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Suspended Nkomazi Mayor Johan Mkhathshwa.

Nkomazi Municipality stripped Naked of its leadership

Mbongeni Khoza

The ANC in Mpumalanga have expelled it's mayor and speaker of the Nkomazi local municipality for defying the party.

Johan Mkhathshwa (mayor) Sipiwe Mashele (speaker) who have been mayor and speaker in the previous administration defied the ANC cocas in November last year and stood as mayor and speaking winning their positions back regardless of the ANC telling then not to stand for the position. Mkhathshwa who was supposed to be replaced by Phindile Magagula went to beat her with votes in a council meeting in November and Mashele also defied the party and contested Hilda Nyambi to become a speaker again.

According to acting secretary of the ANC in Mpumalanga, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali the two refused to resign after they were elected hence disciplinary actions were taken against them and four

more councilors.

The councilors who were also fired are: Mumsie Jeanet Khoza, Delile Thembelihle Mlangeni, Jacob Mancoba Mthethwa and Vincent Tshepo Nyambi.

They are accused of nominating and seconding the nomination of Mkhathshwa and Mashele during the council sitting in November 23 last year.

In a letter that Emsamo News have seen directed to the six, the disciplinary committee found them guilty and expelled them.

"The six have defied the organisation, Mkhathshwa didn't emerge in the mayor's interviews but he went to contest and that's a serious misconduct



Suspended Nkomazi Speaker; Sipiwe Mashele.

defying the party that he represents in the council.

We had to take them through all the processes of DC and a verdict was reached that they be expelled.

The letters have been served to them and what's left now for the organisation is to write to the independent electoral commission to inform them that these people have been fired in the party and we shall then convene a special council sitting to elect the rightful mayor and speaker," said Ntshalintshali.

Ntshalintshali said from the four councilors the ANC is ready to go for by-elections.

"Remember for the

mayor and speaker we don't need to go for by-elections because they entered through propositional representation (PR) we shall just remove their names from IEC and forward the rightful names.

Those who are ward councilors from the four who nominated and supported the nomination we are ready for by-elections to retain our wards," said Ntshalintshali.

Mkhathshwa could not be reached for comment nor did he respond to smses sent to him.

Speaking on the sideline at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) meeting in Cape Town Mashele told Emsamo News that she doesn't believe that someone can fire her because she joined the ANC alone.

"Hawuuu!! I don't know that, but I don't think someone can fire me because I joined the ANC alone. I will check with the others if they are fired but for me no, there's no one who can fire me from the ANC," said Mashele laughing.

Police find more clues at failed CIT robbery in Delmas

Sboniso Dlamini

The high rate of CIT robberies in Mpumalanga has never given residents of the province peace daily when travelling on the road as they never know what may happen in front of them.

The Mpumalanga police have in Delmas, managed to pursue suspects in a cash-in-transit robbery, arresting two of the alleged criminals while other two were fatally wounded during a shootout with the police.

According to police report, a cash delivery van with two security guards was attacked by a group of heavily armed suspects.

Provincial police spokesperson, Brigadier Selvy Mohlala confirmed the shoot out and said a group of alleged criminals was cornered on the R42 Road in Delmas, after the attack.

“According to police report, a cash delivery van with two security guards was attacked by a group of heavily armed suspects.

The suspects then tried to rob the guards of cash but their efforts were futile,” said Mohlala.

The police defended themselves whereby two suspects were fatally shot while two other suspects reportedly hijacked a Toyota Quantum minibus.

Mohlala says the rest of the suspects in the group managed to flee the scene of the ordeal, however investigations on the matter are still continuing.

The Provincial Commissioner of the



SAPS in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela further sent a stern warning on those who would take chances and target the cash delivery vehicles.

“People should take note that the province of Mpumalanga is not a place where criminals can do as they like.

The formidable team of our members is ever ready to meet fire with fire” warned the General.



Peace at last as trial date is set for former Agriculture MEC

Mbongeni khoza

The trial date for the double murder charges and attempted murder against former agricultural MEC in Mpumalanga, Mandla Msibi is set to start in September.

Msibi and other five, Njabulo Shugulugu Mkhonto, Buddah Mdluli, Anele Mnisi, Tsepo Matsane and Charlie Ngwenya are facing two counts of murder and an attempted murder case.

