

Two Nhlazatshe murders result in lengthy prison sentences

Gugu Mathebula & Nompumelelo Mkhwanazi

Two separate murder cases in Nhlazatshe have resulted in lengthy prison sentences, with the courts handing down a 30-year sentence for the murder of a woman and a life sentence plus 15 years for the killing and robbery of a young medical doctor.

The Mpumalanga Division of the High Court sentenced 40-year-old Zakhele John Mbuli to 30 years' direct imprisonment for the murder of his 25-year-old girlfriend, Lindiwe Julia Maseko.

According to Mpumalanga National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) spokesperson Monica Nyuswa, the incident occurred on March 7, 2025, when Mbuli and

Maseko were at his residence in Nhlazatshe.

An argument reportedly started after Maseko's cellphone rang. Mbuli insisted that she answer the call in his presence, and the disagreement escalated into a violent assault.

Mbuli repeatedly struck Maseko on the head and neck with a pick handle, causing fatal injuries. After realising that Maseko was no longer breathing, Mbuli cleaned blood from the floor and moved her body to another room. He later went to a neighbour, confessed to the killing and handed himself over to police.

The court heard that Mbuli expressed remorse and apologised to Maseko's family. The defence argued that his guilty plea, remorse and



Zakhele John Mbuli who was sentenced to 30 years in jail.

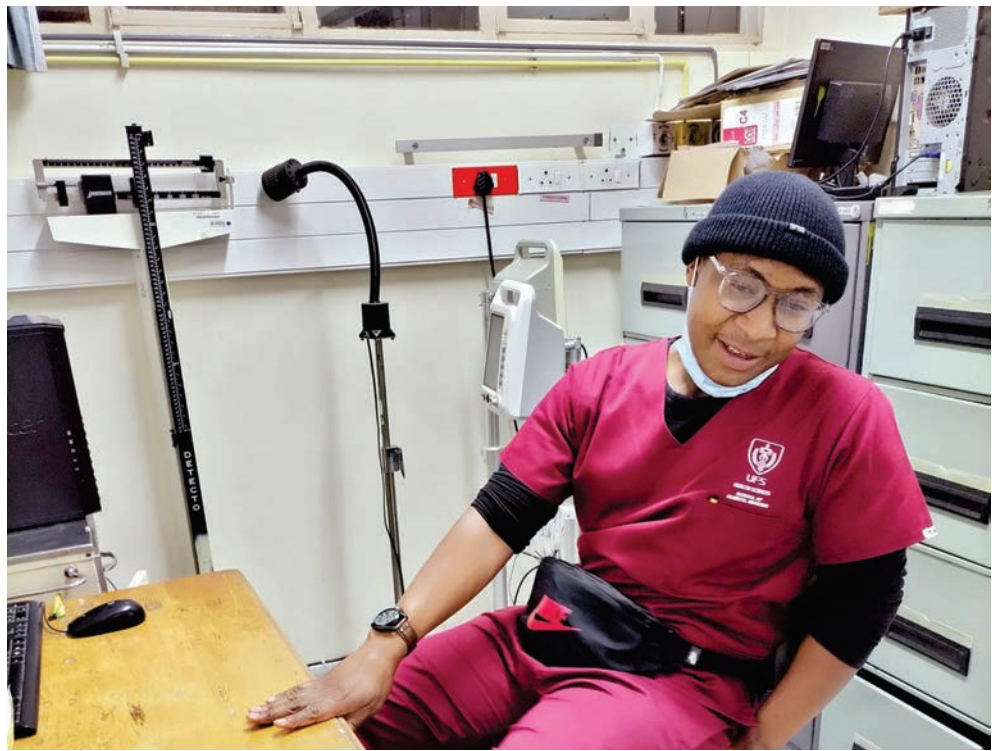
voluntary surrender warranted a lighter sentence. However, State Advocate Zilindile Phindiso urged the court to consider the seriousness and prevalence of gender-based violence and impose a sentence reflecting the devastating impact on Maseko's family. The court ultimately sentenced Mbuli to 30 years' imprisonment and declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

In a separate case, 23-year-old Clement Njabulo Nhlabathi was sentenced to life imprisonment plus an additional 15 years by the Elukwatini Regional Court for the murder and robbery of 27-year-old medical doctor Mthunzi Zwane. The court heard that on July 6, 2023, Zwane visited Stars Local Tavern in Nhlazatshe 1. As he left, a group

followed him to a nearby bridge, where they attacked and stabbed him while demanding his bank card and PIN.

