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STATE-OF-THE-ART KING NYABELA HOSPITAL OPENS IN MIDDELBURG



By Treasure Masombuka

MIDDELBURG – President Cyril Ramaphosa officially opened the state-of-the-art King Nyabela Hospital in Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, on 4 August 2026, marking a significant milestone in strengthening healthcare services in the Nkangala Region of Mpumalanga.

The newly built hospital serves as a modern replacement for the former Middelburg Hospital and is expected to significantly improve access to quality healthcare for communities across the region. Named in honour of King Nyabela, a prominent historic leader of the Ndzundza-Ndebele people and son of King Mabhoko, the facility also represents an important recognition of the province's cultural and historical heritage.

The new 220-bed facility operates as a Level 1 district hospital and provides a range of clinical services aimed at meeting the healthcare needs of the local population.

Key clinical departments include:

- Internal Medicine;

- General Surgery;
- Paediatrics;
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology; and
- High Care.

Speaking at the official opening, President Ramaphosa emphasised that healthcare should extend beyond treating illness and responding to emergencies, stressing the importance of providing comprehensive care throughout people's lives. "Healthcare is not just about calling for an ambulance when we are sick, about fetching ama-pillies every month at the clinic or going to the emergency ward if there has been an accident," said President Ramaphosa.

"Comprehensive health care is about walking alongside our people through every season of their lives."

The opening of King Nyabela Hospital is expected to strengthen the public healthcare network in the Nkangala Region while bringing modern healthcare infrastructure and expanded clinical services closer to communities.



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EIGHT MUNICIPAL AREAS IN MPU- MALANGA IMPLEMENT AARTO

By MP Staff Reporter

MBOMBELA – Eight municipal areas in Mpumalanga have commenced with the implementation of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act (AARTO), with effect from 1 July 2026.

The Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison has urged motorists in the affected areas to familiarise themselves with the new system and comply with the requirements.

The implementation covers both provincial and local traffic authorities in the City of Mbombela, Nkomazi, Thaba Chweu, Steve Tshwete, Emalahleni, Thembisile Hani, Govan Mbeki and Lekwa municipal areas. Under AARTO, traffic authorities in these areas will no longer issue Section 56 or Section 341 notices to offending motorists in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act.

Instead, infringement notices will be issued in accordance with AARTO.

However, motorists who received notices under the Criminal Procedure Act before 1 July 2026 remain responsible for settling those outstanding notices.

What motorists need to know AARTO was enacted in 1998 with the aim of improving road safety and reducing fatal crashes on South African roads. The Act is administered by the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA), an entity of the National Department of Transport. The national implementation of AARTO is being rolled out in phases. Following pilot implementation in the City of Tshwane and City of Johannesburg in Gauteng, the eight Mpumalanga municipal areas form part of Phase 2, which includes 62 municipalities nationally.

Motorists who receive an AARTO infringement notice have 32 days to take action.

Within this period, they may:

- Pay the penalty and qualify for a 50% discount;
- Nominate the driver who was in control of the vehicle when the offence was committed;
- Apply to pay the penalty in instalments where the penalty is R750 or more; or
- Lodge an appeal with the Appeals Tribunal. If dissatisfied with the outcome of the prescribed processes, motorists may elect to take the matter to court.

Motorists who fail to respond within the initial 32-day period will receive a courtesy letter and forfeit the 50% discount. Additional administrative fees will also apply.

The motorist will then have a further 32 days to respond to the courtesy letter. Failure to do so may result in an enforcement order being issued. The department has warned



that motorists who fail to settle infringement penalties within the prescribed periods may be prevented from renewing their driving licences or motor vehicle licences, or from registering new vehicles.

Motorists are therefore encouraged to respond to AARTO infringement notices promptly and ensure that their outstanding traffic matters are resolved within the prescribed timeframes.

For more information on AARTO, members of the public can contact the RTIA Communications Office: Mr. Monde Mkhalihi at 082 575 3976 / 083 305 5212.

KWAMHLANGA TO HOST THE VIBRANT 3RD ANNUAL ZIKHAKHAZISE NGESIKHENU CULTURAL FAIR

-By Saai Mahlangu

KWAMHLANGA – Culture, heritage, and community spirit will take center stage at the KwaMhlanga Showgrounds on Saturday, 26 September 2026.

