised by this man’s knowledge. The truth is, there are low-ranking police officials with the same understanding, yet they are helpless due to politics and corruption.

It frustrates me to see how this chain of corruption continues unchecked.”

Another listener added: “What Thabang said makes sense. It’s a cycle that’s hard to break, and it’s affecting ordinary citizens the most.”

Bogopa also highlights the alarming state of policing in South Africa. The lack of proper training and accountability among police officials only fuels the problem, allowing organized crime to thrive.

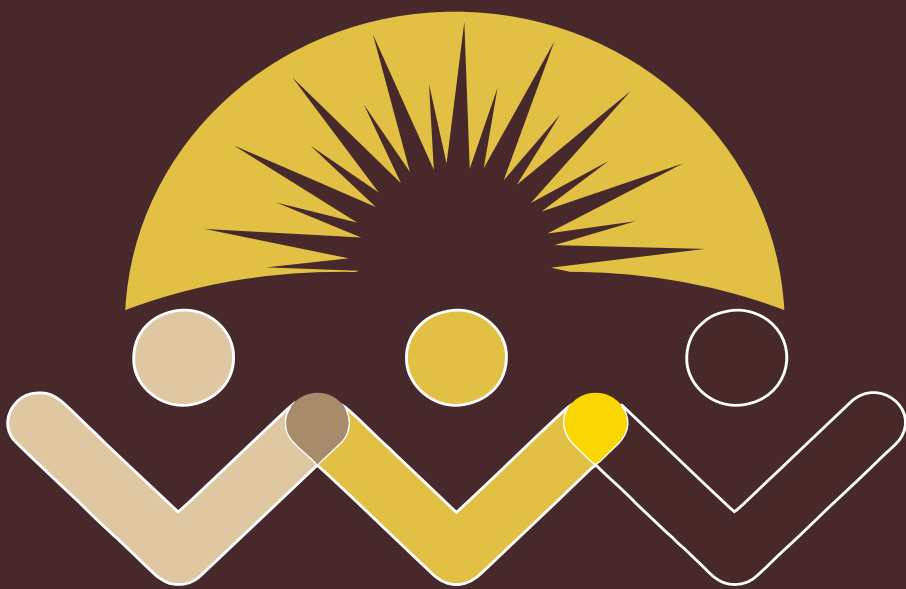
Even the most sober-minded experts agree that the grip of organized crime on the country demands urgent national attention.

The episode has been widely praised for its clarity and honesty. One reviewer noted: “Such a sober and clear-minded man. This was a refreshing two hours of pure intellectual and knowledgeable insight.”

As South Africa grapples with these intertwined crises, the series issues a powerful call: demand transparency, strengthen law enforcement, and dismantle the corrupt networks threatening the nation’s future.

The conversation is ongoing, but the message is clear—exposing these truths is the first step toward meaningful change.

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TAKING THE LEGISLATURE — TO THE — PEOPLE



Ms Makhosazane Masilela
Speaker of the Mpumalanga
Provincial Legislature

The Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela invites community members of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, in the Ehlanzeni District to take part in the Taking Legislature to the People (TLP), which serves as a platform for members of the public to directly interact with both the Legislature and government, as part of meaningful oversight and public involvement.

Date: 15 – 19 September 2025

Time: 09h00

Venue: Ximhungwe Sports Field, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

The TLP programme will also include oversight visits by various Legislature Committees to community projects around the municipality to ascertain if they are being accordingly implemented as per the plans and allocated budgets by government. There will also be public hearings and stakeholder engagements where-in community members will be given an opportunity to raise issues affecting them, with the Legislature and government.

The Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu will deliver the closing address on Friday, the 19th of September 2025 at the main venue, Ximhungwe Sports Field, Bushbuckridge at 10 in the morning.

