



LET'S GROW MPUMALANGA TOGETHER



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Editorial Comment. . . .

As we close the 2024/25 financial year, we reflect on the strides made in service delivery, governance, and community development across the Mpumalanga Province. This 4th quarter edition of Lilanga Letfu serves as both a mirror and a compass - reflecting on achievements while guiding us towards future priorities. As we reflect on the past few months, it is impossible to overlook the remarkable strides being made in communities, especially with initiatives that seek to empower, uplift, and pave the way for a brighter future.

From local government to support those with disabilities to strategic partnerships aimed at improving educational infrastructure, government awareness programmes and policy innovations aimed at enhancing public service efficiency, our dedicated teams across government departments, and entities have worked tirelessly to ensure that programmes and initiatives reach those who need them most. While challenges remain, the commitment to accountability, transparency, and impact-driven governance remain unwavering.

As we move forward, we encourage all stakeholders - public servants, businesses, and citizens - to remain engaged in shaping Mpumalanga's development trajectory. Collaboration and resilience will be key to overcoming hurdles and unlocking new opportunities for growth.

In this edition, spotlight is on key projects that will shape the province's future. It is hoped that the publication continues to be a platform for dialogue, learning, and progress. Let's step into the next quarter with renewed energy and a shared commitment to building a prosperous Mpumalanga.

These stories remind us of the power of collaboration, inclusivity, and leadership in building stronger and more resilient communities. Whether it is the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality's commitment to inclusivity, the positive impact of partnerships in education, or the role of economic regulators in shaping the future, there is a shift towards a more unified and progressive society. Let this edition serve as a celebration of achievements and as a call to action for all to continue pushing for even greater progress. The future is bright, and together, we can shape it into something even better for generations to come.

As we may be aware that South Africa has resumed the G20 Presidency since 1 December 2024, the member states will flock to the country to engage on a myriad of developmental issues. The G20 is an intergovernmental forum of 19 countries and the European Union, which seeks to address global economic and financial issues. South Africa's participation in the G20 is guided by its strategic foreign policy pillars of national interests, the African agenda, South-South cooperation and multilateralism. Equally, Mpumalanga will also host a series of activities during the year as the G20 programme unfolds.

That's it for now.

Enjoy your reading as we welcome the new financial year.

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DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Provincial Government, Executive Council or Management of the Province. The Editorial Team strives to ensure the publication is accurate and factual. Comments regarding this publication can be forwarded to the Chief Editor.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our aim is to provide accurate, truthful and balanced reporting. As a publication that subscribes to The Press Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media, we are serious and remain committed to accurate and fair reporting.

FIGHT AGAINST GBVF INTENSIFIED



Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) remains a critical threat to the society's safety in Mpumalanga and generally in the country. President Cyril Ramaphosa has declared GBVF as the country's second pandemic. Crime monitoring trends show that the Province has recorded a slight decrease in GBVF incidences. Despite this, the Provincial Government is escalating measures to clamp down on GBVF cases. According to the statistics for the July and September 2024/25 period, Mpumalanga accounted for a 6.3% sexual offences cases. This depicts a 0.3% decrease from the previous quarter between April and June 2024/25.

In a historic move, the Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu has established an integrated approach of bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organizations, activists, survivors, traditional leaders to tackle the pandemic vigorously. He says the establishment of the Provincial Council on GBVF, is a significant move to renew and unite efforts to support GBVF victims.

"This council will provide the platform and leadership needed to implement policies, drive

change and hold our selves accountable to the survivors and their families who depend on us for justice and support," he asserted.

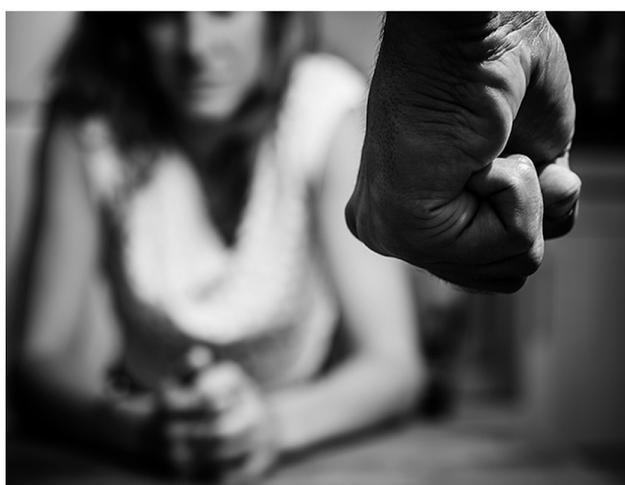
The council's formation is the latest move by the Provincial Government to eliminate GBVF. Last year, a Provincial GBVF strategy was approved to tackle all forms of violence and abuse against women and children. The strategy is aligned to the President's four key pieces of legislation, namely the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007, the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act, the Domestic violence Amendment Act and the National Council on Gender Based Violence and Femicide Act.

According to the Office of the Premier's Director for Special Programmes, Ms. Nandi Shongwe, the Provincial Government is putting effective measures to intensify GBVF measures. "As Mpumalanga Provincial Government, we are pleased to have also managed to establish rapid response teams (RRT) at 20 municipalities.

These task teams are made up of members of the community, civil society, private sector,

local government, and traditional leaders that will take an integrated approach to swiftly respond to issues of GBVF," she stressed. Traditional Leaders have expressed commitment to support the measures. "As Amakhosi, we commit to support and collaborate with all integrated government programmes that support the end of GBVF. We have evolved our cultural practices to fit with the changing society. We have moved away from the past traditional gender roles. We now teach young boys to treat women with respect, and equality," Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena, the Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, emphasized.

A similar sentiment was reiterated by the Co-Chairperson of the Council, Ms. Nomalanga Ngwenya. "We are dedicated to eliminating the cycle of violence by creating a safer and more inclusive province for all. The council will work hard in transforming the societal gender stereotypes, breaking down harmful masculinity through education and awareness campaigns," she explained. A pledge was signed in Secunda, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality as a commitment by all stakeholders to fight GBVF.