Their arrest came after an August 22 incident outside Coyotes Shisa Nyama in Mbombela in which Sindela Siphso Lubisi and Dingaan Ngwenya were killed. Sfiso Mpila was also injured.

The suspects on the trial all pleaded not guilty and are out on a R20, 000 bail each.

Their case was postponed on Thursday last week for the state to finalize their indictment and set a trial date.

In a brief appearance on Tuesday state prosecutor, Leane Jones asked the court to

transfer the case to the high court for trial citing that the defense have been handed with the indictment.

Magistrate Eddie Hall transferred the case to the high court where the dates have been set for September 5 to September 16.

“The case is transferred to the Mpumalanga high court to sit on September 5 to September 16. You are warned to appear and you bail is being extended,” said Hall.

In the Indictment which Emsamo News have seen a copy of, all the accuse are charged with double murder and attempted murder.

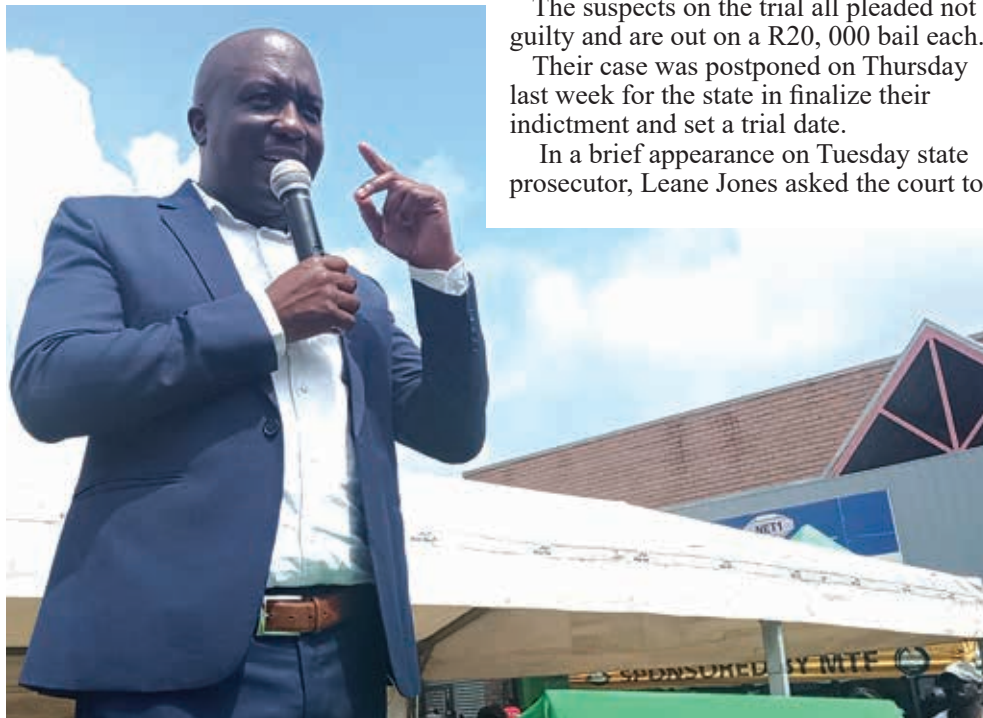
Speaking to his supporters which filled the courtroom an dancing and chanting outside the court Msibi said he was happy that finally the case have been moved for a trial.

“We are happy that the trial date has been set, from the 5th to the 17th of September. There’s no day that does not arrive, now we will have a chance to clear ourselves unlike the court of public opinion which have declared us guilty. We will respect the law as we did and going forward the court shall hear our case,” said Msibi.

Outside the court there was a stage set for Msibi to speak and the Bester street was closed in the period where Msibi was appearing in court.

It’s unclear if Msibi will contest the treasury position of the ANC on March 11 to 13 where the ANC provincial conference is expected to sit since has stepped aside.

Before his arrest Msibi was MEC for agriculture and also provincial elections manager of the ANC.

