

Free State Sun 28 Years!

The Independent Voice of the Free State!



RIP
Keketso Mokgothu,
the founder and
director of
Mtswako
Immune Booster,
which was
established in
2020 during the
COVID-19 pandemic.

Free State learners scoop bursaries and prize money at the 2025 Water and Sanitation Education Programme National Adjudication Competitions



Back row from Left: Ms Sisanda Sokhela, educator, Nkgopoleng High School; Ms Ntobenhle Hlengwa, Deputy Director, Water & Sanitation; Tshireletso Rangwaga, winner of the Best Participant in Aqua Enduro Group Leadership Award; Ms Xokozela Ziyanda, Director, Water and Sanitation Services Support (WSSS); Mr Nkosinathi Zungu, Program Coordinator; Ms Kelebohile Fana, Program Coordinator; Ms Lucky Lukhele, DWS official. Middle row from left: Ms Dikeledi Mokhothu, Setshabelo Primary School educator poster winner; Keitumetse Masiu, Lepholo Public School winner, Bursary; Naledi Makhabane winner, Bursary; Ms Mathapelo Mosia, Educator, Bhekilanga Primary School winner, Praise Poetry, Karabo Mmutlanyana Winner, Bursary; Ms Maditaba Tau, educator, Lepholo Public School and winner for bursary holders' learners. Front row kneeling from left: Tolerance Machisis, Setshabelo Primary School winner Poster; Siphesihle Jimika Bhekilanga Primary School winner Praise Poetry.

By Marcus Motshegwa

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in collaboration with water sector entities, recently hosted the 2025 Water and Sanitation Education Programme (WSEP) National Adjudication in Benoni, Gauteng, with week-long activities taking place from 6 to 11 October 2025.

WSEP is the Department's school-based education initiative, aimed at creating awareness among learners and the broader society about water resource management, water services, and sanitation, and promoting careers in the water sector among learners.

The programme also provides school learners with the opportunity to identify water and sanitation challenges in their respective schools and communities, and to develop innovative solutions to address these challenges.

Young school learners from primary schools in the Free State province participated in the Baswa Le Meetse (Youth in Water)

competition, which featured five creative subcategories: drama, music, poetry, praise poetry, and posters. The competition is meant to recognise the achievements of youths in their efforts to educate society about integrated water resource management, promoting water use efficiency, including health and hygiene, use and care of sanitation facilities.

Learners from Setshabelo Primary School in Welkom secured the top position in the Poster category and received R30,000 in prize money on behalf of their school. Bhekilanga Primary School in Heilbron came second in the Praise Poetry competition, winning R25 000 in prize money.

Grade 9 and 10 high school learners also competed in the Aqua Enduro and Public Speaking categories. Aqua Enduro is an initiative designed to address the skills shortage in scientific and engineering disciplines within the water sector at the

grassroots level. It encourages learners to develop science and technology-based projects that address water resource challenges in their schools and communities.

In this category, it was represented by Nkgopoleng Secondary School in Sasolburg. The school's learner, Tshireletso Rangwaga, won the Best Participant in the Aqua Enduro Group Leadership Award.

Lepholo Public School from Welkom represented the province in the Public Speaking category, with three learners securing educational bursaries to study any course of their choice related to the water and sanitation sector. DWS's Learning Academy funds the bursaries.

"The learners demonstrated their passion for both mathematics and science with their technological innovations", said Ms Maditaba Tau, the educator from Nkgopoleng High School.

Ms Tau also acknowledged the

collaboration of the participating schools with the Central University of Technology (CUT). She hailed Ms Lerato Mofokeng from the institution as a good mentor who tirelessly guided the learners.

"My advice to new schools participating in the program is to form a collaboration with higher institutions of learning to prepare for the competitions adequately. Congratulations to the learners who received DWS bursaries. The ball is in their court now, to work hard and achieve university entry marks", she concluded.

Learners, educators, and schools interested in participating in the Water and Sanitation Education Adjudications for 2026 should contact the coordinators for the WSPE in the Free State province for more information. They are Kelebohile Saha @ 073 440 8781 and Nkosinathi Zungu @ 082 556 0545.

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GEASSOSIEERDE INFRASTRUKTUUR, NABY
BLOEMFONTEIN, VRYSTAAT-PROVINSIE:
AANSOEK OM OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING:
OMVANGSBEPALING EN
OMGEWINGSINVLOEDBEPALING (OIB)-PROSES

PROSES VAN OPENBARE DEELNAME

Projekvoorstel: ACWA Vusa Sol Platz (Edms.) Bpk. ("die Aansoeker") stel voor om 'n 200MW Sonenergie-aanleg (SEA) en geassosieerde infrastruktuur ongeveer 11 km wes van Bloemfontein in die Vrystaat-provinsie te ontwikkel. Die voorgestelde projek sluit in 'n son-PV-reeks (wat uit son-PV-paneel bestaan), 'n Battery-energiebergingstelsel (BESS), en elektrisiteitsnetwerkinfrastruktuur, insluitend 'n hoëspanning-oorhoofse kraglyn van ongeveer 9,3 km lank (132 kV Twin Tern) vanaf die voorgestelde SEA na die Eskom-netwerk, deur middel van 'n "Loop-in-Loop-out" (LiLo)-fasiliteit. Ander voorgestelde infrastruktuur sluit in 'n substasie op die terrein, omsetters / transformators, 'n skakelingstasie, interne padnetwerk, toegangspad, opstelgebiede, geboue vir bedryf en instandhouding en ander verwante geboue, 'n terreinmediumspanningsnetwerk (kabel / interne kraglyne), 'n tydelike betonmengaanleg (gedurende die konstruksiefase), en omheining van die terrein.

