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NEWS



A Centenary Legacy Project is transforming a village nursery 2

COMMUNITY



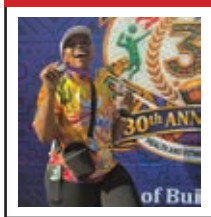
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COMMUNITY



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SPORT



Mpumalanga hosts the 2026 NPSSCE in Mbombela 8



NEW RIDES FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS

Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane

In a major step toward empowering traditional leadership and accelerating service delivery across rural Mpumalanga, Premier Mandla Ndlovu officially handed over 34 new vehicles to traditional authorities at a celebratory gathering in the Ehlanzeni District, at Mbombela Stadium.

Speaking to a prominent delegation including President of CONTRALESA(Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa) and Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders,Kgosi Lameck Mokoena, along with MEC for COGHSTA(Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs), Speed Mashilo, district mayors, and local councillors, Premier Ndlovu said the vehicles are essential operational tools rather than mere symbols of status.

"The 34 brand-new vehicles are not about prestige orstatus. They are about improving access to communities, strengthening the work of traditional authorities and ensuring that our rural communities are not left behind.

"These vehicles will help our traditional leaders navigate vast rural areas, difficult terrain, deep valleys, and gravel roads to reach the people who depend on your leadership and guidance," said Premier Ndlovu.

Reflecting on broader relations between provincial leadership and traditional councils, Premier Ndlovu emphasized the harmonious working relationship within Mpumalanga:

"As the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, we recognise that we cannot achieve inclusive rural and strengthening our development without nurturing partnership with our traditional leaders.

Which is why as government we value the role of our traditional leaders.

Bo Ndabezitha are government's strategic partners in our efforts to address poverty, unemployment, and inequality," said Premier Ndlovu.

Mpumalanga Provincial Government's ongoing support for traditional councils and traditional leadership was highly appreciated by Kgoshi Mokoena.

" Mpumalanga is the first province to buy operational vehicles to support the work of traditional authorities.

The work of traditional council offices often requires extensive travelling to assist community members, and the vehicles will play a very important role in assisting us to reach our community members," said Kgoshi Mokoena.

Premier Ndlovu noted that the provincial government has delivered on key promises, including the official appointment of 287 izinduna, provision of a R100 000 bereavement payout to families upon the passing of a Ndabezitha or their spouse, and it was also revealed by the Premier that families of leaders who passed away earlier this year have already received their funds.

Continued on page 2



Left: Premier Ndlovu, MEC Speed Mashilo, and Kgoshigadi MD Maloka.



Top: The brand new bakkies donated by Mpumalanga provincial government.
Right: Premier Mandla Ndlovu says the new bakkies are aimed at improving access to communities

Premier delivers new cars

Continued from page 1

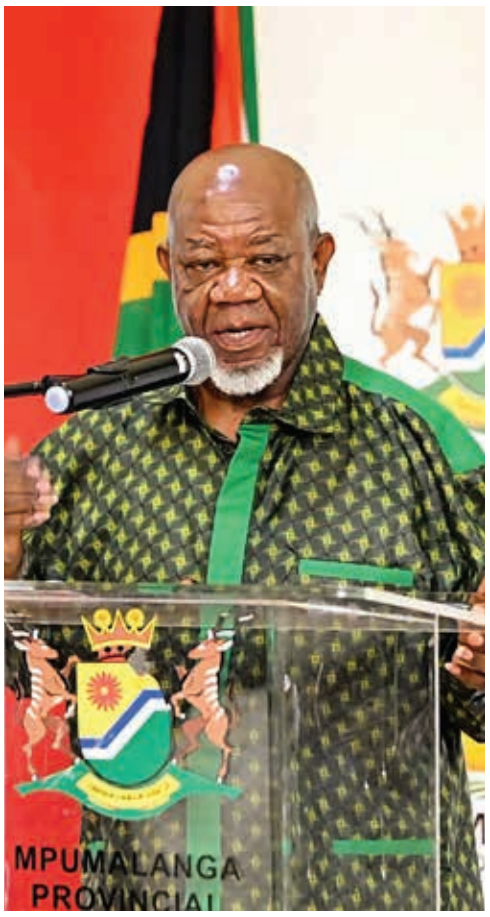
Premier Ndlovu highlighted ongoing and upcoming provincial projects including:

- Upgrading water reticulation and expanding electricity connections in partnership with Eskom
- Rural road rehabilitation to link communities with markets, schools, and health facilities
- Infrastructure modernisation and digital system upgrades for traditional council offices,
- Integrating small-scale rural farmers into the mainstream agricultural economy through the Mpumalanga International Food Market.