After Zwane handed over the card and PIN, the attackers pushed his body into a river when they realised he was no longer breathing. The group later used his bank card to purchase alcohol before discarding it.

Nhlabathi pleaded guilty to murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances. The prosecution argued that the evidence against him was overwhelming and called for a sentence that would reflect the seriousness of the crimes. The court imposed life imprisonment for murder and an additional 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances.



The medical doctor who was murdered Mthunzi Zwane.



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Gert Sibande TVET College under fire over foreign national appointments

Kgabu Mahlatji

Gert Sibande TVET College has come under scrutiny after Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training found that the institution employed 10 foreign nationals without first establishing whether suitably qualified South Africans were available.

The issue emerged during the Committee's oversight visit to Mpumalanga, where officials were questioned about recruitment practices and compliance with legislation governing foreign nationals. Eight of the 10 foreign nationals are Zimbabwean lecturers. ANC MP Yanga Govana questioned why foreign lecturers were employed amid South Africa's unemployment rate.

"We have 10 foreign nationals teaching at this College, eight of them Zimbabwean lecturers. What special and scarce skills do they possess which were not found in South Africa?" Govana asked.

Acting Deputy Principal: Corporate, Tumelo Mokubanye, said the eight Zimbabwean lecturers were employed around 2022. However, he conceded that they were not providing scarce skills. "The eight were employed around 2022 and you are correct; they are not providing any scarce skills," Mokubanye said.



Committee Chairperson Tebogo Letsie.

When asked why foreign nationals were appointed, Mokubanye could not provide a clear explanation.

"I accept that there is no scarce or special skill they were providing, but I do not have reasons why they were employed," he said.

Head of Human Resources Bongane Dlongolo admitted that the institution had failed to establish whether suitably qualified South Africans were available before appointing a foreign national as Assistant Director: Research.

"We did not look for qualified South Africans. That was an error on our side, chairperson," Dlongolo said.

Committee Chairperson Tebogo Letsie expressed concern over the admission and questioned

whether the College's Human Resources Department understood its legal obligations when recruiting foreign nationals.

Letsie referred officials to the Employment Services Act, which sets requirements concerning the employment of foreign nationals, including ensuring that they have the necessary documentation and, where applicable, that suitably qualified South Africans are not available.

The Committee is expected to scrutinise the appointments and recruitment processes. The revelations have placed the College's recruitment systems under scrutiny, raising questions about compliance, accountability and the rationale behind the appointments.

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2026/27-2027/28

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

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

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

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

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

Beneficiaries of the PYDF are not encouraged to apply.

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

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

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



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Mpumalanga Legislature calls for stronger public service accountability

Freddy Mpangane

The Oversight Committee on Legislature and the Premier's Office have called for stronger accountability and consequence management within Mpumalanga's government departments after a meeting with the Public Service Commission (PSC). The Committee met with the PSC on August 11 at the Elias Ginindza House within the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. Members were briefed on the Commission's 2024/25 Section 196(4)(e) report.



Trudie Grové-Morgan.

Committee chairperson, Trudie Grové-Morgan welcomed the PSC and thanked the PSC for participating. She stressed the importance of holding executives and public officials accountable for their actions, particularly where public resources and good governance are concerned. During the meeting, Committee members raised concerns about the need for lifestyle audits of government officials to identify unexplained wealth and possible conflicts of interest.

Members also stressed that existing laws and regulations should be effectively enforced against officials found to have committed offences. The Committee further sought clarity on whether the PSC has mechanisms to ensure departments act on matters flagged by the Commission to take appropriate action against officials implicated in wrongdoing. Members said lost and misused public funds through misconduct should be recovered and returned to government coffers.

Responding to these concerns, Commissioner Bheki Zulu provided clarity on the issues raised and outlined the PSC's role in promoting accountability, ethical conduct and good governance within the public service. The meeting reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to strengthening oversight and ensuring government institutions remain accountable and responsive to the people of Mpumalanga. The Committee said protecting public resources and ensuring officials face consequences for wrongdoing are essential to restoring public confidence in government institutions.