MPUMALANGA RECORDS A DECLINE IN VARIOUS CRIME CATEGORIES

CRIME CATEGORY	2020-'21*	2021-'22*	CHANGE
 Murder	316	317	▲ 0.3%
 Attempted murder	310	364	▲ 17.4%
 Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	3 497	3 029	▼ -13.4%
 Rape	925	868	▼ -6.2%
 Sexual assault	131	92	▼ -29.8%
 Carjacking	322	379	▲ 17.7%
 Truck hijacking	36	45	▲ 25%
 Burglary at nonresidential premises	1 387	1 249	▼ -9.9%
 Burglary at residential premises	3 590	2 952	▼ -17.8%
 Stock theft	865	807	▼ -6.7%

The recent murder of a 17-year old Grade 12 learner, Amanda Masango from KaNyamazane, just outside Mbombela has left her family and the community shattered. Her body was discovered by the police investigators in a house at Extension 6. A suspect was arrested swiftly by the police in pursuit of justice.

Masango is the latest victim whose life was cut short by senseless criminals. Amid these cases, there are intensified measures aimed at eliminating crime in Mpumalanga, such as murder, rape, house breaking, car hijackings, among them. This has prompted the criminal justice cluster to reinforce crime fighting measures to eliminate the scourge. These include unannounced search operations in crime hot spot areas and schools, as well as strengthening the effective functionality of Crime Prevention Forums (CPF), and hefty sentences for perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

The decline in some forms of crime, is viewed as a positive sign of the crime fighting measures. This assertion is confirmed by the recent crime statistics, released by the Police Minister, Mr. Senzo Mchunu. The statistics have also been confirmed by the MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. Jackie Macie and the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Dr. Zeph Mkhwanazi.

According to the statistics, which cover the third quarter (October to December 2024) indicate that of the 17 serious community reported crimes, the province recorded a decline in more than 20 types of crimes. For contact crime, the rate of murder decreased by 28, 6 percent while attempted murder dropped by 22,6 percent.

Common robbery cases were reduced by 9,9 percent, robbery with aggravating circumstances cases reduced by 8,0 percent while attempted sexual offences also declined significantly.

The decline has earned the police praises. "We are satisfied with our performance hence we acknowledge and appreciate that indeed we need to put more effort so that we are able to reduce crime in the province. We are concerned with increases in sexual related offences," MEC Macie emphasized. He acknowledged that a lot still needs to be done to eradicate criminality.

Recently, Premier Mandla Ndlovu led various state institutions and civil society structures to the launch of a Provincial Council for GBVF in Secunda, to intensify the fight against such cases. The Council is responsible for coordinating prevention measures, facilitate strategic partnership with relevant stakeholders and revise plans. The Council is a pillar to support the Provincial Strategic Plan on GBVF, approved by the Executive Council (EXCO) last year. To have a society free from crime, all hands must be on deck to realise this.



A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, Q4

The unemployment rate in Mpumalanga has decreased by almost three-percent, from 37.4 percent in Quarter-2 of 2024, to 34.7 percent in Quarter-4 of the same year. This is according to the latest Statistics South Africa's 2024 Quarterly Labour Force Survey results. The good news comes after the province's economy recorded an increase of 13,402 jobs in Quarter-4 of 2024, resulting in the provincial employment level doubling over the past 30 years, to a level of 1.25 million people in Quarter-4 of 2024.

According to Stats SA, the sectors that contributed to the decrease in unemployment rate figures are agriculture, transport and communication, including finance. The construction industry, however, struggled

in the period under review after a good performance in Quarter-3. The unemployment rate of females and the youth have, however, also dropped in the last quarter of 2024. Interestingly, the Bachelor Degree graduate's unemployment rate has also decreased significantly in the Province, from almost 20% a couple of months ago, to below 10 percent in Quarter-4 of 2024.

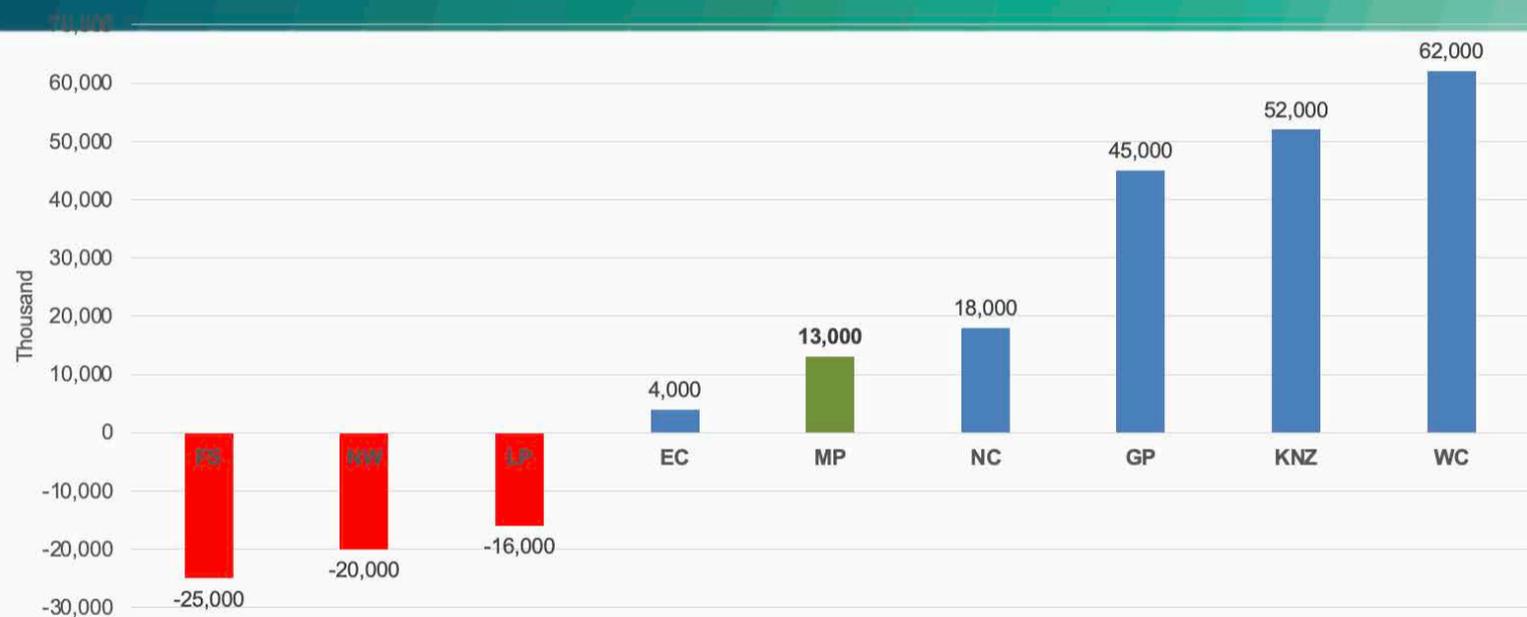
"This is great news for our Province as we continue to work closely with the private sector to create the much-needed jobs for our people. We are excited that the unemployment rate in the Province has decreased, and we recommit to continue strengthening our partnership with social partners, especially business, to create even more jobs in the future, to significantly bring down the unemployment rate, especially

that of women and our young people", said MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela.