With the 2026 Local Government Elections just 19 days away, the Premier urged traditional leaders (Bo Ndabezitha) to encourage community members to turn out in large numbers to exercise their democratic right to vote.

"Bo Ndabezitha we are now 19 days away from the 2026 Local Government Elections. We are happy that finally all political parties who are willing to contest elections, will appear on the ballot paper.

This is an opportunity for the people to vote for the government of their choice," said Premier Ndlovu.



Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena welcomes the gesture by Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

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Tiyimeleni greenhouse to protect plants from bad weather.

A Centenary Legacy Project is transforming a village nursery

Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane

For years, Charles Mdhluli tended to his green seedlings in Belfast village, in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, with little more than raw determination, a deep love for the soil, and hand-fashioned crafts to keep his nursery afloat.

Situated just steps away from the iconic Paul Kruger Gate of the KNP(Kruger National Park), Charles's initiative, Tiyimeleni Community Nursery, operated on modest resources but carried immense vision.

Today, that vision has taken giant, permanent roots.

As part of the KNP Centenary Legacy Projects, a series of initiatives designed to mark 100 years of conservation.

Tiyimeleni has been officially handed a game-changing overhaul which includes a 15 m × 35 m greenhouse, a shelter for operational activities, storeroom, office, paving, sign board, 2 x 5000 water tanks, garden tools, plant bags and irrigation pipes, all worth over R400 000.

What once relied on rudimentary shade and basic tools is now a fully equipped, modern agricultural hub.

In addition to physical infrastructure, the project reportedly addressed digital and business literacy.

Through a strategic collaboration with the Good Work Foundation, nursery staff underwent a comprehensive two-day business and computer skills workshop.

To ensure sustainable management, project leader Charles Mdhluli was equipped with a laptop and mobile phone to manage accounts, stock, and client outreach.

Speaking on the broader significance of the handover, SANParks(South African National Parks) Head of Communications, JP Louw, emphasised that true conservation must uplift the communities living along the park's borders.

"Tiyimeleni has been identified as one of the community nurseries that must benefit through legacy projects of the KNP Centenary which are intended to lay a foundation towards a future of inclusive conservation," Louw said.

He added that this initiative represents a collaborative ecosystem bringing together public entities, private enterprise, and non-profit organisations.

Sponsored by TotalEnergies South Africa, the project was reportedly realised through joint action between SANParks, the DFFE(Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment), and the non-governmental organisation Save the Sand.

During the handover ceremony, community members and representatives gathered as KNP General Manager: Human Capital Management,

Azia Nxumalo, and Acting Corporate Affairs & CSI Manager at TotalEnergies, Reginald Morweng, jointly cut the official ribbon.



Charles Mdhluli standing alongside the Tiyimeleni team and stakeholders.

agriculture, rural development, land & environmental affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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MACRO-ECONOMIC REPORT 2026/27 QUARTER 2 - Summary

Executive Summary & Macro-Economic Outlook

• **GDP Performance:** Real GDP contracted by 0.2% quarter-on-quarter (qoq) in Q2 2026 (following a 0.4% expansion in Q1). Key contractions were recorded in trade (-1.9%), manufacturing (-1.8%), and mining (-3.0%). Agriculture, forestry, and fishing maintained positive growth at 0.3% qoq, supported by increased horticultural and field crop outputs.

• **Consumer Inflation (CPI):** Headline annual inflation rose slightly to 4.4% in August 2026 (up from 4.3% in July), staying close to the SARB target midpoint. Housing/utilities (+5.2%) and transport (+8.8%) were the largest drivers.

• **Producer Prices (PPI):** Annual final manufacturing producer price inflation slowed to 5.0% in August 2026 from 5.7% in July.

• **Interest Rates:** On September 23, 2026, the SARB MPC unanimously increased the repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.25% (prime rate at 10.75%) to address upward fuel price risks and protect inflation target alignment.

• **Fuel Adjustments (September 2026):** Significant price hikes were implemented across fuel categories due to rising global product prices and a negative slate balance (-R9.519 billion). Petrol 93/95 increased by 129.00 c/l, Diesel 0.05% by 293.90 c/l, and Diesel 0.005% by 314.90 c/l.

Climate Change Outlook & Farm Management: El Niño Outlook

• **Climate Outlook:** According to the South African Weather Service (SAWS Climate Watch, 31 August 2026), confirms that El Niño is active and will persist throughout the 2026/27 summer season, bringing high temperatures and below-normal rainfall across summer rainfall regions creating risks of dry conditions, heat stress, crop failures, and livestock mortality.

• **Agricultural Risks:** Increased risk of soil moisture depletion, heat stress, crop failures, livestock mortalities, and localized water restrictions.