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2027/28 COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CASP) AND 2026/27 BRIDGE FUND (BLENDED FINANCE) SUPPORT

The Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) hereby invites applications from qualifying farmers and agricultural enterprises requiring support through the **Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and the Mpumalanga Bridge Fund (Blended Finance)**. The Department seeks to support agricultural enterprises operating within Livestock, Grains (Highveld), Horticulture (Lowveld), Aquaculture, Agro-processing Value Chains.

Applicants will be considered for one of the following support mechanisms, subject to the applicable qualifying criteria and availability of funds:

A. Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP)

CASP Support is aimed at farmers and agricultural enterprises with an annual turnover of less than R1 000 000, who demonstrate the potential for commercialization, sustainable job creation and positive economic impact.

B. Mpumalanga Bridge Fund (Blended Finance)

Applicants who demonstrate commercial potential but require additional support to transition into sustainable commercial farming may be considered for the Mpumalanga Bridge Fund.

Minimum Requirements

Applications must comply with the following requirements:

1. South African certified ID copy, not older than 3 months.
2. Must be 18 years or older; and already farming.
3. Signed and fully completed application form.
4. A comprehensive business plan demonstrating a viable business model, sound management capacity and positive projected returns.
5. Proof to access markets.
6. Agro-processing proposals must demonstrate sustainable access to adequate raw material.
7. Valid proof of land tenure or ownership for agricultural purposes, including Title Deed; Lease Agreement (minimum of 10 years); Permission to Occupy (PTO); or Any other acceptable proof of land rights.
8. Legislative approvals, where applicable, including Zoning Certificate; Environmental Authorisation (EIA); Water Use Licence; Borehole Registration and Water Quality Results; Soil Test Results; SABS approvals; and Any other statutory approvals relevant to the proposed enterprise.
9. Applicants must be Historically Disadvantaged Individuals (HDIs).
10. A farming operation should be able to create permanent and/or seasonal jobs.
11. Government and parastatals employees or political office bearers are not eligible to apply.

Application Process

- Application forms are available from all DARDLEA District and Local Offices.
- Completed application forms, together with all required supporting documentation, must be submitted to the nearest DARDLEA District Office or DARDLEA Local Office.
- Applications submitted after the closing date, or by fax or email, will not be considered.

Important Information

- Submission of an application does not constitute approval for funding.
- Applications will undergo administrative screening, technical assessment and evaluation in accordance with the CASP Framework and the Department's approved qualifying criteria.
- Applicants may be recommended for either **CASP grant funding** or the **Mpumalanga Bridge Fund (Blended Finance)**, depending on their developmental needs, commercial readiness and compliance with the applicable qualifying criteria.
- Only successful applicants will be contacted. If you have not received any communication within **three (3) months** after the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Disclaimer: The number of projects to be supported will be determined by the available funds.

For more information:

Head Office

Ms. N Mafu - 013 766 6153 / mafun@mpg.gov.za

Coordinator

Ms. OM Mazibuko - 013 766 6256 / omsegage@mpg.gov.za

Ehlanzeni District Office

Mr. H Ndlovu - 013 759 4000 / hendry.ndlovu@gmail.com

Coordinator

Ms. CK. Tladi - 013 759 4000 / Kedibonitladi69@yahoo.com

Gert Sibande District Office

Ms. B Shongwe - 017 819 2076 / bshongwe@mpg.gov.za

Coordinator

Ms. MO Matlala - 017 735 5184 / momatlala@mpg.gov.za

Bohlabela District Office

Ms. GM Shabangu - 013 773 1192 / shabangugm@mpg.gov.za

Coordinator

Ms. L. Ngomane - 013 799 0518 / ngomanel@mpg.gov.za

Nkangala District

Ms. NS Masoka - 013 951 4997 / masokans@mpg.gov.za

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CLOSING DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

Groenvlei residents face ongoing sewage crisis

Kgabu Mahlatji

Residents of Groenvlei in Carolina say they are being forced to endure unbearable living conditions as raw sewage continues to flow through their neighbourhood, despite repeated reports and promises from the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality (CALM) to address the problem.



The sewer ditches that were dug and left open in Groenvlei.