It is envisaged that the outcome of the survey will boost the trust level of the citizens about government's commitment to reduce unemployment in the province. During the State of the Province Address (SOPA), Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu stated that the construction of the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market will generate 156 number of jobs once operational. He added that the spending in infrastructure development will be increased, for job creation. Premier Ndlovu is engaging the private sector to strengthen the public-private-partnership (PPP) to support government's infrastructure development plans.

Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by province (Q3:2024 and Q4:2024)

Mpumalanga's employment increase by 13 000 in Q4;2024





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Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency is a government entity mandated to provide development finance to SMMEs including agricultural enterprises.

For more information, go to MEGA website.

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- Service fee R69 monthly
- Signing of cession of proceeds agreement
- 1 year repayment term – maximum



DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Purchase order / contract
- Business registration documents
- Valid SARS pin
- FICA Documents
- Bank statements – 3 months
- Business profile
- Financial statements
- Quotations
- CSD Report

SMMEs POSITIONED TO CASH IN ON CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE

Advanced economic research provides evidence of 34% contribution of Small, Macro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and employing a 60% workforce. This suggests that the SMMEs are the lifeblood of the country's economy.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government is on a quest to accelerate economic growth and investment opportunities, and the role of SMMEs is vital to achieve these goals. The government has identified opportunities presented by the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and has embarked on programmes to equip them to participate.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism facilitated a workshop in Ermelo, Msukaligwa Local Municipality in partnership with the Gert Sibande District Municipality, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and

the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, to empower them, to actively participate. During the session, SMMEs and Cooperatives were advised to follow the steps below, to trade under AfCFTA:

1. Register with SARS as a producer and an exporter;
2. Ensure that outstanding negotiations are concluded;
3. Ensure that the results of tariff negotiations are adopted;
4. Ensure that domestic laws and procedures are in place; and
5. Ensure that legislation, tariffs, and rules regarding AfCFTA are made public.

Since its inception in 2018, the AfCFTA has become the second largest free-trade after the World Trade Organization (WTO). It boasts forty-three (43) parties and eleven (11) signatories, and has one of the leading projects of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063.

The workshop is a game changer in the

province's efforts to boost the economy for the realization of government's targets to socio-economic challenges. Among the benefits of participating under AfCFTA, tariffs, goods and services will be reduced over a period of time. A 2020 Report by the World Bank suggests that the AfCFTA could uplift at least 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty, and boost Africa's income by \$450 billion by 2035.

Meanwhile, the Department has introduced the Pop-up Exhibition programme aimed at bridging the gap between government, FDIs and SMMEs. The programme will be rolled out across the province, and is designed for SMMEs to engage directly with government funded agencies for funding opportunities.

The first programme was held in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, where the MEC, Ms Makhosazana Masilela implored the funded agencies to reduce the red tape and stringent funding requirements when considering applications from the SMMEs, as previously disadvantaged



AN ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM LAUNCHED

'A milestone in digital health transformation for communities'

Access to healthcare is a fundamental and basic human rights enshrined in the Constitution. South Africa's public health infrastructure has many shortcomings, including old and often poorly maintained health facilities in need of repair, refurbishment and sometimes replacement. There is also a need to invest in new infrastructure where there are gaps in service delivery owing to historical inequities or demographic changes. Over the years, the government has enacted legislations which are pro-poor, allocated massive budgets and improved infrastructure – much to the betterment of people's lives.

In the last few years, government moved swiftly to introduce electronic records systems, to strengthen the health system and planning for the National Health Insurance (NHI). The NHI Bill is being considered by Parliament. If enacted, it will have considerable implications for how healthcare in South Africa is funded and organised. An amount of R2.2 billion over the medium term is allocated to the direct NHI grant for provincial health departments to contract health professionals and healthcare services, including PHC doctors, oncology services and mental health services.

In January 2025, Health MEC in Mpumalanga, Ms Sasekani Manzini, officially launched the implementation of the e-impilo Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system at primary healthcare (PHC) facilities in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. This milestone represents a significant step towards transitioning from paper-based patient records to a fully digital system, for efficiency and quality of patient care throughout the province and country ensuring achievement of the constitutional right and overarching NHI goal of universal access to quality healthcare services.

The e-impilo EMR system, pioneered by the National Department of Health in conjunction with provinces, is entirely government-owned and meant to provide both patients and authorised health care providers with a secure, lifelong medical records that are accessible at any public healthcare facility across the country to provide better comprehensive patient care. This means that in time, patients will no longer have to carry paper files and healthcare workers can provide better, more efficient care. By making the medical records electronic, the system minimises administrative demands on healthcare providers having to complete multiple paper based records, streamlines patient management by gathering information into one electronic record, reduces the possibility of misplaced or incomplete records and improves the safe storage of patient