• **Farmer Advisory & Mitigation Steps:**
- Crop Farmers: Adopt and Implement Climate-Smart and Conservation Agriculture practices to preserve soil moisture. Avoid unnecessary expansion of cultivated land, adhere to recommended planting windows, and select heat- and drought-tolerant cultivars listed under the Plant Improvement Act, 2018. Use water-efficient irrigation (e.g., drip systems) during early morning or evening.
- Livestock Farmers: Align herd size with veld carrying capacity to prevent overstocking and overgrazing. Implement rotational grazing, secure supplementary feed/water, and maintain regular veterinary vaccination schedules to manage heat-related pests and diseases.

Commodity, Sector Prices & Input Market Trends

1. Horticulture, Field Crops & Fertiliser

• **Vegetables:**
- Butternuts & Pumpkins: Supply shortages (market volumes down 28% yoy) drove sharp price increases. Butternuts are trading at R11.66/kg (+165% yoy) and pumpkins at R6.47/kg (+180% yoy).
- Heavy Supply Commodities: Heavy market supply keeps prices under pressure for potatoes (R41.97/10kg), onions (R48.49/10kg), tomatoes (R5.35/kg), and cabbages (R1.64/kg).

• **Grains & Oilseeds:**
- White maize spot prices stand at R3,917/ton and yellow maize at R3,601/ton, constrained by record global production in the US and Brazil. Soybeans spot traded at R7,360/ton and sunflower seed at R10,620/ton.

• **Fertilizer Prices:** Week of 21 September 2026
- Urea (Nitrogen): Rose to R9,040.00/ton (bulk Ex-Durban) due to gas cost spikes and Strait of Hormuz supply disruptions.
- MAP (Phosphate): Eased slightly to R15,293.00/ton (bulk Ex-Durban), with high global sulphur prices keeping the decline slow.
- Potassium (MOP): Decreased to R7,730.00/ton (bulk Ex-Durban) on weak global demand.
- AMS: Increased to R6,335.00/ton (bulk Ex-Durban) due to local supply shortages.

2. Livestock & Wool

• **Cattle:** Weaner calf prices averaged R36.95/kg, while slaughter carcas prices weakened (official A2/3 carcass at R73.42/kg; survey average at R66.13/kg). Demand for pregnant commercial breeding females remained strong at auctions.

• **Sheep & Goats:** Slaughter lamb prices averaged R50.71/kg. Goats experienced a sharp price increase due to seasonal demand, with large goats reaching R53.72/kg (+20%) and small goats R78.80/kg (+20%).

• **Wool:** Local wool prices surged by over 6% (RWS 20 micron at R198/kg), driven by global supply deficits.

Farm Management & Marketing Opportunities

• **Calculating Profitability:** Farmers are reminded that profit is realized only when Total Income exceeds Total Costs. Production plans must evaluate input costs (seed, fertilizer, fuel, labour) against realistic market prices prior to planting.

• **Direct Market Outlets:**

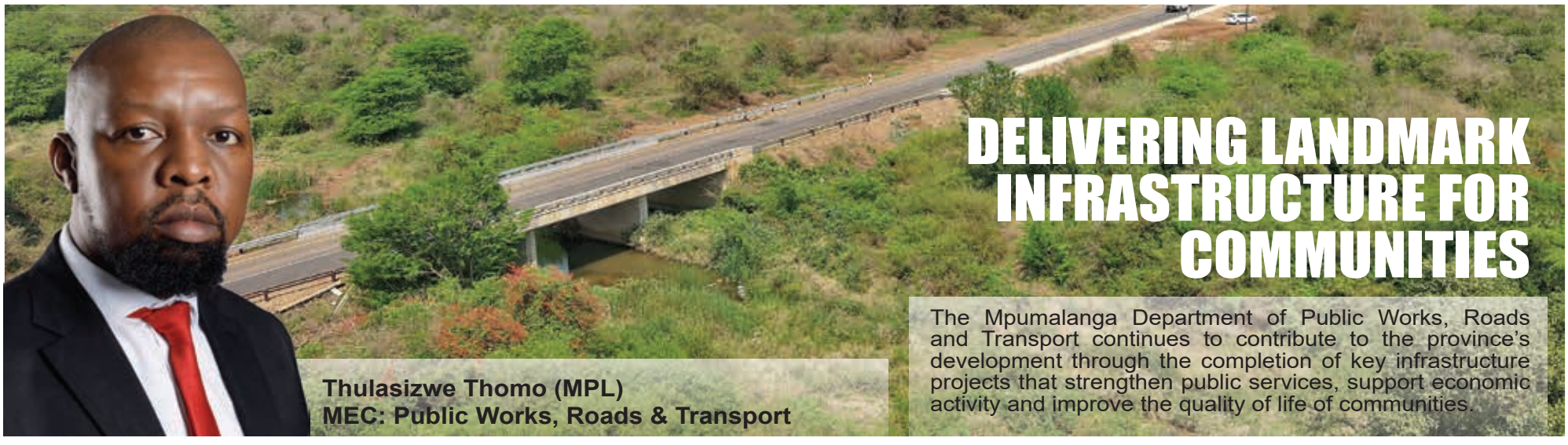
Institution / Outlet	Contact Number	Focus Area
Sundra Chicken & Rabbit	065 681 1941	Poultry & Specialty Meat
Skeerport Pecans	082 555 9826	Pecan Nuts
Kleipeland Abattoir	(013) 932 1267	Red Meat Processing
Outspan Abattoir	(013) 661 1768	Red Meat Processing
Barberton Abattoir	084 300 7204	Red Meat Processing
Beefcor Feedlot	(013) 932 7000	Cattle / Feedlot Supply
Morgan Beef Abattoirs	(017) 688 9300	Beef Processing
Karan Beef Abattoirs	(017) 773 0352/8	Beef Processing
AFGRI Poultry Abattoirs	(013) 661 1064 / 0163	Poultry Processing
AFGRI Silo Eloff	(013) 667 9298	Grain Storage & Handling
Farmers Meat Market	(013) 661 1557	Livestock & Meat Sales
African Grain	082 338 1725	Grain Procurement
G 3 Abattoir	071 315 8909	Meat Processing
Government Nutrition Programme (DARDLEA)	082 432 7088	Food Items supply to Government Boarding Schools & Hospitals

