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ISSUE: 332 • 25 JULY 2025



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## MPUMALANGA APPROVES R64 BILLION BUDGET TO IMPROVE LIVES OF RESIDENTS

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First with the People, First with the News

9 YEARS ON, STILL THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

# Nzalo Careers Expo unlocks the future for scores of eMalahleni Matriculants

NODICAH FUNDAMA &  
SHARON CHILOANE

**EMALAHLENI-** The Highveld Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) and Nzalo Careers aligned their visions to create the Nzalo Careers Expo & Job Fair, an event that gave young people the courage to dream and the tools to take the first step.

“The real power of a career expo isn't just in handing out flyers,” said Duduzile Zulu during the welcome address held on 24 July at Empucukweni Secondary School. “It's in planting seeds that grow into careers. This is about access, direction, and dignity.”

The energy was electric among the hundreds of eager learners representing 12 different schools from eMalahleni. The students came armed with curiosity and ambition.

“We host this career expo to open doors for learners in rural and under-resourced areas, ensuring they have access to all the information they need about different career paths,” Nthabiseng Ramphile of Nzalo Careers said. “Our goal is to see young black people explore beyond traditional careers and gain broader insight into many opportunities available. We also hope this effort contributes to reducing the high rate of unemployment.”

After a decade of running this programme, Nzalo Careers has helped rewrite countless stories, bearing proof that when young people are equipped with knowledge and exposed to opportunity, they don't just dream bigger, they move with purpose and skyrocket to the top where possibilities are limitless.

Career gurus came from different walks of life. Boston College's Boitumelo Napo offered step-by-step guidance on how to apply for tertiary studies, turning application anxiety into an amiable task.

Captain Phuti Setati from the South

African Police Service (SAPS) unpacked online application systems and career routes in law enforcement, showing students that service and stability can go hand-in-hand.

Meanwhile, institutions like Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Rosebank College, New bridge Graduate institute (NGI), Nkangala Tvet College, South African Institute of Professionals Accountants (SAIPA), Whole & Retail Seta (W & R S E T A) and the Department of Education also attended the expo to unpack bursary opportunities, university admission point scores, learnerships and the steps to unlocking further education and funding.

No one was left behind, even those who may not earn a university admission. The Department of Employment and Labour highlighted job opportunities available for individuals with only a matric qualification. Learners were encouraged to visit their local Department offices to access guidance, resources, and potential job listings tailored to their qualification level.

For many learners, this wasn't just an opportunity to ask questions, it was the first time someone had truly answered them. It wasn't just about where to go next, but how to get there. And suddenly, the road ahead didn't feel so impossible.

Mpho Kgatle from Ilanga Secondary School walked away with a fresh perspective. “I learned that there are different choices one can make when it comes to careers. It's not just one path, there are many options depending on what you enjoy and

what you're good at.”

Mbalenhle Gladys Mnisi of DM Motsaosele Secondary School said the session broadened her view beyond the classroom. “I discovered that besides choosing a career, there are also other opportunities like learnerships available to us after matric. That's something I hadn't really considered before.”

For some, like Dumisani Matshika of Ilanga Combined School, the biggest takeaway was practical. “I now understand how APS scores work, how to apply, and what options are available at different institutions. That information will help me make better decisions.”

Penelope Mashaba, a teacher at DM Motsaosele Secondary School, praised the event for bridging a critical gap in the system. “This

career expo came at the right time for our learners. We've realised that schools often lack adequate information about career guidance. This initiative will empower learners to make informed decisions, especially since many of them aren't fully aware of the requirements for their chosen careers,” she said.

The Nzalo Career Expo didn't just connect learners to opportunities, it shifted mindsets. It reminded young people that success doesn't follow one path, and that even in communities where resources are limited, potential is limitless. With the right information, the right support, and the courage to ask questions, learners discovered that the future isn't something to fear, it's something they can shape.



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



## Resisting the Devil

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

1 Peter 5:8-9

*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.* (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Our adversary is a prowler. He comes without announcement, and, to make matters worse, he comes in counterfeit garb. He is brilliant, and you and I had better respect that brilliance.

I've heard young Christians say things like, “This Christian life is thrilling. I'm ready to take on the Devil.” When I can, I pull them aside and say, “Don't say that. It's a stupid comment! You're dealing with the invisible realm. You're dealing with a power you cannot withstand yourself and a presence you have no knowledge of when you say something like that. Get serious. Be on the alert.” Usually that's enough to

wake them up. Every once in a while, it's helpful to be knocked down a notch or two, especially when we're starting to feel a little big for our britches.

Don't be fooled by your own pride or softened by some medieval caricature of an “impish” little devil. Our adversary is a murderer, and except for the Lord Himself, he's never met his match. We may hate him . . . but, like any deadly enemy, we had better respect him and keep our distance. There's a war on!

Once we have enough respect for Satan's insidious ways to stay alert and ready for his attacks, the best method for handling him is strong resistance. That resistance is not done in our own strength, however, but comes from being “firm in faith.” An example of this can be seen in the wilderness temptations of Christ when He resisted Satan with the Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11).

You know what helps me when I sense I'm in the presence of the enemy? Nothing works better for me in resisting the Devil than quoting Scripture. I usually quote God's Word in such situations. One of the most important reasons for maintaining the discipline of Scripture memory is to have it ready on our lips when the enemy comes near and attacks. And you'll know it when he does. I don't know how to describe it, but the longer you walk with God, the more you will be able to sense the enemy's presence.