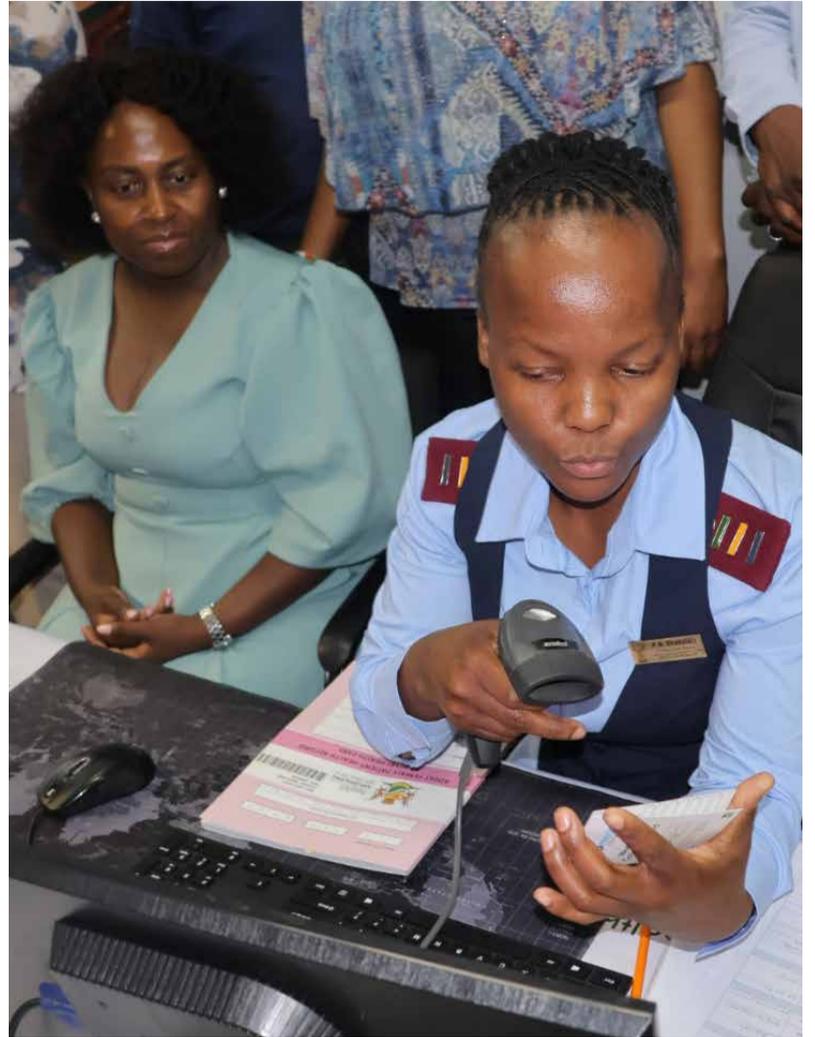
records. With the e-impilo EMR, healthcare providers can obtain real time access to patient data with consent, enabling enhanced diagnosis, treatment, and continuity of care. Furthermore, the digitalisation of medical records improves efficiency in clinical decision-making, minimising duplication of tests and accelerating the referral process for specialised care – always placing patients first.

In an exciting step towards integration and interoperability, the e-impilo EMR uses the Health Patient Registration System (HPRS) and Master Health Facility List (MHFL), the national authoritative registry of all health establishments in the country facilitating coordinated care and ensuring that patients receive appropriate treatment at the appropriate time and facility.

The HPRS assigns a unique health identifier, Health Patient Registration Number (HPRN) to each patient, which is verified against the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) system to ensure the provision of equitable access to healthcare services to all citizens and residents of South Africa. This HPRN enables seamless access to the electronic medical records across multiple healthcare facilities by authorized healthcare workers.

e-impilo EMR was developed through an iterative, rigorous process with internal testing (Alpha testing) mid-2024 followed by beta implementation, from October 2024 at PHC facilities within NHI Contracting Units for Primary Health Care (CUP) areas across provinces. This process enables users to further inform development and user acceptance which will be followed by a countrywide phased rollout planned from April 2025 at facilities based on readiness.

Implementation of the e-impilo EMR does come with challenges including connectivity issues, outdated equipment, and user acceptance, however with strong provincial leadership, budgeting, resource allocation, robust change management strategies, and continuous capacity-building efforts, the e-impilo EMR is set to be implemented successfully toward improved universal health coverage and quality of patient care.



The province remains committed to mitigate these challenges through the prioritisation of dedicated ICT support, clinician engagement, and enhanced infrastructure investment. This includes the provision of ongoing training programs for healthcare providers to ensure effective system adoption and to enhance digital literacy within the health workforce.

As the e-impilo EMR is progressively implemented, the government remains committed to enhancing the digital health ecosystem, reinforcing data security, and improving healthcare access in preparation for the full realisation of NHI. This launch in Mpumalanga signifies a transformative moment in Mpumalanga's health sector, paving the way for a more integrated and patient-centred system.

By leveraging digital innovations, the e-impilo EMR has the potential to bridge healthcare gaps, enhance service delivery, and ultimately improve health outcomes for all South Africans. The continued commitment to expanding and refining the system will be crucial in ensuring long-term sustainability and widespread adoption across the country. Once again, healthy communities are key for economic growth and development.



PPP DELIVERS A STATE-OF-THE ART SCHOOL

‘An infrastructure to improve a farming community’



South Africa is a perfect case study of a developing country. It is faced with significant infrastructure deficits, and this becomes a hindrance for economic growth and development. As a developing country, Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) is often an ideal vehicle to address the infrastructure deficits.

PPPs are crucial as they leverage private sector expertise, capital, and efficiency to address infrastructure and service delivery gaps, promoting economic growth and development. They unlock private sector funding and expertise to build and maintain essential infrastructure projects like roads, water treatment facilities, schools and hospitals. This ensures infrastructure projects are completed on time and well-maintained.

In early February 2025, the future dawned for the people of Generaaldraai Farm in Wonderfontein, Emakhazeni Local Municipality, as the Mpumalanga Department of Education in partnership with Umsimbithi Mining handed over a state-of-the-art Morelig Combined School. It boasts top notch classrooms with smart boards and Ligbron

connectivity for live remote mathematics, science and technology lessons. It is also well equipped with sound science and computer laboratories, a media centre, a hall, an administration block, and top-tier ablution facilities, to support a modern and innovative learning experience.

The official hand over event was graced by the MEC for Education, Ms. Cathy Dlamini. “Morelig” is an Afrikaans word for “Morning light”, at the dawn of the morning which resembles hope and a bright future. The school was established in 1948 and caters for learners from farms around Wonderfontein.

MEC Dlamini was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Cllr Nomhle Mashele, Nkangala District Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya and Umsimbithi Mining’s Ms. Yoli Balfour and Mr. Manuel Noriega.

MEC Dlamini encouraged the learners to focus on their studies to be responsible future citizens while at the same time appreciating the patriotic gesture of Umsimbithi Mining of ploughing back to the communities they serve. “Morelig

is a true and good foundation for the provision of quality education for learners and children of the working class in Emakhazeni Local Municipality. Hopefully, the learners will reciprocate Umsimbithi Mining’s good gestures by passing their grades and be respectful and responsible future citizens,” MEC Dlamini retorted.

The 854 learners are from the surrounding farms such as Sunbury, Paardeplaats Uitvlugt, KwaMaketang, Skorokoro, KwaMahlangu, Klippan, KwaMagefane, Geluk, Eersteligsfontein, EmaZembeni, Msili and Mafube. They rely on a scholar transport for travelling.

MEC Dlamini further appreciated the leadership of Umsimbithi Mining for their generous contribution and is optimistic that the public private partnership of providing quality education, will continue throughout the Province. Umsimbithi’s Balfour outlined the company’s commitment towards uplifting communities they serve through education and general well-being which signifies the construction of the school. She also expressed her wishes for the learners to take advantage of the infrastructure for their overall educational development.