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The Directorate of Agricultural Economics Services acknowledges the use of information from ABSA, Statistics South Africa, Standard Bank, FNB, South African Reserve Bank, Country Economy Automobile Association of South Africa, AM Trends and Department of Agriculture.

public works, roads & transport
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ONE CONSTITUTION, ONE NATION 30 REFLECT. RENEW. RECOMMIT

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DELIVERING LANDMARK INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMUNITIES

Thulasizwe Thomo (MPL)
MEC: Public Works, Roads & Transport

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport continues to contribute to the province's development through the completion of key infrastructure projects that strengthen public services, support economic activity and improve the quality of life of communities.

Among the significant projects completed are the Mkhondo Boarding School, King Nyabela District Hospital in Middelburg - formerly New Middelburg Hospital - and the Mpumalanga Fresh Produce Market. These represent strategic investments in education, healthcare and agriculture, demonstrating the critical role of public infrastructure in supporting social and economic development in the province.

The Mkhondo Boarding School expands access to quality education, particularly for learners from rural communities dependent on public boarding facilities. King Nyabela District Hospital marks a major milestone for public healthcare, providing modern infrastructure that improves conditions for health professionals and strengthens capacity to meet community health needs. The Mpumalanga Fresh Produce Market strengthens the agricultural value chain by improving handling, distribution and marketing of fresh produce, enhancing market access for farmers and contributing to food security and economic growth.

Together, these projects highlight the importance of sustained investment in public infrastructure and the need for proper maintenance and management to ensure long-term value. For the Department, delivery extends beyond construction to include planning, implementation, quality assurance and effective asset management to ensure facilities remain sustainable and fit for purpose.











REHABILITATING TOURISM ROUTES TO UNLOCK ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mpumalanga's tourism sector, driven by its wildlife, cultural heritage and scenic landscapes like the Kruger National Park, Panorama Route and Blyde River Canyon, relies heavily on accessible and well-maintained roads. Recognising this, the Department's road infrastructure programme prioritises the rehabilitation and maintenance of key tourism routes to improve connectivity for visitors while also supporting the movement of residents, workers, businesses and goods.

Maintaining these routes improves accessibility, road safety and the overall visitor experience, while directly benefiting tourism-related businesses along the corridors such as accommodation establishments, restaurants, tour operators and community-based and craft enterprises. Better road access encourages travel between attractions and creates greater opportunities for local communities to participate in and benefit from the tourism economy.

The impact extends beyond tourism. Improved road infrastructure supports agricultural producers, local suppliers and transport operators who depend on efficient links between towns and rural settlements. Rehabilitating tourism routes is therefore an investment in the broader provincial economy that supports enterprise development, employment creation and inclusive economic growth, while protecting tourism assets and ensuring the road network remains resilient to changing travel demands and weather-related damage.

INFRASTRUCTURE AS A FOUNDATION FOR A GROWING PROVINCE

From education and healthcare facilities to agricultural market infrastructure and tourism routes, the Department's work reflects the broad role of infrastructure in provincial development. Under MEC Thulasizwe Thomo, it continues to pursue interventions that improve access to essential services, strengthen economic connectivity and create opportunities for local participation in construction and related industries.

