



AUSTRALIA CHILE COTE D'IVOIRE HONDURAS ITALY NEW ZEALAND KOREA DPR SERBIA



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STILL WAITING FOR HER 2008 MATRIC RESULTS



MOTHER ASKS FOR MEC'S INTERVENTION AS STUDENT'S LIFE ON HOLD • FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

COPE has only two branches in Mpumalanga

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Pupils torch their own school

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PIRATES ARE COMING

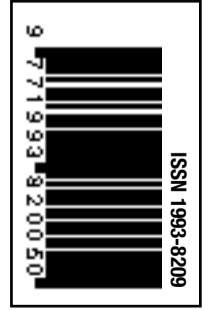


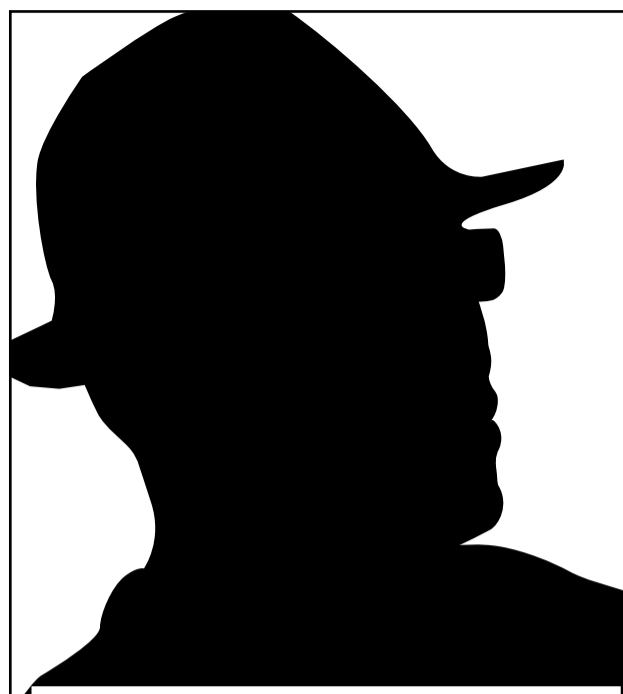
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MZALA



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MISCELLANEOUS

DELAYED NEWS

Part of what you are reading here was supposed to be in your last edition, however, because of space, I had to withdraw it in the interest of a "breaking story" - our Premier was finally going to speak to the people of Mpumalanga about the developments in the province.

As they say, all is history now, we are going to focus on other issues.

NEW LOOK

As part of raising public awareness on the 2010 FIFA World Cup matches that will be staged in Nelspruit's Mbombela Stadium, the Ziwaphi management took a decision to change its mast head to suit the occasion.

I apologise that I was not there introduce this innovation, due lack of space in our Special Edition last week. However, as they say, "better late than never".

This new-look Ziwaphi will continue until the end of the tournament in the province.

WEAK "THIGHS"

Sunday's historic opening of the Mbombela Stadium was a memorable occasion indeed, more so because Bafana-Bafana won. I could not wait to share a story of

this lady who was seated behind me, and she kept on referring to weak "thighs". Weak thighs? I wondered. In fact she was referring to the Thailand soccer players. I agree, the team was very weak, even Amajita could have beaten them by a bigger margin.

Bafana keeper, Itumeleng Khune was bored the entire match. The only time he had to make a save was in the second half after a free kick which was the only strike that was goal bound. No wonder he was substituted. Moeneeb Josephs only touched the ball from a back pass.

A reader sent us this picture of a bored Itumeleng Khune.

If you have a picture of anything that you want published, please email to info@ziwaphi.com

We hope the next opposition will be a stronger team, to enable Bafana to test their real strength, because the "thighs" failed to make an impression.

Poor COPE has only 2 branches in Mpumalanga! That's scandalous

SPECIAL EDITION

There will be another special edition of Ziwaphi next week. Don't miss it.

Phinda Mzala



Police looking for BOLO

NELSPRUIT

By Thobile Mlangeni

Mpumalanga police have asked the public to be on the lookout for a black BMW 3-series that had been hijacked from the KaNyamazane shopping complex on Sunday night.

To the great amusement of the local police, the car's number plate is BOLO GP, which is either the Swati word for

"penis" or American cop-speak for "be on the lookout".

According to Warrant Officer Andries Skwambane, the incident happened at about 8.30pm.

"The victim had parked his black BMW outside a shop and when he came back to it two unknown men pointed a firearm at his head and demanded his keys and wallet,"

said Skwambane.

The thieves fled with the car of the victim, who had not been injured in the attack.

The police are investigating a case of armed robbery and car hijacking, but no arrests have been made.

Anyone with information can contact the KaNyamazane police on 013 7949 712.



TO: ADVERTISE CALL:

072 1811 554 OR 082 553 4067

Student still waiting for 2008 matric results

BY FRANCE NYAKA

KWAMHLANGA

The life of a 20-year-old woman from Zakheni village near KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga, has been put on hold for the last two years because the Department of Education has still not released her complete matric results. Simphiwe Duba wrote her matric exam in seven subjects at Zakheni High School in 2008 but is yet to receive the results for two subjects, without which she cannot get a certificate.

In January last year, when other learners received their results, Simphiwe was told she would have to wait until August for hers. But when she finally got them, her name, surname and ID number were incorrect and the results for two subjects - life orientation and agricultural science - were missing.

"I went to the school and they referred the matter to the Nkangala regional examination centre," said Simphiwe.

The department of education's local office said she should rewrite the two subjects during the final exam session in October last year because it was still conducting an investigation into the matter. Simphiwe dutifully repeated the exams in those two subjects, but when the matric results were released earlier this year, hers stated that she had written only agricultural science, which she had failed.



Letta Duba comforts her daughter, Simphiwe, who has been waiting for her matric results for two years. Simphiwe has been told it would be better to rewrite the entire exam than wait for the Mpumalanga education department to solve the problem

"After many inquiries, the department finally said last month that I share an ID number with another candidate and that it is still investigating. They said I should rewrite all seven subjects during this year's matric exams because their investigation will still take a long time," said Simphiwe. "That means I will have to rewrite five subjects that I've already passed! And what happened to my life orientation results?" Simphiwe says her life has been a misery because she cannot pursue her dreams of becoming

a traffic officer.

"I am so stressed about the department's negligence. I gave them my correct particulars when I wrote the exam in the first place. I have now lost hope with the department. My career has been put on hold and I am even doubtful of my results if I rewrite everything this year, because they still cannot tell me what went wrong with my correct particulars and my results in the first place," said a tearful Simphiwe.

The ID number on the matric results does not correspond with the one in her ID book and instead of listing her name as Simphiwe Sesana Duba it calls her Simphiwe Pretty Dube.

Simphiwe's shocked mom, Letta Duba (59), asked education MEC Reginah Mhaule to intervene to solve her daughter's problem. "I am shocked. The department promised to investigate the matter, but nothing has been solved. They advised my stressed child to rewrite all her subjects instead of coming up with a real solution to the problem. My child deserves her results and I urge the MEC to come to our rescue," said Letta.