“Making follow up on government commitments”

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DSD SPOKESPERSON LUMKA OLIPHANT LAMBASTS MINISTER OVER SUSPENSION



Social Development (DSD) spokesperson Lumka Oliphant has launched a attack on Minister Sisisi Tolashe after being served with a suspension letter. Picture credit: Times Live Premier

By Buchule Putini

www.timelessnews.co.za

However, Forster Mohale, spokesperson for the National Department of Health, said there was neither political motive nor a publicity stunt associated with the minister's recent actions at St Ritas Hospital. "Minister Dr Motsoaledi was inundated with

Thabani Buthelezi, Zanele Simmons, Osborne Masilela, are a case in particular. The very person who is now acting Chief of Staff is a niece to Kgatla and even lied in her CV that she used to volunteer for the late Hlengiwe Mkhize.

See Facebook post below:



Work goes on at ST Ritas Hospital, Limpopo but nurses say the wounds caused by health minister through a Facebook stunt are still open. Picture Credit: Montsho Matlala



Emalahleni
Local Municipality
Public Notice

ADOPTED 2026/2027 INTERGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN/ BUDGET AND 2025/2026 PERFOMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROCESS PLAN.	AANGENEEMDE GEINTEGREERDE ONTWIKKELSPAN (GOP), BEGROTING VIR 2026/2027, EN PRESTASIEBESTUURSPLAN VIR DIE 2025/2026 FINANSIËLE JAAR.	LENANEO LE AMOGETŠWEGO YA TLHAKNELO, TLHABOLOGO LE PEAKANO YA MASEPALA (IDP) 2026/2027, TEKATEKANYETŠO YA DITŠHELETE (BUDGET) LE PHETHAGATŠO YA TAOLO GO YA KA LENANEO (PMS) 2025/2026	UKWAMUKELWA KOHLELO OLUZOLANDELWA UMA KUHLANGANISWA UMQULU WENTUTHUKO NGONYAKA KA 2026/2027 EDIDIYELWE NOHLELO LOKUSETSHENZISWA KWEZIMALI NOKUPHUNYELELISWA KWEMISEBENZI EHLELIWE YONYAKA KA 2025/2026
<p>Notice is hereby given in terms of section 28(2) of the Municipal Systems Act (2000) that the Council adopted Integrated Development Plan/Budget and Performance Management System Process Plan for eMalahleni Local Municipality will be available for public perusal as from Friday, 05 September 2025. It will be available for perusal at the following points during office hours:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Civic Centre, Cnr. Mandela Street & Arras Street.2. Witbank Library, Hofmeyer Street.3. Klipfontein Library.4. Lynnville Library, Hector Way.5. Kwa-Guqa Extension 14, Library.6. Ogies Office-No.1 Main Road (Old Primary School).7. GA-Nala offices-Quinten Street.8. Phola Municipal Office.9. Municipal website: www.emalahleni.gov.za <p>Contact Person: N. Mtshabe/ M.P. Maphutha Tel: 013-690 6731/0136906543</p>	<p>Kennis geskied hiermee ingevolge artikel 28(2) van die Wet op Plaaslike Regering: Munisipale Stelselwet (2000), Wet 32 van 2000, soos gewysig, dat die Raad die Geïntegreerde Ontwikkelingsplan (GOP), die Begroting 2026/2027, en Prestasiebestuursplan vir die 2025/2026 Finansiële Jaar, goedgekeur en aangeneem het, en ter insae sal wees vanaf Vrydag ,5 September 2025 by die volgende lokale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Burgersentrum, h/v Mandela- en Arrasstraat.2. Witbank Biblioteek, Hofmeyerstraat.3. Lynnville Biblioteek, Hectorweg, Lynnville.4. Kwa-Guqa Uitbreiding 14 Biblioteek.5. Klipfontein Biblioteek.6. Ogies Kantore, Mainweg 1, (Ou Laerskool).7. Ga-Nala Kantore, Quintenstraat.8. Phola Munisipale Kantore.9. Munisipale webtuiste: www.emalahleni.gov.za <p>Kontak Persone: N. Mtshabe / M.P. Maphutha Telefoon nommer: 013-690 6731</p>	<p>Tsebišo e a begwa go ya ka karolo yabo 28(2) ya molao wa lenaneo la Masepala la 2000 (Municipal System Act,2000) gore lenaneo la thlakanelo, thlabologo le peakanyo ya Masepala (IDP)2026/2027, tekatekanyetšo ya ditšhelete (budget) le phethagatšo ya taolo go ya ka lenaneo (PMS) 2025/2026.Masepala wa selegae wa eMalahleni o tsebiša setshaba tsebišo ye amogetšwego ke lekgotla taolo la Masepala. Tokomane e hwetšwa mafelong a latelago ka nako ya mošomo go tloga ka Labohlano, 05 Kgwedi ya Senyane 2025.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Civic Centre, Cnr. Mandela Street & Arras Street.2. Witbank Library, Hofmeyer Street.3. Klipfontein Library.4. Lynnville Library, Hector Way..5. Kwa-Guqa Extension 14, Library.6. Ogies Office-No.1 Main Road (Old Primary School).7. Ga-Nala offices-Quinten Street.8. Phola Municipal Office.9. Municipal website: www.emalahleni.gov.za <p>Mokgokaganyi: N. Mtshabe / M.P. Maphutha Mogale: 013-690 6731 / 0136906543</p>	<p>Lesisaziso sishicilelwe ngokulandela umugomo wesigaba 28(2) womthetho olawula ukusebenza koMasipala.UMphakathi uyaziswa ukuthi uMkhandlu wemukela uhlelo oluzolandelwa uma kuhlanganiswa umqulu wentuthuko edidiyelwe; uhlelo mali kanye nokuphunyeleliswa kwezimali lonyaka ka 2025 kuya ku 2026.</p> <p>Lolu hlelo luyosatshalaliswa kusukela ngomhlaka 05 uMandulo 2025 kulezinzindawo ezilandelayo ngezansi ukuze umphakathi ukwazi ukulucwaninga ngamahora ukusebenza:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Civic Centre, Cnr. Mandela Street & Arras Street2. Witbank Library, Hofmeyer Street3. Klipfontein Library4. Lynnville Library, Hector Way5. Kwa-Guqa Extension 14, Library6. Ogies Office-No.1 Main Road (Old Primary School)7. GA-Nala offices-Quinten Street8. Phola Municipal Office9. Municipal website: www.emalahleni.gov.za <p>Ningaxhumana no N. Mtshabe / M.P. Maphutha Kwinombolo: 013- 690 6731 / 0136906543</p>