The situation reportedly worsened after Municipal Manager Ephraim Thabethe visited the area. Residents say he promised that the municipality would repair the sewer system and prevent sewage from flowing through residential streets. Instead, residents claim that ditches were dug but left open, while the sewage problem continued. Raw sewage is allegedly flowing along the streets, producing a strong and persistent stench that residents say makes normal daily life difficult.

Residents are particularly concerned about sewage flowing towards a nearby school, raising fears about the health and safety of learners. Some residents say sewage is flowing directly in front of their homes and, in some cases, close to their doorsteps.

“We were promised there would be a permanent solution and that the municipality would visit the area every week to monitor the situation.



Sewage spilling into a yard in Groenvlei.

But they came once with municipal management, took pictures and left,” residents said. Residents accuse CALM of failing to honour its promises, saying there has been little visible action since the inspection. They say the ongoing sewage problem is affecting their health, safety and dignity. Animal owners have also raised concerns about their livestock, saying the free-flowing sewage poses a risk to animals that may come into contact with it or drink contaminated water. Residents are demanding urgent intervention from the municipality and want CALM to complete

the necessary repairs and provide a lasting solution.

CALM spokesperson Thapelo Phetla said the municipality has a long-term plan to address the ongoing sewage problems in the area.

Phetla said a major upgrade of the pipeline infrastructure is currently about 90% complete and is expected to address the root causes of recurring sewer spillages.

He said municipal teams conduct pipeline inspections when responding to sewer overflows and are aware of concerns that only manholes are being cleared.

Phetla also confirmed that sewage is flowing near Joy Pre-School and nearby boreholes, saying the municipality is visiting the affected manhole twice a week to monitor the situation.

“We recognise the seriousness of this public health hazard and are treating it with the utmost priority,” Phetla said.

However, affected residents dispute the municipality’s claims, saying there has been no improvement and that the situation has worsened. They also reject the claim that municipal teams have been visiting the area twice a week, saying no action has been taken for the past three weeks.

For Groenvlei residents, the sewage crisis is no longer simply an inconvenience but, they say, a serious failure of basic municipal service delivery.

Women in CALM say there’s little to celebrate during women’s month

Gugu Mathebula

As South Africa marks Women’s Month, women living across the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality (CALM) say they have little to celebrate, with poverty, unemployment, poor service delivery and economic opportunities continuing to affect their lives.

Women across the municipality say they remain excluded from opportunities, particularly employment and business opportunities. Some allege that political or personal connections are needed to access opportunities, while others claim corruption and sexual exploitation are barriers. In some rural communities, access to basic services remains a concern.

Suzani Nkosi from Glenmore said residents struggle to access water, forcing some households to collect water from rivers where animals also drink. Nkosi said women in her area face unemployment and opportunities to do business with the municipality, alleging that some women seeking opportunities are expected to provide bribes or sexual favours.

In Mooiplaas, Sebenzile Gama said residents continue to rely on old water connections and feel neglected by the municipality.

Gama said there are few municipal programmes aimed at empowering women and claimed women need political or personal connections to secure employment or business opportunities. She added that businesses are overlooked in favour of service providers from outside the province. Agnes Mashaba from Carolina said she sees little reason to celebrate Women’s Month because women-owned businesses are not receiving enough support from CALM

“We are in the second week of the month and there has been no celebration for us or any programmes for women,” she said.

Mashaba, who operates in tourism, said businesses are overlooked when opportunities arise and alleged that businesses connected to municipal leadership receive preferential treatment.

The concerns raised highlight the gap between calls for women’s empowerment and the reality faced by some women in rural communities.

Women are calling on CALM to create transparent opportunities for women-owned businesses, improve access to basic services such as water and introduce economic empowerment programmes.

CALM spokesperson Thapelo Phetla acknowledged receipt of the newspaper’s media inquiry and promised to respond. However, by the time of going to press, he had not provided a response yet.

CALM residents welcome debt write-off but question timing

Kgabu Mahlatji

Residents of the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality (CALM) have welcomed the approval of a R42.8 million debt write-off for qualifying indigent households, but some have questioned the timing of the decision and whether it could be politically motivated ahead of the local government elections. The debt relief, announced by CALM Executive Mayor Cllr Mbusi Magubane, applies to approved indigent customers registered on the municipality’s Indigent Register.

