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Limpopo job crisis deepens

LIMPOPO

According to Democratic Alliance (DA) Limpopo Provincial Spokesperson for Economic Development, the Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Jacques Smalle, Limpopåo jobs crisis demanded urgent action.

Smalle was reacting to the third-quarter 2026 Quarterly Labour Force Survey, which reflects that Limpopo's official unemployment rate had declined from 32.0% to 30.2%.

He said the decline in Limpopo unemployment rate means little when it is not accompanied by meaningful job creation.

"At the heart of Limpopo's failure to create jobs is the ongoing chaos in our municipalities, which continues to discourage investment, undermine economic growth and destroy employment opportunities," he said.

According to Smalle, employment in the province had increased by a paltry estimated 1000 jobs during the quarter, while Limpopo had created virtually no new jobs.

He said the broader measure of unemployment, which included the potential labour force, remained at 46.1%, one percentage point higher than a year ago. Only 36.5% of the province's working-age population was employed, compared with 39.7% nationally.

Smalle expressed serious concern about youth unemployment. He said approximately 892,000 young people aged, 15 to 34 in Limpopo, nearly 42% of this age group, were neither employed nor in education or training. "The employment crisis is particularly concerning for young people," he said.

He added that Stats SA's migration data also showed significant outward migration from Limpopo, particularly to Gauteng, as people sought employment and opportunities they could not find closer to home.

"Limpopo should be a province where people can build their futures, not one they must leave to find opportunities elsewhere," Smalle said.

He said despite Limpopo's considerable potential in agriculture, mining, tourism, manufacturing and logistics, the province continued to struggle to create sustainable employment.

"Businesses cannot be expected to invest or expand where water and electricity supplies are unreliable, roads are deteriorating and municipal infrastructure is neglected. These failures increase the cost of doing business and undermine employment opportunities," Smalle said.

Smalle said the recent municipal elections, which saw a significant decline in ANC support and ten municipalities left without outright governing majorities, presented an opportunity to change the direction of local government in Limpopo.

He said whatever governing arrangements emerged, the priority must be stable, accountable and corruption-free municipalities, with competent administrations that delivered reliable services, maintained infrastructure, managed public money responsibly and created an environment in which businesses could thrive.

"Budgets must prioritise spending that is focused on improving aging municipal infrastructure. There can be no sustained economic growth or large-scale job creation without properly functioning municipalities," Smalle added.

He concluded by stating that jobs crisis demand urgent action to restore effective local government, deliver reliable basic services, maintain infrastructure and create the conditions necessary to attract investment, stimulate economic growth and generate sustainable employment.

"Limpopo cannot afford further delays. We must stop the chaos, start service delivery, get Limpopo working and create jobs," Smalle said.

"Limpopo cannot afford further delays. We must stop the chaos, start service delivery, get Limpopo working and create jobs."



LEDET, Jacques Smalle, says it is concerning that Limpopo continues to struggle to create sustainable employment despite having considerable potential in agriculture, mining, tourism, manufacturing and logistics.

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Overwhelming support pours in for Kgoshi Phahla, ahead of November court date



Supporters gather in solidarity with Kgoshi Letsiri Phaahla ahead of his court appearance at the Sekhukhune Magistrate's Court on 27 November 2026.

GA-PHAAHLA

Kgoshi Letsiri Phaahla is heading to the Sekhukhune Magistrate's Court on Friday 27 November 2026, with overwhelming support behind him, after foreign nationals who were evicted from his village took a legal route.

The traditional leader of Ga-Phaahla Village outside Jane Furse issued eviction notices earlier in October, ordering foreign nationals operating shops to leave the area, stating that the decision was taken to give local entrepreneurs greater control over the local economy.

During an operation led by Kgoshi Phaahla and community members, foreign shopkeepers were forcefully removed from the village. Following the eviction, five applicants lodged an urgent application at the Sekhukhune Magistrate's Court to dispute the removal.

The matter is set down for 27 November 2026 for the respondent, Kgoshi Phaahla, to show cause why a final order should not be granted.

Despite the legal action, Kgoshi Phaahla has vowed that it will not deter him, saying his traditional council has resolved to oppose the court application.

In the weeks leading up to the court date, a wave of organisations and individuals have come forward to stand in solidarity with Kgoshi Phaahla, offering moral, organisational and legal support.

Among the first to publicly back him were SA First Forum and AfriForum, who held an extensive meeting with Kgoshi Phaahla over the ongoing dispute.

The groups confirmed they have agreed to assist with the court case ahead of the crucial court date.

Kgoshi Phaahla confirmed that he has secured legal backing from AfriForum and SA First Forum, saying he held a lengthy consultation with three advocates from the organisations following an initiative by March and March leaders to assist him with legal services pertaining to his case.

The lawyers have agreed to form part of the legal team that will represent him.

Mzansi Citizens' Movement (MCM), African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), ActionSA, Azanian Peoples Organization (AZAPO) have declared that they will also stand firmly with Kgoshi Phaahla.