The head of examinations in the Nkangala region, PK Ntuli, said Simphiwe's problem had been caused by the provincial head office's capturing system and that he was still waiting for a report from head office. "The matter has been referred to our head office because it is a common problem they have with their capturing system. She is among many learners whose particulars had been wrongly spelled by the department and she therefore needs to rewrite all the subjects while waiting for the head office report, which might still take long," was all Ntuli could advise.

Mpumalanga education department spokesperson Jasper Zwane could not be reached for comment.

'Only two COPE branches in Mpumalanga'

NELSPRUIT

By Sydney Masinga

COPE's leaders in Mpumalanga are accused of inciting members not to attend the party's inaugural national congress because they are scared they will not be re-elected during the event.

Provincial secretary and official spokesperson Buks Mahlangu insisted on Tuesday that Mpumalanga, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State would not attend because of divisions in the party and irregularities in the preparations for the congress, which is scheduled for the end of May.

But a local party source accused Mahlangu and the other provinces of "inciting members to boycott the congress because they fear they will be ousted as leaders at the congress".

"These guys have failed to build COPE in their provinces. Mahlangu has failed to launch branches in Mpumalanga. The province has only two branches, compared to the 600 in the Eastern Cape. This shows that he has failed as a leader. He knows very well that he will be ousted at the congress, so the best thing for him is to incite members to boycott it," said the source.



He added that the party had recruited only 57 registered members under the current Mpumalanga leadership, which is headed by chairperson Ben Mokoena.

"Mahlangu submitted 18 branches for Mpumalanga, but when they were audited it was found that only the Nelspruit and White River branches were legitimate," the source said.

Mahlangu, however, said the four provinces had decided not to attend because they felt that preparations leading up to it had been riddled with irregularities and that the party was too divided to have a successful congress.

"How can we go to a national congress if we are divided and without honest audits of our membership? We call upon the congress working committee to postpone the congress because all provinces, except the Eastern Cape, had less than 50% of their branches accredited to attend. If this congress goes ahead, it will have serious repercussions for COPE," Mahlangu said.

He added that financial challenges and the leadership battle between Mosiuoa Lekota and Mbhazima Shilowa would also hamper the staging of a successful congress.

The chairperson of COPE in Limpopo, Sello Moloto, said its local leadership had decided not to go because of the flawed auditing of branches that were expected to attend the congress.

"As provincial leadership we decided not to attend, but because we are a democratic party we decided that

branches will meet on Saturday and take a final decision on whether to attend the congress or not," said Moloto.

Free State spokesperson of COPE Sello Dithebe said the province wanted the congress postponed because the party needed to be united before it started.

"If our call for a postponement is not heeded, we will have no option but to follow in the footsteps of Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces and take a very painful but necessary decision of not participating in the national congress, which we believe is being rushed without regard for what will become of COPE in the aftermath of all that," said Dithebe.

He said the "ambition to be elected and occupy positions" was the single most serious threat to the party's future.

General secretary Charlotte Lobe said the congress would go ahead despite the calls for its postponement.

"The national committee as our highest decision-making body has taken a decision that the congress will continue, so it will continue. Those who are not going to congress are not COPE branches," said Lobe.

Education MEC reveals plans to improve matric results

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT

Mpumalanga's Department of Education has urged all schools in the province to introduce a compulsory study period for matriculants to prevent a repeat of last year's poor results.

Tabling the department R11.5-billion budget in Nelspruit on Friday, MEC Regina Mohaule admitted that Grade 12 results remained a challenge in the province.

"In 2009 we performed below the national average and also worse than all the other provinces. Therefore we have asked all schools in the province to introduce a compulsory one-hour study period at least two days a week, and to have extra classes early in the morning, in the afternoon and on Saturdays," said Mohaule.

Mpumalanga's matric pass rate dropped to 47.9% last year, down from 51.8% in 2008.

Mohaule said the matric intervention programme was supported by the province's executive council, which comprises all MECs and heads of departments.

"Preparations are also under way to hold winter schools across the province and a three-week residential study camp for 4 000 learners during the winter school holidays. Expert teachers from schools that performed well last

year have been identified to teach at these holiday classes."

According to Mohaule, the department will also introduce a dial-in tutoring programme for matriculants that will operate from 8am to 4pm from Mondays to Fridays during the Fifa World Cup period.

"Our focus will be on the 66 schools that obtained pass rates of below 20%, with emphasis on the Bushbuckridge region. But we will continue to support

performing schools to maintain and improve the quality of their results," she added.

Mohaule said the department would strengthen its security to ensure exam papers were not leaked, as they did last year.

"The examination question paper leakage of 2009 and related irregularities led to the national minister of basic education taking over the function of examination

administration in the province. We intend working very hard to improve our systems and structures to ensure that we can resume this function sooner rather than later. We are engaging our partners in the labour formations to re-establish the examination unit. Once this is done, a process to recruit, vet and train personnel and strengthen security measures will commence," she said.

R40m price tag for service delivery protests

NELSPRUIT

Service delivery protests in Mpumalanga between September and March have cost almost R40-million in property damages.

Tabling the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' budget on Thursday, MEC Norman Mokoena said the amount was estimated to be at least R38 280 588 and included damage to both government and councillors' properties.

"Largely, these protests pointed to challenges in areas of financial management, institutional capacity and leadership in some of our municipalities. Such manifestations of poor performance, poor

communication and perceived 'social distance' between the servants of the people and people themselves should become focal points of attention as we continue to turn our local government system around into a better-performing machinery," said Mokoena.

He added that the service delivery protests were characterised by violence, intimidation, destruction of properties and, in some instances, loss of lives.

"As a democratic state we will at all times respect the right of people to voice their concerns through protests, however, the violent protests, wanton destruction of property and intimidation will not be tolerated," he warned.

Mokoena said he there was policy vacuum regarding ways in which public representatives should be compensated for damages to their property caused during service delivery protests.

"In the interim, we have advised municipalities to enlist with the South African Special Risk Insurance Association to cover such instances."

According to Mokoena, 84 working days were lost because of the protests.

"It is interesting to note that while the service delivery protests in Mpumalanga received the most media coverage, Gauteng, in fact, experienced the highest levels of service delivery protests, followed by North West," he added.

Mpumalanga citizens urged to get WC tickets

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

Soccer fans in Mpumalanga have been urged to buy tickets for the Fifa World Cup matches between Chile and Honduras on June 16, and Australia and Serbia on June 23.

MEC for culture, sport and recreation Vusi Shongwe used his 2010/2011 budget speech in the provincial legislature in Nelspruit on Friday to remind fans that tickets for these matches were still available.

"We ask all those people who do not as yet have tickets for these World Cup games to be played in Mpumalanga to buy them now," he said.