The focus remains on ensuring infrastructure delivers practical benefits, with completed facilities protected through maintenance and road rehabilitation responding to community, business and visitor needs. Anchored in the vision of "Mpumalanga as a Construction Site," infrastructure must translate into tangible outcomes for a more connected province and stronger economy. Including verified completion dates, project values and details of rehabilitated tourism routes would further strengthen the account of delivery, contributing to building Mpumalanga – a Province that Works for All.









MTPA and DEDET partner with KLCBT

Lwazi Raul-Shongwe

In a major move aimed at elevating Mpumalanga's position as a world-class travel destination, the MTPA(Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency), led by the Acting CEO(Chief Executive Officer), Pamella Ntuli, alongside MTPA senior management, and the Mpumalanga DEDT(Department of Economic Development and Tourism), have entered into high-level strategic engagements with the KLCBT(Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism).

The collaborative sessions reportedly bring together public sector leaders and prominent private sector stakeholders to lay the groundwork for joint destination development, infrastructure upgrades, and targeted marketing campaigns across the province.

According to the MTPA, the strategic engagement marks a significant milestone in forging seamless public-private partnerships across Mpumalanga's tourism ecosystem.

By combining government resources with private sector enterprise, the initiative is said to be aimed towards enhancing public assets, streamlining visitor experiences, and creating sustainable regional employment.

"The strategic engagement was a resounding success, reaffirming the collective commitment of all stakeholders to positioning Mpumalanga as a leading tourism destination of choice," said the MTPA.



Stakeholders in round-table discussions to place Mpumalanga as the tourist destination of choice.

A central priority of the partnership is reportedly focused on bridging the gap between municipal services, private hospitality, and provincial parks management.

Following what participants described as a "resounding success," the engagement re-establishes a shared roadmap for regional destination management.

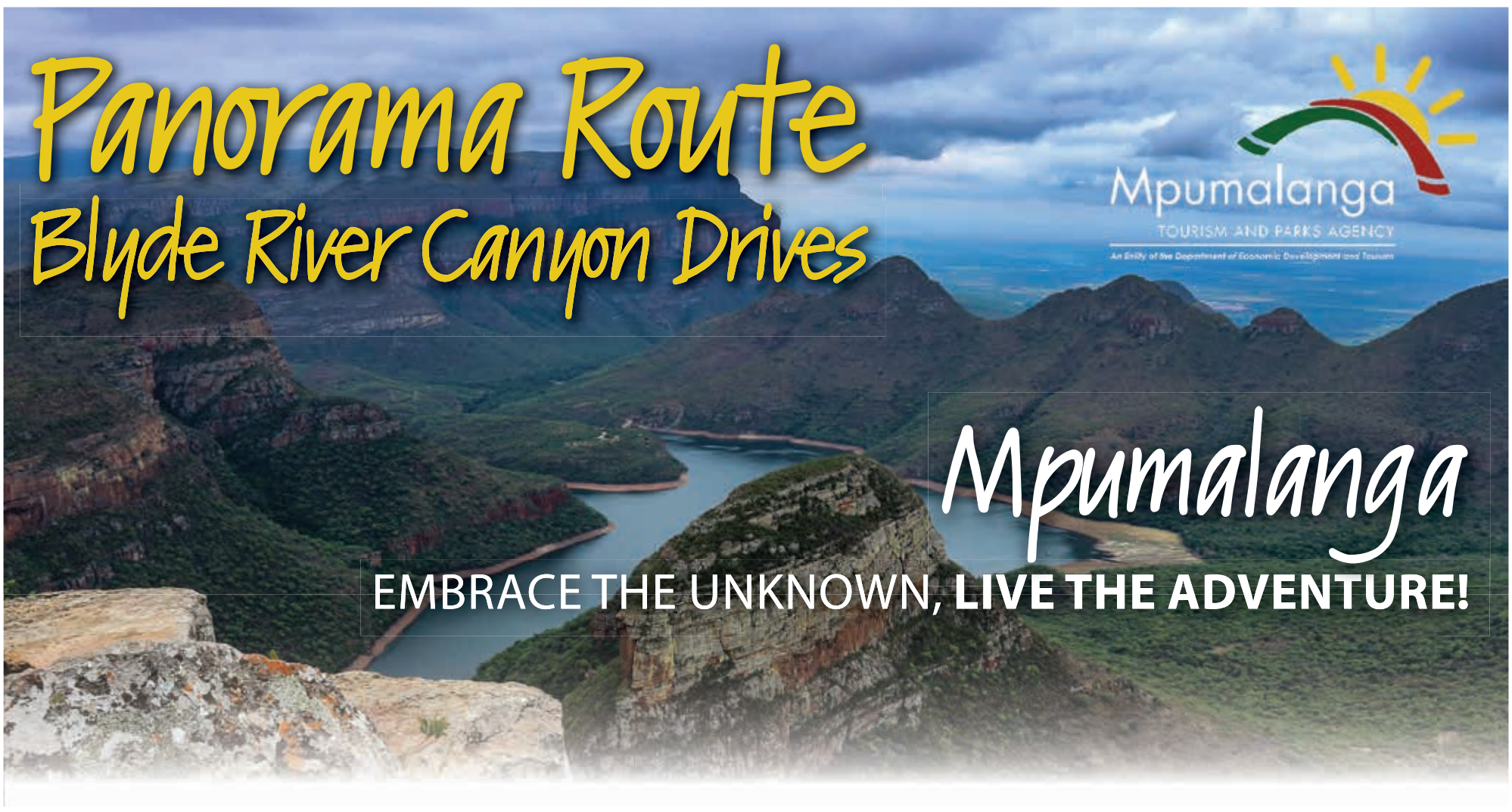
With actionable pipelines currently being finalised, both the public and private sectors stand united in positioning Mpumalanga as South Africa's premier choice for leisure, conservation, and business tourism.