KZN POLITICAL KILLINGS DOCKETS SURFACE IN COURT AMID POWER STRUGGLES



Court battles in Pretoria expose ongoing power struggles over police dockets related to KwaZulu-Natal's political violence, as Major-General Sibiya challenges his suspension.
Credits: Knysna-Plett Herald

By Duncan Mnisi

Pretoria, Gauteng - The controversy over the handling of police investigation files linked to political violence in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has taken a new turn in Pretoria's North Gauteng High Court. Major-General Shadrack Sibiya, who was suspended from his position, is challenging his suspension and the fate of the sensitive dockets.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) confirmed that the original 121 dockets, which contain details of multiple murder cases and other serious crimes, remain with the KZN Political Killings Task Team. Copies of these files will be provided to the Madlanga Commission, tasked with investigating political violence in the province, to aid its inquiries.

The case has drawn attention because of allegations by KZN Police Commissioner Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, who accused Sibiya of unlawfully disbanding the task team and removing the dockets. Sibiya's lawyer argued in court that his client cannot decide what happens to the files, as he is currently suspended and outside operational duties.

Meanwhile, Sibiya has agreed to appear before Parliament's Ad Hoc Committee next week on Wednesday, which is probing claims of police interference and corruption involving the disbandment of the task team. He expressed readiness to speak publicly at the appropriate time. The dispute has centered on whether the dockets, which include evidence related to 107 murder cases, should be handed over entirely to the commission or kept intact with SAPS. Critics, including political figures like President Cyril Ramaphosa and acting Police Minister Firoz Cachalia, argued that the files should remain with the Madlanga Commission to ensure justice.

