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From Left: INATUR's Director General, Richard Baulene, Governor of the State and the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Eldevina Materula, CEO of the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) Vusi Dlamini and Ntwanano Mtungwa - Executive Manager Tourism, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency.

# MTPA CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL 2025 TRILAND WORKSHOP

Lwazi Raul-Shongwe

The Executive Manager of MTPA (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency), Ntwanano Mtungwa, has extensively highlighted the historic and lucrative relations shared by South Africa and Mozambique.

Mtungwa was celebrating a successful 2025 Triland Workshop, hosted by Mozambique, which aimed at strengthening ties, exploring ways to boost tourism, economic integration, and cultural exchange between South Africa, The Kingdom of Eswatini, as well as Mozambique.

The visit by Mtungwa and his delegation began with a warm welcome and a tour of the Interpretation Centre in Matola, which highlights the shared history and struggle for freedom between South Africa and Mozambique.

The centre serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the people of Mozambique in the fight against apartheid.

"We arrived to a warm welcome from our partners here in Mozambique. We were reminded about the struggle that Mozambique fought to bring about freedom in South Africa.

It is the sacrifice of the people of Mozambique which, in a way, led to

the apartheid government orchestrating the assassination of President (Samora) Machel.

It is this sacrifice of the people of Mozambique which has brought our country (South Africa) to where it is today and we appreciate that," said Mtungwa.

Mtungwa said Mpumalanga and Mozambique share a rich cultural heritage, with many people in Mpumalanga having roots in Mozambique. He emphasised the importance of strengthening ties between the two countries, particularly in the areas of tourism, trade, and commerce.

The Triland partnership between Mpumalanga, Mozambique, and Eswatini is a key initiative aimed at promoting tourism and economic cooperation between the three countries.

According to Mtungwa, Mozambique is already the largest source market for tourism in Mpumalanga, followed by Eswatini, with many visitors drawn to the province's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

He said the University of Mpumalanga has introduced Portuguese as a language course, enabling students to engage more effectively with their Mozambican counterparts.

This move is seen by Mtungwa as further strengthening ties between the two countries.

"Our respective countries, Mozambique, South Africa and Eswatini, share a common history and destiny. When you go to South Africa, particularly where I was born, you find a lot of people who originate from Mozambique.

They have their roots in this country, they are proud of this country and they have continued their culture. We do not see ourselves separate from you, but we are brother and sister because we come from the same source," said Mtungwa.

The MTPA also brought a business delegation of tour operators, media representatives, and a new TV station, Mpumalanga TV, to explore future opportunities for cooperation and partnership.

Mozambique offers a unique tourism experience, with its stunning islands, beautiful beaches, and vibrant cultural scene.

The delegation expressed its appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the people of Mozambique and pledged to continue strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

"Mozambique brings the highest number of tourists than any other country, followed by Eswatini. Such tourist numbers create jobs for our people.

We do not want tourists to only go and see our attractions, but we want them to go

and see how their brothers and sisters live in those countries.

We want to focus on rural and township tourism so that our people can exchange their cultures," said Mtungwa.

In addition, Mtungwa said; "Mozambique has been quite an experience for us, we enjoyed the cultural diversity of the country, we were able to experience the cuisine and we are quite pleased that more people will begin to visit Mozambique and experience what the country's tourism has to offer. We will be coming again bringing a business delegation during the Fikani Tourism Expo, so that more business people from Mpumalanga become exposed to Mozambique, we are happy to announce that as an entity we are more than ready to host our sister countries and we promise in giving the most exclusive hosting".

The visit underscored the importance of regional cooperation and cultural exchange in promoting economic development and social cohesion.

As Mpumalanga, Mozambique and Eswatini continue to strengthen their ties; the benefits of cooperation will be felt across the region.

Mpumalanga province is expected to be the next in hosting the Two countries Mozambique and The Kingdom Of Eswatini delegation in closure of the Triland that has been ongoing.

# UMP appoints new Vice-Chancellor

**Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane**

Professor Thenjiwe Meyiwa was recently appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor at the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) following a rigorous selection process which reportedly considered key attributes such as academic standing and ethical leadership in higher education, 10 years leadership experience, sound understanding of the governance and management including the operations of a university, and a commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship, amongst others.