"Chile has chosen our province as their base for the World Cup and we need to extend our support to them and make them feel welcome while they are busy with their preparations."

He said the city's World Cup facilities were world-class and Chile would



MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation, Vusi Shongwe (left)

have the added advantage of being "surrounded by warm-hearted people who will go out of their way" to make the team feel at home in the province.

"The mere fact that tickets for the Bafana Bafana match against Thailand this Sunday were sold out within 48 hours shows that our people are hungry

for international soccer," he said.

"Football fever is being felt all over the province and it is epitomised by the interest people have shown in embracing the Fly the Flag and Football Friday campaigns."

Shongwe said people who had doubted

the province's ability to host the World Cup had been proven wrong.

"With only a few days remaining before the first whistle blows, we have proved to the rest of the world that we are indeed ready to host this glorious event," he said.

He said the state-of-the-art Mbombela Stadium was 100% ready to host the World Cup and that the teams playing their first-round matches there would have the luxury of playing on a world-class pitch.

"There is no doubt that the pitch will allow them to showcase their talent, so be sure not to miss out on this exciting, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to watch the world's best footballers in action," he said.

Nelspruit also plays host to the match between Italy and New Zealand on June 20 and Korea versus Cote D'Ivoire on June 25.

Zuma chooses Mpumalanga to launch 'revival' campaign

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT

President Jacob Zuma, in his capacity as leader of the ANC, will be in Mpumalanga on Sunday to launch the party's national Imvuselelo (revival) campaign.

Addressing a press conference in Nelspruit on Wednesday, provincial secretary of the ANC Lucky Ndinisa said Zuma would attend a campaign rally at the KaMhlushwa Stadium near Malalane, addressing the crowds on "building and consolidating the unity of the movement towards 2012".

"The event is expected to be attended by [national executive committee] NEC members, who will arrive in the province on Friday, and just more than 20 000 members of the ANC," said Ndinisa.

He added that the campaign was aimed at implementing a Polokwane resolution to ensure that the party recruit and register one million members by 2012. At the time, the party had 600 000 registered members.

Ndinisa refused to say whether the

ANC had chosen Mpumalanga as the campaign's launch pad to address infighting between party factions in the province.

In March this year, Mbombela local municipality mayor Lassy Chiwayo said tender irregularities surrounding the building of the Mbombela Stadium had caused friction in the ANC.

"It is unfortunate that the 2010 Fifa Soccer World Cup initiative, instead of bringing much-awaited hope and joy to our people, has brought death and pain to some of our families, divided the province and the municipality. The biggest casualty in the process is the ANC because of the sheer greed of some of our leaders," Chiwayo had told journalists during a

press conference after members of the regional executive committee had decided to recall him.

By "death and pain", Chiwayo was referring to the assassination of Mbombela municipal speaker Jimmy Mohlala, who was shot and killed in January last year after blowing the whistle on stadium tender irregularities.

In a press conference last week, the ANC Youth League accused the provincial executive committee of being "unnecessarily soft" on people who were causing divisions within the movement.

League provincial secretary Isaac Mahlangu said there were provincial

executive members who were "moles and sympathisers" of COPE.

"They are causing confusion in the ANC, they are advanced propagandists who are also using SMSes to confuse our members," said Mahlangu, referring to an SMS doing the rounds in Nelspruit claiming premier David Mabuza's farmhouse near Barberton had been raided.

The league also denied rumours that the NEC might dissolve the provincial PEC because of infighting.

"Those who dream for PEC dissolution, they are advised to go to the nearest cemetery, dig for themselves a grave and wait for the Almighty to finish them off," said Mahlangu.

On Wednesday, Ndinisa denied any divisions and said the PEC had been caught off-guard by the league's statement.

"We were surprised by their statement that there are divisions in the ANC and that we need to appoint genuine members ... we decided to call them to the next PEC meeting to explain themselves," Ndinisa said.

Mbombela Local Municipality



PROGRAMME FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF WARD COMMITTEES FOR 2010

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	WARD
Re-establishment of ward committee	29/05/2010	08:00	Zwelisha Community Hall	02
Re-establishment of ward committee	29/05/2010	08:00	Gedlembane High School	04
Re-establishment of ward committee	30/05/2010	08:00	KaMashigo Centre	22
Re-establishment of ward committee	23/05/2010	08:00	Mshadza High School	06
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Legogote Primary School	08
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Shabalala Community Centre	01
Re-establishment of ward committee	22/05/2010	08:00	Malekutu Primary School	10
Re-establishment of ward committee	30/05/2010	08:00	Gutjwa Traditional Offices	21
Re-establishment of ward committee	22/05/2010	14:00	Nellsville Community Hall	17
Re-establishment of ward committee	25/05/2010	17:00	Nelspruit Council Chambers	15
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	KaNyamazane Community Hall	19
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Mdzimba Primary School	05
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Shishila Primary School	29

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Sello Malele 013 759 2277

NT Mthembu Acting Municipal Manager
1 Nel Street, Civic Centre
PO Box 45
Nelspruit
1200

No classes at school with 34.4% pass rate

NELSPRUIT

By Eric Mashaba

Pupils at Mayibuye High School in Daantjie near Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, continued with violent protest action for the second day since breaking windows, setting fire to the library and throwing stones at the police on Tuesday.

KaNyamazane police spokesperson Warrant Officer Andries Skwambane said the pupils came to the closed premises on Wednesday morning, chanting songs and threatening to burn the school down.

"There is no calm here. These pupils have lost respect and are not ready to continue with lessons. Police will continue monitoring the school premises as it seems they want to continue and vandalise what is left," he said.

He warned that the police would not tolerate any acts of violence and disrespect and that the offenders would be arrested.

On Tuesday, the pupils toppled the school's Jojo tanks and destroyed teachers' books and guides in the administration block. They were finally dispersed by the police, who fired rubber bullets at them.



Innocent Lusenga, deputy chairperson for Cosas at Mayibuye High School, inspects the burnt books in the school library, and damage to the windows and classrooms

One school girl, who was hit by a rubber bullet, was treated for a minor injury and released from hospital.

The pupils are accusing the principal, DA Mdaka, of practising witchcraft

after a Grade 12 girl died earlier this month.

On Tuesday morning, pupils sang songs claiming that Mdaka had brought sangomas to the school to perform

rituals "to gain strength" from the girl's death.

They were also unhappy that he had not attended the memorial of Nomvula Songwane on Thursday, said Innocent Lusenga, deputy chairperson of the Congress of South African Students at the school.

Lusenga expressed concern over exams that are due to start next week.

"It disrupted our lessons. Next Monday we are writing our exams. We should be in the classrooms doing revision. This will derail our lessons for the whole week," he said.

The spokesperson for the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Jasper Zwane, condemned the pupils' protest.

"A team from the Ehlanzeni regional office, led by circuit coordinator Simon Mahlalela, is investigating the circumstances that led to this disturbing development," he said.

"Mayibuye Secondary had a matric pass rate of only 34.4 % last year. This development will lead to more learners not making the grade if the situation does not stabilise soon. The department will work closely with the Department of Community Safety and Liaison to bring to book all those who acted outside the legal framework," he warned.

Cop among suspects in Amersfoort police murders

BY THOBILE MLANGENI

MIDDELBURG

A police officer is among the six suspects who appeared in court on Monday in connection with the murder of a police reservist and two constables from Amersfoort, Mpumalanga, last month.

Nimrod Maharaj (36), a warrant officer based at the Newcastle police station in KwaZulu-Natal, Nkosingimele Langa (29), Lindokuhle Nxumalo (25), Victor Nxumalo (37), Zikhethle Mahobo (38) and Phumlani Langa (32) appeared in the Middelburg Regional Court.

They were not asked to plead to three charges of murder, two charges of malicious damage to property, theft of state property, and possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition.

The men were arrested on May 5 after an operation by members of the Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal organised crime units.

Information from the police revealed that the suspects had been found in possession of igniter cords, various firearms including an Uzzi, rounds of ammunition, cash with explosive residue on it, gloves, a crow bar and



MEC for Safety and Security praised the police for moving swiftly to arrest the suspects

explosives gels with detonators.

"Langa had explosives grinders and a BMW which we believed were used on the day of the incident," said Captain Leonard Hlathi.

On April 25, constables Joseph Molefe (32) and Tebogo Maroga (30) and reservist Sabelo Ngwenya (24) were shot at an FNB branch in Amersfoort.

They had spotted a car that had been

flagged by the police as suspicious outside the bank and decided to investigate when they were shot.

The two constables died on the scene while Ngwenya, who had been hit in the stomach, managed to drive himself to the police station, where he collapsed. He later died en route to hospital. The policemen's firearms were stolen at the scene.

Police chief General Bheki Cele praised all the members involved in the operation that led to the arrest of the suspects.

"It will not bring back the officers who were killed, but will at least bring some comfort and closure to the victims' families and colleagues," said Cele.

"I am relieved that those responsible are now behind bars and I'm confident they will remain there for a very long time."

MEC for Safety and Security in Mpumalanga also praised the police for apprehending the suspects so soon after the incident.

The men will appear in court again on May 25 to apply for bail.

A free media lesson for Mpumalanga

BY TOM NKOSI

The violent protests that have recently engulfed the country are a result of lack of access to information. This is the view of one of the country's leading media personalities, Professor Anton Harber of the Wits University School of Journalism.

Harber was in Mpumalanga Province last week to launch Mpumalanga's first Media Club (MMC).

"Why people are doing that [violent protests] is a lack of access to the media to make their voice heard. A media that does not only tell them what the government is doing, but also what the people themselves think," he said.

Joe Thloloe, a media veteran for almost half a century, and currently South Africa's Press Ombudsman, also echoed the same sentiments.

"Whatever we are talking about this evening emanated from the media," Thloloe said, emphasizing the importance of the media in facilitating public discourse.

After a week of uncertainty, anxiety and drama, after the Premier of Mpumalanga Province, David Mabuza, announced that he was suing a number of media houses and journalists, there was, at least one event to look forward to and to listen to two of the country's respected media personalities who were in the province to share their vast knowledge in the media industry with their Mpumalanga counterparts at the launch of MMC.

According to MMC's interim constitution, its objectives are to



Press Ombudsman, Joe Thloloe

promote the professional, social and other interests of Mpumalanga's press, media and communications industries, enhance, uphold and defend the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, conscience and association, principles secured in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

It was the first gathering held by Mpumalanga journalists since the Premier's bombshell, and many of them had a thing or two to say about the events that took place earlier in the week, and the visitors immediately knew that there was a problem.

"From what I'm hearing I can tell that there is a complicated relationship [between the media and government]. In a small town, the local government is very important, and newspapers depend on it [government] for

advertisements," said Harber, warning that government can withdraw advertisements if they are unhappy about what is written.

He, however, said that there the two institutions are interdependent and that evidence of this was the violent protests that are taking place in the country as a result of lack of access to information.

Harber carefully navigated through the journalists' questions, some of whom clearly expected him to condemn the Premier's actions. Instead he said.

"The media has the right to freedom of expression and the Premier has the right sue." His statement was greeted with a brief silence, except minor nods from some of the more experienced journalists and the government representatives who had

graced the occasion, the Premier's Spokesperson, Mabutho Sithole and Joy Letlonkane, the Acting Chief Director of Communication in the Office of the Premier.

Thloloe welcomed the formation of the MMC, but urged the journalists to strengthen the media associations. He lamented the demise of some of the country's leading professional media associations.

"We have seen the growth of press clubs, but the collapse of professional associations. We need professional Journalists Associations with policies," he said.

He said formations, such as the National Editors Forum excludes those who are at the "coalface" of the media industry, the journalists.

Thloloe also paid a special focus on media regulation and called for the utilization of institutions such as the press council of South Africa, which were formed to encourage self-regulation.

Thloloe said that the fear that self-regulation could lead to self-censorship was unfounded. He said the press council's code is not aimed at censorship but to promote journalistic excellence.

"Everyone has a right to freedom of expression, which includes the freedom of the press. We are part of everyone's right to speak. Society has carved a place for journalists. If they have given us the right, they can't take it away," he said.

Who will oversee the overseers?

BY MUNTU SIYAYA

NELSPRUIT

This was the question that Mpumalanga Legislators were grappling with when the Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, William Lubisi presented his policy and budget speech on Tuesday.

"The Legislature should not be afraid to be 'oversighted,' said Fish Mahlalela, the Chairperson of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislature Oversight.

He commended the Legislature for including in its Annual Performance Plan - the plans of the Legislature Committees, which means that the work of Legislatures would also be subjected to the same scrutiny as the work of government officials.

This development seems to be the most practical way of managing the performance of individual Legislators.

When presenting his policy and budget speech, Lubisi seemed to be responding to Mahlalela's assertions by reminding the House that ten years

ago the Legislature was bedeviled by "malpractices, poor governance systems and a bad public image."

"It was at that time that we were given the task and responsibility to come up with a turnaround strategy that will (sic) rebuild the organisation and bring back public confidence into the Legislature," he said.

Lubisi, who was one of the Senators (now National Council Of Provinces) representing Mpumalanga in the National Parliament following South Africa's first democratic general elections in 1994 was recalled to Mpumalanga in 1998 to stabilize the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature after the province's first corruption scandal broke.

The Legislature, which had the role to oversee other institutions, did not have mechanisms to oversee itself, leading to graft and the ultimate arrest of former Deputy Speaker, Cynthia Maropeng.

Lubisi pioneered a process which would subject the Legislature to all the oversight processes that other government are subjected to, such

as the Select Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA).

That history led to the Legislature adopting rules and orders which enables it to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislature Oversight to ensure that the Speaker and Management of the Legislature complies with all applicable administrative norms and standards.

Lubisi also announced that the Legislature would be developing an oversight model that would ensure that government departments "indeed deliver to the promises pronounced during the 22 April 2009 elections and also ensuring that a better quality of life for our people in the province is realized," he said.

He praised the work that was done by the province's SCOPA in conducting oversight visits and inspections in loco to ensure that "elements relating to efficiency, value for money and quality service delivery are monitored and adhered to on a regular basis.

Lubisi also announced that the Legislature is investigating the establishment of Legislature District

Offices to enhance public participation in the activities of the legislature.

"We will improve our strategy and ensure that public institutions, non-profit organisations and CBOs contribute towards public involvement and public participation," he said.

The Leader of the Opposition, Anton Benadie used the opportunity criticize those MECs who do not respond to questions. He singled out the Departments of Culture, Sports and Recreation and Health, which took 40 and 50 days respectively before they responded. He was more vicious to the Department of Education which, 69 days later, had not yet responded to questions posed by the opposition.

"We pass resolutions that are never implemented," he said.

He, however praised the MEC for Community Safety and Liaison, Sibongile Manana for responding to questions within ten days.

The House approved the Legislature budget of R169 655 000.

Corruption linked to substation sabotage

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

EMALAHLENI

Supporters of suspended Emalahleni (formerly Witbank) local municipality manager Ananias Langa have been accused of being behind the destruction of a power substation that supplies electricity to most townships in the area.

The spokesperson of the municipality, Lebo Mofokeng, said it strongly suspected that the destruction of the Riba substation was an act of sabotage by supporters of Langa and five other senior officials who were suspended by the council in March after investigations into tender irregularities, nepotism, fraud and maladministration.

Riba is the main incoming substation

that supplies power to Kwaguqa, Lynville, Thushanang and Kwa Thomas Mahlanguville.

“On Monday at approximately 3am a power outage was experienced at Riba substation due to vandalism and theft, which resulted in a total blackout to KwaGuqa and other areas. Upon investigation it was discovered that extensive damage had been caused to electrical distribution equipment, namely switchgear, cables and protection equipment. This was not the work of an amateur who wanted to steal copper cables because nothing was stolen, so we suspect an act of sabotage from supporters of the officials who were suspended, one of whom is actually an electrician,” said Mofokeng.

“According to our electrical engineers,

it will take six months to fix the power station. In the interim we have agreed with our suppliers to bypass electricity [make a temporary connection] to the affected areas. We know that is dangerous, but we currently have no choice.”

Mofokeng added that the police were investigating the matter. The investigations into the municipality were commissioned by Mpumalanga MEC for cooperative governance and traditional affairs Norman Mokoena under section 106(1) (b) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Mokoena condemned “in the strongest possible terms the apparent acts of sabotage” that have led to the destruction of the substation. “He said

he would support the municipality in ensuring that all individuals implicated in any acts of wrongdoing were brought to book.

“Once again, I would like to reiterate our government’s commitment that corruption is eradicated in all its forms and that people receive quality services,” he added.

Langa, who is expected to attend a disciplinary hearing on Monday, did not answer his phone on Wednesday.

After Langa was suspended, Adam Engelbrecht was appointed as acting municipal manager. It was an internal appointment for which the council cited his experience as chief community service officer and town clerk of the city council of Kwa-Guqa in the ‘80s.

Standerton gets first-rate skills academy

BY SIPHIWE NYATHI

STANDERTON

Unskilled youths from Standerton in Mpumalanga will benefit from Gert Sibande FET’s newly launched skills academy that was opened at the Wool Textile Centre last Friday.

The new premises of the academy, which was started in 2008, feature 22 000 square metres under roof on 14ha of land, with a variety of workshops for conducting on-the-job training. “Nick Balkrishen, CEO of Gert Sibande FET, said the college lived up to its values in offering responsive education and training, with a strong emphasis on skills development for the 21st century.

“The college places a high premium

on providing excellent service and creating an enabling and supportive environment for students to perform at their optimum level,” said Balkrishen.

He said the college had an obligation to teach skills that would enable trainees to create jobs and employ other young people.

“The skills academy can now cater for many job seekers and offer them an opportunity to be trained,” he added. “To support successful trainees to enter the job market or earn a living as an entrepreneur, the college will issue each trainee with a tool box valued at R1 000 after they have completed a course in either welding, electrical training or plumbing.

Balkrishen called on businesses to support the academy through funding.

He acknowledged the Lekwa local municipality’s contribution of R2-million towards purchasing the building from Wool Textile, which had to close its operations because of the economic downturn. “New Denmark Colliery also donated R1.2-million to equip the workshops.

Jan Mkwanzazi, acting chief director of the Mpumalanga Department of Education, emphasised the need for skills training in the province and said all FET colleges should follow Gert Sibande’s example.

“Poverty stands at 51% in the province, yet there are hundreds of vacant positions in the mining, forestry and other sectors. These positions cannot be filled because of a lack of skilled workers,” he said.

Dawid Taljaard, manager of New Denmark Colliery, said the company was willing to support community projects and that one of its employment goals was to provide jobs to people from the local community.

Vusi Tsiyane (23) a welding trainee, described the academy as a “door to job opportunities” because local companies had promised to employ people from the academy upon completion of their training.

“Most companies hire people with skills and I hope young people will use this academy to equip themselves so that the unemployment rate in the area can decrease,” said Tsiyane, who lives in Sakhile township.

Call for chartered accountant bursary hopefuls

NELSPRUIT

By Sydney Masinga

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) is calling on disadvantaged learners who want to become chartered accountants to apply for bursaries through its skills development initiative, the Thuthuka Bursary Fund.

SAICA spokesperson Itumeleng Mmutle said the fund would offer bursaries to black and coloured Grade 12 learners with exceptional marks, specifically in core mathematics and English.

“Learners who want to become

chartered accountants must have achieved outstanding Grade 11 results and should have a minimum of 60% in core mathematics. They should know that maths literacy is not considered core mathematics,” she said.

To qualify as a chartered accountant, a candidate must obtain a relevant four-year degree, including honours, from a SAICA-accredited or approved university.

Thuthuka funds students from disadvantaged communities who want to obtain a B.Com accounting degree before moving on to chartered accounting.

There are more than 860 Thuthuka-funded university students studying

towards qualifying as chartered accountants at present.

The fund’s project director, Ntatho Selebi, said that through funding from the government, private companies and SAICA members, Thuthuka had proved to be a successful model for empowering disadvantaged learners and students.

“The bursary fund aims to increase the entry numbers and improve the pass percentages of black learners at tertiary level through not only providing financial support, but by addressing the student’s broader lifestyle needs via a comprehensive programme, and working with the students as a group,” said Selebi.

“Students on a full Thuthuka bursary over the past four years achieved a remarkable 89% pass rate for the 2009 qualifying examination 1. This compares favourably with the 79% overall first-time pass rate for all candidates. Of the 28 students who wrote the exam in 2009, as many as 25 passed,” Selebi said.

Grade 12 learners can contact SAICA on 08610 72422 to get an application form.

There are 30 098 chartered accountants registered with SAICA, of whom 1 539 are black Africans, 703 coloured, 2 554 Indian and 25 302 white.

Legal representation - Is SAMWU victory legal?

The economic recession and poverty backlogs in service delivery for the voters of this country who are the majority lowly paid workers, demands that taxpayer funds in the custody of the state should be utilized with the barest minimum wastage in the course of public service administration, amongst which is handling disciplinary hearings in case of alleged public servant truancy.

However, the opposite is reality. The state as employer has spent over several millions of rands in shoddy investigations and disciplinary hearings where fly-by-night forensic auditors give evidence at additional huge costs.

Furthermore, the practice of appointing legal luminaries to chair disciplinary hearings of lowly ranked officials in petty misconducts has seen the bill of such newly found 'labour expertise' cashing millions from the state as employer where they act as presiding officers.

We would wonder why such decorated legal minds cannot make money in courts as they chose to chair a hearing of a petty misconduct.

The economy must be shrinking and better felt by the elites, hence the stooping so low. Disciplinary hearings in the public service has now become an avenue for pal-jobs and consultancy opportunities for cronies to feed from the state coffers, a new dimension from the tenderpreneur cronyism found in the public works construction industry.

A lawyer representing and prosecuting on behalf of the employer in a hearing would have all the excuses and justifiable reasons to charge handsome couple of millions of rands in the pretext of consultation, telephone conversation, taking instruction, driving time, professional fees, preparations, meeting witnesses, meeting employer, disbursements (air travel, hotel etc).

One needs not to look further, but go through the invoice of a lawyer due for payment by the state for disciplinary hearings. It is outright theatrical looting of public purse unabated with complicity of the employer accounting officer.

In the midst of this daylight corruption by corruption busters, the union and its leadership has been found wanting.

The recent violent strike of the municipal workers in demand of removal of lawyers prosecuting and representing the employer in internal disciplinary hearings of municipal employees ended with a short lived 'victory' for the workers. It is short lived in that judicial precedent is very clear on legal representation of either party in a work floor based tribunal or disciplinary hearing.

What one would argue is that workers should push for a concession from the employer to finance a lawyer of choice at State Attorney rates for the accused employee wherein the employer choose to use a high court admitted attorney or advocate in a tribunal. Such a demand could be disincentive that will deter and discourage employers to the benefit of labour rights and poor workers.

It is very worrying that labour leaders and union legal advisers who are admitted attorneys and advocates chose not to counsel the worker's leadership on this matter that has long been settled in the highest courts whilst streets were being thrashed, workers were shot at with rubber bullets and teargas coupled with arrests and deaths.

The Labour Appeal Court and in particular, the Constitutional Court in the case of *Netherburn Engineering v Mudau*, have ruled on this matter

Worker power was misdirected by union leaders for either reasons of ignorance, illiteracy or sheer political shenaniganism. No amount of street toy-toying will change the view of the country's independent courts on legal representation. The employer will always have an upper hand if the employer can show justifiable reasons as to why the presiding officer should grant the employer a right to a lawyer as a prosecutor.

The unions have to capacitate their shop stewards to argue strongly and factually as to why each case on its own merit does require or does not require an employee to be represented by a lawyer. The very same municipal workers who thrashed the streets and sacrificed their welfare in the no-work-no-pay strike may sometimes and from time-to-time so need a lawyer in a disciplinary hearing even where the employer representative is not a lawyer but is of such caliber and capacity that the employee representative may not match the employer marksman.

In his article "When should external counsel be permitted?", Ivan Israelstam advises parties to a disciplinary hearing that certain factors will inform the presiding officers as to whether lawyer representation should be allowed from either party. Such factors, Ivan Israelstam lists as the complexity level of the case, the seriousness of the consequences of an adverse finding, probability of significant prejudice to either party if legal representation would be allowed and when the employee's ability to deal with the case is low in comparison to that of the employer.

Item 4 of the Code of Good Practice: Dismissal (the Code), contained in Schedule 8 of the Labour Relations Act (LRA), states that, when an inquiry is held into an employee's alleged misconduct, "the employee should be

allowed the assistance of a trade union representative or fellow employee".

The Senior Management Service Handbook is issued in terms of Chapter 4, Part 1/D and provides that the Minister may include any or all of the determinations, directives, guidelines and provisions applicable to SMS in a handbook for the SMS.

Chapter 7 of the Senior Management Service Handbook for senior management corps which inter alia contains the Ministerial Directive: Disciplinary Code and Procedure for members of the Senior Management Service (SMS), came into effect on 15 September 2003 whilst the PSCBC resolution came into effect in February 2003.

The Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council resolution 1 of 2003 provides determinations, directives, guidelines and provisions applicable to other levels of public servants in the employ of the state on disciplinary code and procedures.

The Code and Procedures applies to the employer and all employees of the state. Clause 2.8 of chapter 7 and clause 7.3(f) of PSCBC resolution specifically prohibits the use of legal representation by either party at internal disciplinary hearing.

In the case of MEC: Department of Finance, Economic Affairs and Tourism: Northern Province v Schoon Godwilly Mahumani Case no. 473/03, the Supreme Court of Appeal held that an accused employee, could, under certain circumstances, be entitled to be represented by a legal representative at a disciplinary hearing. The court labeled clause 2.8 of the disciplinary code as a guideline that may be departed from under appropriate circumstances, i.e. disregarded under certain conditions. This gave the presiding officers the right to use their discretion in deciding whether to disregard the prohibition on legal representation in favour of either party who may so apply for the relaxation of the prohibition.

CONCLUSION

From the above mentioned case laws, it is clear that where a disciplinary code prohibits or restricts legal representation, the presiding officer is judicially vested with the power to consider whether or not to allow such legal representation. Logically, such determination could only reached once interest applicant party has been afforded opportunity to make persuasive arguments of the need for legal representation and respondent has so countered or agreed with the persuasive argument. This is done during the raising of points in limine for the presiding officer to apply his mind

as per rule 25 (1) of the CCMA.

Accordingly, the 'victory' of the municipal workers is not only short-lived, it is stillborn and of no consequence in law and practice, more so that presiding officers are usually appointed and paid by the employer. The idiom of not biting the hand that feeds you then becomes true. The likelihood of presiding officer ruling in favour of employer is very high if not only a certainty.

Rather, the organized labour union should consider mounting a challenge that will pressure the organized employer to concede to fully finance the employee cost of lawyer representation where the employer so chose to use a lawyer in an internal disciplinary hearing.

The power and authority to appoint a presiding officer in an internal disciplinary hearing rests with the employer. Employers are known that in majority instances, particularly in the cronyism infested public sector, they appoint cronies of accounting officers or politicians in charge of the public entity to dispense off with the mandate of selective persecution. It is unthinkable that an 'external' presiding officer other than that from the relevant sectoral chamber so appointed and practicing or from the professional body of mediation and conflict resolutions registered practitioners could rule against the hand that handsomely feeds him and with further opportunities in future to so preside and make more profit. The 'external' presiding officer of a disciplinary hearing claims no different from the lawyers who are employer prosecutors referred to supra. Same masquerading professional 'presiding officers' found scavenging for appointment into hearings, have been awarded tenders without competitive bidding to provide training on labour relations, grievance and disciplinary procedures.

The organized labour and union leadership have a responsibility to further examine the issues of legal representation in the light of judicial precedent and also re-visit the debate around appointment of presiding officers in the wake of fly-by-night masquerades turned-labour experts providing all and sundry on labour issues. They are no different from the hyena tenderpreneurs in the corridors of public offices with supply database registration forms providing all services including cleaning (eliminations), as Josh (alleged hit man) is quoted in his affidavit.

The writer is Mr. Gardee Godrich, Director: Financial Accounting Services, Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Mpumalanga Province), writing in his personal capacity. Court judgments were downloaded from the website address of the Southern African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII) at <http://www.saflii.org.za/>

FOREIGN KIDS USED IN BROTHEL

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

Two women who live in Pienaar near Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, have been accused by the community of running a brothel staffed by underage girls from Swaziland and Mozambique.

A community member, who asked to remain anonymous, said the two women were originally from these countries themselves.

"They bring girls from their countries to use them as prostitutes in the Pienaar area. On Monday night, a fight broke out between them over a 13-year-old girl. The one accused the other of letting the girl spend the whole night with a man when others needed her.

On Tuesday morning, the Swazi woman and the girl were missing," she said.

"The women tell the girls to lie about their country of origin to avoid arrest and being deported. But we all know they are not from this country."

The spokesperson for KaNyamazane police, Warrant Officer Andries Skwambane, confirmed that the police had been informed about the brothel.

"Another 12-year-old girl who lived in the same house came to the police station last Thursday asking for help. She said she was attacked by thugs who wanted to rape her after she was left alone in the house," he said.

The girl told the police that

she had been rescued by the community and claimed to be from Johannesburg.

"She said her parents died and she was living with her sister in the house. She said they were renting rooms there but she did not want to return and was looking for a family to adopt her," he said.

But another community member, who also wanted to remain anonymous, said "everybody knows" the girls living in the house were from Mozambique and Swaziland.

"That girl has been told to say she's from Johannesburg. They came with the two women, who have been bringing girls for the past two years. Another girl was chased away after she fell pregnant. These

two women are well known to the community. We know they make money by using young girls as prostitutes," he said.

He added that the community was worried about the safety of their own children as well.

"Our children are not safe. We want police to stop this - they should free the girls before it's too late. These women should also be arrested and removed from the community," he said.

Skwambane said the girl who had gone to the police last week had been handed over to social workers in Msogwaba on Friday.

"We are still trying to get to the bottom of this matter and we will raid the house soon," he promised.

Police foil Mozambique car smuggling

BY THOBILE MLANGENI

NELSPRUIT

Two men from Mozambique have appeared in the Malalane Magistrate's Court in Mpumalanga on charges of being in possession of stolen vehicles.

Armado Delgado (19) and Eugene Chalwa (33) have been charged in separate cases and were not asked to plead on Monday.

The suspects were arrested at about midnight on Tuesday last week after the police were informed about two vehicles that had been stolen in Middelburg and Gauteng.

They traced the cars' tracking signals, which located the vehicles as passing through Malalane at about 11.30pm.

Police members from Malalane and

members from the White River K9 unit arrested the suspects in the stolen vehicles, which they believe were destined for smuggling to Mozambique as both had falsified number plates from that country.

Delgado, who was driving a blue Toyota Hilux bakkie, was arrested near the Sasol garage in Malane, while Chalwa was arrested in a white Toyota Hilux bakkie near the TSB airstrip.

Court information revealed that both suspects were legally in the country.

Delgado was released on R1 500 bail and will appear in court again on June 28, while Chalwa was released on R2 500 bail. His case was postponed to May 26.

No help from police for man attacked by mob

NELSPRUIT

By Eric Mashaba

A man died after he was assaulted by members of the Matsulu community in Mpumalanga and the police failed to get him medical treatment.

"The suspect was wanted by the police after a case for housebreaking and theft was opened against him by a certain family from Matsulu," said Inspector Moses Shirindza of the Matsulu police.

"Members of the community, angered by the increasing crime in the area, traced the suspect and finally caught him. They assaulted him severely before taking him to the Matsulu police station," he said.

Shirindza said the police refused to take the man into custody because of his injuries.

Asked why the police did not call an ambulance or help to take the man to

a doctor, Shirindza said the police on duty did not want to touch him.

"The community decided to transport him to Matsulu Clinic, where an ambulance was called to take him to hospital. But he died before it arrived," he said.

He said this was the second incident in which a suspected criminal had been killed by angry community members.

"Another suspect was killed by the community interrogating him in February this year. We are against these acts and warn people not to take the law into their own hands. It's good to arrest suspects but they must not assault them," he said.

Shirindza said the police had opened a murder case.

"We will make arrests as soon as we have collected enough evidence," he said.

Cops arrest 22 for copper theft

NGODWANA

By Thobile Mlangeni

A 17-year-old boy is among 22 people who appeared in the Nelspruit Magistrate's Court on charges of possession of stolen copper wire on Tuesday. The suspects, 15 women and seven men from Mkhuhlu near Hazyview, Mpumalanga, were not asked to plead and were granted bail of either R1500 or R2 000.

The case was postponed to June 10 for further investigation and will be heard in the Ngodwana Periodical Court.

They were caught on Monday with 1

940kg of copper wire after the police received a tip-off that people travelling in two Toyota Quantums were on their way to sell it in Pretoria and Germiston, Gauteng.

The first vehicle was stopped on the Ngodwana-Kaapsehoop road at about 5:30am, while the second vehicle was stopped near Carolina after the Ngodwana police called for backup.

The copper wire is estimated to be worth at least R435 000.

Both Quantums have been confiscated. Information from the police revealed that they belong to a businessman from Justicia village near Hazyview.

Tavern owners warned to obey rules

NELSPRUIT

By Thobile Mlangeni

Police from Badplaas in Mpumalanga have warned tavern owners to obey the rules and regulations of their liquor licenses, especially closing times.

"We had a problem of receiving calls in the early hours of the morning from people reporting that they had been assaulted, robbed and hijacked either in or near taverns in the area," said Constable Jozi Sibiyi.

"We urge our residents and all tavern owners to obey the rules of the Liquor Act, which states that all taverns must close at midnight."

Sibiyi also urged residents not to take any

form of weapon into taverns.

His warnings come after a 28-year-old man was stabbed in the back several times while he was trying to help a woman who had fallen down during a fight in a tavern at about 1am.

The police were called and a 22-year-old man was arrested for questioning.

In a separate incident in the same tavern, a 30-year-old man was wounded in the head when an unknown suspect injured him with a sharp object.

The victim's cellphone and an undisclosed amount of cash were stolen. "Alcohol and weapons are a dangerous mix and have led to many similar incidents since January," said Sibiyi.

Union's demands lead to Arts and Culture Indaba

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

Following countless complaints from Mpumalanga artists of being neglected by their local government, the provincial Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation has set aside R400 000 for an Arts and Culture Indaba in August.

The provincial co-ordinator for the Creative Workers' Union of South Africa (CWUSA), Alpheus Nhlabathi, said the development of local artists in the province left a lot to be desired.

"There is no transparency in this province when it comes to the upliftment of local talent. Musicians and other crafters have been neglected and did not form part of the opening of the Mbombela Stadium this past weekend, for example. The crafters, who make a living through street vending in the city, are not empowered on a local level at all," he said.

Last Thursday, the union secured a meeting with Mbombela executive mayor Lassy Chiwayo to discuss the lack of local artists at the stadium launch music concert, which took place on Saturday night and featured only one local DJ among a national line-up of artists including Malaika and Prokid, among others.

"He apologised and agreed that neglecting local talent had been a big mistake. We are happy now that both



Mpumalanga artists outside the Mbombela municipality's offices last Thursday, where they had a meeting to raise concerns about being left out of all World Cup events in host city Nelspruit.

Chiwayo and [MEC for culture, sport and recreation Vusi Shongwe] have finally agreed that change is necessary and that ignoring local talent will never happen again," said Nhlathathi.

Shongwe said during his department's policy and budget speech on Friday that the indaba would address local artists' concerns.

"We will involve CWUSA in the indaba

as we value them and appreciate their contribution to the industry," he said.

He added that R900 000 had been set aside to help six local groups to record albums in this financial year.

Ehlanzeni FET seeks partnerships

Ehlanzeni FET College recently held a Gala Dinner at the Pinne Lake Inn Hotel to encourage businesses to participate in the college's job placement programme.

The college took the initiative, in order to assist its NQF Level 4 graduates with job placement and student experiential learning.

According to Ehlanzeni FET College Council chairperson, Mrs NB Zwane, an estimated 80% of all Mpumalanga graduates are unemployed.

"This is because students are taught theory and require further on the job training at the expense of the employer, she said.

"We must remember that companies employ people who will increase productivity not slow it down."

Ehlanzeni FET College has roped in the assistance of United States of America NGO, Jobs For the Future, to guide the implementation of the programme. Director for Economic and Workforce Development at the NGO, Robert

Holm, allayed fears that American system would be imposed to colleges in the region

"We are here to advice on what is achievable and what would result in fruitful expenditure" said Holm.

As part of the programme Jobs For the Future will help research and compile a database of all vacant and scarce jobs in the market. This will guide students in choosing the right career and avoid entering industries already experiencing a surplus of candidates.

TSB resuscitated its relation with the college and NYDA provided information on program to assist the youth.

Nelspruit Union Motors has pledged to back the initiative financially.

"We challenge the entire motor industry to fully support and sponsor the next student support summit" said Union Motor shareholder, Cendric Vilakazi.

STILL WAITING FOR THE 3010 WORLD CUP?

Between May and July, the public broadcaster (SABC) will be playing 70% South African and African music. When the visitors are gone, then they will play foreign music again.

Ziwaphi is 100% local and African and will remain so until the return of Jesus.

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Mpumalanga passes its first World Cup test

South Africa's soccer team, Bafana Bafana predictably won their game against Thailand last Sunday. The first twenty minutes of the game was a boring affair with more action on the stands than on the field. The soccer starved population of Mpumalanga even resorted to the classic Shosholozha anthem to try to motivate their team to do more, and it seemed like this worked.

Kaizer Chief's midfielder, Sphiwe Shabalala slotted what looked like a harmless free-kick in the twenty-first minute, giving the Thai goalkeeper no chance.

The goal seemed to spur the boys into action as Katlego Mphela scored Bafana's second goal following a corner kick from Shabalala in the thirty first minute. There were, however, suspicions that the Bafana striker had used his hand, but there were no protests from the Thais.

Ten minutes later, Mphela got his brace after another brilliant move which started from the middle of the park.

Another move which started in the middle saw substitute Bernard Parker convert a pass from stand-in-captain, Teko Modise. Parker replaced Surprise Moriri.

Some of the outstanding players included Tsholofelo Letsolonyane who will undoubtedly start in Bafana's first eleven on 11 June.

Siyabonga Nomvethé also impressed, after coming in as a substitute. He possibly is the remaining embodiment of the South African "flair" that many people are still wondering what it is.



Bafana-Bafana raid the Thais goal posts for the umpteenth time

Itumeleng Khune was probably the most bored player on the field until he was called upon to make a save from a brilliantly taken free-kick by Thai substitute, Datsakorn Thonglao. Thai goalkeeper, Kawin Thamasatchanan got himself a yellow card for time wasting from the Kenyan referee who was officiating.

Other substitutes were, Moeneeb Josephs, Lance Davids, Mathew Booth and Innocent Mdllele.

The occasion also was a test for the authorities to manage events of this

magnitude, and mainly they acquitted themselves in many areas.

Media accreditation for local media was a disaster, with officials behaving as though they were doing the media a favour.

Traffic control was not up to scratch and there is a need for improvement.

The political tensions were also visible when Mbombela Executive Mayor did not accompany Premier David Mabuza and Culrute, Sports and Recreation MEC, Vusi Shongwe, into the field.

Chiwayo had earlier addressed the welcomed the crowds through a public address system.

While Bafana-Bafana won the game on the day, the other winners were the thousands yellow-clad soccer fans who attended the match. Their presence and vuvuzelas really gave our boys the edge against the lowly ranked Thailand.

Pity Bafana-Bafana will not be playing any of their 2010 FIFA Soccer Cup in Mpumalanga.

Orlando Pirates, Black Aces face international opponents in the Premier's International Cup

Mpumalanga Province's vision to be the "world class tourism destination" is rapidly gaining momentum as organisers of entertainment and other events are turning their attention to Mpumalanga province.

Last week Mbombela Local Municipality hosted a successful international soccer friendly between Bafana-Bafana and Thailand, and tomorrow, Orlando Pirates and Mpumalanga Black Aces will be locking horns with Mbabane Swallows of Swaziland and Grupo Desportivo de Maputo of Mozambique.

The teams will be participating in the annual Mpumalanga Premier's

International Football Cup.

Tickets for the tournament went on sale from Wednesday at Shoprite and Computicket outlets. Tickets for the semi-finals and the finals will be R20 each.

The first game will start at 10am between Aces and Swallows, while the second game will be between Pirates and Grupo Desportivo starting at 12pm at Thulamahashe Stadium in Bushbuckridge. Gates open at 8am.

The final will be played at the Mbombela Stadium at 20h00.

Roy Mahamotsa (pictured) will be part of the Bucs team.