Ligging: Die voorgestelde SEA sal op een grondperseel geleë wees, naamlik die Oorblywende Gedeelte van die Plaas Bergplaats Nr. 41, ongeveer 11 km wes van Bloemfontein in die Mangaung Metropolitaanse Munisipaliteit, Vrystaat-provinsie. Die voorgestelde elektrisiteitsnetwerk sal op die volgende grondpersele geleë wees: Oorblywende Gedeelte van Plaas Bergplaats Nr. 41; Gedeelte 1 van Plaas Poundisford Nr. 2803; Restante van Plaas Wolfkop Nr. 2353; Gedeelte 1 van Plaas Wolfkop Nr. 2353; Gedeelte 5 van Plaas Wolfkop Nr. 2353; Gedeeltes 3 en 10 van Plaas Spes Bona Nr. 2355 (onlangs gekonsolideer en staan ook bekend as Gedeelte 15 van Plaas Spes Bona Nr. 2355), en Gedeelte 0 van Plaas Wolfkop Nr. 2353, Bloemfontein Registrasie-afdeling, Vrystaat-provinsie.

Aansoek vir Omgewingsmagtiging in terme van NEMA (Wet Nr 107 van 1998): Die voorgestelde projek sluit in die aktiwiteite gelys in terme van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (NEMA) (Nr 107 van 1998), se Omgewingsinvloedbepalingsregulasies (OIB-regulasies), 2014, soos gewysig, d.w.s. Aktiwiteite 11, 12, 19, 24, 28, 48 & 56 van Noteringskenningsgewing 1 (GN Nr. R.983, soos gewysig), Aktiwiteite 1, 9 & 15 van Noteringskenningsgewing 2 (GN Nr. R.984, soos gewysig), asook Aktiwiteite 4, 12, 14, 18 & 23 van Noteringskenningsgewing 3 (GN Nr. R.985, soos gewysig). Gevolglik benodig die projek 'n omgewingsmagtiging vanaf die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DBVO) deur middel van 'n Omvangsbepaling en Omgewingsinvloedbepalings proses. Holland & Associates Omgewingskonsultante is aangestel om die vereiste Omgewingsmagtigingsproses (d.w.s. 'n Omvangsbepaling en Omgewingsinvloedbepalings proses) uit te voer en om 'n aansoek om Omgewingsmagtiging by DBVO in te dien ingevolge die NEMA-omgewingsimpakbepalingsregulasies (2014), soos gewysig. **Kennis word hiermee gegee ingevolge Regulasie 41(2) van GN R.982, soos gewysig en gepubliseer ingevolge NEMA, van die aansoek om Omgewingsmagtiging met betrekking tot bogenoemde gelysde aktiwiteite. Kennis word ook hiermee gegee van die aanvang van die openbare deelnameproses ingevolge die NEMA-omgewingsimpakbepalingsregulasies (2014), soos gewysig.**

Verder mag die voorgestelde projek ook goedkeuring vereis van die bevoegde owerhede ingevolge die Nasionale Erfenishulpbronnwet (Wet Nr. 25 van 1999) en die Nasionale Waterwet (Wet Nr. 36 van 1998).

Geleentheid om deel te neem: Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPe) word uitgenooi om as B&GPe te registreer en skriftelike kommentaar op die projek en **Konsep- Omvangsbepalingsverslag** te lewer. B&GPe moet hul kommentaar verskaf tesame met hul naam, kontakbesonderhede (insluitend hul voorkeursmanier vir kennisgewing, bv. e-pos, sms of posadres) asook 'n aanduiding van enige direkte sake, finansiële, persoonlike en/of ander belange wat hulle in die aansoek het aan die kontakpersoon hieronder aangedui verskaf binne die 30 dae kommentaarperiode gestuur word, d.w.s. **teen 19 November 2025**. Die Konsep- Omvangsbepalingsverslag sal beskikbaar wees om afgelaai te word op www.hollandandassociates.net vanaf **20 Oktober 2025 tot 19 November 2025**. 'n Harde kopie van die Konsep- Omvangsbepalingsverslag sal ook beskikbaar wees vir sigting by Bainsvlei Openbare Biblioteek (Langenhovenpark, Bloemfontein) gedurende die 30-dae kommentaartydperk.