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**CLOSING DATE: 12 AUGUST 2025**

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# eMalahleni acts on water crisis after years of neglect

ZINHLE MASILELA

**EMALAHLENI** – After years of residents enduring sporadic water supply, the eMalahleni Local Municipality finally launched a large-scale water infrastructure maintenance project on Monday, 21 July 2025.

In an update statement on Thursday, 24 July, the communication department of the municipality said: “All reservoirs have now been fully cleaned, marking a significant milestone in preparation for water restoration. This step is crucial to ensure both water quality and system pressure. The team has made remarkable progress, working tirelessly and conducting double shifts to adhere to the planned schedule.”

It added that pumping is expected to begin on 25 July and low-lying areas will be the first to receive water, and as system pressure increases, more areas will gradually be restored. “As of tonight, the team will begin testing and commissioning the system systematically to ensure a safe and

smooth water restoration process.” *Highveld Chronicle* reached out to some of the residents who had to endure the brunt of living for years without reliable water supply. In one of the sections in ward 4 in the Hlalanikahle area, residents had to live for two years without water. When asked about the cause of delay to put suitable infrastructure, the mayor, through his spokesperson Tricia Nhlengethwa, avoided the question and instead referred us to a Tik Tok video showing progress at the sites.

One resident from Tasbert Park, Zandile Nkosi, said: “We always see on their (the Municipality's) Facebook page new water tanks, but they don't help us with nothing. They never deliver water. A week ago, I saw one pass by my house, that time we hadn't had water for a week, and it didn't stop.” Another resident, Priscilla

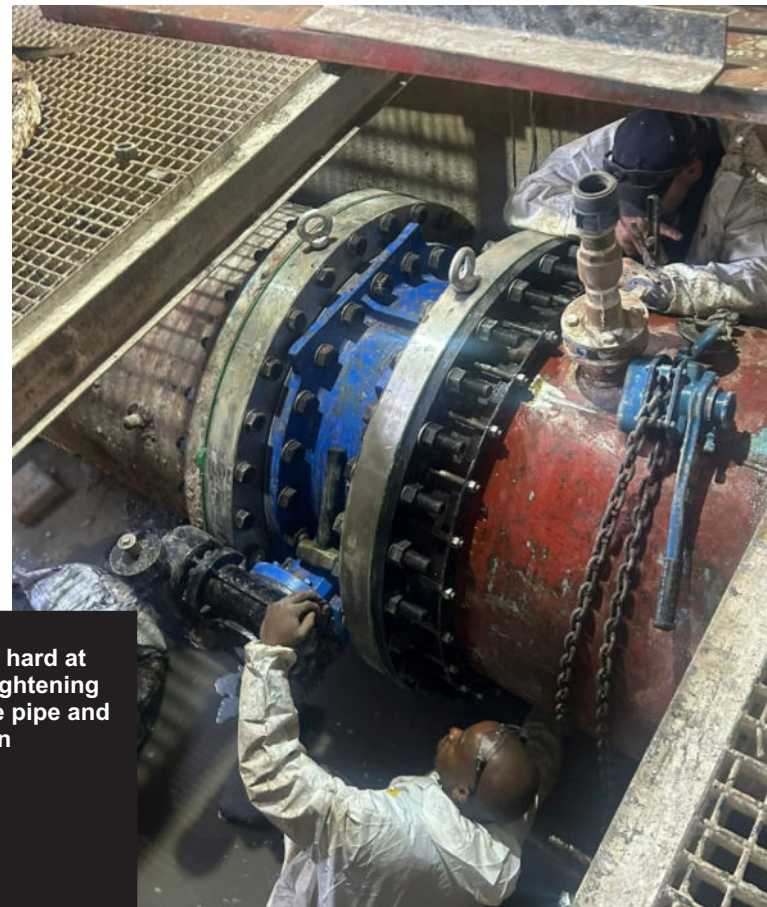
Ndlovu from Siyanqoba, said living without reliable water supply has strained her budget. “The water crisis has been a major problem for quite some time now. I have a JoJo tank, and when the water runs out, I have to call a water tanker and pay them to refill my tank. It's become a norm now. I know that in my monthly budget, I have to add JoJo tank refill money.”

Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, the mayor expressed concerns over safety on the ground after the engineers were reportedly attacked and their work delayed by criminal interference over the past weekend.

“We cannot ignore the threats our teams face on the ground,” said Nhlapho. “But I am proud of their dedication. They are out there restoring a basic human right under extremely difficult circumstances. We urge our communities to help safeguard municipal infrastructure and the people working to serve them.”

Some of the community have broadly welcomed the improvement of the water infrastructure. “This is the most

comprehensive maintenance I've seen in a while. If it means clean, consistent water at the end, I'll support it,” said Enoch Molefe from Ackerville.



Maintenance team hard at work, fitting and tightening bolts to secure the pipe and prevent breakdown

## Seriti to demolish 400 homes while municipality reluctant to step in

LUCAS SHONGWE

**MIDDELBURG** - Two villages in Middelburg are on the verge of collapse as Seriti Resources will be demolishing 400 houses in Naledi and Lesedi after Steve Tshwete Local Municipality allegedly refused to proclaim them.

The residents said attempts to encourage the mine to reach a friendly agreement failed, despite numerous meetings.

Xolani Dikeni, a housing committee member, said the mine indicated that the two villages are a liability. Dikeni added that the mine has switched off their electricity as a strategy to force them out. “We even proposed to pay R750 per household each month, for electricity but that offer was turned down as insufficient,” he said.

However, Seriti told Highveld Chronicle in its written response that it has “openly and transparently engaged with the villages' housing committee” about its intention to demolish the villages and for people to vacate.”