Ikwekwezi FM, in partnership with the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (THLM) and the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation (DCSR), has officially launched the third edition of the Zikhakhazise Ngesikhenu Cultural Fair. This flagship initiative celebrates the region's rich cultural diversity while driving socio-economic growth within the local community.

Festival - goers can look forward to an immersive experience filled with traditional music, heritage displays, and lively entertainment. Gates open at 09:00 AM, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own camp chairs to enjoy the day comfortably. A wide variety of local food vendors will be serving meals on-site, and a dedicated Kiddies Corner will keep the little ones entertained.

Tickets are priced at R120 for adults and R50 for children aged 12 and under. Come wrap yourself in heritage and celebrate the heart-beat of Mpumalanga.



The Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms Makhosazane Masilela, will host the 2026 Women's Parliament in honor of the women of the province. The aim of the event is to present a platform for women of Mpumalanga to deliberate on issues affecting them and make their contribution in shaping the policies that promotes the empowerment of women. The event is scheduled to take place during a Sitting scheduled as follows:



Friday,
21 August
2026

10:00

Miriam Mogakane Hall
Bushbuckridge
Local Municipality,
Ehlanzeni District

The Women's Parliament will be celebrated under the theme:
"Following up on government commitments, for a better life".

The thematic areas to be discussed during the Women's Parliament are:

- Follow up on implementation of 2025 Women Parliament resolutions.
- Local Government Elections 2026: Youth abstention



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MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Publisher
Editor
Graphic designer
Publication
Addresses:
Physical

Postal

: Saai Mahlangu
: Jimmy Masombuka
: Treasure Masombuka
: Mpumalanga Press

: No. 30012 Mabhoko Village
Kwaggafontein

: P.O Box 953, Empumalanga, 0458

Telephone : 084 200 0626/ 073 001 2355
Email : Mpumalangapress@gmail.com
Website : www.mpumalangapress.com



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MPUMALANGA LAUNCHES MILESTONES OF FREEDOM PROGRAMME IN BETHAL

By MP Staff Reporter

BETHAL – Mpumalanga marked an important moment in preserving South Africa's liberation heritage on 14 August 2026, when Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Mr Kenny Morolong, together with Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo, officially launched the Milestones of Freedom Programme in Bethal, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality.

The programme seeks to honour South Africa's liberation heritage while promoting active citizenship, public participation and stronger partnerships between communities and government. The launch began with a visit to the Nomoya Masilela Museum, a site of significant historical importance that preserves the legacy of South Africa's liberation struggle.

The delegation subsequently laid wreaths at the statues of fallen heroes and heroines, including Gert Sibande, Nokuthula Simelane and Nomoya Masilela, paying tribute to their selfless contributions to the struggle for free-

dom and democracy.

Families of the fallen heroes and heroines also attended the event, adding a deeply moving dimension to the proceedings and serving as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who dedicated their lives to the liberation of South Africa.

Speaking at the launch, MEC Thomo expressed his appreciation to the Presidency for selecting the Nomoya Masilela Museum as one of the country's Milestones of Freedom sites.

He emphasised the importance of preserving South Africa's history and heritage, particularly for future generations. MEC Thomo also encouraged more people, especially young people, to visit the museum to learn about the country's liberation journey and the sacrifices made by its heroes and heroines.

The launch underscores the importance of ensuring that South Africa's liberation history remains accessible, relevant and meaningful to present and future generations.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HELD ON SIYABUSWA WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION

By MP Staff Reporter

SIYABUSWA – Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality recently held a community participation meeting on the Water Use Licence Application (WULA) for the Siyabuswa Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) as part of the required compliance processes.

The engagement was held at Thabana Community Hall in Ward 7 and brought together community members and other stakeholders from Wards 1 to 7. Participants were provided with information on the WULA process and the requirements associated with the application.

In his welcoming remarks, the Municipality's Executive Manager for Technical Services, Mr SJ Mpela, explained the process that must

be followed to ensure that the necessary water-use authorisation is obtained for activities associated with the Siyabuswa WWTW. Mpela outlined the objectives of the process, including ensuring that proposed water-use activities are properly assessed and managed, while taking into consideration their potential environmental and community impacts.