DEEPENING THE RIGHTS OF HOUSING CONSUMERS



Several stakeholders in the built sector couldn't hold back their contentment following the recent pronouncement to sign into law, the Housing Consumer Protection Bill by President Cyril Ramaphosa. The new Bill offers greater protection for housing consumers whilst enhancing support for new entrants in the home building industry. Consumer rights in South Africa include the right to fair and honest dealing, good quality, and safe products. Consumers also have the right to choose their products and to be protected from discriminatory marketing.

The Department of Human Settlements together with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) and sector stakeholders, welcomed this new directive and asserted that the Bill seeks to ensure adequate and effective regulation of the home building industry by, among others, strengthening the regulatory mechanisms, introducing effective enforcement mechanisms and prescribing appropriate penalties or sanctions to deter non-compliance by homebuilders.

Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) MEC, Mr Speed Mashilo emphasizes the need to strengthen the quality to deliver above-par housing needs that will be sustainable enough to curb living disparities in the society.

"The sector has been inundated with a lot of complaints from poor workmanship that continues to derail the commendable progress our government has attained this far. With the Consumer Protection Bill in effect, we are hoping to see more of an inclusive approach whereby even beneficiaries of the government low cost housing programme will be able to manage and follow-up on the progress as far as the construction of their houses is concerned," elaborates Mashilo.

Under the Bill, the following changes can be expected which are the personal liability of the members, directors or trustees of a homebuilder, duties of estate agents, financial institutions and conveyancers, code of conducts for NHBRC members, homebuilders, developers and other industry role players. Repairs, renovations, alterations and

extensions to an existing home to be entered under the NHBRC's regulatory regime.

Ms. Natasha Fouche, NHBRC's Head of Legal Services supported the new developments and replied that all materials that are and will be used by home builders must be approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). Many aspiring first time home owners are confident that this could possibly be an answer and a time to curb the persistent illegal invasions that have mushroomed in all sprawling communities due to corrupt activities.

Mashilo encourages the public, particularly the rightful beneficiaries to ensure that they never accept any property of substandard nature. "The same approach goes to the NHBRC for they are mandated to protect housing consumers from unscrupulous homebuilders who deliver such substandard houses, shoddy workmanship and usage of poor quality material," he concludes. It can only be hoped that this regulation will assist housing beneficiaries to have their complaints of poor workmanship and incomplete projects well addressed.



EMPOWERING HOUSEHOLDS THROUGH CONSUMER EDUCATION



Access to decent housing is more than just having four walls and a roof above your head - it is about understanding the responsibilities and rights that come with homeownership. For many beneficiaries of government-subsidised housing, this transition represents a life-changing moment, but without the necessary knowledge, it can also be overwhelming.

The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) in Mpumalanga recognises that sustainable human settlements are not only built with bricks and mortar, but also with informed and empowered homeowners. This is why Housing Consumer Education (HCE) remains a vital component of its service delivery value chain.

The purpose of the HCE programme is to bridge the gap between government housing policies and the practical realities of homeownership. Many first-time homeowners, particularly in rural and low-income communities, are unaware of critical issues such as estate planning, municipal responsibilities, and property maintenance. A home is an asset that must be safeguarded for future generations, and without proper planning - such as having a valid will - families risk losing their homes to legal disputes after the passing of a loved one.

Ms. Thoko Matsebula, Director for the Department's Stakeholder Management and Community Empowerment, emphasises the importance of the programme: "Housing Consumer Education is about empowering beneficiaries with the knowledge they need to protect their homes and navigate homeownership responsibly. Many new homeowners are not aware of the legal and financial aspects of owning property, and this programme equips them with the tools to make informed decisions that secure their families' future".

Moreover, the payment of municipal rates and service charges is another crucial topic covered in housing consumer education. While government provides fully subsidised houses, beneficiaries must understand that basic services such as water, electricity, and refuse removal require ongoing contributions. Failure to pay municipal rates affects service delivery and places financial strain on municipalities, impacting not only individual households but entire communities.

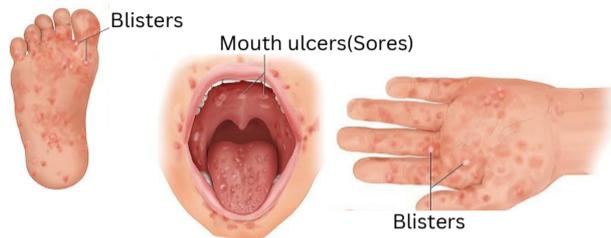
The programme's key successes has been its interactive approach. Sessions are designed to be practical, engaging, and relevant to community needs, allowing beneficiaries to ask questions, share concerns, and receive expert guidance. These engagements also help debunk common myths about government housing, such as the

misconception that subsidised houses can be sold immediately or that ownership does not require formal registration. Enshrined in our legislations - the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) protects consumers from unfair business practices and promotes ethical business practices. The CPA gives consumers rights, including the right to choose, be informed, and receive fair treatment.

One of the programme's most powerful moments comes from Ms. Roslyn Moroka, a local elder from Sakhile Township in Standerton, Lekwa Local Municipality who shares her experience. "When my husband passed away, having a will made all the difference. It spared my family from conflict and unnecessary legal costs. I urge everyone, especially the elderly, to create a will—it's a simple step that can save your loved ones from heartache," she advises.

As South Africa continues to address housing challenges, the role of housing consumer education cannot be overstated. It is not enough to hand over keys to beneficiaries—we must ensure they have the knowledge to sustain and protect their homes. By investing in consumer education, the government is not only fulfilling its mandate but also empowering citizens to take ownership of their future. Housing is a fundamental right, but with that right comes the responsibility to protect and sustain the home for generations to come.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease



Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) is a contagious viral infection which mainly affects infants and children under 5 Years. It is caused by a group of viruses known as enteroviruses. It usually occurs in small outbreaks at crèches / day-care centres during the summer and autumn months. It is characterised by fever, mouth sores, and a rash on the hands, feet, and sometimes buttocks.

SYMPTOMS

Blisters on the hands, feet, and buttocks

Feeling not well

Painful mouth sores



Fever

Sore throat

OTHER INFO

- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease is caused by a virus, usually from the coxsackie group of enteroviruses
- You can't get Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease from pets or other animals
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease is not related to foot-and-mouth disease, which is an infectious viral disease found in farm animals

PREVENTION

Wash your hands with soap often



Avoid close contact with others.