Supporters of the police say the files have a proven track record, with investigations resulting in numerous convictions since 2018, including high-profile political killings. They emphasize the importance of continuing these investigations without delay.

The court proceedings highlight the ongoing power struggle within the police force and the political landscape of KZN. As the legal process unfolds, all parties agree on one thing: the need for justice and accountability in addressing political violence in the region.

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PROGRESS ACCELERATES AT AMERSFOORT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Newly appointed deputy chief justice of South Africa Dunstan Mlambo



Progress at Amersfoort Wastewater Treatment Plant Nears Completion, Promising Improved Sanitation for 6,000 Households Credits: COGTA Mpumalanga

By Duncan Mnisi

Amersfoort, Mpumalanga – A R67 million infrastructure project in Amersfoort is nearing completion, marking a major step forward in water and sanitation services for the Volksrust area. The Amersfoort Wastewater Treatment

Works, now 95% complete, is expected to be fully operational by September 2025 and will serve approximately 6,000 households.

The project, spearheaded by the Mpumalanga Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), recently

NRCS CONFISCATES NON-COMPLIANT GOODS



Officials entered the shops unannounced and after brief introductions start searching for targeted products.
Picture credit: Montsho Matlala

By Montsho Matlala

Polokwane – Goods worth millions of rands were confiscated in recent raids led by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) at shops in Polokwane and Lebowakgomo, Limpopo.

During the unannounced visits, police, SARS and customs officials joined NRCS inspectors to check goods for compliance with compulsory specifications, aiming to protect consumers from potential hazards.

According to NRCS operations manager Thabo Mabena, who led the raids, goods seized over the two-day blitz are estimated at R3 million.

“Products such as electric fans, hair dryers, lamps, plastic bags, mats, and tissue paper were found not to meet compulsory specifications. Items in the food and associated industries, such as canned meat and fishery products, were also inspected. Many were not coded, and some had already expired,” said Mabena.

He added that toilet paper, for example, must contain a minimum of 500 sheets, but the confiscated ones fell far short of this requirement.

During the operation, one Polokwane businessman attempted to destroy plastic water-heating buckets that carried no written instructions or safety specifications.

Inspectors warned him sternly before continuing with the confiscation of goods and issuing the necessary documentation.

came under scrutiny when MEC Speed Mashilo conducted a surprise inspection. His visit formed part of the three-day Provincial Executive Council Outreach Programme (EXCO), aimed at assessing progress, ensuring responsible use of funds, and reinforcing accountability to communities.

Cllr. Teboho Hlakutse, MMC for Technical and Infrastructure Services, welcomed the development, noting its impact on public health and dignity. “Residents will finally have access to proper sanitation facilities without health risks.

This restores their dignity,” he said, pointing out that the new system replaces unsafe septic tanks that previously served the area. MEC Mashilo emphasized the upgrade's significance for sustainable service delivery. “The upgrade is crucial for reliable water and sanitation services.

I am pleased with the progress and confident it will be completed on time,” he stated, commending the cooperative effort

Not everyone welcomed the raids.

A young shop worker in Polokwane expressed concern about losing her job:

“I am disgusted by the conduct of one female inspector. She is arrogant and looks down on us because she thinks she is powerful and educated. You must know that when you take away these goods, you are destroying our jobs.”

A male inspector responded: “My sister, you have a right to be upset, but this exercise is to protect you and the people of South Africa from being exploited. If you buy a fake or substandard product that malfunctions within days, it could explode and cause serious injuries, fatalities, or fires. Non-compliant food products could also become poisonous.”

The worker nodded silently in response.

Shop owners whose goods were confiscated have 120 days to rectify the offences or face forfeiture.

“If the problem cannot be corrected, a technical committee will decide whether the goods should be destroyed or sent back to their countries of origin. Repeat offenders could also be named and shamed,” Mabena explained.

The NRCS, an agency of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, conducts similar raids nationwide based on intelligence reports about non-compliant products.