The mine said the municipality refused to proclaim the villages. But had the municipality proclaimed the villages about a decade ago, according to a 2012 report from the municipality's executive manager of corporate services, it appears as if the municipality would have needed to only invest at least R20 million to upgrade the services. But the figure has seemingly mushroomed. “Seriti is no longer able to bear the financial burden associated with the maintenance and provision of services to these villages,” Seriti said. “The

municipality has indicated that it is unwilling to accept the villages in their current condition, noting that approximately R500 million would be required to upgrade the infrastructure to municipal standards.”

The municipality would only agree to accept the donation of houses under two conditions: the infrastructure services must be improved to meet the municipality's standards and that the upgrades should be completed prior to the transfer of the two villages.

These conditions appear to be steep for Seriti, thereby opting to summarily demolish the houses.

The villages' infrastructure is currently dependent on Middelburg Mine Services (MMS), which has undergone significant restructuring, including the retrenchment of over 1,000 employees. The villages, founded in 1980 to provide accommodation for the mine workers, have a population exceeding 2000 residents, and the mine is tasked with providing essential services, including water, sewage and electrical connection.

Dikeni said residents are reluctant to relocate due to the lack of other housing options available. However, Seriti said it considered all amiable options and in the absence of an agreement with the Municipality to proclaim the township, there was no viable alternative but to proceed with demolishing the structures. Occupants were given adequate and extended notice over the past three years to seek alternative accommodation, the mine said.



## This isn't a story, it's a journey.

I'm Busisiwe Mavuso, from Albion, eMalahleni. Growing up in a community surrounded by mining activities, I was inspired to pursue a career in this field. With a background in Safety and Business Analysis, I founded Busani Mining to contribute to my community and create job opportunities.

In the early days, I wore many hats, facing limited resources and countless challenges. Yet I persevered, driven by a determination to succeed.

Acquiring crucial equipment, which allowed us to enhance our operations and expand our services, was one of our proudest moments. This was made possible by the support of Glencore, who provided steady work for us in the process of Discard Compaction.

Giving back to the community is important to me. Last year, we donated food to a local school, and this year, we're helping them hire additional teachers.

In the next 5 years, Busani Mining will expand into hauling and loading coal. My advice: if you love it, just do it. You'll never be fully ready, but you'll always learn on the journey.

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Busisiwe Mavuso  
Busani Mining

# Mpumalanga approves R64 Billion budget to improve lives of residents

● KATLEGO MKHONTO

**MBOMBELA** - In a week-long budget approval session, the Mpumalanga legislature listened to different Members of the Executive Council (MEC) collectively tabling over R64 billion, a figure they believe would turn things around for the province. Each department identified key priority service delivery areas to channel their budgets with the hope of significantly improving the livelihoods of 5,1 million residents in the province.

## Education receives largest share to drive transformation — R28,7 Billion

MEC for Department of Education Lindi Masina said her department needs R28,7 billion to improve the education sector in the province. The budget will be split into smaller portions of R1,1 billion for early childhood development, R1,7 billion for school infrastructure, special needs education will be allocated for R520 million, among others. Masina emphasised that education is a powerful tool for social and economic transformation. "Education is the ultimate equaliser," she said, quoting former President Nelson Mandela. "We have a moral and societal obligation to change the life of our children for the better."

## Health sector set for major boost with R19,75 Billion

The Department of Health will be allocated R19,75 billion spread across

eight critical programmes such as district health services worth R11,8 billion, R2,2 billion for central hospital services, R2 billion for provincial hospital services, R1,8 billion aimed at upgrading infrastructure and health facilities, R587,2 million for skills development and training, R576,3 million for emergency medical services and R421,1 million for administrative purposes.

## Social development focused on fighting poverty and social ills — R1,87 Billion

To fight poverty and support families from impoverished backgrounds, the Department of Social Development is allocated R1,87 billion. MEC Nompumelelo Hlophe said the department's work is focused on creating a "caring and self-reliant society" by tackling poverty, substance abuse, gender-based violence and other social ills. "This budget reflects our deep commitment to uplifting communities and providing dignity to the poor, vulnerable and marginalised," said Hlophe, adding that the department continues to partner with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to distribute grants to over 1,6 million beneficiaries in Mpumalanga.

## Community safety and crime prevention funded with over R1,1 Billion

For boosting efforts to fight crime, tackle gender-based violence, improve road safety, and enhance service delivery across the province, the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison asked for just over R1,1 billion. MEC Jackie Macie said the funds will also support community policing forums (CPFs), community safety forums (CSFs), and the recruitment of 400 tourist safety monitors. Of the overall budget, MEC Macie said the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service will be apportioned R120,4 million to oversee SAPS compliance and implement safety education and crime awareness campaigns. The transport regulation programme received the lion's share of R866.6 million. The funds will be used for road safety initiatives, traffic law enforcement, and further transfers of vehicle registration and licensing functions from local municipalities to the provincial government.

## Public Works, Roads and Transport allocated R5,8 Billion for infrastructure and operations

For the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, MEC Thulasizwe Thomo requested R5,8 billion. The administration is allocated just over R368 million, public works infrastructure needs

about R988 million, transport infrastructure around R2,86 billion whereas transport operations needs a little above R1,55 billion and lastly community based programmes over R92 million.

## Economic Development and Tourism to drive job creation with R1,32 Billion

As part of its commitment to job creation and economic recovery, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will receive R1,32 billion. This funding is expected to empower entrepreneurs, expand tourism infrastructure, and create sustainable employment opportunities especially in communities that rely heavily on tourism and local economic initiatives. MEC Jesta Sidell said the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) will play a key role in promoting tourism development and upgrading tourism in Mpumalanga. A total of R981,7 million, or 74% of the department's budget, will be transferred to public entities and development projects.