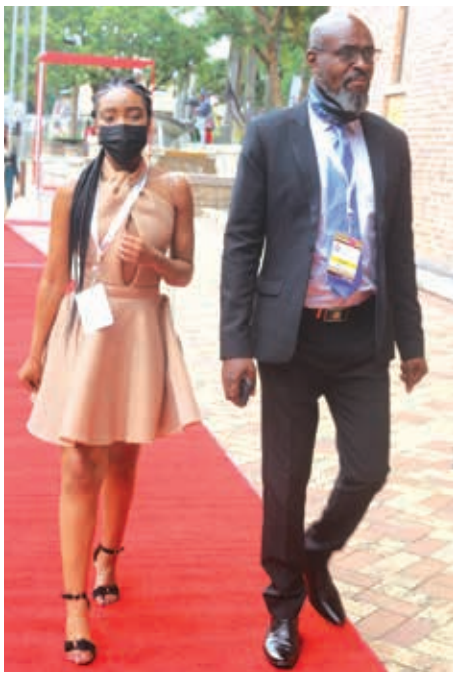


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MPUMALANGA STATE OF THE PROVINCE [ADDRESS 2022]

JOB CREATION INITIATIVES

- Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (MERRP) to place the provincial economy on a growth trajectory that creates more job opportunities for the people of Mpumalanga.
- The provincial and local municipalities will intensify existing programmes such as the Social Enterprise Development Programme, Government Nutrition Programme, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Siyatentela Roads Maintenance Programme, National Youth Service, Paving of township and municipal roads, Emerging Contractor Development Programme and Skills development to create massive job opportunities.
- 44 applications were finally approved by the Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund for funding and sent to MEGA for disbursement.

INVESTING IN THE MPUMALANGA ECONOMY

- Lufthansa Airlines, through their Euro-Wings division, will soon establish a route from Frankfurt in Germany to Mpumalanga Kruger International Airport.
- We are making significant progress with the development of a new hotel and conference facility in Middelburg. The project is currently at earthworks stage. We anticipate completion in 18 months".

- Vodacom has announced that they will invest R450 million into their network and power backup upgrades across the Province.
- Launched the sky walk project located at the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve along the Panorama route in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. The sky walk will turn Gods window into a global must see location and offer visitors a 360 degree panoramic view, with a 12 m walkaway suspended on the cliff. To create more than 100 permanent jobs and during construction 300 job opportunities.
- A recent study by the Goldman Sachs investment bank found that the cannabis industry will average 20% growth over the next decade. As the Mpumalanga Province, we are blessed with weather patterns that make the cultivation of cannabis a sustainable revenue stream for the Provincial fiscus.

BULK WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

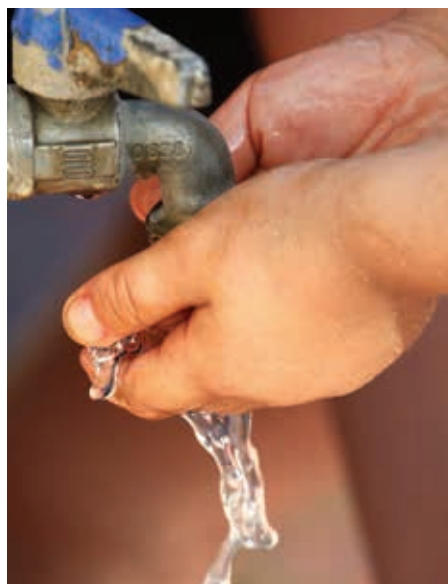
- In partnership with local government and other key stakeholders, the Province will implement the following as part of Integrated Human Settlements:
- Finalize the Provincial Water Master Plan to guide the planning and implementation of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in the Province, and expedite the implementation of the Mountain View Regional Dam within the City of Mbombela.
- Facilitate partnership with the Private sector

to implement the District Development Model One plan for all in order to fast-track the delivery of services to communities.

- We have collaborated with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to accelerate the implementation of the Loskop Bulk Water Project which entails the construction of abstraction works at Loskop Dam, a 20 ML/day treatment module, a 40 km bulk pipeline, 4 booster pump stations and a storage reservoir.
- The total cost of the project is R1 049 000 962. This will directly benefit over 13 000 households in both Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka Municipalities.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- We shall accelerate the completion of infrastructural projects across, including but not limited to the parliamentary village, the Mpumalanga Fresh Produce Market, Tekwane South bridge, Bethal hospital, Mapulaneng hospital and Mammethlake hospital, interrupted by illicit forums extorting money and blocking the delivery of services.
- Planning for the Linah Malatjie Tertiary hospital is progressing well and construction is to start in the 2022/2023 Financial Year.
- We have initiated new projects including providing 176 schools with water and sanitation, 183 schools undergoing maintenance and refurbishment; 40 new





- classrooms in fast growing towns.
- To deliver 2 453 housing units through Rural Housing Programme, Military Veteran Housing Programme, Finance Linked Individual Subsidy and Individual Subsidies.
 - Through Revitalization of Mining Towns, the housing targets are 217 housing opportunities planned for Emalahleni, 208 housing opportunities planned for Steve Tshwete municipality and 40 housing opportunities planned for Thaba Chweu.
 - SANRAL, the national road agency will invest R9 billion on road infrastructure in the Province.

STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM POST PANDEMIC

- We have committed ourselves to improving EMS Response rate through a multi-pronged approach.
- Medicines and surgical sundries at medical depot should be at 95% availability through the Stock Visibility System (SVS) in hospitals.
- The department of Health has been instructed to reduce contingent liabilities by more than 80% in the short to medium term period and by more than 90% in the long term period.
- The department will implement the two pronged provincial litigation strategy which includes clinical management to prevent

further litigations and digitisation of health records to improve data management and availability of records.

GAME CHANGING INTERVENTIONS

- The Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan will guide the rollout of interventions, i.e Nkomazi Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Nkomazi municipality and the Petrochemical Industrial Technology Park in Govan Mbeki municipality.
- The top structure buildings for the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market will soon be completed and to be operationalized within the 2022/2023 Financial Year.
- Will host a trade and investments conference within the next three months focusing on Technology, Agro-processing, Mining, Green Economy and Manufacturing.
- Established a Just Transition and Climate Change Working Group to enable Mpumalanga to tap in the R131 billion, promised by the industrialized countries to help South Africa implement a Just Transition to low carbon.

MUNICIPAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT

- We urge all municipalities to waste no time

in filling all the critical management positions as part of building and strengthening their administration.

- We will continue to work closely with ESKOM by engaging the affected municipalities and monitor the honouring of reasonable repayment agreements.
- We will take decisive action to curb the increase of cable theft and other electrical equipment such as transformers and illegal connections.

SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

- The province continues to work closely with the Institution of Traditional Leaders in pursuit of social cohesion and nation building.
- The ushering of the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act that came into effect from April 2021 requires , amongst others, we sort out the historical land disputes associated with distorted jurisdictions, resolve succession disputes and issues related to the recognition of traditional leaders, head-men and head-women. This will culminate in the reconstitution of traditional councils by 2023.
- A Provincial Initiation Coordination Committee (PICC) for the proper coordination of the important work of ensuring the safety of our young people during their rite of passage to adulthood, has been established.



“Let’s grow Mpumalanga together.”



Miss Mpumalanga 2022 Top 10 Finalists



Buhle Prisca Mokwena (20) from White River - Mbombela Municipality

Completed a 3 year course in musical theatre and dance and have just entered the work force . Plan in bringing artistic educational change to the beautiful province and in grooming young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Buhle Snegugu Malinga (20) – from WatervalBoven - EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Completed her matric at Imemeza Secondary School from year 2017 to 2020. currently doing her second year at the University of the Free State studying Bachelor of Administration. A model at V-models SA, a modelling tutor in WatervalBoven and a co-founder of MISS TEEN EMAKHAZENI.



KHOLEKA PRETTY KHUMALO (21) from Chrissiesmeer - Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

Model; Founder of Turning Lifestyle Beauty Pageant; Beautician for University of Mpumalanga (UMP) Models; Final year Bachelor of Science in Agriculture student at the University of Mpumalanga Mbombela Campus.



LERATO NOGABE (23) from Embalenhle - Govan Mbeki Municipality.

Completed her matric in 2017 from KiriyaSwane Secondary School; then started with her media practices course at Boston Media House Pretoria campus in 2018. She was only able to study her first year and half due to financial constraints and complications with funding she had to drop out.



LINDELE MLAMBO (23) from Barberton - Mbombela Local Municipality.

She is a 2x graduate and currently pursuing her honours degree in Human Resource Management at the University of Johannesburg.



LUNGILE PRETTY FAKUDE (24) from Game, Mshadza - Mbombela Municipality.

She holds an honors degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Currently pursuing a Post-graduate Diploma in Public Health with the University of Pretoria. Lungile is working in a psychiatric hospital in Nelspruit where her passion for mental health is ignited every single day.