The engagement was aimed at ensuring that the WULA process for the Siyabuswa WWTW is transparent, legally compliant and inclusive. It also provided affected communities with an opportunity to understand the application process and raise concerns relating to potential environmental and health impacts.

Residents were further given an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the

WWTW, the purpose of the water-use licence application and what the process means for the continued operation and management of the facility. Public participation forms an important part of the WULA process and is required under the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). The engagement sought to inform and educate communities about:

- The role and functions of the Siyabuswa WWTW;
 - The water uses for which authorisation is being sought; and
 - Potential environmental risks associated with the proposed water uses.
- Stakeholders were given an opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns and provide comments and inputs regarding the applica-



tion. The Municipality welcomed the active participation of community members, emphasising the importance of public involvement in processes that affect the provision, management and sustainability of essential municipal services.




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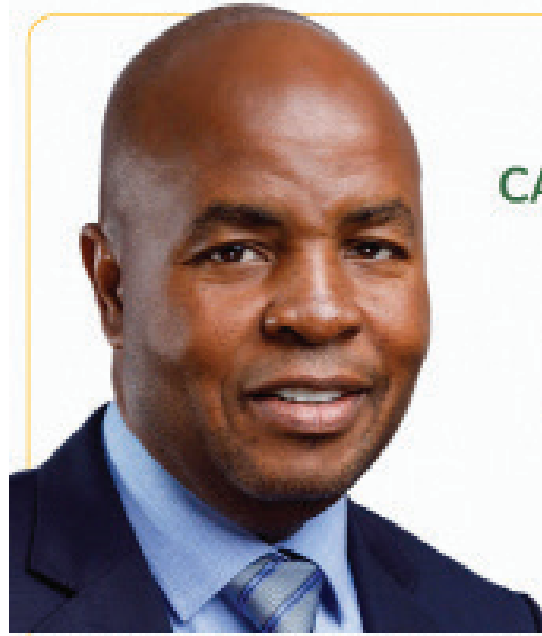
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE HOLDS LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

By MP Staff Reporter

MIDDELBURG – The Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, led by its Chairperson, Mr Lucky Mbuyane, held a Local Economic Development (LED) Summit at the Nkangala District Municipality chambers in Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, on Friday, 14 August 2026. The summit focused on assessing the role and effectiveness of Local Economic Development offices across municipalities in all three districts of Mpumalanga.

The Committee received presentations from various provincial and local stakeholders, including the Office of the Premier (OTP), Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT), Provincial Treasury, Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), as well as representatives from all three district municipalities.

The presentations provided an opportunity for stakeholders to highlight the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities associated with LED, particularly in ensuring that local economic initiatives translate into meaningful benefits for communities. Following the presentations and discussions, the Committee made a number of recommendations aimed at strengthening the implementation of LED programmes and ensuring that communities derive tangible economic benefits from the work of LED offices. The Committee further called for improved coordination between the Office of the Premier and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to ensure greater alignment, effective implementation and accountability in local economic development initiatives across the province.



CALLING FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS

PREMIER'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

2026/27-2027/28

The Office of the Premier of Mpumalanga is calling for funding applications from interested young entrepreneurs to apply for 2026/27 - 2027/28 Premier's Youth Development Fund (PYDF). The fund is aimed at assisting deserving young people aged 18-35 years to kick-start and grow their business ventures.

Potential candidates should ensure that their application is in a form of a **SOUND BUSINESS PLAN** accompanied by the following returnable documents:

- * Certified ID copy
- * Curriculum Vitae
- * Proof of Residence (certified)
- * Company Registration Documents (100% Youth-Owned)
- * Valid SARS Tax Pin
- * BEE certificate (CIPC or Sworn Affidavit)
- * Proof of active business account
- * Proof of market / offtake agreements

Applications should be submitted in the 2026 PYDF Application Form, which is accessible on www.mpg.gov.za

Enquiries should be directed to Mr. SA Dhlamini: 013 766 2006 or Ms. RV Zwane 013 766 2005
NB: faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Beneficiaries of the PYDF are not encouraged to apply.

Please forward your application to:
The Deputy Director - Youth Development, for the attention of Mr SB Ntandane,
Private Bag X11291, Mbombela, 1200.