## Agriculture and Environmental Affairs budgeted at R1,62 Billion

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs has been allocated R1,62 billion for agricultural producer support and

development, sustainable resource management, environmental affairs, agricultural economics services and structured agricultural education and training among others.

## Cooperative Governance and Human Settlements receive R2,36 Billion

For boosting human settlements, administration, cooperative governance, traditional institutional development, house of traditional leaders across the province, a total of R2,36 billion was allocated to the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

## Culture, Sport and Recreation given R812 Million to develop sport and boost cultural activities

The Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation received an allocation of just over R812 million to boost cultural activities, library services, sports development and infrastructure upgrades across the province.

## Provincial Treasury to ensure fiscal discipline with over R647 Million

For effective budgeting, rigorous expenditure monitoring and transparency from the various provincial departments, the Provincial Treasury is allocated just over R647 million to ensure sound public finance management. The Provincial Treasury said it will monitor the effectiveness of oversight structures and provide support to ensure all these departments fulfil their oversight mandate.

## Delmas police face criticism for helping a disabled elderly woman

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

**DELMAS** – What was intended to be a gesture of goodwill on Mandela Day has ignited controversy in the Delmas as local residents accuse the South African Police Service (SAPS) of neglecting their core responsibilities in favour of symbolic displays.

On 18 July, police officers from Delmas Police Station were seen loading corrugated zinc sheets into a police van as part of a Mandela Day initiative to help a local household a disabled elderly woman and her son who were living under severe hardship, with a collapsing roof, no food, and broken windows and doors.

The activity, which was carried out under the SAPS Social Crime Prevention programme, has been met with mixed reactions from residents who say the gesture does little to address the broader issues of crime, gender-based violence (GBV) and police inefficiency in the area.

Captain Carla Hartley, Corporate Communication and Liaison Officer at the Delmas Police Station, defended the initiative. "The purpose of the initiative was not for personal gain but to make a meaningful difference in a vulnerable family's life," said Captain Hartley.

SAPS and the Community Policing Forum (CPF) had identified "Due to a lack of logistical resources, the acting station commander authorised the use of a police van to deliver building materials," Hartley explained. "No investigation will be instituted because this action falls under our social crime prevention duties."

Despite the explanation, many residents remain unconvinced. Community activist

Gugu Mathibela said, "The issue of crime and GBV in our society is a pressing concern that requires immediate attention," she said. "The police's decision to mark Mandela Day by loading zincs onto a police van for 67 minutes is a poor display of their commitment to serving and protecting the community. This gesture falls short of addressing the real issues at hand."

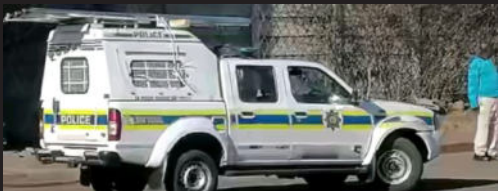
She further criticised what she called "tokenistic displays" by SAPS.

"Instead of symbolic actions, the police should prioritise responding to our calls and taking our reports seriously," she added. "We plan to draft a memorandum and organise a peaceful march to the police station, demanding accountability. We will also initiate a petition to remove incompetent officers and replace them with individuals capable of tackling crime and GBV."

Another community member, Thembi Radebe, echoed similar sentiments. "We live in fear every day. House break-ins, assaults, and violence are daily realities, yet police rarely respond on time or at all. Seeing a police van used to carry zincs while crimes go uninvestigated feels like a slap in the face," said Radebe.

A third resident, Nhlanhla Sibeko, said: "They always say there are no vehicles available when we report a crime," Sibeko said. "But suddenly, there's a van available to deliver building materials? We appreciate charity, but not when it comes at the expense of our safety."

Hartley said SAPS encourages members of the public to stop complaining and rather offer assistance in future Mandela Day efforts by doing their part.



A police van was pictured carrying roofing zinc to fix the badly damaged roof of an elderly woman's house.



## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS



### Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Service and Administration Law Repeal Bill, 2025 [B4-2025]

The Ad hoc Committee on the Repeal of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Service and Administration Act, No. 7 of 2006 and its Chairperson, Mr FV Mlombo, MPL, hereby invite members of the public, interested parties and stakeholders wishing to make written comments or inputs, on the above-mentioned Bill.

#### Purpose of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Service and Administration Law Repeal Bill, 2025 [B4-2025]

To repeal the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Service and Administration Act, 2006; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

#### Public Involvement

The written comments or inputs on the Bill from members of the public, interested parties and stakeholders will be considered by the Committee prior to the introduction of the Bill in the Legislature, in line with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Rules and Orders of the Legislature.

Copies of the Bill can be obtained from Provincial Gazette No. 3834 of 18 July 2025 or from the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature website at [www.mpuleg.gov.za](http://www.mpuleg.gov.za).