Clean and disinfect surfaces

TREATMENT

There's no specific treatment, but it usually clears up in 7 to 10 days

Take over-the-counter pain relievers to help with fever and discomfort



Gargle with saltwater to relieve sore throat pain



Use a topical oral anesthetic to relieve mouth sore pain



Offer plenty of fluids, but avoid orange juice



MEC for Health: Ms S.J Manzini

MER CONTRIBUTES TO THE WELL-BEING OF YOUNG LIVES

Lack of essential resources such as school uniforms and shoes are cited among the challenges that learners have to overcome along their academic journey in rural schools. The 92 percent rate of no-fee schools in Mpumalanga underscores the high number of learners from poverty-stricken households, who cannot afford the essential resources.

For many underprivileged learners, this creates barriers that impact negatively on their confidence, and ultimately their ability to learn. Notwithstanding government's social service intervention measures, to support learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, the prevalence of the challenges prompt the intervention of good Samaritans, such as the Mpumalanga Economic Regulator (MER). Their generosity helps scores of learners to overcome the barriers as they lend a helping hand to pave a way to a future filled with hope and opportunities.

As part of its ongoing commitment to education and youth empowerment, the MER in partnership with the Hollywood Foundation and Miss Mpumalanga 2024, are on a quest to assist learners, through the Back to School campaign. Learners at Sediba sa Thuto Primary School in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality are the latest recipients of the support, when 95 pairs of school shoes and full sets of uniforms were delivered.

The intervention underscores the significance of Corporate Social Responsibility, dedicated to community support to ensure

that deserving learners have the means necessary for them to excel academically. The MER says it believes that beyond its role of promoting ethical and responsible gaming practices, regulated gambling plays a crucial part in fostering positive change and community development. This, through directing funds towards essential programs such as providing school shoes and uniform.

Former Miss Mpumalanga, Ms Bajabulise Thela was part of the entourage which delivered the consignment of school material at the school. She encouraged the learners to prioritise their education. "Education is your gateway to success. Stay focused, work hard and avoid distractions such as gambling and alcohol, which can derail your future. That is why this gesture, for us, is not only a helping hand to the learners, but the entire community, demonstrating that even small gestures of kindness can create a lasting impact", she illustrated. She further entrenched the role of businesses, organisations and communities to drive meaningful change and invest in the future of their children.

The well-being of young lives is a vital concern that encompasses their physical, emotional, mental, and social health. Ensuring the well-being of young people is crucial for their development, happiness, and future success. As the youth holds the key to the future, it is paramount that the government, institutions and society in general create a nurturing environment that allows young people to thrive and reach their full potential.



EQUIPPING DISABILITY FORUM MEMBERS

'A municipality at the forefront for change'

In every society, people with disabilities represent a diverse group with unique experiences, challenges, and strengths. Despite the progress made in terms of accessibility and inclusion, individuals with disabilities often face barriers that limit their participation in everyday life. To put this into practice, the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality recently conducted an induction for newly-elected members of the Disability Forum.

The municipality is the first in the province to conduct the empowerment programme in the past three years. The induction exercise follows the recent election of the new forum, aimed at equipping members with the necessary knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Du Toit Nkambule from the Office of the Premier facilitated the session. According to Nkambule the forum will among others,

monitor and evaluate the municipality's activities for the support of persons with disabilities, which include sharing with them accurate information to enhance service delivery. He further emphasized the need for all municipalities in the province to introduce basic sign language training, to improve communication with deaf individuals. He also recommended extending such training to schools to ensure inclusiveness.

The theme, '*Nothing about us without us*', is synonymous with the designated group, as a rallying point for involving persons with disabilities in decision-making programmes of issues with their direct link.

Ms. Cyntia Mkhwanazi, Transversal Manager in the Gert Sibande District Municipality said that the forum will enable the district to track skilled individuals who are living with disabilities for them to given opportunities.

She also urged the forum to adhere to the database registration process to facilitate their recognition by the municipality.

DISABILITY FORUM MEMBERS:

- Chairperson: Dumsane Zulu
- Deputy Chairperson: Sibongile Manzini
- Secretary: Sibusiso Mhlongo
- Deputy Secretary: Buyi Masuku
- Treasury: Jabhile Mnisi

In South Africa, approximately 7.5% of the population identifies as having a disability, facing challenges in accessing education, employment, and basic services, and experiencing inequalities in various aspects of life. The induction reflects an ongoing commitment to strengthening the inclusion and representation of people with disabilities in municipal governance and service delivery processes.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITISES ACTIVE AGEING

'A programme focusing on healthy lifestyle'



As the signatory of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing which was adopted at the second world Assembly on Ageing, the South African Government has become the beacon of hope for older persons who are 60 years and above. The Active Ageing Programme has given a chance for older persons to participate and compete in different sporting codes as well as choral music at various levels and later at the national. Mpumalanga is one of the nine provinces that has been consistently participating in the National Active Programme since its inception.

Active Ageing selection process takes place at both local and district levels. The selected district team participates at the provincial level and later the selected participants proceed to participate at inter-provincial level where a team that will represent provinces is selected. The objective of the Active Ageing Programme includes:

- To enhance the quality of life for older person;
- To improve the overall health profile of older persons;
- To create awareness of the abilities and capabilities of older person in sports

recreational activities; and

- To support and increase the number of older persons participating in active ageing programme activities.

Recently, older person from Mpumalanga represented the province during the National Active Ageing Programme which was held in North West Province. Where they were awarded trophy and medal for participation on choral music and aerobics, while they were unable to participate in other different sporting codes because of the heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorm.

The active ageing programme is a platform to inform older persons about their rights; establish cooperation with government so that older persons' rights, concerns, needs are identified, voiced, and addressed. Statistics South Africa's publication titled: "The Social Profile of Older Persons, 2017 - 2021, states that between 2002 and 2022, there has been a rise in life expectancy.

According to the 2022 Census Report, the country's older persons' population was estimated at 5.6 million. The 2022 Census report shows an increase in the number of older persons across all provinces, with

highest number of the older population being in Gauteng at 1,4 million and KwaZulu-Natal at 940 000. This is an indication that South Africa is becoming an ageing society which is not immune from the burden of diseases that can cause disability due to an increase in old age-related chronic diseases.

In years to come, the loss of health and life worldwide will be greater from non-communicable or chronic diseases, such as, cardiovascular disease, dementia and Alzheimer's disease, cancer, arthritis, and diabetes, among others. In South Africa older persons are also faced with numerous challenges including, Gender Based Violence and Femicide. They are often deprived from enjoying their old age as they are often forced to take care of orphaned and vulnerable grandchildren.