Physical Address: Office of the Premier, Makhonjwa Building, First Floor, Riverside Park, Government Boulevard, Mbombela

Closing Date: Friday, 28 August 2026 at 16h00
If no correspondence is received within six months after the closing date, applicants must accept that their applications have been unsuccessful.



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PURE BASADI ENERGY: LETTY NYATHELA CHILI TRIUMPHS AT BAMA 2026

By Saai Mahlangu

JOHANNESBURG – It was an evening celebrating talent, creativity and the remarkable achievements of women in the entertainment industry as the 5th Annual Basadi in Music Awards (BIMA 2026) brought together some of the country’s leading female talents.

Among the night’s standout moments was the recognition of Ikwekwezi FM producer Letty Nyathela Chili, who took home the prestigious Entertainment Radio Producer of the Year award.

The ceremony, held at the Joburg Theatre under the celebratory theme “REWIND”, honoured women who continue to shape South Africa’s music, broadcasting and entertainment landscape through their talent, dedication and creativity.

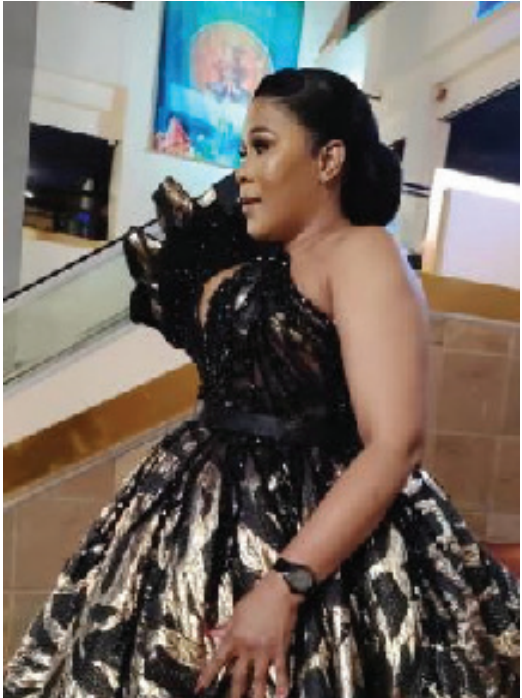
Nyathela Chili’s achievement is a significant recognition of her contribution to radio production and her continued work behind the scenes in creating compelling content for listeners.

Her win also highlights the growing recognition of women who work behind the microphone and contribute to the development and success of South Africa’s broadcasting industry.

The award is a testament to Nyathela Chili’s

dedication, creativity and influence in the radio industry, while serving as an inspiration to aspiring female broadcasters and producers.

Her achievement has brought pride to Ikwekwezi FM and further demonstrated the important role women continue to play in shaping the country’s media and entertainment landscape. Congratulations, Letty Nyathela Chili, on this well-deserved achievement!



CHILD RAPIST AND MURDERER SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE IMPRESONMENT

By MP Staff reporter

The Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Apaphia Modise, is elated by the sentence handed down to the child rapist and murderer, Sifiso George Sibiloane (21).

The incident occurred in March 2026 in Charl Cilliers. Police received a report of a missing seven -year-old child, Nomvelo Rossow, and immediately activated various

units to search for her.

During the search, Police encountered a man carrying a suspicious bag. Upon searching the bag, members discovered clothing belonging to a young girl, which was soaked in blood. Further investigation led Police to a maize field, where the body of the missing child was discovered.

This cruel man from Seyferfontein Farm near Charl Cilliers, was hunted down and arrested then charged in connection with the incident. Through diligent investigation and the gathering of crucial evidence, the investigation team presented a watertight

case before court, which led to a conviction as well as sentencing.

Sibiloane was imprisoned for two life terms by the Mpumalanga High Court sitting in Breyten on Thursday, 13 August 2026, after being found guilty of murder and rape of Nomvelo Rossow. The court also declared him unfit to possess a firearm, and his name will be placed on the relevant offenders' register.

Lieutenant General Modise commends the Investigation team, the National Prosecution Authority (NPA), for their tireless efforts in ensuring that justice was served. "We hope that this sentence will send a strong message to perpetrators who target chil-

dren, that they have no place in society. Our detectives worked tirelessly to ensure that this case is speedily finalised, and justice has been served for the minor and the family", said the General.