For any enquiries, kindly contact the Committee Coordinator,  
**Ms Charlotte Chiloane on 073 196 9421**

Written submissions on the Bill can be sent to [charlottec@mpuleg.gov.za](mailto:charlottec@mpuleg.gov.za) or on the Legislature WhatsApp number 067 428 3345 on or **before Monday, 04 August 2025.**

When making written submissions, please include:

- Your Name and Surname
- Contact details (email address and/or telephone number)
- Institution or organization you are representing (if applicable)

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# Corobrik donates a 'game changer' hall to L.D. Moetanalo Secondary

● SIMPHIWE JENNIFER

**MIDDELBURG-** Corobrik, a clay brick and paving manufacturer, handed over a newly constructed hall to L.D. Moetanalo Secondary School in Mhluzi, Middelburg, on 23 July 2025. The ribbon cutting ceremony was led by the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Public Safety, Joseph Ngobeni, who represented the executive mayor of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. He was joined by the school's principal, Tebogo Mokone. Ngobeni expressed heartfelt appreciation to Corobrik for the

donation, highlighting the initiative as a testament to strong collaboration between government and private sector in empowering communities. "This is more than just a school facility but it is a valuable resource for the community at large. We applaud Corobrik for investing in our youth and hope to see similar projects extended to other schools," he said. Karabo Motsipe, Corobrik head of department for Government Development and Gauteng region

said the hall forms part of the company's local economic development programme. "This R3 million project, launched in 2023, reflects our vision of inclusive development. It aims to empower communities through sustainable infrastructure. We urge learners to protect this facility not only for themselves but for future generations," she said. Representing the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Leshaba Mashaba, praised Corobrik for its meaningful contribution, noting that the company invested in one of the top-performing schools in the municipality. "With a matric pass rate of 89.8% in 2024, L.D. Moetanalo has proven its commitment to excellence. This hall will further enable learners to achieve even greater success," Mashaba said. School principal Mokone said this donation will go a long way. "Our learners previously struggled due to limited space. Some come from challenging home environments, and this hall will offer them a safe, conducive space for studying and writing exams. It's a game changer for our academic performance," he said.



# Cover My Book Foundation makes a difference in the lives of learners

● PORTIA NKAMBULE

**EMALAHLENI-** Bongani Arthurnaseous Nkosi, a semi-elite athlete and Secretary General of the eMalahleni City Marathon, has been using his energy to make a difference by helping matriculants from impoverished communities gain a fair shot at life. In 2021, he founded the Cover My Book Foundation, a youth-led nonprofit that focuses on covering notebooks of learners from underprivileged backgrounds. Nkosi recalls a traumatising incident during his elementary school, where a teacher shouted at a pupil — "I will never ever mark or control a book that is naked!" — referring to an uncovered schoolbook. The teacher, Nkosi recalls, threw back the book at the learner, publicly shaming the learner for something beyond their control. Though Nkosi came from a middle class income home where his parents could afford, moments like these left lasting emotional scars for him, and worse for the learners whose self-esteem was reduced to nothing merely for being poor—a background they had no voting in. This painful memory, however, became the seed that would later propel him to ensure that no other learner has to go through the same experience. It is for this reason that the vision of the foundation is to help learners reach their full potential despite financial or social barriers. Its core values and goals are to collect donations of book covers, stationery and mini-lunch packs for distribution at schools, aiming to restore dignity

and enthusiasm for learning. At the moment Cover My Book only assists primary schoolgoers with covering their notebooks and for those in their final high school year, the foundation has a Higher Institution Registration Drive, a key initiative that pays for a university registration fee to deserving students. This initiative, Nkosi says, is supported by Mementoes Trading 1988 (Pty) Ltd, along with various stakeholders and educational institutions. And with the support of friends and caring individuals, Nkosi's work has become easier, thus leading to the gradual growth of the foundation. Their short-term goals are to expand to more schools in eMalahleni and increase participation in the Higher Institution Registration Drive. And for the long run, he wants to be able to help cover notebooks of pupils in secondary schools and to ensure that every deserving matriculant is assisted with the registration process upon being offered a space to further their studies at tertiary level. Despite so much that he has achieved with his team, one of the ongoing challenges is that some schools underestimate them simply because they do not have a well-known donor behind the initiative. By empowering minds with knowledge, protecting resources, and educating future generations, the Foundation serves as a testament to the impact of youth-led initiatives in eMalahleni.



**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION IN TERMS OF REGULATION NO: 983 (LISTING NOTICE 1; ACTIVITY 21 & 27), AS AMENDED ON 04 DECEMBER 2014 OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998).**

**Stay Green Mining (Pty) Ltd** has lodged Mining Permit application for **C (COAL), Pc(PSEUDOCOAL)** with the Mpumalanga Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002(Act 28 Of 2002). Application with Ref No: **MP 30/5/1/3/2/15501 MP** on **Portion 3** of the **farm Vanggatfontein 250 IR** in the magisterial district of **Delmas**.

The proposed C (COAL)and Pc (PSEUDOCOAL) mining permit project will constitute the clearance of vegetation, drilling & blasting, as well as screening and hauling.

**LISTED ACTIVITIES APPLICABLE:**

**NEMA Government Notice 983 Listing Notice 1, Activity No.21:** Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this listing notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the mining permit.

**NEMA Government Notice 983, Listing Notice 1: Activity No.27:** The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

Interested and affected parties (I&AP) are hereby requested to raise their concerns, objection and issues within 30 days of this notice to **Mr Siphon Mtsweni** on the following:

**Contacts:** Cell 078 016 5207 /013 656 1023, E-mail: [mtswenis@ymail.com](mailto:mtswenis@ymail.com) or [given@ezimabutho.co.za](mailto:given@ezimabutho.co.za) and/or Regional Manager, DMRE, Private Bag X7279, Emalahleni, 1035, Tel: (013) 653 0500.