Professor Meyiwa will take over the reins from the outgoing and founding Vice-Chancellor, Professor Thoko Mayekiso, who is commended by the UMP Council for serving the institution with distinction, dedication and great leadership since 2014.

According to UMP spokesperson, Tlangelani Ubisi, a decision to appoint Meyiwa was taken during a normal Council meeting held on Thursday 27 March 2025. Ubisi said the Vice-Chancellor is responsible for providing strategic direction, leadership and the overall operational management of the university.

The Council Chairperson, Sabelo Mahlalela, has welcomed Meyiwa's appointment and gave an assurance that she will receive all the support to steer the institution in the right direction.

"As the Council, we are pleased to welcome Professor Meyiwa as the new Vice-Chancellor of UMP. Professor

Meyiwa has the academic and leadership attributes to fill the position of Vice-Chancellor at our university. We believe that this is a new chapter to build on the success that we have had in the last decade.

"Council congratulates Professor Meyiwa on her appointment, and we commit to fully support her and the management of the university in our pursuance to actualise our vision," said Mahlalela.

Professor Meyiwa's background and expertise will come in very handy for the role ahead. She served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation at the University of South Africa from 2018 to present. She also served as Institutional Registrar at the Durban University of Technology from 2014 to 2018, held the position of Research Director for Education and Skills Development at Human Science Research Council from 2012 to 2014.

Professor Meyiwa also served in various academic roles including Research Professor at Walter Sisulu University from 2010 to 2011, HOD(Head of Department), Director and Senior Lecturer at Centre for Gender Studies for 10 years.

"I am honoured to join the University of Mpumalanga and to contribute to the realisation of its vision. I look forward to collaborating with the entire university community to advance our goals and make a meaningful, positive impact in society," said Professor Meyiwa.

The new Vice-Chancellor will resume her duties officially on 1 October 2025.



**The newly-appointed Vice Chancellor of UMP, Professor Thenjiwe Meyiwa.**

## Easter Tourism Campaign Kicks Off

**Lwazi Raul-Shongwe**

South Africa's Tourism Minister, Patricia de Lille, invites both local and international travellers to discover the country's stunning landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant communities in a special Easter campaign.

As the Easter long weekend approaches, Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille officially launched the Easter Tourism Campaign at Twin Venture, located at the Atlantis Dunes in Cape Town. Known for its thrilling quad biking and sand boarding experiences, the venue was chosen to highlight the variety of experiences available to visitors across South Africa, with a focus on lesser-known destinations in smaller towns.

Addressing an audience of tourism

business owners, industry associations, media, and content creators, De Lille emphasized the significance of both domestic and international tourism in fostering growth and sustainability within the sector.

### Domestic Tourism: A Booming Sector

Domestic tourism in South Africa continues to thrive, with more locals seeking affordable yet unique travel experiences. Insights from the 2024 Sho't Left Travel Week campaign revealed key trends shaping local tourism, including a heightened demand for budget-friendly accommodation and activities. As more South Africans look to explore their own country, initiatives like Sho't Left are crucial in making travel more accessible.

Additionally, there is growing interest in off-the-beaten-path destinations, with travelers eager to discover less crowded spots that offer more authentic cultural encounters.

Personalized travel experiences are also in high demand, with families, solo

adventurers, seniors, and thrill-seekers seeking tailored options, including accessible tourism and wellness retreats.

"Every stay in a guesthouse, every meal at a local restaurant, and every souvenir bought from a market contributes to our economy.

By supporting local tourism, we help spread the benefits of travel beyond major cities, fostering inclusive economic growth," said De Lille.

### International Tourism on the Up

Attracting international visitors remains a key priority for South Africa's tourism strategy. In the first two months of 2025, the country welcomed nearly 1.8 million international tourists, reflecting a 4.7% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

"International visitors are drawn to South Africa for its diverse cultures, breathtaking landscapes, and warm hospitality. We must continue to showcase what makes our country unique and keep inspiring the spirit of adventure," De Lille added.

### South Africa Awaits – Come Find Your Joy!

To further boost tourism, South African Tourism recently launched a new global campaign titled "South Africa Awaits – Come Find Your Joy!" This initiative encourages both local and international travellers to rediscover the country with the excitement and curiosity of a first-time visitor.