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Goods found not in compliant with standards are confiscated and if unclaimed will be destroyed. Picture credit: Montsho Matlala

between stakeholders.

The outreach programme continues this week, with MEC Mashilo scheduled to visit an informal settlement upgrading project, where 50 land titles will be handed over to beneficiaries. Stakeholder engagement sessions will also take place at Vukuzakhe A and B.

Acting CoGHSTA Head Sam Ngubane highlighted the importance of skilled personnel to manage the facilities effectively, adding that despite early delays, the project has achieved significant momentum.

On Friday, Premier Mandla Ndlovu and the Executive Council are expected to meet with local communities to discuss service delivery and strengthen public participation.

The progress at Amersfoort stands as a clear example of government's ongoing commitment to improving infrastructure and community well-being across the province.

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LTA CHAMPIONS LOCAL TOURISM AT SPRING CAMPAIGN LAUNCH



Mr. Moses Ngobeni, CEO of the Limpopo Tourism Agency, highlighted innovative tourism initiatives at the 2025 Spring Campaign launch, affirming the agency's commitment to sustainable growth and community-driven projects in Limpopo. Picture Credit: Timeless News

By Thulane Madalane

Jane Furse: The importance of tourism in bolstering local economies took center stage during the launch of the 2025 Spring Campaign, held at the beautiful TT Lifestyle venue. The event was led by the Makhuthathamaga Local Municipality, represented by Acting Mayor Councillor Rankwe, and was a fruitful collaboration between the Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) and the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism (LEDET) department. Emphasizing a series of exciting activities scheduled for Tourism Month, LTA Chairperson Mr. Andrew Dipela delivered a keynote address on behalf of MEC Mr. Tshitereke Matibe. He highlighted the campaign's goal, stating, "We aim to drive tourism while actively engaging and empowering our communities. Tourism is a vital pillar of our economy, and these initiatives reflect our commitment to sustainable growth." Notably, Dipela also shared the exciting news of LTA receiving a

clean audit, which underscores the agency's dedication to transparency and effective financial management. CEO of LTA, Mr. Moses Ngobeni, spoke about the importance of supporting women-led enterprises, spotlighting the award-winning Setšong African Tea Crafters in Ga-Phaahla. "Setšong Tea Crafters showcases natural indigenous flora and serves as a significant vehicle for development in Limpopo's rural areas." Ngobeni encouraged South Africans to explore their own country, stating, "Today's launch aligns with Tourism Month, offering affordable packages usually priced for peak seasons so our people can enjoy the beauty of Limpopo." The event featured a wealth of activities designed to attract both local and international visitors, highlighting the province's rich cultural heritage, stunning landscapes, and authentic cuisine. Engaging hashtags such as #LimpopoReimagined, #TourismThursdays, #GoLimpopo, and #MoreToEnjoy aim to increase public interest and promote social media interaction. Jimmy Maboko, Chairperson of the Sekhukhune Tourism Association, praised LTA for selecting Sekhukhune District for the media launch. "Tourists can experience our diverse tourism packages that include lodges like Sekhukhune Lodge and Naledi Lodge, alongside scenic attractions such as the Tšate Heritage Site and the Echo Caves." He expressed gratitude to LTA for enhancing tourism entrepreneurship across Limpopo. This collaborative effort among LTA, LEDET, and local municipalities represents a unified approach to advance South Africa's tourism sector. It not only seeks to uplift local economies but also aims to showcase Limpopo's charm and diversity as a must-visit destination. As the event concluded, attendees left buzzing with anticipation for the upcoming Tourism Month activities. The 2025 Spring Campaign stands poised to be a beacon of hope and development for the Limpopo tourism industry, ensuring that visitors will have "more to enjoy" as they explore the province's unique offerings. For more information on the planned events and activities for the Spring Campaign, stay connected with the Limpopo Tourism Agency through their official channels and keep an eye out for the engaging hashtags.