March and March, which has been at the forefront of campaigns calling for stronger enforcement against undocumented foreign nationals, is also among the movements rallying behind the traditional leader.

Supporters say the case is about more than one village. They argue it will test the limits of traditional authority, business rights and immigration enforcement when it is heard on 27 November 2026.

Community members in Ga-Phaahla say Kgoshi Phaahla acted on the resolutions of the community, which had raised concerns about local economic opportunities and control of retail businesses in the village.

Phaahla, who serves as Deputy President of the Royal Leaders of South Africa and who resigned as Limpopo Chairperson of CONTRALESA in August 2022, has defended the community's position during public discussions.

He has also linked tensions to a Constitutional Court ruling on 7 July 2026, which confirmed that individuals can apply for asylum regardless of how they entered the country.

As the court date approaches, the hearing is expected to attract attention from traditional councils, municipal officials, business operators and community organisations across Limpopo.

Supporters are expected to gather outside the Sekhukhune Magistrate's Court in solidarity with Kgoshi Phaahla, in what is being described as a show of unity behind traditional leadership and community decisions.

"We resolved to approach our legal advisor to respond to the summons, and a consultation with our attorneys to respond to their ill-advised move," Phaahla said earlier, after convening an urgent traditional council meeting to chart a way forward.

Support has not come only from civic movements. Traditional leadership structures have also rallied behind Kgoshi Phaahla.

A report titled "Limpopo Traditional Leaders rally behind Kgoši Phaahla amid court debacle", captured the growing solidarity among Magoshi in the province.

Royal Leaders of South Africa (ROLESA) President, Kgoshi Mogakolodi Masibi, has also expressed concern in the matter, saying traditional leaders must defend land and economic issues within the law.

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AIP INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS FAIR

Golf Day brought Groblersdal together for Martha Makuwa

GROBLERSDAL

The Groblersdal Golf Club organized a memorable Golf Day on Sunday 15 November 2026, as golfers, business owners, and community members gathered to celebrate the home welcoming of Miss Grand Groblersdal Queen, Martha Makuwa from Sehlakwane Village.

The day was marked by a true celebration of golf, community pride, and sport in Groblersdal, with golfers from different walks of lives arrived early and the atmosphere was electric. The golf competition started at 11h00, with players of all levels taking to the green to test their skills, enjoy the game, and compete for top honours.

Due to limited slots, only those who had confirmed their participation in advance took part, which made the event well-organised and competitive.

Throughout the day, the Groblersdal Golf Course was filled with excitement, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Experienced golfers showed their class, while new players enjoyed the opportunity to learn, network, and be part of a big community event.

Makuwa, who was the guest of honour, was welcomed with applause and ululation. She was celebrated not only as Miss Grand Groblersdal, but also as a Food Processing Manager who was recognized for her contribution to job creation for graduates.

Speaking about the event, many golfers said the day had proved that golf in Groblersdal was growing and bringing people together.

After the final round, a prize-giving ceremony was held where the best golfers of the day were honoured with prizes. The celebrations continued with a dinner, where guests shared stories, took photos with the queen, and celebrated the success of the day.

The golf day was more than just a sport event. It was a moment where Groblersdal stood united behind its Queen, Martha Makuwa, and showed that sport can build community, create opportunities, and inspire the next generation.



Miss Grand Groblersdal Queen, Martha Makuwa, was honoured during a Golf Day event held at Groblersdal Golf Course.

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Uncle gets three life terms for raping 13-year-old niece



The Groblersdal Magistrate's Court has sentenced a man from Moteti Village to three life terms for raping his 13-year-old niece.

MOTETI

The Groblersdal Magistrate's Court has sentenced a man from Moteti Village near Dennilton to three life terms for repeatedly raping his 13-year-old niece in Moteti C, under the Dennilton policing area.

The accused, who could not be named to protect the identity of the victim, was sentenced on Wednesday 11 November 2026 after being found guilty on three counts of rape.

Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, said the court heard that the first incident occurred on 11 January 2025, while the victim was sleeping in her aunt's bedroom at her parental home in Moteti C.

"The accused entered the room and sexually assaulted her despite her attempts to resist. He allegedly threatened to kill her should she report the incident. The victim further testified that the accused repeatedly raped her on different occasions between January and August 2025. During the incidents, he allegedly intimidated and threatened her into silence," informed Ledwaba.

He added that on 26 August 2025, the victim was sleeping with her cousins when the accused allegedly dragged her away and raped her.

"The victim later disclosed the abuse to her sister on 31 August 2025 after being asked about her wellbeing. The matter was subsequently reported to the police. The accused was arrested on 2 September 2025 and the case was assigned to Detective Sergeant Thabitha Letladi of the Groblersdal Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit for further investigation," Ledwaba said.

Through the diligent investigation conducted by Detective Sergeant Letladi, the accused was ultimately convicted on three counts of rape.

The court imposed three life sentences on three counts against the accused. The court further ordered that the sentences imposed in Counts 2 and 3 run concurrently with the sentence imposed on Count 1, resulting in an effective sentence of life imprisonment.Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Major General Lesiba Mashilo, welcomed the sentence and commended Detective Sergeant Letladi, the prosecution team and all role players who contributed to securing justice for the victim.