While the decision has been welcomed by residents, some believe it may also be aimed at addressing long-standing complaints about municipal billing, particularly concerns over estimated or incorrectly meter readings. Chairperson of the Greater Carolina Public Interest Group, Stanley Ngozo, thanked the council for responding positively to the issue of debt write-offs but called for further action on grievances raised by the community.



CALM Mayor Cllr Mbusi Magubane.

“Carolina Community wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the council for the positive response to the issue of debt write-offs,” Ngozo said. He called on the municipality to ensure that water meter readers record actual consumption instead of relying on estimates. Craig Smith questioned whether the write-off was genuinely aimed at helping residents or was an attempt to address the municipality’s billing problems.

“For many years, the municipality has failed to resolve queries relating to bills. They tell us they will investigate and revert back to us, but often fail to do so,” Smith said. He claimed that his household had

received bills despite allegedly not seeing meter readers at his property for months. Sindile Nkosi accused the municipality of using the debt cancellation as “cheap politics” to influence voters.

“They estimate our bills without properly reading our meters, and now they have realised that they cannot attend to our queries, so they have come up with this. To demonstrate their poor leadership, the announcement was made on their Facebook page, and they expect all residents to know about it. This shows that we are being governed by people who are clueless, where vital information is not properly communicated to the public.

They assume that everyone has access to social media and data to receive information. Indeed, we are doomed as residents of this municipality,” she said. Other residents echoed concerns that the write-off could be politically motivated and said the municipality should improve how important information is communicated to communities.



The learners who benefited from the Lion Match.

Lion match donates school shoes to learners in Elukwatini and Nhlazatshe

Samkelisiwe Mhlanga

Hundreds of learners from four schools in Elukwatini and Nhlazatshe have received much-needed support after Lion Match Shoe Polish, in partnership with Xolo's Touch Foundation, donated school shoes, shoe polish and sanitary towels.

The initiative saw each of the four deserving schools receive 100 pairs of school shoes, shoe polish and sanitary towels to assist learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. The beneficiary schools were:

- Khuzulwandle Secondary School
- Imbali Primary School
- Masakhane Combined School
- Insika Senior Secondary School

The donation was made possible through a partnership between the Durban-based Lion Match Shoe Polish and Xolo's Touch Foundation, founded by Noxolo Sibande, whose mission is to uplift and support vulnerable children through education and community outreach.

Sibande expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the principals, teachers and school communities for embracing the initiative and working together to improve the lives of learners.

"I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the principals, teachers and school communities for your warm support and partnership. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of our learners," she said.

She also thanked the Lion Match

team for believing in her vision and helping turn her lifelong dream into reality.

"A special thank you to the Lion Match team for hearing my little voice and believing in my vision. Thank you for making my childhood dream of touching lives through Xolo's Touch come true.

Your kindness and support have brought hope and smiles to so many learners, and for that I will always be grateful," Sibande said.

The donation is expected to ease the financial burden on many families while boosting learners' confidence by ensuring they have proper school footwear and essential hygiene products.

Background

Access to proper school shoes remains a challenge for many learners in rural communities, with some attending school in worn-out footwear or barefoot due to financial hardship. Corporate social investment initiatives such as this one play an important role in improving school attendance, restoring learners' dignity and creating a better learning environment.

The inclusion of sanitary towels also helps address period poverty, enabling girls to attend school with confidence and reducing absenteeism. Partnerships between businesses and community organisations such as Xolo's Touch continue to make a positive impact on education and the wellbeing of learners in Mpumalanga.

Tourism month 2026 launch puts domestic travel and digital innovation in spotlight



Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille.

Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille has officially launched Tourism Month 2026, calling on South Africans to explore their own country and contribute to the growth of the tourism economy.

Speaking at the launch, de Lille said tourism begins at home and encouraged South Africans to discover the country's diverse destinations, cultures, heritage and experiences.

"Before we ask the world to discover South Africa, we must continue encouraging South Africans to discover their own country," she said. Domestic tourism remains an important part of the sector. During the first half of 2026, South Africans took 21.2 million overnight trips, a 4% increase from the 20.4 million recorded during the same period last year. Holiday trips increased by 36% to 5.2 million.

De Lille said every domestic trip contributes to the economy by supporting tourism businesses, entrepreneurs and communities. She also highlighted the role of government, the private sector, provinces, cities, technology companies, media and content creators in making tourism more accessible and attractive.