"This campaign is more than just about tourism; it's an invitation. Whether you're a young family, a group of friends, an adrenaline junkie, or someone looking to unwind, South Africa has something to offer," Minister De Lille explained.

She urged travellers to take advantage of the upcoming long weekend to explore and support local businesses.

"Take the trip. Book the stay. Discover the small towns. Dance at the festival.

Visit the markets. Eat the magwinya. Support local businesses. Make memories. Take that Sho't Left! Our country is waiting.

South Africa Awaits – Come Find Your Joy!" the Minister concluded.

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# Tea Estate thrives with DARDLEA support

**Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane**

DARDLEA, is spreading its wings to tea production, livestock, vegetable production, and lately, venturing into Citrus with thousands of trees currently

being planted.

“ Commending the Department’s interventions, the CPA is looking forward to supplying their produce to

the Mpumalanga International Food Market, that’s soon to start operating in Mbombela, including the Government Nutrition Programme,” said DARDLEA.

The Shamile CPA (Community Property Association) Committee at Senteeko Tea Estate, outside Umjindi, is poised to achieve self-sustenance with continued government assistance.

This was the commitment made by the newly-appointed CPA Committee during a recent oversight visit by the Mpumalanga Legislature’s Portfolio Committee on Agriculture.

According to Mpumalanga DARDLEA (Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs), the oversight visit was aimed at assessing value for money in the work of the Department, as well as assisting and guiding the CPA Committee on how they can overcome bottlenecks.

The Portfolio Committee Members are said to have earlier visited the Nkomazi Citrus Project near Driekoppies.

Members of the CPA Committee reportedly share a view that the success of the project, through self-sustenance, will give other would-be beneficiaries of government services a chance to gain employment, thus alleviating poverty and extending food security.

“The 575ha project, assisted by

The CPA is looking forward to supplying their produce to the Mpumalanga International Food Market



(Far-right) DARDLEA’s Chief Director, Dr Maanda Dagada, alongside members of the Portfolio Committee.



## 2025

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## PREMIER’S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

### Siyaphanda



The Office of the Premier of Mpumalanga calls for applications from interested young entrepreneurs to apply for 2025 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 the form of a **SOUND BUSINESS PLAN** accompanied by the following returnable documents:

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

NB: Applications should be submitted with the 2025 PYDF Application Form, which is accessible on [www.mpumalanga.gov.za](http://www.mpumalanga.gov.za).

Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Beneficiaries of the PYDF are not encouraged to apply.

**ENQUIRIES:**  
Mr. SB Ntandane (013) 766 2006/ 2005/2108

**NB: faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.**

Please forward your application to: The Manager – 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: 09 MAY 2025 AT 16H00**

**IF NO CORRESPONDENCE IS RECEIVED WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE CLOSING DATE, APPLICANTS MUST ACCEPT THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.**





Learners inside the Cyber lab.

# State of the art cyber lab for rural community

Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane

A state-of-the-art Cyber Lab was officially handed over to learners and teachers of Mdzabu Secondary School in Nkomazi (Ehlanzeni District) by the Deputy Minister for DCDD (Department of Communications and Digital Technologies), Mondli Gungubele, alongside the MEC of Education in Mpumalanga, Cathy Dlamini.

The hand over is reportedly part of the National Cyber Lab Programme coordinated by SITA (State Information Technology Agency) to prepare young learners for a digitally-positioned future in the global village. Additional donations of school bags and other learning materials were also handed over, courtesy of stakeholders such as Honor and Telkom.

Learners were taken through lessons in different digital technologies, including Robotics, Coding, Digital Skills and AI (Artificial Intelligence).

Mpumalanga Education said the Cyber Labs are equipped with high-end technology and digital tools including laptops, digital screens, servers, and internet connectivity.

SITA is reportedly the leader in government ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and an entity of the DCDD.

In his address during the handover, Deputy Minister Gungubele said the world economy is currently run online through digital technology, and a lot of economic value is locked in this technology.

"The Cyber Lab initiative goes beyond simply installing computers and internet

connectivity in schools, it is a bold commitment to skills development and digital transformation, empowering our communities by giving learners access to cutting-edge technology, while also equipping educators with the tools needed to excel in a digital classroom environment," said Gungubele.

The learners were also taken through a session on cyber security in order to navigate the internet safely and responsibly.