"We remain committed to protecting vulnerable members of our communities and ensuring that offenders are held accountable for their actions," said Major General Mashilo.



Driekop rape convict sentenced to 15 years imprisonment

DRIEKOP

The Burgersfort Regional Court has on Monday 16 November 2026 sentenced a 35-year-old man, Emmanuel Mohlala, to 15 years imprisonment after being convicted of rape. The accused was found guilty of rape on Thursday 17 September 2026.

He was sentenced to 15 years behind bars for contravening Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007.

According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the court heard that the incident occurred on Friday 20 December 2024, at approximately 01:30, in Driekop.

"The 34-year-old victim was asleep when she heard someone knocking at her door. Upon checking, she found the accused, who instructed her to come outside, claiming that he wanted to show her something. When she refused to open the door, he knocked again and threatened her until she eventually opened," explained Ledwaba.

He added that during the incident, the accused furthered instructed the victim to accompany him to another house. Upon their arrival, the victim questioned him about his intentions, but he became aggressive and raped her.

"At approximately 04:30, the accused instructed the victim to get dressed and leave, warning her not to disclose the incident to his mother. The victim only reported the ordeal to her mother on Monday 23 December 2024, after which the matter was reported to the police," Ledwaba informed.

He said the victim had reportedly been at the accused's residence to attend an initiation process, as his mother is a traditional healer.

"The accused was arrested on Thursday 26 December 2024, and subsequently granted bail. The case was assigned to Sergeant Letsatsi Mojalefa of the Burgersfort Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit, who worked closely with Prosecutor Juice Selepe, ensuring that the case was successfully presented before court, resulting in the accused's conviction and subsequent sentence," said Ledwaba.

He added that during the sentencing, the court further made no order in terms of Section 103(1) of the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000.Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Major General Lesiba Mashilo, welcomed the sentence and commended the investigating officer and prosecutor for their dedication in ensuring that justice prevailed.

He reiterated that SAPS remains committed to protecting vulnerable members of society and ensuring that perpetrators of sexual offences are brought to justice. He further encouraged victims of gender-based violence and sexual offences to report such incidents to the police without fear.



The Burgersfort Regional Court has Emmanuel Mohlala to 15 years imprisonment in connection with raping a 35-year-old woman in Driekop.

Dichoeung man arrested for pointing of firearm and intimidation



The firearm utilized during the commission of the crimes had been concealed at an RDP house in Jane Furse.



A 39-year-old man from Dichoeung Village has been arrested in relation to pointing a firearm and intimidation.

DICHOEUNG

A 39-year-old man from Dichoeung Village outside Jane Furse has been arrested following an intelligence-led operation around the Jane Furse precinct, in relation to pointing of a firearm and intimidation.

Confirming the arrest, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, said police acted swiftly after two separate incidents involving the suspect were reported in Dichoeung Village.Ledwaba said on Monday 9 November 2026, the suspect allegedly pointed a family member with a firearm after they had a fight at their residence in Dichoeung Village.

"The suspect then fled the scene.The matter was reported to the police, who opened a case of pointing of a firearm. Afterwards, the suspect allegedly went to the residence of his ex-girlfriend, where they also had a fight after the ex-girlfriend refused to open the door for him as her current boyfriend was inside the house. The suspect then allegedly threatened the ex-girlfriend with a firearm that was on his waist," added Ledwaba.

He said the matter was also reported to the police and a further case of intimidation was opened."Following the incidents, on Tuesday 10 November 2026, members of the Burgersfort Detectives Unit, together with Jane Furse Detectives and Jane Furse Crime Prevention members conducted an operation around Jane Furse following incidents involving the male suspect. The suspect was subsequently traced and arrested during the operation," Ledwaba informed.

He said the police also confiscated the firearm which was utilized during the commission of the crimes, which had been concealed at an RDP house in Jane Furse.

"The suspect is expected to appear before the Jane Furse Magistrate's Court facing charges of pointing of a firearm and intimidation. Police investigations are continuing," Ledwaba said.

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Services disrupted at Philadelphia Hospital, as Moutse Central endures 36 hours without electricity

DENNILTON

Earlier this week, services were disrupted at Philadelphia Hospital in Dennilton after Moutse Central was left without normal electricity supply for more than 36 hours, placing patients, newborn babies, and critical medical care at serious risk.

The prolonged blackout struck at the heart of healthcare delivery in one of Sekhukhune's most vulnerable rural areas, leaving a hospital that serves thousands of people struggling to keep life-saving services running.

For more than a day and a half, doctors and nurses at Philadelphia Hospital were forced to work under emergency conditions, with the lives of maternity patients, neonatal babies, emergency cases and critically ill patients hanging in the balance.

Community Representative and Civic Advocate, Fanie "Seun" Mogotji, described the situation as an emergency that could no longer be treated as an ordinary power failure.

He formally escalated the matter to the Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, demanding immediate national and provincial intervention.