This September, South Africans are encouraged to take a Sho't Left, with Sho't Left Travel Week offering discounts and packages aimed at

making domestic travel more affordable. South African Parks Week and provincial Mahala Weeks will also provide opportunities for affordable travel.

With September also being Heritage Month, de Lille said South Africans have an opportunity to rediscover their country's history and cultural heritage.

Technology and artificial intelligence were also highlighted as increasingly important to tourism. Travellers are now discovering destinations through social media, online platforms and AI-powered applications that help them plan personalised trips.

De Lille said digital platforms can help smaller tourism businesses reach wider markets and promote experiences beyond traditional tourist attractions.

The Tourism Month programme will culminate in World Tourism Day on September 27, under the global theme, "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism."

South Africa's localised theme is "Growing South Africa's Tourism Sector in the Digital Era."

De Lille said technology must ultimately help create economic opportunities for young people, women, entrepreneurs and small businesses while making tourism more inclusive.

Chief Albert Luthuli

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Atchaar Music uses music to celebrate Mpumalanga and inspire the next generation

Kgabu Mahlatji

For Siyabonga Nkosi, better known as Atchaar Music, music is more than entertainment. It is a platform to tell stories, preserve culture and inspire hope.

The siSwati Hip Hop and Afro-Pop artist, singer, songwriter and record producer from Nhlazatshe has spent more than a decade developing a career rooted in authenticity and pride in his Mpumalanga heritage.

Born in Nhlazatshe, Atchaar spent part of his childhood in Lochiel before returning to his birthplace at the age of 10. His experiences growing up in both communities continue to influence his music and his appreciation of the people, culture and language of the province.

“Growing up in these communities shaped who I am. The people, culture, language and everyday experiences inspire my music. I always want my songs to reflect the beauty, struggles and strength of Mpumalanga and its people,” he said.

Atchaar’s passion for music began in 2011, and by 2014 he had embarked on a solo career. What started as a hobby soon developed into a professional calling after he realised the power of music to bring people together and tell meaningful stories.

“I realised music could bring people together, tell meaningful stories and create opportunities. Seeing the impact music has on people’s lives inspired me to pursue

it professionally,” he said.

Through his music, Atchaar aims to encourage people to embrace their identity and believe in their potential.

One of his most celebrated releases is “Mpumalanga,” a song dedicated to the province he proudly calls home. The track celebrates the province’s natural beauty, cultural heritage, people and creative talent.

“I wanted to celebrate its beauty, rich culture, talented people and the pride we have in where we come from. The song is an anthem that encourages unity and reminds people that Mpumalanga has so much talent and potential,” he said.

The song has received streams on digital platforms, radio airplay and attention on social media, where listeners have used the sound in their own videos.

Atchaar’s sound combines siSwati Hip Hop and Afro-Pop, blending melodic rhythms with storytelling. He says using siSwati and drawing from authentic experiences gives his music a distinctive identity while allowing it to connect with wider audiences.

His journey has not been without challenges. As an independent artist, Atchaar has had to deal with limited resources and exposure compared with artists based in larger cities.

“Independent artists often have to finance their own music, marketing and videos. Despite those challenges, I’ve remained consistent because I believe hard work, patience and



Atchaar Music.

determination eventually open doors,” he said.

Looking ahead, Atchaar plans to release new music, collaborate with other artists, perform live and expand into visual projects. His upcoming EP, “Ngwane Lomuhle,” is expected to further showcase his sound and storytelling.

He remains grateful to his supporters and urges the public to continue supporting local artists.

With his roots firmly planted in Mpumalanga, Atchaar Music is using his voice to showcase the province’s talent, culture and identity proving that artists from rural communities can reach audiences far beyond their hometowns.



Skomville production turns local talent into powerful stories

Kgabu Mahlatji



Sibusiso Sibanyoni, CEO and Director of Skomville Production

A passion for acting, storytelling and filmmaking, has grown into a promising local entertainment company, creating opportunities for aspiring creatives.

Founded in 2022 by Sibusiso Sibanyoni, CEO and Director of Skomville Production, the Aramburg-based company is committed to developing local talent through film, drama and live performances.

Sibanyoni says the enterprise was established as result of his love for the creative arts and desires to give local people a platform to showcase their abilities.