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MPUMALANGA TREASURY DONATES GARDENING TOOLS TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS

By Montsho Matlala

Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality – There was a celebratory mood in Marapyane and Pankop, under the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality in Nkangala District, as Mpumalanga Treasury MEC Bonakele Majuba handed over gardening tools to two special schools in a recent oversight visit. The tools, including fully equipped gardening implements, were donated to Mantjedi Special School in Pankop and Pelonolo Special School in Marapyane. Learners will use them as part of their practical skills training programmes, which combine classroom learning with hands-on food production through vegetable gardening. Olga Mnguni, Acting Principal of Mantjedi Special School, welcomed the donation with gratitude. "The tools come in very handy, especially the wheelbarrow, because we offer agriculture as one of our elective subjects. Learners will use the wheelbarrow to carry water to their crops. It is truly a happy day for us," Mnguni said. Pelonolo Special School's Acting Principal

was not immediately available for comment. MEC Majuba said the intervention was part of government's efforts to improve the lives of children with special needs. He emphasized that Treasury remains committed to ensuring consistent and sufficient funding for special schools to address backlogs in education resources. "Special schools are major stakeholders and their needs are even greater than those of ordinary schools. This intervention should make life better for learners, teachers, and the wider communities of Marapyane and Pankop," said Majuba. Pelonolo Special School caters for 43 learners, while Mantjedi Special School has 70 learners enrolled. Both schools accommodate children aged between eight and 20 years, offering subjects such as agriculture, consumer studies, woodwork and timber, as well as hairdressing and beauty care. Mpumalanga Treasury MEC Bonakele Majuba, donates gardening tools to two special schools at Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality.

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THUNGELA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA SIGN MOA TO STRENGTHEN PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT IN MPUMALANGA SCHOOLS



Thungela and the University of Pretoria have partnered to provide psychosocial support in Mpumalanga schools through the deployment of master's students, aiming to enhance educational outcomes and emotional well-being in no-fee schools. Picture Credit: Thungela

By Staff Reporter

Thungela has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with University of Pretoria's (UP) Educational Psychology Department. As part of this collaboration, the Department of Educational Psychology at the university will deploy master's students to various schools to offer essential psychosocial support to both educators and learners in the foundation and intermediate phases. Thungela launched the education initiative in 2024, a five-year program that aims to improve the quality of education for Grade R to Grade Four learners in 45, no-fee schools in Nkangala and Gert Sibande districts, and aims to improve school readiness, literacy and numeracy outcomes for learners.

Mpumi Sithole, Executive head of corporate affairs at Thungela said, "We recognise that educational performance is not only shaped by access to resources but also through the psychological and emotional well-being of both learners and educators. Working with the University of Pretoria, we are equipping schools with the professional support needed to respond to the complex realities facing learners and educators."

"This MoA is an important step in Thungela's journey to strengthen the impact of the Thungela Education Initiative, and we are proud to contribute to a model that will provide the much-needed psychosocial support to the learners and teachers, while empowering the master's students at the same time."

The mutually beneficial partnership will offer the master's students hands-on experience as they conduct learner assessments and identifying the necessary remedial actions and interventions, under the supervision of the district educational psychologists. This will help reduce the workload of the district's educational psychologists, while the master's student gain valuable practical work experience to help them complete the practical components of their academic

training.

Through this agreement the University of Pretoria is supporting the implementation of the Department of Basic Education's screening, identification, assessment and support (SIAS) policy. Professor Mampane from the University of Pretoria, said, "This community engagement partnership with Thungela exemplifies a strategic alliance that amplifies our capacity to make a meaningful difference beyond academic boundaries."

By bridging the gap between theory and practice, this collaboration not only empowers our students with invaluable real-world experience but also addresses critical community needs, particularly in Mpumalanga."

"It further fosters a ripple effect of positive change, enhancing emotional resilience, academic achievement, and life skills among young learners. This model underscores the transformative potential of synergy among academia, government, and the private sector. Together, we are laying a robust foundation for sustainable development and social upliftment, reinforcing South Africa's path toward a more equitable and prosperous future," said Professor Mampane.