Vir meer inligting kontak: Mnr Jake Cloete, Holland & Associates Omgewingskonsultante: E-pos: solplatz.ppp@hollandandassociates.net; Pos: PostNet Suite #108, Privaatsak X12, Tokai, 7966; sel: 072 112 6426.

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PROPOSED SOL PLATZ SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC
(PV) ENERGY FACILITY WITH BATTERY ENERGY
STORAGE SYSTEM, ELECTRICAL GRID
CONNECTION, AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN,
FREE STATE PROVINCE: APPLICATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: SCOPING &
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTING
PROCESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Project proposal: ACWA Vusa Sol Platz (Pty) Ltd ("the Applicant") proposes the development of a 200MW Solar Energy Facility (SEF) and associated infrastructure, approximately 11km west of Bloemfontein in the Free State Province. The proposed project includes a solar PV array (comprising solar PV panels), a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and electrical grid connection infrastructure including high voltage lines from the proposed SEF to the Eskom grid (i.e. construction of an approximately 9.3km long 132 kV Twin Tern overhead powerline connecting to an existing 275 kV Eskom powerline, via a Loop-in-Loop-out (LiLo) facility). Other associated proposed infrastructure includes an on-site substation, inverters/ transformers, Switching Station, internal road network, access road, laydown areas, Operations & Maintenance buildings and ancillary buildings, on-site medium voltage network (cabling/ internal powerlines), temporary concrete batching plant (during the construction phase), and site fencing.

Location: The proposed SEF would be located on one land parcel, i.e. Remaining Extent of the Farm Bergplaats No. 41, approximately 11km west of Bloemfontein in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State Province. The proposed electrical grid connection corridor would be located on: the Remaining Extent of Farm Bergplaats No 41; Portion 1 of Farm Poundisford No. 2803; Remainder of Farm Wolfkop No. 2353; Portion 1 of Farm Wolfkop No. 2353; Portion 5 of Farm Wolfkop No. 2353; Portions 3 and 10 of Farm Spes Bona No 2355 (recently consolidated and also known as Portion 15 of Farm Spes Bona No. 2355), and Portion 0 of Farm Wolfkop No. 2353, Bloemfontein Registration Division, Free State Province.

Application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998): The proposed project includes activities listed in terms of the National Environment Management Act (NEMA) (No. 107 of 1998), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014), as amended, i.e. Activities 11, 12, 19, 24, 28, 48 & 56 of Listing Notice 1 (Government Notice (GN) R.983, as amended), Activities 1, 9 & 15 of Listing Notice 2 (GN R.984, as amended), and Activities 4, 12, 14, 18 & 23 of Listing Notice 3 (GN R.985, as amended). Accordingly, the project requires Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) via a Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting process. Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants has been appointed to undertake the requisite Environmental Authorisation process (i.e. a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting process), and to submit an Application for Environmental Authorisation to DFFE in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014), as amended. **Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GN R.982, as amended, published in terms of NEMA, of the Application for Environmental Authorisation in respect of the abovementioned listed activities. Notice is also hereby given of the commencement of the public participation process in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.**

Furthermore, the proposed project may require approvals from the competent authorities in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) and the National Water Act (NWA) (Act No. 36 of 1998).

Opportunity to participate: Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register as I&APs, and to provide written comments regarding the proposed project and **Draft Scoping Report**. I&APs must provide their comments together with their name, contact details (including their preferred method of notification, e.g. e-mail, sms, or post), and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which they have in the application to the contact person indicated below **within the 30 day comment period, i.e. by 19 November 2025**. The Draft Scoping Report will be available for download on www.hollandandassociates.net from **20 October 2025 to 19 November 2025**. A hard copy of the Draft Scoping Report will also be available for viewing at Bainsvlei Public Library (Langenhoven Park, Bloemfontein) during the 30 day comment period.

For more information contact: Mr Jake Cloete, Holland & Associates Environmental Consultants: E-mail: solplatz.ppp@hollandandassociates.net; Post: PostNet Suite #108, Private Bag X12, Tokai, 7966; cell: 072 112 6426.

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LEGAL CORNER

Freedom of Expression in the Workplace: Boundaries Defined

By Advocate Sephiri Moshodi Executive Director: Justice Equality Foundation

Introduction:

The freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution is a fundamental component of democratic society in South Africa. Enshrined in Section 16 of the Republic of South Africa's 1996 Constitution, it ensures that people can freely express their thoughts, opinions, and beliefs without worrying about censorship by the government. This freedom is not unqualified, though, particularly in the workplace, where employers are required by law to uphold productivity, order, and a courteous atmosphere. The recent Labour Court ruling in *GIWUSA obo Buthelezi v. AEL Mining Services Limited and Others* brought the conflict between individual freedom and workplace discipline into sharp relief and provided important jurisprudential insight on where the line may be set.

The Buthelezi Case's History

The applicant, Mr. Buthelezi, a long-time employee of AEL Mining Services, was sacked for using profanity during a workplace safety training. Although he insisted that his remark was directed at no one and was merely a "slip of the tongue" brought on by his disapproval of the state of the showers, the employer nonetheless alleged that the outburst was offensive, disruptive, and a breach of workplace decorum.