"This is not simply an electricity complaint. It is an urgent public-interest matter involving healthcare, human dignity, community welfare and the responsibility of public institutions to respond to emergencies," Mogotji said.

Mogotji warned that the outage created serious and immediate risks for essential hospital services.

Maternity and neonatal services were under threat. Emergency treatment and surgical procedures were compromised. Intensive and critical patient care was placed in danger.

Refrigeration of vaccines, blood products and temperature-sensitive medication was also at risk, along with medical equipment that requires a reliable electricity supply, and general hospital operations and patient safety systems.

He demanded urgent confirmation from hospital management and the Limpopo Department of Health that backup generators were fully operational, that sufficient fuel was available and that critical services remained protected.

"The safety of patients cannot be left to uncertainty," Mogotji said.

The blackout was not confined to the hospital. It plunged households, small businesses and other essential services throughout Moutse Central, within the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, into darkness.

Residents faced the loss of refrigerated food, possible spoilage of temperature-sensitive medication, disruption of business activities and additional financial hardship.

In a rural community where household incomes are already under severe pressure, Mogotji said, a prolonged electricity interruption had consequences extending far beyond inconvenience.

Of particular concern, Mogotji said, was the apparent absence of adequate communication from Eskom regarding the technical cause of the outage and a confirmed electricity restoration timeline.

He said communities and hospital management were left in the dark, literally without answers on when power would return.

He demanded that Eskom immediately deploy sufficient technical personnel and resources to identify and resolve the fault, and that the hospital receive priority attention because of its essential healthcare responsibilities.

He also demanded that the Limpopo Department of Health immediately arrange additional mobile generators to be made available where existing capacity was inadequate.

Mogotji further called on Eskom's regional management to provide an official briefing to hospital management, municipal authorities and affected community representatives.

The briefing, he said, must specify the confirmed technical cause of the outage, the corrective measures currently being undertaken, the technical teams responsible for restoration, the estimated time for electricity restoration, and the arrangements for keeping the hospital operational.

He further called for a long-term infrastructure assessment by Eskom, the Department of Health and the affected municipalities into the reliability of the electricity infrastructure supplying Philadelphia Hospital and surrounding Moutse communities.

"A healthcare facility serving rural communities must not remain exposed to prolonged electricity interruptions without adequate contingency arrangements," he said.

At the time of going to press, the Limpopo Department of Health and Eskom were not available for a comment.



Philadelphia Hospital in Dennilton was left without electricity supply for more than 36 hours, placing patients and critical medical care at serious risk.

GENERAL NOTICE

IN TERMS OF SECTION 90 OF THE MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SPLUM BY-LAW 2020
REZONING IN TERMS OF SECTION 59 OF THE MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SPLUM BY-LAW 2020
REZONING TO PUBLIC GARAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR A FILLING STATION

We, KMC Geomatics Inc., the authorized agents of the registered owners of Portion 71 of the farm Vergelegen No. 819 - KS, hereby give notice that we have applied to the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality for the proposed Rezoning of Portion 71 of the farm Vergelegen No. 819 - KS from "Agricultural" make provision for a filling station.
Particulars of the application will lie for inspection during normal office hours at the office of the Municipal Manager, Chief Municipal Officer, Stand 1 Groblersdal Road, Jane Furse, 1085, for a period of 30 days from 20 November 2026.
Objections to or representations in respect of the application must be lodged with or made to the Municipal Manager, Chief Municipal Officer, Stand 1 Groblersdal Road, Jane Furse, 1085, must be lodged or directed before 21 December 2026.
Any person who is unable to read or write can consult with any staff member during office hours and assistance will be provided to write down the person's objections or comments.

Address of authorized agent: KMC Geomatics, PO Box 560, Groblersdal 0470, Tel No (013) 262 4136.
Ref. No. KS819.

TSEBIŠO YA SETŠHABA

GO YA KA KAROLO YA 90 YA MOLAO WA MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WA SPLUM WA 2020
GO FETOŠWA GA TŠHOMIŠO YA NAGA GO YA KA KAROLO YA 59 YA MOLAO WA MAKHUDUTHAMAGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WA SPLUM WA 2020
GO FETOŠWA GA TŠHOMIŠO YA NAGA GO BA PUBLIC GARAGE, KA KGOPOLO YA GO HLAHLIŠA SETŠHABA KA SETIŠENE SA MAKASINE (FILLING STATION).