Thungela will fund and manage the program, overseeing its implementation with a dedicated project structure. To uphold governance and accountability, a management committee has been set-up. The committee will ensure consistent engagement with stakeholders across various levels of the Mpumalanga Department of Education, emphasizing ethical principles throughout the partnership.

Thungela's purpose, which is to responsibly create value together for a shared future is the cornerstone of this partnership, as we continue investing in building resilient communities through meaningful and impactful interventions.

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TIMELESSSPORT

MPUMALANGA PREPARES FOR MAJOR SOCCER FINALE TO BOOST TOURISM AND ECONOMY



Mpumalanga gears up for the MTN8 final at Mbombela Stadium, aiming to boost tourism and local economic growth through the exciting football showdown.
Credits: Fullview

By Duncan Mnisi

Mbombela, Mpumalanga — The Mpumalanga Province is gearing up for a landmark event that promises to elevate its status as a premier tourism destination.

The upcoming MTN8 Final, set to take place at the iconic Mbombela Stadium on September 13, will feature a thrilling clash between Orlando Pirates and Stellenbosch FC. The event is expected to draw thousands of visitors and significantly boost the local economy.

The provincial government sees the final not only as a sporting spectacle but also as a strategic platform to showcase the region's scenic beauty, safety, and hospitality.

With a capacity of 45,000, Mbombela Stadium will be buzzing with fans eager to experience both the match and the wider attractions Mpumalanga has to offer.

Officials emphasize that hosting high-profile sporting events is central to Mpumalanga's strategy to rise as a top international tourist destination.

The province aims to leverage the final to stimulate economic activity across sectors such as accommodation, dining, and small businesses, including local markets and artisans.

Efforts are underway to strengthen logistics covering transport, security, and infrastructure to ensure the event's success and leave a lasting positive impression on visitors.

These initiatives align with Mpumalanga's broader ambition to be recognized as the "Place of the Rising Sun," highlighting its natural beauty and vibrant culture.

This event is about more than just football; it is a strategic move to position Mpumalanga as a competitive player in the tourism sector, paving the way for sustained growth and development in the years ahead.

The provincial government encourages residents and visitors alike to support the initiative and experience the vibrant spirit of Mpumalanga firsthand.

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BAYANDA WALAZA TO PROVE FITNESS FOR TOKYO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Walaza's future at the World Championships depends on medical clearance after injury concerns.
Credits: BackTrack Sports

By Duncan Mnisi

South African sprinter Bayanda Walaza is under pressure to demonstrate his fitness before competing at the upcoming World Championships in Tokyo next week. According to Athletics South Africa (ASA), Walaza must prove he is physically ready to take part in the event. The organization emphasized that Walaza needs to pass a

standard medical examination before his participation can be confirmed. Walaza suffered an injury last Thursday while racing in Zurich, which has raised concerns about his readiness. The injury involved his left hamstring, and ASA officials clarified that Walaza had resumed his rehabilitation under close medical supervision. The organization stated that only after the medical team assesses the extent of his injury will a final decision be made about his participation. The athlete's chances of competing depend on the outcome of a standard ASA medical exam. If Walaza is found fit, he will join other South African athletes competing in the relay events, which include the 4x100 meters. ASA noted that Walaza's return to competition hinges on this assessment, as his injury could impact his performance and the team's overall prospects. Walaza's recent injury has caused uncertainty about his participation. However, ASA is hopeful he will recover in time for the championships. The sprinter has a history of strong performances, having been part of the team that won a silver medal at the Olympics in Paris last year. If cleared, Walaza will have to prove his fitness during the upcoming days to meet the standards required for international competition. The organization also highlighted the importance of these examinations to ensure athletes are in the best condition for the high-level competition. ASA's spokesperson, Sifiso Cele explained that only after a thorough medical check will they determine Walaza's eligibility to compete in Tokyo. Fans and supporters are hoping he will recover quickly and get the chance to showcase his talent on the global stage.

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