NOTICE OF BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR THEMBSISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN NKANGANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAGGAFONTAIN, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY AND COMMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION.

Notice is hereby given in the intent to conduct Basic Assessment process for construction of a Multi-Purpose Community Centre in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for the application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in respect of listed activities that have been triggered by applications in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

Kimopax (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the application for an EA, together with the associated Public Participation Process (PPP) on behalf of Thembisile Hani Municipality.

PROJECT LOCATION The proposed site is situated on Portion 0 and RE216, Kwaggafontein Farm situated in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality within the Nkangala

District Municipality in the Mpumalanga. **OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE** Interested and Affected parties are invited to register and provide written comments, their email address, and contact details to the contact person indicated below within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme for the above-mentioned project will be made

available electronically and in hard copy for public review and comment at the Municipality and Library.

An electronic copy may be requested from Mudinda Motwanama (Mudinda@kimopax.com) through email. Contact Person: Mudinda Motwanama Cell: 076 842 1547, Email address: Mudinda@kimopax.com, ppp@kimopax.com Address: PO Box 4077, Halfway House, 1685



THE INVISIBLE ECONOMY POWERED BY SOUTH AFRICA'S WOMEN

By Mpudi Maubane, National PR, Communications & Sponsorship Manager at The SPAR Group

Every day, millions of South African women make countless financial decisions that rarely make headlines. They stretch household budgets, compare prices, plan meals, save for school expenses and ensure that every rand goes further.

This often-unseen work plays a vital role in keeping households, communities and local economies moving. As South Africa observes Women's Month, it provides an opportunity to recognise and celebrate this important contribution.

According to Statistics South Africa's General Household Survey, women head 42.4% of households in the country, a figure that rises to almost half (47.1%) in rural communities. Beyond these statistics are countless women who, regardless of who formally heads the household, take responsibility for managing household finances and making every day purchasing decisions that directly affect family wellbeing.

For many women, stokvels have become an important extension of this financial responsibility.

The National Stokvel Association of South Africa (NASASA) estimates that more than 11.6 million South Africans belong to stokvels, collectively saving more than R50 billion annually. Traditionally associated with festive-season grocery shopping,

stokvels have evolved into sophisticated community-based savings networks that help members prepare for school expenses, household essentials, emergencies and other important milestones.

More importantly, stokvels demonstrate something uniquely South African: financial resilience is often built together. Pooling resources allows members to unlock greater value through bulk buying while creating trusted support networks based on accountability, shared knowledge and long-term planning. These qualities continue to strengthen communities, particularly during periods of economic pressure.

It is these conversations that the Stokvel Talk initiative seeks to encourage. This August, the initiative comes to Ermelo, providing a platform for stokvel members to exchange ideas, learn practical budgeting tips and explore ways to maximise the value of every shopping trip.

As a long-standing retailer embedded in communities across South Africa, SPAR is proud to partner with initiatives that promote practical financial education and informed consumer choices.

Mpudi Maubane, PR, Communications and Sponsorship Manager at SPAR South Africa, said supporting women means recognising the important role they play every day. "Behind every successful stokvel is a community built on trust, planning and shared

purpose. Women have long been at the centre of these networks, finding practical ways to support their families and one another despite increasing financial pressures. As a partner of Stokvel Talk, SPAR is proud to support conversations that help consumers unlock greater value while strengthening the communities they call home," said Maubane.

For SPAR, supporting women extends beyond a single month on the calendar.

Through its year-round #EndPeriodPoverty campaign, the retailer continues to advocate for dignity and access to essential menstrual hygiene products, recognising that period poverty remains a barrier to education, opportunity and wellbeing for many women and girls across South Africa. The campaign reflects a simple but important principle: empowering women also means addressing the everyday challenges that can prevent them from participating fully in society.

Alongside initiatives that encourage households to shop smarter and save together,



SPAR continues to work with communities to develop practical solutions that can improve everyday life.