It was revealed by the Department that Mdzabu Secondary School has joined a number of schools from other provinces such as North-West, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Limpopo, Gauteng and KZN (KwaZulu-Natal), that have been connected digitally through the Cyber Labs.

According to Gungubele, connectivity and skills development play an important role in granting the country access to economic value. He added that 80% of households in South Africa will be connected to the internet in the next three years through an initiative by DCDD called SA Connect Programme, which is currently installing digital infrastructure.

"With these digital resources, we aim to empower both teachers and learners to explore new ways of learning. These tools will support interactive lessons, encourage collaboration, and foster critical thinking skills that are so crucial in today's rapidly changing world," said Gungubele.

MEC Manzini welcomed the gesture and made a commitment of supporting the school, integrating the digital infrastructure to deliver value and shape the new business models for the province.



## THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL TREASURY INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES

<b>Post</b>	: Driver/Messenger (x3)
<b>Sub Directorate</b>	: Auxiliary Services
<b>Ref No</b>	: MPT 5/2025 (Office of the MEC) MPT 6/2025 (Evander) MPT 7/2025 (Bushbuckridge)
<b>Salary Level</b>	: 04
<b>Salary</b>	: R 193 359 per annum
<b>Location</b>	: Mbombela

Applications must be submitted by email to:

[MPT5@mpg.gov.za](mailto:MPT5@mpg.gov.za) (Office of the MEC)  
[MPT6@mpg.gov.za](mailto:MPT6@mpg.gov.za) (Evander)  
[MPT7@mpg.gov.za](mailto:MPT7@mpg.gov.za) (Bushbuckridge)

**Requirements:** A minimum of Grade 12/ Senior Certificate/National Senior Certificate/ Standard 10/ National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4 (NQF 4). A valid driver's licence.

<b>Post</b>	: Cleaner (x2)
<b>Sub Directorate</b>	: Auxiliary Services
<b>Ref No</b>	: MPT 8/2025 – (Mkhondo) MPT 9/2025 – (KwaMhlanga)
<b>Salary Level</b>	: 02
<b>Salary</b>	: R 138 486 per annum

Applications must be submitted by email to:

[MPT8@mpg.gov.za](mailto:MPT8@mpg.gov.za) (Mkhondo)  
[MPT9@mpg.gov.za](mailto:MPT9@mpg.gov.za) (KwaMhlanga)

**Requirements:** A minimum of Grade (10)/ Standard 8/ National Certificate (Vocational) NQF Level 2/ TVET N2 Certificate.

Details of the advert should be accessed on the departmental website - <https://treasury.mpg.gov.za/> and social media platforms - Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury

**APPLICATIONS:** Applications must include completed and signed New Z83 form (effective 1 January 2021) obtainable from any Public Service Department or from the DPSA website and a detailed CV ONLY, Failure to comply with the above instructions will lead to automatic disqualification.

Only shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit certified copies of qualifications, a valid driver's licence and ID on the day of the interview. Communication regarding requirements for certified documents will be limited to shortlisted candidates.

Applications must be sent on pdf format (maximum size: 5MB) only and indicate on email subject: Name of Post and Post Reference Number. Failure to comply with the above instructions will lead to automatic disqualification. Applications sent to wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- The Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury is an equal opportunity, affirmative action Employer. It is the intention of the Provincial Treasury to promote retrospectivity in terms of (race, gender and disability) through filling of these posts and all appointments will be made in accordance with the Employment Equity targets of the Provincial Treasury.
- Suitably qualified women and persons with disabilities remain the targeted group and are encouraged to apply.
- All appointments will be subjected to a personnel suitability check process not limited to the following: - (criminal record, credit record, qualification verification, citizenship, employment reference and social media).
- It is the applicant's responsibility to have foreign qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).
- Successful candidates will be required to enter into a performance agreement.
- Shortlisted candidates may be required to undergo skills assessment where necessary.
- Applications received after the closing date or those that do not comply with the requirements indicated above will not be considered.
- If you have not been contacted within three (3) months of the closing date of this advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful.
- However, should there be any dissatisfaction; applicants are hereby advised to within 90 days seek reasons for the above administrative action in terms of section 5, of Promotion of Administrative Justice, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000).
- No facsimile, post or hand delivered applications will be accepted.
- Only applications submitted via email will be accepted.
- The Provincial Treasury reserves the right not to make any appointment(s) to the advertised posts.