Fax: (013) 656 1474

**Postal address:** Cnr Mandela & Woltemade Str, Die Heuwel Financial Square Entrance5 Office C4, Witbank, 1049.

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION IN TERMS OF REGULATION NO: 983 (LISTING NOTICE 1; ACTIVITY 21 & 27), AS AMENDED ON 04 DECEMBER 2014 OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998).**

**EAS Sunrise Minerals (Pty) Ltd** has lodged Mining Permit application for **C (COAL), Pc(PSEUDOCOAL)** with the Mpumalanga Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002(Act 28 Of 2002). Application with Ref No: **MP 30/5/1/3/2/15502 MP** on **Portion 3** of the **farm Vanggatfontein 250 IR** in the magisterial district of **Delmas**.

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**Postal address:** Cnr Mandela & Woltemade Str, Die Heuwel Financial Square Entrance5 Office C4, Witbank, 1049.

# ISIKO LETHU

# Our Story

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

## ILIZWI

**Kukuphi ukuphepha komphakathi nasele ukukhwabanisa kuthinta nabantu bomthetho nje?**

Ubukhwabanisi bulwelwe obubhehethekileko, obubulala isisekelo sanoma ngimuphi umphakathi. Ubungozi obukhulu kulokha ubukhwabanisi nasele

buthinta imikhakha yoke kanye nale ehlose ukuvikela imiphakathi. umbuzo obuhlungu nodosa phambili kukobana kukuphi ukuphepha kwemiphakathi enarheni lapha laba abanikelwe ukudosa phambili kanye nokuvikela umthetho kungibo abenza ubukhwabanisi enarheni?

Qobe langa, iinhloko zeendaba ziveza amahlazo athusako ngamapholisa afunjathiswako namukela lokhu okubizwa nge "cold drink" amalanga la, ukwenzela bona bavale imilomo ngalokho

abakwaziko. Abadosiphambili bakarhulumente abasebenzisa iimali zemiphakathi kumbi ehlo selwe imisebenzi eqakathekileko, nabantu abanamandla abakhamba ngokutjhaphuluka ngombana bakwazi "ukuthenga" ubulungiswa. Izenzo lezi zibeka eengozini ukuphepha nokuphila kuhle kwezakhamuzi ezijayelekileko.

Imiphakathi sele ilahlekelwe lithemba ngokuphepha kwabo ngombana kunokuthi kuvikelwe

abantu abamsulwa begodu kujeziswe abanecala, imikhwa yokukhwabanisa ivumela iindleli bona zizulazule ngokutjhaphulukileko. Imiphakathi kufanele iragele phambili nokubuza, ukufuna ukuphepha ubulungiswa kanye nokulunga. Abantu balelesa ngokuzikhakhazisa ngombana bayazi bonyana awekho amagadango abazokuthathelwa wona, khulukhulu lokha nabanemali. Kanti-ke nokubika abantu abenza ubulelesi kufana

nokuthel' amanzi emhlana wedada ngombana basebenzisana nabantu labo ekungibo ekufanele bona basivikele.

Sima Sewula Afrika akukafaneli bona silahle ithemba ngombana basesekhona abantu abalungileko, abasadzimelel' emigomeni emihle abazibekele yona.

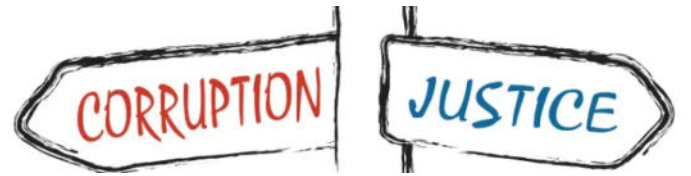
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# Chinacity, a talented artist, storyteller and 'lover of people'

● ZINHLE MASILELA

**EMALAHLENI-** In the heart of eMalahleni, where coal dust clings to ambition and the skyline hints at change, lives a man with ink-stained fingers and a fire in his soul. You may not be familiar with the name Remember Makgoga, but his nickname, Chinacity, might ring a bell. A name echoed on the streets, online, and in the minds of those touched by his work. By day, he's a 34-year-old retail worker; by passion, a self-taught tattoo artist whose journey now speaks through lines, shadows and skin. Long before he became known as Chinacity, Makgoga's artistic journey began not in studios or galleries, but on school desks and scrap papers in Limpopo where he grew up. There were no private tutors, just long afternoons spent with childhood friends, trading sketches and battling pencils over who could draw *Dragon Ball Z* characters the fastest. "Goku was everyone's favourite," he laughs. "We'd challenge each other just to see who

could draw him best and quickest." It was playful, but for Chinacity, those moments lit a deeper spark. Chinacity doesn't just draw people, he studies them. Faces, in particular, are his favourite subject. "I'm a lover of people," he says. "I enjoy meeting new people and interacting with them. And I get to capture the essence of people." He pays close attention to the details many overlook: dimples, freckles, moles— to him, those tiny features carry stories. "You have to study the face. Really study it. Look at the picture they send or sit with them in person. There's a kind of intimacy in that. That image stays with you." For Chinacity, this is a quiet form of storytelling—one that doesn't rely on loud words, only patient, intentional hands. It's a beautiful, quiet kind of storytelling, one that doesn't need loud words, just patient hands.

## Mayor Nhlapo, 'I see you'

Earlier this year, he observed some slow but visible changes unfolding across eMalahleni. Behind those changes was executive mayor Vusi Nhlapo. "I started seeing the mayor everywhere," he recalls. "Not just on posters or during speeches, but on the ground, talking to people, listening. You don't see that often." Chinacity picked up his pencil and turned admiration into art. He drew a portrait of the mayor, not for recognition or payment, but as a gesture of gratitude. "I wanted to honour him for his kindness, his leadership. To say, 'I see you.' Because of him, people are starting to have faith in the municipality again. That's not easy. Once trust is broken, it takes a lot to rebuild it. But he's showing us that he cares, that he's for the people. A very transparent leader."