NQOBILE MBATHA (24) from Thembisile Hani Local municipality.

She is currently a student at the University of Johannesburg studying Logistics, professional actress, a proud founder of the Ibanathi foundation and an ambassador for Joburgchild welfare.



SHIVITE NONTANDO (25) from TongaView under the Nkomazi municipality.

She acquired her pharmacy degree at Tshwane University of Technology and now a Pharmacist by profession.



ZINHLE PRETTY MAKHUBU, (23) from Amsterdam - Mkhondo Local Municipality.

A dedicated Bachelor of Pharmacy graduand looking to contribute to Mpumalanga Province by embracing the power within her voice to change the narratives in our societies pertaining to sexual health issues.



ZOLISWA PHUMLA MLOMBO (26) from Pienaar (eMsogwaba) - Mbombela Local Municipality.

With full passion in designing and fashion, studied at GGAFS - Giga-Guru Arts and Fashion School doing Fashion designing. Aiming at bringing positive change amongst the Mpumalanga youth by hosting youth talk programmes that tackles issues faced most by the youth



Paralysed child's father still looking for answers

013NEWS Reporter

A Standerton father of a child who got paralysed by a massive tree at school is still looking for answers as the Mpumalanga department of education “refuses” to say what really happened on the day.

Melokuhle Shabalala, a Grade 3 learner, is lucky to be alive after surviving a horrific incident of a tree that fell on him while he was standing in a queue for food. The incident, which left him paralysed, happened in November 2021 at Nyandeni Primary School in the Standerton township.

Nine-year-old Melokuhle was left paralysed and wheelchair-bound with fewer chances of walking again. He had to be transferred to the Witbank Provincial Hospital after spending several hours at the Standerton Provincial Hospital.

Distraught father Nkosana Shabalala said the department has since kept him in the dark as to what had happened to his child.

“It’s so painful that up until now I still do not know how the incident happened and how my son landed in the hospital,”



he told the reporter. “I can barely eat and sleep when I see him lying in bed every day thinking he will never walk again,” said an emotional Nkosana.

Since the schools reopened in January 2022, Melokuhle could not attend school due to his condition.

“He is always asking me when he will go back to school every morning when he sees his sister Mpilwenhle preparing to go to school,” the father said.

Nkosana said the department is refusing to share with him the report as well as the video of the incident.

“This is what pains me a lot because it denies me the right to know what happened. Why are they hiding from me?” asked the father. Education department spokesman Jasper Zwane told 013NEWS that the matter is in a process of going to court.

“The matter is now handled by lawyers of the department and those representing the family,” Zwane said.

“There are discussions currently happening between ourselves and his legal representatives,” he said Monday 28 February 2022.

It’s so painful that up until now I still do not know how the incident happened and how my son landed in the hospital



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TRAC BRINGS ELANDS MARATHON BACK

Sbonisi Dlamini

The 2022 TRACN4 Elands Marathon comrades qualifier formerly known as Elands Valley Marathon has returned.

This comes after the announcement of its backing by the Trans African Concessions commonly known as TRAC.

The 42.2km comrades qualifier is reportedly set to take place on May 7, 2022, mainly on the N4 Toll Route.

In a statement the race is reportedly going to start at Laerskool Oosterlijn in Emgwenya (Waterval Boven) with the route taking runners down the escarpment,

through the Waterval Boven tunnel and ending at the Sappi Skills Training Centre in Ngodwana.

It is expected that the event will attract some of the country's top runners leaving a lasting impression, due to the mesmerizing scenery.

This event will also comprise of two other road races which

These include making it possible for runners who are desperate to compete to do so again

are a half marathon of 21.1km and a 10km race. These are also expected to attract top class athletes and road running aficionados.

According to TRAC's communication manager Solange Soares, this marathon will have numerous positive effects including health benefits.

"TRAC and the Nedbank

LVCC Running Club are also confident that the reinstatement of this marathon will have numerous positive spinoffs. These include making it possible for runners who are desperate to compete to do so again", stated Soares.

Beth Bloch of the Nedbank Running Club has in the same vein echoed that the 2022 TRACN4 Elands Marathon will be the best, citing that the club is excited about the opportunity.

Registration is already open for all three races with early bird entries closing April, 17 and late entries open until March, the second. TRAC says only online entries will be accepted for the event.



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