After the case went to arbitration, the arbiter determined that the dismissal was fair in substance but unfair in procedure, and he or she awarded compensation for the latter flaw. The Labour Court affirmed the arbitrator's conclusion regarding substantive fairness after reviewing the case. Advocate Tertius Wessels, Managing Director of Strata-g Labour Solutions, pointed out that the court stressed that admitting one's use of improper language was not the same as expressing regret. In a heated exchange with the Safety Health Environment and Quality (SHEQ) facilitator, the context—using the profanity in front of coworkers and contractors—exacerbated the severity of the wrongdoing.

The Constitutional Right to Free Speech:

The courts have always acknowledged that, while Section 16 guarantees freedom of expression, this right may be curtailed to safeguard the rights and dignity of others. As Wessels notes, "The right to free speech is protected, but it must be used responsibly." This entails striking a balance in the

workplace between the right of the employer to promote a polite, effective atmosphere and the freedom of expression of individuals. Constitutional rights cannot be used by employees as a justification for wrongdoing.

This approach aligns with prior jurisprudence. In *Rustenburg Platinum Mines Ltd (Rustenburg Section) v CCMA and Others* [2006] 11 BLLR 1021 (SCA), the Supreme Court of Appeal confirmed that the discretion to determine the appropriate sanction rests primarily with the employer, and that the role of an arbitrator is confined to assessing the fairness—not correctness—of the sanction imposed.

Impact, Context, and Intent: The Triad of Evaluation

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to offensive speech under South African employment law. Rather, tribunals use three interconnected criteria to evaluate misconduct:

- 1.Context: the location, manner, and recipient of the speech.
- 2.Intent: Whether the wording was intended to draw attention to a problem at work or just express annoyance.
- 3.Impact: How the remarks affect coworkers, relationships at work, and organisational morale.
- 4.Despite his lengthy service and lack of malice, the court determined that the language used in the Buthelezi case was insulting and disruptive.

Case Law:

Comparative Law Regarding Derogatory Phrases Additional information about how courts consider these elements can be found in other cases:

1.In *Van Tonder v. Vaal Drift Boerdery Vennootskap* (2000) 5 BALR 583, an employee was fired for using profanity; however, the decision was overturned since the company did not have a specific policy prohibiting the use of profanity. The arbitrator awarded compensation because the employer could not prove that the regulation existed or that the employee knew about it.

2.In *Lithotech Manufacturing Cape – A Division of Bidpaper Plus (Pty) Ltd v. Statutory Council for Printing, Newspaper and Packaging Industries and Others* (2010)

31 ILJ 1425 (LC), an employee was dismissed for cursing at a superior. The Labour Court ruled that the dismissal was disproportionately harsh because of the employee's long service, impending retirement, and the fact that the comments were not directed at the superior. The employee was reinstated with a final warning.

3.In *Ceppwawu Obo Evans v. Poly Oak* (2003) 12 BALR 1324, an employee was dismissed for making a discriminatory statement. Despite the employer's apologies and claim that the firing was made in jest, the arbitrator upheld the decision, emphasising the harm to workplace relations and the employer's code of conduct violation.

These cases demonstrate how the target of the offensive language is directly related to the seriousness of the violation. Using profanity as a general descriptor, especially in front of others, may be more serious than using it to insult a coworker. Material concerns include the audience, tone, and emotional intensity of the situation.

The Employer's Obligation:

Unambiguous Guidelines and Regularity The Good Practice Code: Employers must demonstrate the following in order to be dismissed (Schedule 8 of the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995): that a workplace rule or standard exists; that the rule is legitimate and reasonable; that the employee knew about it or could have reasonably been expected to know about it; and that it has been applied consistently.

Employees may logically believe that using profanity on a regular basis is acceptable if bosses do so. In certain situations, written

policies may be superseded by management behaviour, compromising their credibility. Therefore, consistency is essential, particularly at higher levels.

The Employee's Obligation: Responsible Expression Workers have the right to protest, question policies, and push for change, but how they do it matters. Public humiliation, profanity, and personal attacks are not protected, but constructive criticism delivered through the appropriate means is. Workers need to understand that freedom of speech does not equate to immunity from repercussions. The law considers what was said, how it was uttered, and to whom it was said, as Wessels points out.

Conclusion:

A crucial tenet of South African labour law is upheld by the *GIWUSA obo Buthelezi v. AEL Mining Services Limited and Others* ruling: freedom of expression must coexist with professionalism, respect, and accountability. While encouraging candid communication, employers should also set clear expectations for behaviour. Workers ought to voice their opinions, but they should do so while keeping the impact, context, and goal in mind. Having rights entails obligations, and the law requires that both employers and employees exercise caution while striking the fine line between workplace discipline and freedom of speech. In the end, the Buthelezi case should be seen as a warning and a guide: although free speech is a democratic privilege, it shouldn't undermine the mutual respect, decency, and trust that underpin an employment relationship.