## The people who inspire Chinacity

Chinacity's admiration for art extends far beyond his local surroundings. He's quick to name the artists who've shaped and inspired his creative path. One of them is Nhlaka Sithole, a boundary-pushing talent from Durban who holds a special place in his heart. "His style? Unmatched," says the animated Chinacity. "He pushes boundaries, and that fuels me. It reminds me [of] what's possible." He also draws inspiration from SK Original Art, an innovator who creates double-sided paintings and portraits using materials like glass, hammers, and screws. "Like what? That's innovation," he laughs. "That's proof art can be more. Because of his work, he's met people like Kabza da Small, Somizi, even Chris Brown. That's the power of art." For Chinacity, these aren't just artists, they're reminders of how far talent, when nurtured, can truly go.



Remember Makgoga hands over a recent portrait of eMalahleni Executive Mayor Vusi Nhlapo to him.

"You never know where your gift might take you," he says. It's not just inspiration, it's a reminder of the doors that talent can open.

## Tattooing as intimacy

When Chinacity is not drawing on blank canvas, he is often inking stories onto skin. His tattoo work is precise, deeply personal, and often emotionally charged for his clients. "Tattoos are permanent, man," he says. "That's someone trusting you with their body. It's sacred work." For him, the process goes far beyond drawing. "You're not just creating a design, you're listening. You're hearing about breakups, losses, triumphs, and then you translate that into something lasting. It stays with them forever. That's powerful." While some may see tattooing as an act of rebellion, for Chinacity, it's an act of healing.

## Talent + faith = magic

To get to where he is today has not been an easy journey for Chinacity.

## 'Blindness did not stop me' - disability activist Rachel Nyambe

● MATHABATHA MAILA

**PHOLA-** It was one late evening and Rachel Nyambe was driving from Groblersdal, Limpopo province, to the town of Emalahleni in Mpumalanga. She suddenly noticed what seemed like unusually bright headlights from incoming traffic. But it wasn't headlights from cars, instead her retina was detaching. By December 2006, she went to Steve Biko Academic Hospital for her first operation. She was 32 years old at the time. The operation restored her eyesight but it was short-lived. By January the following year, her retina detached again, requiring another operation. That year became a "living hell" for Nyambe, as she went in and out of hospitals.

Nyambe's eyesight started failing at an early age while in elementary school. In a family that could not afford medical care, Nyambe was forced to use morning urine as a traditional remedy to ease her eye problems. Despite struggling to see the chalkboard and frequently shifting seats to catch a glimpse, her determination to learn never faded. She has always been a hopeful child, even in secondary school, she had dreams of becoming a social worker. At Mang-Le-Mang Senior Secondary School, where she matriculated in 1993, she led the debate team, often taking on the negative side with passion. She also shone in ballroom dancing, volleyball and sports dancing, balancing academics

with her growing leadership skills. At 19, Nyambe became a mother, navigating motherhood and academics amid her worsening eyesight. It was in 2012 when Nyambe's life changed forever. Both eyes went blind. "I became a newborn," she says. Stripped of vision, income and independence, Nyambe cried for her life. "I was not born blind, but I have learned to see with my spirit. I see love in the voices of children," she says. "I see hope in the footsteps of people learning to walk with a white cane. I see God's hand when I wake up and hear the laughter of my children, even if I can never see their faces again." But she didn't let blindness defeat her spirit, as she now dedicates each of her days to inspire hundreds in and beyond her township of Phola in Emalahleni. Her journey is one of courage, resilience and unwavering commitment to serving others. The following year, in 2013, she enrolled at Optima College to study blind skills and mobility training. She learned to navigate using touch, smell and counting steps. Facing a R6,270 tuition shortfall, Nyambe went door to door to mines in Phola/Ogies for donations. Anglo American stepped in and paid the fees. When she graduated in 2014, she launched a not-for-profit organisation called Ithemba Laba Ngaboni (Hope for the Blind) to teach computer literacy using the JAWS program. This is a program that allows blind and visually

impaired users to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or by a refreshable Braille display. But the program collapsed due to lack of funding. During the Covid-19 lockdown, Nyambe sourced vouchers and food parcels for people with disabilities without any organisational help. "Disability is not inability," she says. In 2017, she was appointed chairperson of the Community Police Forum (CPF) at Phola Police Station. "People with disabilities trusted her as CPF to talk about sensitive cases as they understood her way better than those without disability. She was their voice," attests Sergeant Sipho Thabang Ntuli. Every 15 October, she leads a White Cane Day awareness march from Thololwazi Disability Centre to the Phola Taxi Rank, helping the public understand how the blind access transport. And every Christmas, she becomes Santa Claus, using her own funds to give sweets to children. "I turned to disability rights activism, collecting a database of 272 people with disabilities across Phola and Ogies. I fought for them to get grants, wheelchairs, and medical help," she says. She continues to uplift others. Recently, in partnership with Seriti Resources and the University of Johannesburg, she provided 12 people with albinism with sunscreen, SPF 50 spectacles and lip balm. Lucas Skhosana, father of

"It takes discipline. It takes dedication. It takes time," he says. "You have to be patient with yourself." Art and faith are inseparable for Chinacity. The two move in harmony, guiding him through doubt and lifting him in moments of joy. "God has given all of us different talents," he says. "It's up to us to use them. You don't have to be perfect. You just have to try." He often leans on the words of one of his artistic heroes, Vincent Van Gogh: "What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" Then, with a quiet conviction and a smile in his voice, he adds his own reflection: "If anything... just try. It might shock you." "If anything... just try it might shock you." In a city like eMalahleni, where resilience runs through the soil and transformation hums beneath the surface, Chinacity stands for more than just art. He is a storyteller, a healer, and a quiet reminder that greatness doesn't always arrive with noise. Sometimes, it appears in pencil lines, steady hands, and silent faith.