The collaborative framework reportedly focuses on six key focus areas designed to modernise and protect the province's visitor economy, including:

- Upgrading public tourism sites, access routes, and visitor facilities across key corridors like the Panorama Route
- Joint promotional campaigns, expanding domestic and international market reach
- Unlocking private investment opportunities and revitalising state-owned tourism products
- Enhancing tourist safety protocols, rapid response helplines, and visitor support systems
- Fostering local community involvement, skills development, and SMME(Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises) integration, furthermore elevating meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions, through data-driven tourism planning.



MTPA Acting CEO, Pamella Ntuli.





Stakeholders who participated in the forum to discuss shifting climate patterns.

Key stakeholders to boost Mpumalanga's climate

Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane

As shifting weather patterns bring severe droughts, flash floods, and heatwaves across the Lowveld, isolated responses are viewed as no longer enough.

As a result, local leaders, meteorological experts, and environmental strategists gathered at Paradise Creek Lodge in Malelane , with a common goal of charting a concrete blueprint to shield local homes, farmlands, and livelihoods from unpredictable climate shifts.

The occasion marked the Mpumalanga Community Engagement on the Development of Climate Change Adaptation Scenarios, bringing together leaders from across the region to translate climate science into local action.

Key national and provincial institutions joined hands with local municipalities, including;

DFFE(Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment), SAWS(South African Weather Service), SALGA(South African Local Government Association), as well as Ehlanzeni's Four Local Municipalities of Nkomazi, City of Mbombela, Thaba Chweu, and Bushbuckridge.

According to Ehlanzeni District Municpality, the forum highlighted that protecting local towns, from agricultural hubs in Nkomazi to the mountain pass communities of Thaba Chweu, requires a single, and synchronised strategy.

"Through strengthened collaboration, knowledge-sharing and evidence-based planning, stakeholders are working towards developing practical and forward-looking climate change adaptation scenarios that will support informed decision-making and enhance the resilience of communities, infrastructure, economies and ecosystems across Mpumalanga," said Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

Rather than waiting for disaster to strike, officials are prioritising foresight, data sharing, and infrastructure upgrades, by establishing early warning systems and safe infrastructure for vulnerable settlements.

• These include; Upgrading stormwater systems, roads, and bridges to withstand severe storms

• Supporting local agriculture, forestry, and tourism against shifting temperature baselines

• Restoring local wetlands and river catchments to manage natural flood controls

"As climate-related risks continue to evolve, effective adaptation requires coordinated action across all spheres of government and society.

Ehlanzeni District Municipality remains committed to working with its partners to anticipate climate risks, strengthen institutional capacity and advance sustainable development that leaves communities better prepared for the for the future," said Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

By fostering partnerships between government bodies, environmental scientists, and local municipal teams, Ehlanzeni District Municipality says it is helping pioneer a proactive model for regional climate safety, ensuring that every community in Mpumalanga is equipped to adapt and thrive in the years ahead.



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VAKALISA LUVO LWAKHO

Hulumende Wasekhaya: Umtsetfosivivinyo Wekuchibela Tinhlaka Tabomasipala [B23 - 2026]

SICELO SETETFULO LETIBHALWE PHASI

Likomidi Lelibandla Lavelonkhe Letekubusa Ngekubambisana Netendzabuko licela labatsintsekako nalabo labanenshisekelo kutsi bangenise kuphawula kwabo lokubhalwe phasi lokumayelana naHulumende Wasekhaya: Umtsetfosivivinyo Wetekuchibela Tinhlaka Tabomasipala [B23-2026].