The writer is the Executive Director of Justice Equality Foundation.



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FOUNDATION**
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**Executive Director
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Matjhabeng Investment Summit Charts Bold Economic Revival

By Free State Sun Journo

The two-day Matjhabeng Investment Summit concluded on 17 October 2025, with local leaders outlining plans to attract investment, revive the regional economy, and create jobs after decades of decline in the mining sector.

Day one of the summit, held on 16–17 October in Welkom, showcased Matjhabeng's strategic opportunities in mining services, manufacturing, logistics, agro- processing and renewable energy. Officials highlighted infrastructure projects, including upgrades to Welkom Airport and plans for the Matjhabeng Special Economic Zone, while emphasising public- private partnership opportunities to accelerate development.

On the second day, Executive Mayor Khalipha addressed the delegates, acknowledging the councillors, provincial leaders, and investors. He

emphasised the municipality's shift from a mining-dependent economy and outlined ambitious targets to stimulate growth.

"Our economy was built on mining, but over 30 years, we have lost more than 50,000 jobs," Khalipha said. "Matjhabeng must diversify. We have four corridors earmarked for a special economic zone and have been declared an energy hub with plans for a municipal electricity company." He said that previous investor interest had yielded commitments totalling \$30 billion and set a new target of at least \$100 billion to fund projects that would create jobs and rehabilitate the local economy.

Khalipha acknowledged the challenges facing former mineworkers and called for targeted investment in

infrastructure. "We need functioning roads, reliable sewerage and clean water. Local contractors must benefit first so communities see real change," he said, adding that improved governance and fiscal discipline are essential to attract and retain investors.

Provincial leaders echoed the mayor's call for inclusive growth. Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae stressed that investment follows service delivery and functional infrastructure. "No investor will commit where basic services are not up to standard," she said, urging immediate action to repair roads and restore essential services.

Free State civic leaders and MEC Mathabo Dasheka-Hlalele signalled support for agriculture and renewable energy as pillars of Matjhabeng's economic turnaround. Dasheka-Hlalele said the municipality's fertile land and tourism potential make agriculture a

priority, highlighting ongoing solar projects in Virginia that are being developed with private and international partners.

Former mining towns and community representatives welcomed the summit's focus on localisation and job creation. Delegates emphasised the need for strict compliance with labour laws and for procurement policies that prioritise local small and medium enterprises.

The summit concluded with calls for a coordinated five- year development plan, strengthened infrastructure oversight and clear timelines for implementing projects under the Matjhabeng Special Economic Zone and energy hub initiatives. Municipal leaders stated that they will continue to engage investors and stakeholders to convert summit pledges into tangible projects and employment opportunities.



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A 20-year-old male drowned at the quarry

By Dan Xangaza

Police in Heidedal, Bloemfontein, have opened an enquiry docket following the possible drowning of a 20-year-old male at a quarry behind the Twin City Mall at Heidedal.

The incident allegedly occurred on Thursday, last week, when the victim and the two companions went to the quarry to swim. The 20-year-old male reportedly jumped into the water, was quickly overwhelmed, and tragically drowned. Heidedal police were immediately called to the scene and summoned the Bloemfontein Diving Unit. An intensive search commenced around the area where the victim was last seen, but had to be called off late in the evening due to poor light conditions.

The search resumed on the following day, which was last Friday. The

Welkom Diving Unit was also brought in to assist with the operation. The search also continued on Monday, 20th October, and Tuesday. Divers worked until approximately 12:00midday, at which point it was determined that the body may have been carried by currents or rolled to a deeper section of the quarry, estimated to be about 50 meters down. The SAPS works closely with the private sector and emergency services to ensure they find the body. But so far, the body has not yet been found. The SAPS strongly urges the community of Heidedal to refrain from using the quarry for swimming. The water is known to be dangerously deep and poses a severe risk to life. Further enquiries should be directed to Sergeant Mahlomola Kareli at 0825276634.



Quarry behind the Twin City Mall at Heidedal

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OBSTETRIC SERVICES (PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH)

ANTENATAL & PREVENTIVE CARE

- Routine antenatal check-ups (blood pressure, weight, fundal height)
- Blood tests and urine tests (anaemia, infections, blood group, glucose)
- Ultrasound scans: dating scan, nuchal translucency, anomaly scan, growth scan
- Foetal monitoring (NST – non-stress test, CTG – cardiotocography)
- Maternal vaccinations (tetanus, influenza, COVID-19)
- Nutritional counselling and supplementation (iron, folic acid, calcium)
- Genetic counselling and testing

LABOUR & DELIVERY

- Normal vaginal delivery
- Assisted vaginal delivery (forceps or vacuum)
- Caesarean section (elective and emergency)
- Pain management in labour (epidural, analgesia)
- Induction and augmentation of labour

HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY MANAGEMENT

- Pre-eclampsia/eclampsia monitoring
- Gestational diabetes management
- Multiple pregnancies (twins, triplets)
- Cardiac or medical conditions in pregnancy
- Rh incompatibility and immunoglobulin administration