Sibongile, a 14-year-old girl with speech and hearing difficulties, says: "Rachel fought for my child to receive a disability grant from child support." Her strength to persevere does not underscore the emotional weight she had to endure as a result of the ailment. "I'm not able to see my kids ever again, not able to help with homework," she says with a voice that carries hurt and hope of what she lost and gained in the process. The simplest tasks many take for granted like watching her children play or helping them with schoolwork have become impossible, replaced by constant dependence on others. "I no longer have privacy as I'm always with someone to help me," she says this has left her exposed and vulnerable. What she lost in sight, she has found in vision, a life dedicated to uplifting others. "Retinal detachment robbed me of seeing my kids with the naked eye, but the Man above blessed me with 272 disabled children to care for." Of the many challenges that give Nyambe sleepless nights is, she laments, local mines and companies continue to be reluctant to employ with sight loss. "They ask, 'What will we do with people who are disabled?' That mindset must change." Nyambe's proudest moment remains her refusal to give up after losing her eyesight, her marriage and the countless hurdles she has had to overcome to get to where she is today. "Rise above your challenges," she says. "Blindness did not stop me, and it will not stop you. Let your vision be stronger than your sight."





# Middelburg Greatest Train Race countdown

● SIMPHIWE JENNIFER

**MIDDELBURG-** The highly anticipated 2025 edition of the Greatest Train Race hosted by the Eskom Athletics Club is “going to be bigger than last year,” said one of the organising committee members Johan van Rensburg. “We’re ready and everything is in place. We’re just counting down to the 9th of August.” Van Rensburg said all necessary approvals have been secured from provincial and local authorities, including the South African Police Service and the local traffic department. To ensure safety, sections of the R104 and Cnr Conan Ntuli Street will be partially closed on race day, with assistance from both provincial and local traffic departments. Marshals will be deployed at major intersections, and the legacy team will be on standby to provide emergency support.”

Entries opened on 1 May and closed on 15 July, with a maximum cap of 2,500 participants.

In a shift from previous editions, this

year's route will begin at the Middelburg Railway Station and there are several upgrades including double the prize money, new merchandise for sale and an expanded entertainment programme.

“There will be live music, performing arts, and entertainment for children,” he said. “We want to create a fun-filled atmosphere for both participants and spectators.”

The 2025 race coincides with Women's Day, and the organisers will use the event to promote health awareness. A wellness corner will be set up at the station, offering free services such as blood pressure checks and mammogram screenings for women.

The Thungela, which operates six mining operations in Mpumalanga donated R100,000 while the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and Columbus

Stainless each donated R60,000 to the race.

All the funds raised from this race will be donated to the Middelburg and eMalahleni Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Highveld House in eMalahleni.

Van Rensburg encouraged community members to get involved. “This event is about giving back and bringing people together. We urge everyone to participate, support the cause, and celebrate the spirit of Women's Day.”



Counting down to the big day – the Middelburg Greatest Train Race team." IMAGE: Facebook GTR

# Radio Langa presenter Dlambili makes listeners 'feel connected' on air

● NELISIWE SKHOSANA

**KWAGGAFONTEIN** - Given Masilela (30), known to many by his stage name, Dlambili, is more than just a name. He's a voice, a presence and a natural-born entertainer.

From a young age, he found his passion in front of people. “I started acting in primary school,” he shares. “I loved entertaining people and seeing them laugh or feel moved by my words.”

Born and raised in Matjhiding under Dr JS Moroka Municipality and now based in Kwaggafontein, Dlambili's journey as a Master of Ceremony (MC) truly took shape in 2017, with his first gig being Miss Mountain View at KwaMhlanga. Since then, he has become a sought-after MC for weddings, awards, matric farewells, graduation ceremonies, parties, community events, workshops, and more. He brings energy, joy, and professionalism to every stage he steps on.

Dlambili's voice reaches even further through the radio waves. He is a... presenter at Radio Langa in Secunda, and previously worked with other community radio stations such as Ikutani FM in Kwaggafontein, Inakekelo FM at Mthambothini, Moutse FM in Dennilton and Ligwa FM at Ermelo.

“I didn't go to a big media school, this is a gift I was born with,” he says. “When I speak on the mic, people feel connected. I speak to inspire and to bring joy.”

In 2023, Dlambili was nominated for Best Male MC in the Mpumalanga Music Awards. Though he didn't win, the experience taught him a lot about the importance of support and campaigning.

“I didn't get enough votes because I had no sponsors or campaign,” he says. “But this year, I'm asking my community to stand behind me.

This is not just about me, this is about all of us.”

Dlambili draws inspiration from well-known figures like media personality DJ Sbu and motivational speaker and entrepreneur coach Vusi Thembekwayo. “They're not just speakers,” he says. “They're movers of people. That's what I aim to be.”

Now, with the Mpumalanga Music Awards 2025 approaching, he's calling on the people of Mpumalanga and beyond to vote and help him bring this award home.

“I want to make my province proud. I want to show the youth that it doesn't matter where you come from, if you work hard and believe in your gift, you can stand on any stage,” says Dlambili.

**MPUMALANGA MUSIC AWARDS.**

**VOTE 2025**

**DLAMBILI**  
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CODE: MCM 6

CLOSING DATE: 24 OCTOBER 2025

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