Enquires: Mr DJ Sibiyi 013 766 4386/4138, Mr PM Nkambule 013 766 4435/4374/4478/4446

**Closing date: 22 April 2025**



Persons with Disabilities are encouraged to apply



MEC Dlamini welcoming learners to the second term.



Members of the Portfolio Committee, alongside the HOD, MEC and the delegation from MEGA.

# Oversight visit at Kriel mines yield positive results

**Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane**

The Mpumalanga MEC for DEDT (Economic Development and Tourism), Makhosazane Masilela, led a delegation from the Department and MEGA (Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency) on recent oversight visit at Kriel, in Emalahleni Local Municipality.

According to DEDT, the visit aimed to provide a comprehensive update on the implementation of Big Eye Minerals (Pty) and assess the progress made in fulfilling the commitments of the 7th Administration.

The visit is also said to follow the recent TLP (Taking the Legislature to the People Programme), which engaged with communities and assessed the impact of government programs from various Departments.

DEDT also stated that the key objectives of the oversight visit included; to evaluate the advancements achieved in the implementation of Big Eye Minerals (Pty), assess progress made by DEDT and MEGA, ensure accountability and transparency in the delivery of services to the people of Mpumalanga.

The MEC has appreciated the oversight visit, by stating that it keeps the Department on its toes and ensures accountability.

“Your consistent and persistent oversight makes us not to slumber, as

we know that we will be held accountable for failures to deliver services to our people,” said Masilela.

The expected outcomes of the oversight visit include the provision of valuable

insights into the implementation of the Big Eye Minerals (Pty) and inform future decision-making.

The Department and MEGA are expected to provide detailed reports on

progress and the challenges encountered, which will help to identify areas of improvement. The MEC was also joined by the Head of Department at DEDT, Immy Serakalala, amongst others.

The CPA is looking forward to supplying their produce to the Mpumalanga International Food Market



(Right) MEC Masilela, DEDT HOD Immy Serakalala, engaging an official from Big Eye Minerals.



The suspects making their first court appearance.

# Suspected drug lab discovered in Standerton

**Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane**

“Illicit drugs wreck families and contribute to crime”.

This was the reaction by Mpumalanga MEC for DCSSL (Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison), Jackie Macie, following the discovery of chemicals that were stored inside an alleged drug laboratory in Standerton on Friday 4 April 2025.

According to Mpumalanga spokesperson for the Hawks, Lt-Col Magonseni Nkosi, the equipment and

substances found at the warehouse are estimated to be worth over R20 million.

Lt-Col Nkosi said six suspects believed to be Mozambican Nationals, aged between 19 and 60 years, were arrested during a raid by the Hawks Secunda-based Serious Organised Crime Investigation, Crime Intelligence, and K9 advanced Unit.

Two more suspects were reportedly arrested by the team of law enforcement agents at a nearby farm. A team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (Chemistry Section) was reportedly also at the scene.

According to Lt-Col Nkosi, a BMW

X5 that is said to belong to one of the suspects was seized for further investigation.

MEC Macie has called for lengthy jail sentences for those who are convicted of illicit drug trading and related offences.

“We welcome every effort by the

Security Cluster to combat illicit drug trading and manufacturing in our province.

Drug kingpins must also be brought to book, so that they face the full consequences of their actions.

Drug abuse places a burden on the health and welfare of the country because addicts end up in hospitals and rehabilitation facilities for treatment and psychosocial support.

Therefore, we must all work together to expose culprits,” said Macie.

The Head of the Hawks in Mpumalanga, Major-General Nico Gerber, said a number of drug-related cases have been reported in Standerton, prompting the Hawks to monitor and expand the network to focus on such cases.

“Members responded, and this seizure is the result of commitment and hard work.

The collaboration between different stakeholders led to the success,” said General Gerber. The suspects who are identified as Cardoso Missuque (36), Mandlati Beto (25), Antonio Maciya (19), Virginia Macamo (51) and Justino Missuque (60), appeared before the Magistrate’s Court in Standerton and were remanded in custody until Friday 11 April 2025, to make arrangements for an interpreter and a formal bail application.

It is also reported that the sixth suspect could not be identified after providing contradictory ages (between 17 and 18 years).