Whether around a kitchen table where a stokvel contribution is collected, in a community hall where ideas are exchanged, or in the aisles of a neighbourhood SPAR store where families carefully consider their purchases, one message remains clear: when women are empowered with knowledge, opportunity and support, entire communities become stronger.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER WELCOMES LIFE SENTENCE FOR CONVICTED MURDERER IN MPUMALANGA

By MP Staff Reporter

EMBALENHLE - The Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Apaphia Modise, has observed and welcomed the life sentencing of Unathi Ndabemfene (31) for the murder of Ms Anelisa Sibali (28) at White City in Embalenhle.

Ndabemfene was convicted at the Delmas High Court and sentenced on 12 August 2026 at the Breyten Magistrate's Court following evidence presented during the trial which proved his involvement in the murder committed on 30 May 2024.

The incident came to the attention of the Police after the lifeless body of the victim was found inside a room at White City in Embalenhle. Members of the Police that attended the scene, observed that there were no apparent signs of forced entry. During further examination, injuries consistent with strangulation were detected from the victim's body.



Through diligent investigative work, Ndabemfene was identified, and it was established that he had fled to the Western Cape. The investigating team continued with their efforts to trace him, which ultimately resulted in his arrest. He was subsequently charged and brought before court.

The court found Ndabemfene guilty of murder hence the sentencing to life imprisonment. He was further declared unfit to possess a firearm.

Lieutenant General Modise has further commended the investigating team for their diligent efforts which led to the identification, tracing and arrest of the accused, despite him having fled to the Western Cape. The General further emphasised that SAPS remains committed to combating murder, Gender-Based-Violence and Femicide as well as other violent crimes.

"This sentence will hopefully send a strong message to perpetrators of murder as well as Gender-Based-Violence and that they will face the full might of the law. We will continue to deal decisively with the scourge of crime," said the

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Sports



KWANDEBELE NETBALL LEAGUE HOSTS SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S DAY TOURNAMENT

By Saai Mahlangu

KWAGGAFONTEIN – The KwaNdebele Netball League marked Women's Day with an action-packed tournament featuring 14 teams from across the region on 9 August 2026.

The tournament was held at the Hloma-ni High School sports grounds in Kwagga D and officially marked the beginning of the journey towards the coveted KwaNdebele Netball League championship. The event brought together players, families and supporters in a celebration of women's sport, talent and community participation.

The KwaNdebele Netball League is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting netball and other sporting activities across the KwaNdebele region of Mpumalanga. The organisation uses sport as a platform to encourage young people to participate in positive and constructive activities.

League President Yedwana Mahlangu said the organisation hosts rotational tournaments and leagues across different villages in the region.

"The KwaNdebele Netball League is based in Kwaggafontein. As a non-profit organisation, we host rotational netball tournaments and leagues across different villages. Our main purpose is to

keep children off the streets and away from drugs or other negative influences by keeping them actively engaged in sports," said Mahlangu.

Reflecting on the success of the Women's Day tournament, Mahlangu said the event attracted strong participation and support from the community.

"All 14 teams arrived, the tournament was well attended, and everything went exactly according to plan. It was wonderful to see parents out here supporting their girls," he said.

The participating teams included Black-Panthers from Mountainview, Happy Stars from Kwagga D, Fire-Crackers from Suncity A, Rising-Champions from Lithuli, Queen City from Moloto, Ubuhlebuzile from Ubuhlebuzile, Five Stars from Bundu-Inn, Middle Stars from Tweefontein T & G, Nets Top Models from Moloto, Siphumelele from Suncity AA, Jump Short from Zakheni, Philly Eagles from Mahlabathini, VUNC from Kwagga and Gem Valley from Moloto, among others. The tournament showcased the skill, teamwork and determination of local netball players while providing an important platform for emerging talent. According to league convener Bongi Mahlangu, the tournament successfully brought together teams from different communities and municipalities.

"We had 14 teams from both the Them-bisile Local Municipality and Dr JS Moroka Municipality participating today. We hope to see one of our local teams take home the ultimate trophy at the end of the league," said Bongi Mahlangu.

She expressed her appreciation to the KwaNdebele Netball League and its president for bringing the tournament closer to the communities of Kwagga D. "We are incredibly grateful to the KwaNdebele Netball League and President Yedwana Mahlangu for bringing this wonderful tournament directly to the people of Kwagga D," she said. The successful Women's Day tournament has set the stage for an exciting KwaNdebele Netball.



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