INHLOSO YALOMTSETFOSIVIVINYO

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- kwengeta sikhatsi umkhandlu wendzawo lekufanele kutsi umhlangano wekucala wemkhandlu ubitwe ngaso ngemva kwekutsi sewumenyetelwe kutsi ukhetsiwe;
- kwenta kutsi kube besikhatsi sekutsi somlomo lomusha lekumele kutsi akhetfwe ngaso; kwenta kutsi kuvota kwemkhandlu kufake ekhatsi kutsi kukhonjiswe ngetandla nome ngekuvota lokuyimfihlo;
- kwenta kutsi kube netizatfu nekususwa kanye nenchubo yekususa tisebenti tasehhovisi lamasipala;
- kwengeta sikhatsi lokungabanjwa ngaso umhlangano wekuncuma kutsi emalunga esigungu sekomiti lekumele kutsi ubanjwe ngaso;
- kwengeta sikhatsi lokungabanjwa ngaso umhlangano wekukhetsa sodolobha, lisekela lasodolobha sodolobha lophetse kanye nelisekela lasodolobha leliphetse lekumele kutsi ubanjwe ngaso; kuze kube netivumelwane tekuhlanganiswa kwemacembu ekusebentisana;
- kwenta kutsi kube nesikhatsi lapho khona sodolobha lophetse kufanele kutsi akhetfwe ngaso ngemva kwekususuwa kwasolobha lophetse;
- kwenta kutsi kube nesikhatsi lapho likomidi lasodolobha kufanele kutsi likhetfwe ngaso ngemva kwekukhetfwa kwasodolobha lomusha lophetse; kanye netindzaba letiphatselene naloko.

Nome ngabe ngumuphi umuntfu nome inhlangano lefisa kungenisa kuphawula kwayo lokubhalwe phasi ikhululekile kutsi icondzise setfulo sayo kuMhlonishwa Dkt. Z L Mkhize, Sihlalo weLikomidi Lelibandla Lavelonkhe Letekubusa Ngekubambisana Netasekhaya kutsi kunakwe: nguMk. Shereen Cassiem, Mabhalane weLikomidi kulencwadzigezi: Coalitions@parliament.gov.za. Kuze ucele ikhophi yaloMtsetfosivivinyo kanye naleminye nje imibuto jikelele longaba nayo, ucelwa kutsi utsintse Mk. S Cassiem ku: Coalitions@parliament.gov.za nome ku: 083 709 8533.

Tetfulo letibhalwe phasi kufanele kutsi tifike ePhalamende kungakashayi Lesihlanu, mhla ti-27 Lweti 2026 ngensimbi ye-16:00.

Esetfulweni sakho, ucelwa kutsi ubhale ligama, sibongo, inombolo yelucingo, kanye nelikheli lencwadzigezi lalowo muntfu nome nhlangano lengenisa lokuphawula.

Lesikhangisi sikhishwe nguMhlonishwa Dkt. ZL Mkhize i-MP, Sihlalo: weLikomidi Letekubusa Ngekubambisana Netendzabuko.

gear GA4278

Iphalamende – Silandzelela futsi sicinisekisa kutinikela kwetfu kuBantfu
–Kwenta kutsi likusasa lakho likusebentele kancono

Mpumalanga and India toast to trade partnership

Lwazi Raul-Shongwe

Trade relations between India and South Africa continue to flourish, yet the true potential of regional trade remains vastly untapped.

This was revealed when the Consulate General of India, Shri Koventhan, hosted a delegation from Mpumalanga Province led by MEC for DEDT(Department of Economic Development and Tourism), Jesta Sidell, on behalf Premier Mandla Ndlovu at Southern Sun in Mbombela .

The session was reportedly a bid to strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations, with a focus on boosting economic growth, tourism, and job creation in the province.

MEC Jesta Sidell said the potential between the two regions is still far from being fully realised.

Sidell said trade relations between India and South Africa continue to flourish, yet the true potential of regional trade remains vastly untapped.

Sidell was accompanied by Members of the Executive Council, as well as Mpumalanga Director-General, Maggie Skosana.

"Platforms like this networking dinner are vital because they bridge the gap between high-level diplomatic relations and real-world business transactions," said MEC Sidell.

She assured Indian investors that Mpumalanga is open and ready for business.

"To our Indian investors and business representatives present tonight: we assure you that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government is committed to creating an enabling environment for your investments.

We are dedicated to cutting red tape, ensuring regulatory efficiency, and supporting initiatives that promote sustainable and inclusive growth," said MEC Sidell.

The Provincial Government says the partnership will focus on practical outcomes.