Some of the chemicals discovered during the raid.



The machinery reportedly used to manufacture the drugs.

# Mpumalanga ready for 2025 Freedom Day

**Lwazi Raul-Shongwe and Kopano Dibakwane**

MEC Mabuza said the theme for National Freedom Day celebrations is "United in Resilience in Defence of our Democracy".

"This year's theme underscores the significance of collective fortitude and determination in safeguarding and preserving democracy," said

Mabuza.

The launch was attended by a number of senior government officials, as well as various other invited guests.

The MEC for DCSR (Culture, Sport and Recreation) in Mpumalanga, Leah Mabuza, has officially launched the 2025 Freedom Month as part of the build-up towards the much-anticipated annual National Freedom Day celebrations scheduled to be held at Msukaligwa Local Municipality, on 27 April 2025.

A special tour of the Jackson Mthembu Square, located within the premises of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, was conducted for guests, prior to the launch.

The Square features names of fallen struggle heroes and heroines from the Districts of Ehlanzeni, Nkangala, Gert Sibande, immortalised upon shiny pillars, as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice they paid for the liberation of all South Africans.

The Jackson Mthembu Square also highlights and duly commemorates notable events that took place in Mpumalanga, as part of resistance against the unjust system of apartheid.

These events include; the Lowveld Massacre (1986), the Potato Boycott (1959) and the Delmas Treason Trial (1985-1988).

Other names also featured on the pillars surrounding the Jackson Mthembu Square include, Nokuthula Simelane, Solomon Mahlangu, and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.



MEC Mabuza leading a delegation of officials from various local municipalities.



The Jackson Mthembu Square at the Provincial Legislature premises.



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Banyana Banyana impressive win against Malawi.

## BANYANA BANYANA DOUBLE VICTORY AGAINST MALAWI

**Kopano Dibakwane**

The South African National Women's Soccer team, fondly known as Banyana Banyana, emerged victorious in an exhilarating 2nd leg of the international friendly match against Malawi at the Lucas Moripe Stadium in Atteridgeville (Tshwane), on Tuesday afternoon, 8 April 2025.

Banyana Banyana were still highly charged following an impressive 3-0 victory in the first-leg of the friendly match played last weekend.

Banyana Banyana were forced to fight back after Malawian player Vanessa Chikupira dazzled the South African goalkeeper, Kaylin Swart, to secure a 1-0 lead for her side in the 58th minute, which left the cheerful home crowd baffled.

Regardless of the wake-up call from Chikupira, Banyana Banyana maintained their composure and pressed until their efforts were rewarded in the 75th minute when Hilda Magaia, who came in as substitute in the second half, netted the equaliser for the home team.

It was clear that the visiting side was demotivated by Magaia's equalising goal.

The Malawian defence showed frequent signs of instability as Banyana Banyana took charge of the match.

The second and winning goal for the

home team came in the 85th minute, courtesy of a long-range strike from Amogelang Motau.

The game was highly sentimental for the Banyana squad as it marked the 150th cap for Nompumelelo Nyandeni and her last appearance for the squad. Nyandeni has

represented Banyana Banyana since the age of 15 and earned a spot as one of the most capped players for the squad, with an illustrious track record.

"I was excited to represent my country for the last time. I'm also happy that my teammates fought for me by winning the

game and having a proper send-off," said Nyandeni after the match.

When reflecting on the match, Banyana Banyana Head Coach-Desiree Ellis said; "I think it's fantastic.

We need to celebrate players who have given long service to the country. We need to celebrate that".

Ellis said she went into the match with a focus to improve on key areas of play.

"Even though we know it's not just about the goals, but rather the overall performance. I thought we were good in possession, but sometimes we have the ball away, so that has to be better as well," said Ellis.

SAFA (South African Football Association) President, Dr Danny Jordaan has heaped praises on Nyandeni and Noko Matlou for their gallant contribution towards women soccer in South Africa.

"Their place in history is confirmed and no one can ever take that away from them. Their contribution to the game, both here at home and on the continent, is enormous and their sacrifices will never be forgotten," said Jordaan. The win over Malawi has given Banyana Banyana momentum ahead of the 2025 Women's Africa Cup of Nations and the FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers. The team will look to build on their success and continue to make their mark on the international stage.