POSTNATAL CARE

- Immediate postpartum care (bleeding control, uterine involution)
- Lactation support and breastfeeding counselling
- Family planning counselling
- Postpartum depression screening and support

OTHER OBSTETRIC SERVICES

- Management of miscarriage, threatened miscarriage, or ectopic pregnancy
- Stillbirth and neonatal loss support
- Placental complications management (previa, abruption)
- Foetal growth restriction management
- Preterm birth prevention and management

GYNAECOLOGICAL SERVICES (WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH)

PREVENTIVE & SCREENING SERVICES

- Routine pelvic exams
- Pap smear / cervical cancer screening
- HPV testing
- Breast examination and breast cancer screening
- Bone health screening (osteoporosis in postmenopausal women)

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & FERTILITY

- Contraception counselling and provision (pills, implants, IUDs, sterilization)
- Fertility evaluation (hormonal tests, ultrasound, semen analysis)
- Assisted reproductive techniques referral (IVF, IUI)
- Menstrual disorder management (heavy bleeding, irregular cycles, dysmenorrhea)
- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) diagnosis and management
- Endometriosis management (medical and surgical)

SURGICAL GYNAECOLOGY

- Laparoscopic surgery (diagnostic and therapeutic)
- Hysteroscopy (polyp or fibroid removal, septum correction)
- Hysterectomy (laparoscopic, abdominal, or vaginal)
- Myomectomy (fibroid removal)
- Ovarian cystectomy
- Pelvic organs prolapse repair

INFECTION & STI MANAGEMENT

- Diagnosis and treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs)
- Diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Vaginitis and vulvitis management
- HPV vaccination

MENOPAUSE & HORMONAL HEALTH

- Management of perimenopausal and postmenopausal symptoms
- Hormone replacement therapy (HRT)
- Bone and cardiovascular health support

PELVIC & UROLOGICAL GYNAECOLOGY

- Pelvic floor dysfunction evaluation
- Urinary incontinence management
- Chronic pelvic pain evaluation and treatment
- Endometriosis and adenomyosis care

ONCOLOGY & SPECIALIZED CARE

- Cervical, ovarian, endometrial, and vulvar cancer screening
- Pre-cancerous lesion management (LEEP, conization)
- Referral for gynaecological oncology treatment
- Genetic counselling for inherited cancer risk

OTHER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Counselling for sexual and reproductive health
- Weight management and lifestyle advice
- Psychosocial support for infertility, pregnancy loss, or gynaecologic illness
- Health education (maternal health, safe sex, reproductive rights)

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Walkers tackle 57km route from Welkom to Kroonstad to commemorate International Stuttering Awareness Day

By Dikeledi Ntsollane

The "I Stutter" Foundation held a walk from Welkom to Kroonstad (57km) on 18 October 2025. The walk aimed to commemorate International Stuttering Awareness Day, which is observed on October 22nd every year. It's a day to raise awareness about stuttering, promote understanding, and support individuals who stutter. Stuttering is a speech disorder involving frequent problems with usual fluency and flow of speech, which is common among children as they learn to speak. Most children naturally outgrow this type of stuttering, referred to by experts as developmental stuttering. However, in many cases, stuttering becomes a long-term condition that continues into adulthood. The International Stammering/Stuttering Awareness Day seeks to destigmatise stammering and raise awareness on the challenges faced by people who stammer, while encouraging empathy from society. The day often focuses on empowering people who stutter, promoting inclusive

communication, and breaking down stigmas surrounding stuttering. The walk saw over 150 walkers who registered and showed up at 2 a.m. to walk to Kroonstad. It was drizzling just after the walk started, but that did not stop the sea of walkers dressed in orange. The aim was to raise awareness about Stuttering and impart information to the communities at large, equipping them to support those who stutter or have family members who stutter. Since January, the foundation has been visiting schools in the Free State to empower affected learners and teachers who work with them daily. We have encountered cases where teachers are not aware that some learners in class Stutter, so they cannot give them the support they need. In 2025, we met over 100 learners who stutter only in and around Kroonstad. Tumi also shares information sessions & general information on our TikTok account, which has been very instrumental in spreading the message of awareness.



NOTICE – DMR REF. NO. FS 10442MP

APPLICATION FOR MINING PERMIT FOR DIMENSION STONE (SANDSTONE) IN RESPECT OF A PORTION OF THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARMS PATRYS KAMP 933 AND COMET 934 IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PHUTHADITJHABA, FREE STATE.

Notice of public participation process is hereby given of the intent of **MALUTI MINING GROUP (PTY) LTD** to mine Dimension Stone (Sandstone) on the above mentioned property. An application for a mining permit and Environmental Authorisation was simultaneously lodged in terms of Section 27 of the Mineral Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002) read together with Chapter 4 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, and it has been accepted and acknowledged by the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Free State Province.