"The Mpumalanga Provincial Government and the Consulate General of India continue to rubber-stamp initiatives aimed at doing business with India," said the Provincial Government.

The Consul General and his delegation paid a courtesy visit to Premier Ndlovu, on Tuesday, whereby Mpumalanga laid out the seventh administration's focus on accelerating inclusive economic growth, supporting local manufacturing and creating sustainable employment, amongst other topics.

Premier Ndlovu furthermore emphasised the vision to identify practical areas of cooperation between the two countries that can support local businesses, expand market access, and support Mpumalanga businesses particularly those owned by women and young people.

Ndlovu also engaged the India Business Forum in Mbombela on Wednesday 30 September 2026 to discuss investment opportunities in Mpumalanga that will be of benefit to the people of Mpumalanga and the business community of India.



Premier Ndlovu (front-2nd from right) alongside India Consul General and senior officials from both Mpumalanga and India.



India delegation during the networking dinner held in Mbombela.

The Forum brought together businesses from sectors including manufacturing, skills development and training, technology, mining and pharmaceuticals, among others.

The Premier reflected on the Province's Investment Summit held last year in Middelburg, in which pledges to the value of R238 billion, were made by investors.



DEDT MEC, Jesta Sidell, leading Mpumalanga delegation on behalf of the Premier.



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Officials engaging in an exhilarating netball match.

The Fun Walk that started from the Riverside Government Complex to Mbombela Stadium.

MPUMALANGA HOSTS THE 2026 NPSSCE IN MBOMBELA

Kopano Dibakwane

For two exhilarating days from 16 to 17 October 2026, the bustling City of Mbombela transformed into the beating heart of public sector sport and cultural celebration.

Hundreds of public servants from across South Africa converged on the "Place of the Rising Sun" for the annual NPSSCE(National Public Servants Sports and Cultural Events).

Beyond the medals and physical exertion, the event reportedly served a far greater purpose of promoting physical wellness, building inter-departmental synergy, and honouring the dedicated individuals who keep the nation running.

The festivities began on Friday morning with a sea of energetic public servants embarking on a scenic Fun Walk from the Riverside Government Complex to the iconic Mbombela Stadium.

The momentum carried straight into the stadium grounds with a high-energy mass aerobics session, setting an electric tone for the games ahead.

Welcoming the athletes to the main venue was MEC for Mpumalanga DCSR(Culture, Sport and Recreation), Leah Mabuza, who officiated the opening ceremony.

Addressing the crowd, MEC Mabuza emphasised the vital role physical wellness plays in public service delivery.

"This tournament is a celebration of our public servants, the backbones of our governance. Seeing officials step out of their offices, and embrace wellness with such enthusiasm is deeply inspiring," noted MEC Leah Mabuza during her walkabout with participants.

Throughout Friday and Saturday, public servants traded desk duties for athletic prowess, competing in a wide spectrum of codes ranging from traditional indigenous games to soccer, netball, volleyball, chess, pool, and tennis.



Pool players were not left behind during the games.

The Mpumalanga DCSSL(Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison) brought ferocious spirit to the courts, fielding under-40 and over-40 soccer and netball teams alongside men's and women's volleyball, chess, and pool contenders.

Mpumalanga DEDT(Department of Economic Development and Tourism), Treasury, and the MEGA(Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency) also participated as part of their employee wellness programs.

Debutants Team KZNDSAC(KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport, Arts and Culture) made waves over at the Mbombela Tennis Club.

Led by star player-coach Nonhlanhla Ndlela, the team put on a clinical performance on the court.

Team KZNDSAC went on a tear across multiple codes, claiming gold in Men's Volleyball, Ladies' Soccer, and Ladies' Chess, alongside Bronze in Women's Volleyball and Ladies' Singles Tennis.

While competitive spirit ran high, the true essence of the NPSSCE shone through during a memorable tennis clash between KZNDSAC's Nonhlanhla Ndlela and Mpumalanga's Oefentse Nkosi.

After an intense, highly skilled set of matches, a heartwarming story unfolded off the court. Both Ndlela and Nkosi are reportedly second-generation tennis players, raised by parents who were tennis greats in their own right.

What started as a provincial rivalry quickly transcended competition, uniting the two athletes through a shared lifelong passion for the sport.



A fun day turned officials into champions.

In a remarkable display of sportsmanship, Ndlela was invited to a special tournament in KwaZulu-Natal later this year in December, proof that while trophies are won on the field, lasting friendships are built off it.

The tournament wrapped up on Saturday afternoon with a celebratory prize-giving ceremony at Mbombela Stadium, honoring top-performing institutions, teams, and standout individuals.

As teams departed back to their respective provinces, they carried home more than just medals and certificates, they return with stronger bonds, refreshed minds, and a shared pride in serving the public.