Rena, KMC Geomatics (Pty) Ltd, bjalo ka baemedi bao ba dumeletšwego ba beng ba semmušo ba Portion 71 ya polase ya Vergelegen No. 819-KS, re tsebiša ka fa gore re dirile kgopelo go Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality ya go fetoša peakanyo ya tšhomišo ya naga ya Portion 71 ya polase ya Vergelegen No. 819-KS go tšwa go "Agricultural" ka nepo ya go dumelela go agwa ga setišene sa makhura (filling station).
Dintlha tša kgopelo di tla hwetšagala bakeng sa go lekolwa ka dinako tša tlwaelo tša mošomo diofising tša Molaodi wa Mmasepala, Mohlankedi yo Mogolo wa Mmasepala, Stand 1 Groblersdal Road, Jane Furse, 1085, sebaka sa matšatši a 30 go tloga ka la 20 November 2026.
Dingongorego goba ditlhagišo dife goba dife mabapi le kgopelo ye di swanetše go romelwa goba go lebišwa go Molaodi wa Mmasepala, Mohlankedi yo Mogolo wa Mmasepala, Stand 1 Groblersdal Road, Jane Furse, 1085, pele ga goba ka la 21 December 2026.
Motho ofe goba ofe yo a sa kgonego go bala goba go ngwala a ka boledišana le mohlankedi ofe goba ofe wa Mmasepala ka dinako tša mošomo, gomme o tla thušwa go ngwala fase dingongorego goba ditshwaotshwao tša gagwe.

Atrese ya moemedi yo a dumeletšwego: KMC Geomatics, Poso ya 560, Groblersdal, 0470.
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Sekhukhune roads get a facelift

RIBA CROSS

The 4,8km preventative maintenance on the D1296 Road, from Riba Cross towards Steelpoort, within the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM), reached 68% completion.

The project is implemented by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), an entity of the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

MEC Limpopo Public Works, Ernest Rachoene, emphasized the importance of maintaining and upgrading road infrastructure across Limpopo Province to improve conditions, enhance road safety and ensure reliable connectivity for communities.

The ongoing maintenance of D1296 Road formed part of the efforts to preserve provincial road infrastructure and improve accessibility for motorists and communities across Limpopo.D1296 Road is more than just a local route. It links Riba Cross and Ga-Riba, a village situated about 16km from Steelpoort and 20km from Burgersfort to Steelpoort.

Steelpoort is home to major mining operations, including chrome and platinum mines such as Dwarsrivier, Tweefontein, Tubatse Ferrochrome, Two Rivers, Modikwa, Mototolo and Marula Platinum.

The road is therefore critical for workers, patients, and for the movement of goods and services between villages and the mining hub.

The D1296 project was not an isolated intervention. It formed part of a province-wide programme led by MEC Rachoene and RAL.MEC Rachoene recently revealed that the Department and RAL had completed 106 road infrastructure projects in less than three financial years. The projects included 12 gravel-to-tar upgrading projects, 71 preventative maintenance projects, 17 routine maintenance projects, four re-gravelling projects, and two bridge and flood-damage related projects.

In Sekhukhune alone, similar progress was recorded in recent weeks. The preventative maintenance of D4180 Road, which connects the R37 to Modimolle Village in Fetakgomo-Tubatse, was successfully completed at 100%, while the preventative maintenance project on D4134 Road, from Seokodibeng to Malokela along the R37, reached 97% completion.

The successful completion of the MaSeven Bridge on D4240 Road was also hailed as an important milestone for connectivity and safer access to essential services.



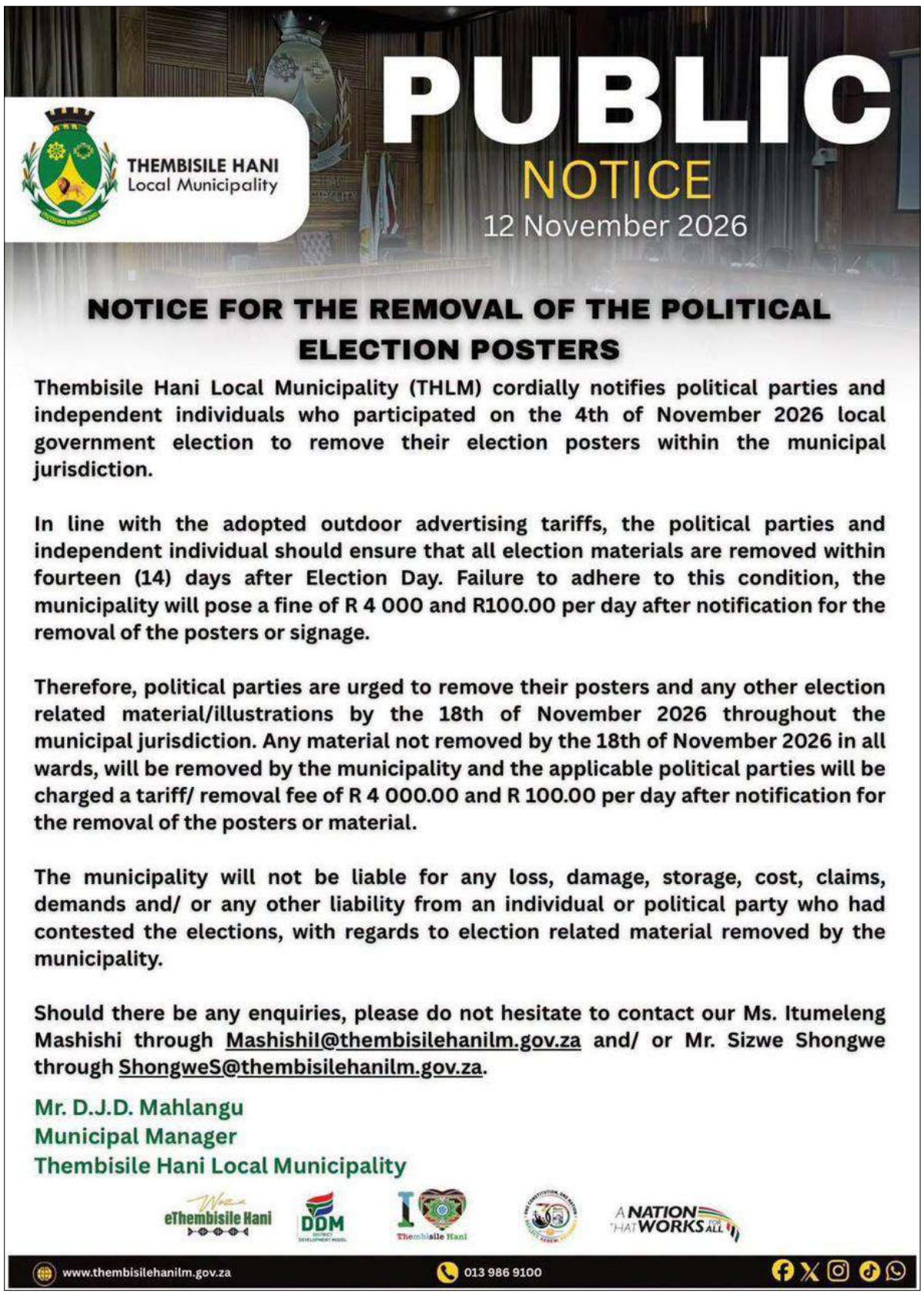
The D1296 Road from Riba Cross to Steelpoort has reached 68% completion.