In terms of the 2014 Environmental impact Assessment Regulation, Listing notice 1, activity no. 21 promulgated in terms of Section 27 and 44 of the national Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998 as amended), read together with Chapter 6 of Environmental Impact Assessment regulation, 2014. The landowner or lawful occupier of the land, as well as any interested and affected parties must be notified and consulted regarding the proposed operation. The basic assessment report (BAR) must be submitted to the department of mineral resources and the copies of the draft BAR is available at the local library for reviewing and comments. You're hereby invited to address any comment to support / objection to the proposed operation to **ENGEDI MINERALS AND ENERGY (PTY) LTD** within **30 DAYS** from date of this publication. Please feel free to contact the undersigned on the following contact details:

Physical address: 52ND Street Bloemfontein Central , 9301
Email: info@engedime.com
Phone: 051 430 1748 , **Fax:** 086 556 2568

If no correspondence is received from you within the stated period, it will be accepted that you have no objections against the proposed mining activities.

Much blessings,

T. Mulaudzi (Consultant)





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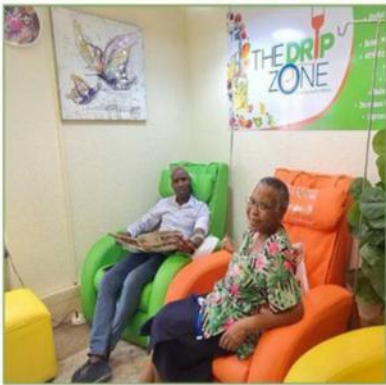
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THOTAGAUTA SECONDARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

By Dr Maditsane Nkonoane(former learner (Alumnus) and Registrar at Durban University of Technology (DUT)

The history of Thotagauta Secondary School is closely linked to the history of high school education in Thabong with the establishment of Lebogang High School in 1969 to serve educational needs of pupils from around Lejweleputswa whose parents could not afford to send them to boarding schools in Qwaqwa. In 1975, Thotagauta was established as Lebogang Extension to address overcrowding in Form I and Form II classes at the time. The school was housed in temporary tin structures (mashatara) on an open space adjacent to what is known as Las Vegas section of Thabong Township and was headed by Mr Mojanaga with other teachers drawn from local primary schools. In 1977, the school assumed Junior Secondary status and moved to the newly completed buildings of present-day Lenyora Primary School while waiting for the completion of their current buildings, which were generously donated by a philanthropic organization known as Help to Educate Local People (H.E.L.P) with Lewis - Thomson Amalgamated (LTA) Construction as lead contractor. The current facilities of the school were officially opened in 1978 under the principalship of Mr Setlhare "Scara" Kgotlakgomang, who assembled a formidable team of well-qualified teachers, including graduates from Fort Hare University,

himself being a graduate of the University of the North (Turfloop). The teaching staff included the legendary Mrs Phepheng Jeanette Mosiako (Sesotho and Geography teacher), who joined Thotagauta from Lebogang, which was then headed by another legendary figure, Mr Zephania "Zeph" Senkhane, well known for his eloquence in English. Interestingly, both principals of Thotagauta and Lebogang were proteges of Mrs Mosiako as her students at the erstwhile Bantu United, now known as Bodibeng High School in Maokeng, Kroonstad, under the leadership of the revered Dr Reginald Cingo and later Mr Jonah "Flint" Setiloane. Legend has it that Mrs Mosiako is the second Lesotho girl to have earned a university degree from Fort Hare University in the 1940s. Through the visionary leadership of Mr Kgotlakgomang, Thotagauta produced the best Junior Certificate (JC) results in 1978 with six distinctions, and thus topped all the schools in both Welkom East and Welkom West Circuits. This record was never broken by successive cohorts of learners until today, and some of the learners of the 1978 JC class continue to thrive in their professions, one of whom is a Judge of the High Court in Bloemfontein. In 1981, Mr Kgotlakgomang took up a promotional post of Circuit Inspector and later Assistant Director in the Kroonstad Circuit, and was succeeded by Mr Malebo Sidwell Ngake, who continued with

the visionary tradition, assisted by a team of formidable teachers like Mrs. Mosiako, Messrs Matong, Toast Morolong and Jimmy Brood for Afrikaans, Mrs Puleng Marupelo for Housecraft/Home Economics, Messrs Nepthally Letsoara, Ephraim Motheo, and Mrs Florence Mosebi for English, Mr Kenny Motsoeneng for Accountancy and Economics, Messrs Zakharia Moledi and Reginald Leeto for Mathematics, Mr Abel Motlatla for History, Mr Abbey Vumendlini for Physical Science, Messrs Matshediso Satch Sehloho and Todd Ngake for Biology. In anticipation of the opening of the eight new additional classes to house the first Form Four (Grade 11) class in 1982, the 1981 JC Class achieved a pass rate of almost 100% with only one learner failing the JC external examinations. The year 1982 saw several teachers taking study leave to pursue further education at universities and were replaced by new recruits from Colleges of Education and the University of Fort Hare, which included Messrs Teboho Moseme and Lephuthing for Mathematics and Biology, Messrs Khambule and Thabiso Setlaelo for Business Economics. This golden period was marked by an educational trip to Fort Hare University to witness the graduation of three of our teachers, Mrs Hazel Motsoeneng (nee Brukwe), Ms Bushy Galeboe, and Mrs Ouma Ngake. This trip inspired some of

the learners from the first Matric Class of 1983 to aim for a Matric exemption pass as a passport to pursue university education and graduate. During the period 1980-1983, the school produced some of the best football players like Kaizer Moilola, Benedict Seakgoe, Gijima Lesibe, Lawi Modutsoane, Mokhothu Screamer Mokhothu, and many others who grew up to play for local semi-professional and professional football clubs, notably Welkom Real Hearts Football Club. The Student Christian Movement (SCM) was led by Manasseh Letsoara with his gospel music quartet known as Hearbreakers. The school also assembled a formidable Debates Team comprising Keneilwe Mphirime, Josefa Khomari, James Rakaki, Zakes Mokapela, Maditsane Nkonoane, and others under the tutelage of Mr Lehlohonolo Makae and the team went on to beat many other formidable teams like Orlando High and Bonamelo College of Education, except for local big brother, Lebogang High School. Between 1984 and the present date, the leadership of the school went through the stewardship of Messrs Dibe, Skhosana, Mothebe, Motsumi Mohapi, Kibaka, and Gauta Ndakana, all assisted by a team of the next generation of formidable teachers, most of whom are holders of university degrees in resonance with the school's motto: Nil Nisi Optimum-Only the Best is Good Enough.



SPORT

Sanlam Cape Town Marathon Cancelled After Severe Overnight Winds

The 2025 Sanlam Cape Town Marathon was cancelled at short notice on Sunday morning after severe overnight winds damaged event infrastructure in Green Point. Organisers informed approximately 25,000 registered participants at 05:00 that the race, due to start at 06:15, would not proceed. The decision was taken at 04:45 following emergency consultations with the Joint Operations Committee, which includes the City of Cape Town's Disaster Risk Management, Safety and Security, medical services and SAPS. Officials reported that marquee tents were damaged and branding equipment was ripped from fences and scaffolding, raising safety concerns. Many runners, including a contingent of more than 30 from Welkom, were already en route or warming up when the cancellation was announced. Clark Gardner, chief executive of the Cape Town Marathon, said the organisers were "devastated" but emphasised that

participant safety was the priority. He thanked runners, sponsors and stakeholders for their understanding. The Cape Town Marathon has been pursuing recognition as an Abbott World Marathon Majors event. Among those affected was Team Vitality runner Nkhetheni Masupa and Abe Nkomo, who had planned to use the race as final preparation for the New York City Marathon on 2 November. Organisers have not yet announced plans for refunds or rescheduling. The annual Sanlam Cape Town Marathon comprises various running activities, starting on Saturday, culminating in the main 42km marathon on Sunday. Participants in these events enjoyed their experiences on Saturday before the marathon was cancelled on Sunday. These include the 5km and 10km Peace Runs, as well as the 11km, 22km, and 43km trail runs.



Abe Nkomo and Nkhetheni Masupa at their second BMW Berlin Marathon in Germany last year. They are both invited to compete in their respective 45-49 and 50-54 age category championships in New York next Saturday.



Welkom was well represented in the 10km peace run by our elders; Tugela Xaba, 59 years (1:37:43) and Maxwell Khosa, 79 years (1:41:08)

By Dikeledi Ntsollane
This year's ceremony took place at Monte Bello Estate in Bloemfontein, bringing together top-performing athletes, sponsors, coaches, and official guests. The event was hosted by Novus Media and the University of the Free State (UFS), with Standard Bank as the primary sponsor. The ceremony aimed to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and talent of athletes from schools to senior levels. Some of the notable winners at the ceremony included Sportsman of the Year Mthi Mthimkhulu, who competed at the World Athletics Relay Championships in China and secured a place in the national team for the 4x400 relay at the Athletics Championships. Sportsman of the Year Rolene Streutker, a korfball player who represented South Africa in the Netball Nations Cup and a test series against New Zealand, was named Sportster of the Year. Junior sportswoman of the year, Erich Visser, is a rugby player who played for the junior Springboks

against Australia. Junior sportsman of the year Bianca Lubbe, a netball player who won a silver medal at the Telkom Network Championships and competed in the Netball World Youth Cup. The team of the year is the UFS Korfball team. The free state sports stars' awards ceremony is more than just a recognition of athletic achievements. It also aims to promote sporting excellence in the province, encouraging young athletes to strive for greatness. The event provides a platform for athletes to showcase their talents and for sponsors to recognise the value of supporting sports development. The Free State Stars' awards ceremony is a testament to the province's rich sporting talent. By recognising and celebrating the achievements of its athletes, the event inspires others to follow in their footsteps. Congratulations to all the winners and nominees. Here's to continued success in the world of sports.

The Free State Sports Awards Ceremony is an annual event that recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of athletes from across the province





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