The National Active Ageing Programme activities which were held in the North West Province was attended by the record number of 1 600 older people across South Africa. Mpumalanga was represented by 167 from the 1 600 participants. The National Department of Social Development will announce the next province that will host the active ageing programme in due course.



MEASURES TO ELIMINATE THE AFRICAN ARMYWORM



The outbreak of the African Armyworm (*Spodoptera Exempta*) poses a serious threat to farming in Mpumalanga, and as such both livestock and crop producers are on high alert. Several farms in the Chief Albert Luthuli, Thaba Chweu and eMalahleni Local Municipalities have confirmed the outbreak.

The armyworm feeds predominantly on grass and pastures, as well as maize and millet. Wind is their source of transport to other areas, where they lay eggs for breeding, but die out before winter. These armyworms are generally blackish in colour but can be brown to green. They lack the clear spots and from images received, this is clearly the black one, identified by the black head. They are usually found in

masses on grasses and do not hide in crops during daytime.

The Provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) in partnership with the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) have stepped up strong measures to eliminate the threats of the Armyworm, by organising workshops for local farmers, and have distributed PPEs, chemicals and spraying pumps to local farmers.

Mr. Nakana Kekgotswe of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate at DALRRD has cautioned farmers about the use of the chemicals. "Any overuse may impact negatively on the environment,

including livestock. Livestock farmers in particular need to be on the lookout as the overuse of the chemicals can make the grass toxic to cattle. That is why a general prevention measure to avoid poisoning of cattle, is to remove them from the affected pastures for a period of at least 14 days", cautioned Kekgotswe.

Sporadic African armyworm outbreaks are very common and mostly occur in the grassland biome which covers the North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal as well as parts of Limpopo Provinces. So far, outbreaks generally follow the onset of wet seasons when dry grasslands produce new growth and cereal crops are planted. Farmers have been advised to be on alert and to inform Extension and Agricultural advisors.



NKOMAZI, A CASE STUDY OF MPUMALANGA'S CONSTRUCTION SITE



Construction plays a pivotal role in the development of communities and economic growth. This is especially true for the rural areas of Mpumalanga. In these communities, where access to essential services and infrastructure is often limited, construction projects serve as the foundation for progress and growth. Municipalities have taken heed of the call by the Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu, of turning Mpumalanga into a “construction site”, as a rallying point for infrastructure development.

Since Premier Ndlovu's pronouncement, municipalities, and state institutions have deployed road engineers and the yellow fleet to various sites for the construction and rehabilitation of damaged roads, in a quest to connect communities to essential amenities and bus routes.

In the Nkomazi Local Municipality, the construction sites resonate with the Premier's

call, which is known as 'Kubhunya Lutfuli eMpumalanga'. Regular maintenance and upgrading of the infrastructure have become a common sight, as construction teams are rehabilitating the road to the Tonga hospital. The road was badly damaged, leading to major damages to the emergency vehicles.

Plans are at an advanced stage to improve the D2943 road from Boschfontein to Driekoppies. The construction at the Mlumati Bridge at Driekoppies will commence in April 2025. Already the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, led by MEC Thulasizwe Thomo, has finalized the designs for the start of construction. This development forms part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the provincial roads infrastructure network and the work we are undertaking to uplift the road network within the Nkomazi Local Municipality,” he asserted.

Some of the streets, leading to essential services, such as the Schoemansdal Clinic, will

also be maintained, while the upgrading of the D2950 road at Dlunduma will also commence soon.

Recently, Premier Ndlovu addressed Executive Mayors and Councillors at Ehlanzeni District's Council Chamber to emphasize the need for road maintenance. The maintenance is essential for a municipality such as Nkomazi, as it connects the province to the neighbouring Mozambique and Kingdom of eSwatini for sustainable economic development through trade relations. They foster economic growth and create job opportunities for residents.

Municipalities are also required by law to ensure that essential quality services are provided to communities, such as clean drinkable water, reliable supply of electricity, proper sanitation and waste management services. The provision of these services contribute towards the realization of the envisaged quality of life for residents.



A MUNICIPALITY ON A QUEST FOR REVENUE BOOST

'GMLM's efforts to improve service delivery'

The country-wide debt crisis of municipalities due to non-payment of services, is crippling local government. Municipalities in Mpumalanga are not spared from the plight. An analysis of the debtors' book suggest that the municipal debt for services such as water and electricity in the province is recurring, leading to the failure of municipalities to pay their creditors such as Eskom and Rand Water. By 2018, Stats SA reported that debts owed by the municipalities in Mpumalanga to Eskom increased to 15.1 percent, while the Rand Water debt was about R1 billion by March 2025.

Local Government experts attribute the debts to a culture of non-payment for services, and that this exacerbates the poor financial state of municipalities. The Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is among the hardest hit municipalities in Mpumalanga, where residents owe an estimated amount of R5 billion. The municipality is now on a quest to remedy the challenge through the implementation of a Municipal Enhancement Strategy, and has already trained Councilors as a frontline voice to advocate for a culture of payment of services. The training focused on Credit Control, Debt Collection and Indigent.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nhlakanipho Zuma says the municipality will also embark on an outreach programme to engage communities and also create awareness of the importance of paying for municipal services. "If consumers do not pay their municipal account timeously, the municipality will not have money to remove refuse, close potholes, fix street lights, attend to power outages, cut grass, attend to sewer spillages, etc. To ensure the continuous supply of these services, the monthly municipal bill must be paid without fail, on time, and when it is due," Cllr. Zuma stressed.



Strengthening the capability of the state to deliver services is one of the apex priorities of the 7th administration. For the realization of Priority 3, of building capable, ethical and developmental state, the Executive Council (EXCO) has directed Departments to pay municipalities outstanding debts, including the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The payments will play a crucial role in enhancing the financial health and service delivery capabilities of municipalities.

Inkomste Invordering

Is jy 'n verantwoordelike burger?

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Wees 'n Verantwoordelike Burger en Speel
Jou Rol. Betaal jou Munisipale Dienste om
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Ukuqoqwa kwemali

Ingabe uyisakhamuzi esithembekile?

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- Masikhokhe izikweletu zethu zikamasipala ukuze sithuthukise umphakathi wethu.