“Skomville Production was started because of my love for acting, storytelling and filmmaking. I wanted to create a platform where local people could show their talent,” he said.

One of the company’s biggest achievements was the release of “Lutsandvo Alunamaciniso,” a drama featured on 1KZN TV. It marked an important milestone and gave the team confidence that their work could reach wider audiences.

“Seeing our production on 1KZN TV showed us that our hard work was being noticed. It gave the team more confidence and motivated us to dream bigger,” Sibanyoni said.

The company is now promoting its newly released episode, “Imiva Iyashintja,” which is already receiving positive comments on YouTube. Sibanyoni says viewers have been sharing the episode and calling for more productions.

He believes the positive response is because the stories are relatable and reflect real issues affecting communities. Skomville Production also focuses on developing young

and upcoming actors and creatives by giving them practical experience in acting, directing, filming and other areas of production.

The company has built a team of passionate creatives, including Malume Atchaar and Papa Choco, who have both contributed to its productions. It also offers stage and screen plays and programme directing for events and other occasions.

Looking ahead, Sibanyoni hopes to grow Skomville Production into a recognised production house, producing bigger films and series, while working with television and streaming platforms.

For Skomville Production, success means more than just producing entertainment. It means creating opportunities for local talent and telling stories which entertain, inspire and make communities proud.

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Mpumalanga Municipal Officials battle for honours at SAMWA Games



Givenn Sithole heading the ball.

The South African Municipal Wellness Association (SAMWA) Provincial Games brought excitement and healthy competition to Emalahleni as municipal officials from local and district municipalities across Mpumalan-



ga battled for top honours in various sporting codes.

The action took place at Witbank High School and other nearby venues in the Emalahleni Local Municipality, with officials showcasing their

sporting talent while promoting teamwork, fitness and healthy lifestyles.

The annual games form part of SAMWA's efforts to encourage municipal employees to prioritise their physical and mental well-being through sport and regular exercise. SAMWA aims to inspire a movement towards a healthier, happier and more sustainable workforce, promoting simple and accessible forms of exercise that can be enjoyed by everyone.

The games provided municipal employees with an opportunity to take a break from their daily responsibilities,

interact with colleagues from across the province and build stronger relationships through sport.

Beyond competition, the event highlighted the importance of wellness in the workplace and encouraged municipal officials to adopt healthier lifestyles.

The SAMWA Provincial Games continue to provide a platform where sport, wellness and camaraderie come together, strengthening the spirit of teamwork among Mpumalanga's municipal workforce.



Men who participated in volleyball.



Ladies who played netball.

Young Nhlazatshe athlete dreams of reaching greater heights

Kgabu Mahlatji

A promising young athlete from Nhlazatshe is making his mark in track and field but needs greater support to develop his talent.

Shepherd Lukhele, from Nhlazatshe 4, is a rising South African sprinter and middle- to long-distance runner who has been building his career while collecting medals at various competitions.

Lukhele's journey is driven by determination, discipline and a passion for athletics. However, financial challenges remain one of his biggest obstacles. He sometimes struggles to attend competitions because of transport, accommodation, entry fees, training and equipment costs. Despite these challenges, he continues to train and compete whenever



Medals recently won by Shepherd Lukhele.

opportunities arise, determined to build a successful athletics career. His journey has received support from his current sponsor, WAR Sports Apparel, which has assisted him in pursuing his sporting ambitions.

However, more support is needed to help him compete consistently and access bigger competitions. For a young athlete from a rural

community, sponsorship can make a significant difference. Financial assistance could help Lukhele attend more competitions, gain valuable experience and compete at provincial and national levels.

His growing collection of medals demonstrates his commitment and potential. With the right support, Lukhele could take his career to greater heights and potentially represent South Africa at major competitions.

His story also reflects the challenges faced by talented young athletes in rural communities, where resources and sponsorship opportunities remain limited.

Community members, businesses, sporting organisations and potential sponsors are encouraged to support Lukhele's journey through sponsorship, sporting equipment, trans-

port costs, competition fees or other assistance.

With continued dedication and community support, Lukhele hopes to turn his talent into a successful athletics career while inspiring other young people from Nhlazatshe to pursue their sporting dreams. Every race is an opportunity, and with the right support, Shepherd Lukhele could go much further.



Shepard Lukhele.