Much of the work was driven through the #DikgerekgereWednesdays initiative, an innovative programme focused on road maintenance using internal departmental resources.The programme was launched in July 2024 by Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba and MEC Rachoene, and was aimed at blading, re-gravelling and de-bushing provincial roads, particularly gravel ones. Through the programme, the department procured yellow fleet machinery and created employment for over 300 local workers.Premier Ramathuba has previously warned that Limpopo faces a road backlog of 13,500km that needs tarring, with 7,000km of paved roads requiring urgent maintenance, a situation worsened by recent heavy rains and floods.Limpopo has a road network spanning approximately 19,130km, comprising 13,147km of gravel roads and 5,983km of tarred roads.

MEC Rachoene has consistently maintained that the work was not a political gimmick."This is not a political gimmick, as some detractors would have people believe. We have been hard at work even during financial years when there were no elections," he said.

"Our focus remains on creating a conducive environment for Limpopo to thrive economically through provision and maintenance of road infrastructure," he added.





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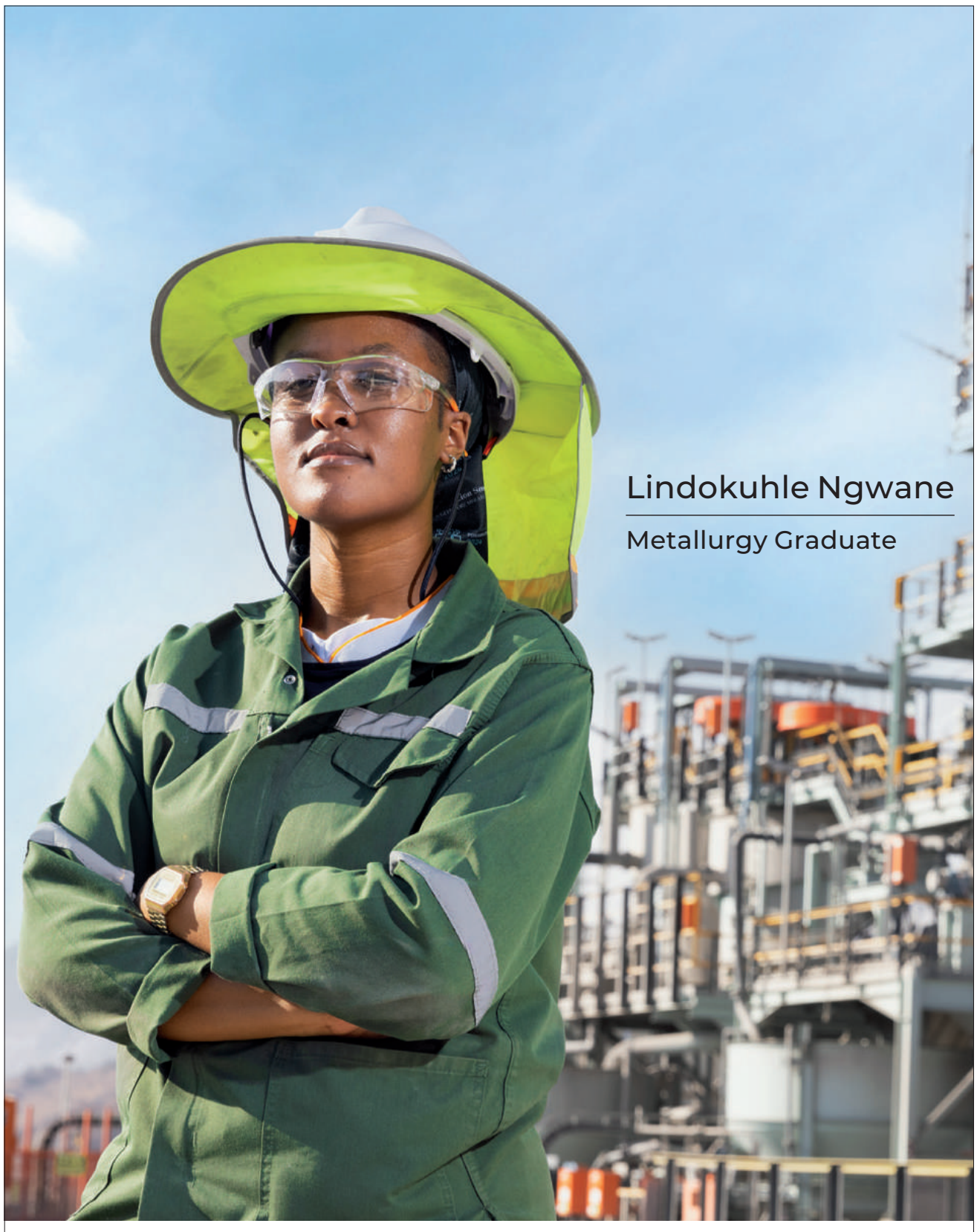

This isn't a story, **it's a journey.**

I'm Lindokuhle Ngwane, a 23-year-old trainee engineer specialising in metallurgy at Glencore Thorncliffe Mine in Steelpoort.

In high school, I dreamed of a career in medicine, never imagining that would change. But when my school introduced me to Glencore's engineering scholarships, my interest in chemical engineering was piqued. I was fortunate to receive a Glencore sponsorship, opening doors to a new future.

Five years of study, delayed by the pandemic, brought challenges and triumphs. Glencore's support, covering everything from tuition to a laptop allowance, encouraged me to persevere. As part of Glencore's graduate programme, I underwent in-service training and, with mentorship, became a metallurgical engineer in training. Each day, I navigate projects, reports, and fieldwork, driven by a desire to excel.

As I journey towards becoming a metallurgist, I'm grateful for the support from my family, community, and colleagues. I am determined to unlock my full potential.

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GLENCORE

MEC Maila impressed after surprise night visit at Mecklenburg Hospital



MEC for Health in Limpopo, Eddie Maila, during his unannounced night-time oversight visit at Mecklenburg Hospital in Moroke Village.

MOROKE

MEC for Health in Limpopo, Eddie Maila, conducted an unannounced night-time oversight visit to Mecklenburg Hospital in Moroke Village, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM), on Friday 13 November 2026. The visit was aimed to assess whether patients were receiving quality care beyond normal working hours.

During the visit, MEC Maila conducted a walkabout across various sections of the hospital, including the Pharmacy, Outpatient Department (OPD) and Casualty Unit. He also interacted directly with patients and healthcare workers to establish whether services were being delivered efficiently and whether patients were receiving the necessary assistance.

Maila expressed satisfaction with the provision of healthcare services at the health facility during the night.

"Healthcare services must be available, accessible and efficient, day and night," Maila said.

The oversight visit formed part of the MEC's commitment to strengthening accountability, monitoring service delivery and ensuring that people of Limpopo receive quality healthcare whenever they needed it.

The night visit came just over two months after Maila took office as MEC for Health. Maila resigned as Fetakgomo-Tubatse Mayor on 2 September 2026, to take over the health portfolio from Dieketseng Mashego, after Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba announced the first reconstitution of the Provincial Executive Council since the start of the 7th administration in July 2024.

Maila's visit to Mecklenburg was therefore significant, as the hospital falls within the same municipality he previously led as mayor.Mecklenburg Hospital has a long history in the Sekhukhune District. The facility started operating as a clinic 46 years ago with only four rooms, a consulting room, a dispensary and injection room, a single-bed labour room, and a single-bed postnatal room, before it was upgraded to a Community Health Centre in 1994 and later to a hospital.

Today, the hospital serves the Moroke community and about fifty other villages in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality.

However, while MEC Maila was satisfied with what he saw on Friday night, the hospital has in the past faced serious complaints from staff.

In 2022, staff members called for an overhaul of the facility, stating conditions were appalling. They claimed the hospital suffered from a severe lack of ambulances, oxygen and adrenaline on emergency trolleys, and poor cleanliness that contributed to poor infection control.

Workers also said that at one stage the EMS section operated with only two ambulances, one of which was broken, which affected emergency response times.

Against that background, Maila's unannounced night visit was seen as an important test of whether night-time services had improved.Maila's visit also formed part of a wider push for unannounced oversight in Limpopo's public health system.

Recently, the Deputy Public Protector, Advocate Dinkie Dube, embarked on an unannounced visit to Seshego Hospital near Polokwane to check good governance and the hospital's effectiveness in assisting patients.

Similarly, in October 2026, the Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Maropene Ramokgopa, conducted an oversight visit to the Thuthuzela Care Centre at Mankweng Hospital to assess services for survivors of gender-based violence.

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SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

6TH ADMINISTRATION INAUGURAL

COUNCIL SITTING

A NEW CHAPTER OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

The commencement of a new Council term, marking a renewed commitment to responsive governance, service delivery and community development. The Council sitting will elect the Executive Mayor, the Speaker, Council Whip and Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) Chairperson



Municipal Manager
Meshack Kgwale

Monday, 23rd November 2026

CHANGE OF VENUE

Venue: Phokwane Sports Ground,
Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality

All in Attendance must be seated by 10H30
COUNCIL STARTS AT 11H00

Dress Code:
Formal or Traditional attire.

A LIMPOPO THAT WORKS FOR ALL

SALGA Inspiring service delivery

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

SEKHUKHUNE District Municipality

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune
The Sekhukhune District Municipality
www.sekhukhunedistrict.gov.za

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Sports



Sekhukhune Dispatch
YOUR NEWS YOUR COMMUNITY

INSIDE

Golf Day brought Groblersdal together for Martha Makuwa



From left to right: Emmanuel Moukangwe (Goldrush employee), Herbert Radinwana (Herbzer Academy CEO), Maggie Bapela (Goldrush Groblersdal Branch Manager) and Moses Mampuru (Goldrush employee), during the official announcement of the partnership.

Goldrush Groblersdal and Herbzer Sports Academy partners to uplift local youth

GROBLERSDAL

Goldrush Groblersdal branch has now officially associated with the Herbzer Sports Academy, in a new partnership that was welcomed as a major boost for grassroots sport in Groblersdal and surrounding rural communities.

The partnership was driven by Maggie Bapela, Branch Manager of Goldrush Groblersdal, who said giving back to the community that supported their business was at the heart of the decision.

Herbzer Sports Academy Founder and CEO, Herbert Radingwana, welcomed Goldrush Groblersdal as a supporter and potential sponsor of the academy.

Radingwana said the partnership is about changing lives through sport, in which under the collaboration, Goldrush is set to partner with Herbzer Sports Academy in three upcoming youth upliftment sporting events.

The sporting events include the Herbzer Sports Against Crime and Substance Abuse, Back to School Tournament to be held in January and the Youth in Sports Tournament organized for June 2027.

Radingwana said the sporting events were designed to keep children active, disciplined and focused on a positive future.He stressed that the main objective of partnering with Goldrush was not for money, but to secure sporting equipment such as soccer kits and soccer balls for the children.

"The objective is simple, to seek donations from the company and buy sporting equipment to uplift these underprivileged young people," he said. In return, Herbzer Sports Academy pledged to acknowledge Goldrush at all its events.

"We will acknowledge Goldrush by branding billboards at all sports grounds using their banners. All our soccer kits will brand Goldrush front and back as a main sponsor of Herbzer Sports Academy," Radingwana said.

Additionally, Radingwana said the academy's main objective was to take children away from the streets, and to help them avoid early pregnancy and drug abuse.

He added that government at municipal level was not doing enough for sport, especially in rural areas."That is the reason partnerships like this one with Goldrush are so important," he said.

Community members who attended the announcement praised Goldrush Groblersdal and Radinwana for investing in the youth, stating that the partnership would give many talented children an opportunity to showcase their skills and stay away from crime.

The partnership is expected to bring new energy to local football and other sporting codes to create a safe space where young people in Groblersdal and surrounding villages could dream, play and grow.

THLM IS hiring!

ITUTHUKO ENZINZILEKO

Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (THLM) invites suitably qualified applicants for the following vacant position(s):

Municipal Manager's Office
- Manager: Public Paricipation
- Personal Assistant to the Executive Mayor
- Ward Committee Coordinator

Community Development Services Department
- Traffic Officer
- Coordinator: Sports, Arts, Recreation, Culture & Facilities
- General Worker

Technical Services Department (Water & Sanitation Services)
- Laboratory Assistant
- General Worker (Bulk-Water) - (Re-advert)
- General Worker (Roads & Stormwater) - (Re-advert)
- General Worker (Reticulation)

Financial Services Department
- General Worker

CLOSING DATE 27 NOVEMBER 2026 @ 16H00

Application must be submitted to **www.thembisilehanilm.gov.za/e-Recruitment**, applicants should register a profile to apply for any of the vacant positions and attach a detailed CV, identity document and qualifications and a driver's license where applicable.

Human Resources Enquiries: **Ms. N.P. Tjia and/ or Ms. N.A. Mfiso at 013 986 9169 and/ or tjian@thembisilehanilm.gov.za and mfison@thembisilehanilm.gov.za** respectively.

NO FAXED OR E-MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
Candidates must be willing to be subjected to background screening and/or security clearance processes.

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