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Yiba Yisakhamuzi Esinomthwalo Wemfanelo futhi
Udlale Indima Yakho. Khokha Izinsizakalo ZikaMa-
sipala Wakho Ukuthuthukisa Ukulethwa Kwezinsizakalo



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DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Identity Document copy (Spouse if applicable)
- Copy of Marriage certificate
- Current Original Pay slip (not older than three months)
- Employer Guarantee (if applicable)
- Deed of Sale
- Employer Stop order / Debit order
- Loan Offer Application Form
- Income & Expenditure Statement
- Copies of Insurance/Assurance policies (optional) where MEGA insurance is not utilized
- Proof of residence or Water or Electricity Statement
- Bank Statement for the last three months
- Indemnity Valuation Form
- Proof of permanent employment / sustainable income

Repayment Method

- Employer Stop-Order
- Debit Order
- Cash Deposits

WHO QUALIFIES?

- South African Citizen or permanent resident and be in possession of a valid ID document
- At least 18 years of age
- Have proven and stable income
- Be permanently employed for a minimum period of three (3) months at current employer
- Affordability (payment must be between 25% of applicant's gross income and 30% of joint income)
- Initiation fees (1%)
- Non-refundable Valuation fees (Client is responsible for payment of valuation fees) R1,200-00 as at April 2023 (Subject to location of property)
- Conveyancing fees (Client is responsible for payment of conveyancing fees, or may apply to include the fees in the housing loan application (subject to Valuation amount and client's affordability)
- Deposit of 10% of the purchase amount (where Loan is not guaranteed by Employer) or depending on the customer's affordability and MEGA's risk assessment
- Purchase of Tribal Land:- PTO & Chief's Letter and Cession of Pension Monies as collateral



HOUSING LOAN PRODUCTS

Loans are provided to qualifying clients for

- Building loan
- Purchase of a vacant stand
- House improvement loan (extensions and renovations)
- Purchase of an existing house.
- Provision to purchase property on Tribal Land
- Solar Systems

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287 Iridium Street, Ekandustria
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ZWANE RE-ELECTED MSC PRESIDENT

'Another Provincial Tenure for Mangethe'

The sports industry has experienced unprecedented growth and transformation in recent years, creating a multitude of career opportunities beyond the playing field and participation in sport.

Sport administration is a vital aspect of this industry, encompassing various roles that oversee the business, management, and operational aspects of sport organisations. This article explores the varied roles in sport administration, outlining key responsibilities, essential skills and potential career paths for individuals looking to break into the professional sports industry.

Experienced sport administrator, Mr Linda Zwane has been re-elected as President of the Mpumalanga Sports Confederation (MSC) for another four-year term. Following his re-election recently at Middelburg Regional Library, Zwane wants to use the renewed mandate to take sport development to new heights and also ensure that Mpumalanga athletes shine on the national and international stages. "I am humbled by the confidence the membership of MSC has shown in me. I don't

take their support for granted. This is a sign of confidence in the work I had been doing," he stated Zwane on his re-election.

With several high-profile world cups and Olympics Games on the horizon, MSC wants to ensure that the province is well represented in the squads and teams that will be on national duty, provided of course, they will qualify for the tournaments, including 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Rugby World Cup, 2027 Afcon and 2027 Cricket World Cup. "To us, the first thing we want to do right is athlete support so that we make a meaningful contribution to the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics target. We also want to make sure federations are supported for developmental programmes," says the MSC boss.

MSC has the backing of the provincial government. Speaking at the Congress, Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Leah Mabuza threw the department's weight behind Zwane and his committee. "The Department has the responsibility of the development of sport throughout the province, and our work is made much easier by having formidable structures such as Mpumalanga Sports

Confederation. We also wish to extend our profound thanks to all affiliates who are playing a key role in the delivery of sport programmes in the province," says the MEC.

Zwane has been a footballer for Botleg Classic FC and tried his hand at coaching before moving into administration in 1996 and in the intervening years, he has been with SAFA as Vice President, SAFA Nkangala President, Victor Khanye Local Football Association (president and secretary) and South African Sports Confederation (SASC) and Olympic Committee board member.

As the sport industry continues to evolve and grow, the demand for skilled professionals in administration with management skills is on the rise. Gone are the days when a passion for sport was enough to secure a career on the field in sports teams or in sports facilities! Today, the industry requires a new breed of leaders who possess a unique blend of business acumen, strategic thinking, and technical expertise. Once again, congratulations to Mangethe on his re-election and wishing him well in his second stint.





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SOUTH AFRICA 2025

South Africa's theme for the G20 Presidency

Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability

A connected world, built on a people-centred and inclusive future

Fair opportunities for all nations and people

Addressing today's needs and protecting our shared future

South Africa's G20 Presidency, 1 December 2024 - 30 November 2025

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G20
SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Solidarity

A connected world, built on a people-centred and inclusive future

South Africa's G20 Presidency, December 2024 - November 2025

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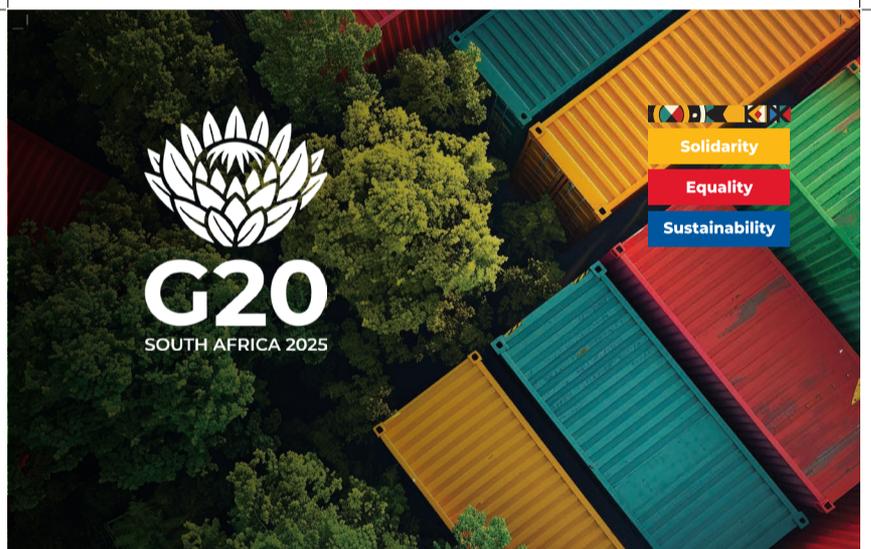
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Sustainability

Addressing today's needs and protecting our shared future

South Africa's G20 Presidency, December 2024 - November 2025

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Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability