



Pixley Independent

The Independent Voice Of Northern Cape

www.pixleyindependent.co.za
pixleyindependent@gmail.com

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Northern Cape

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ANC GEARS UP FOR NC BY-ELECTIONS



serves as regional deputy chairperson. "We must build a stronger, safer, more opportunity-rich ward — together," he said.

The ward has two primary schools, one secondary school, the H du P Pickard Old Age Home, a SASSA office, and a clinic. However, it lacks sports facilities and has only a dilapidated playground. A stormwater project is 90% complete, while water network upgrades will service 4,000 erven near newly developed sports grounds. Most households have running water and electricity and receive subsidies.

Dawid Kruiper: Rosedale Activist Champions Youth and Housing

In Dawid Kruiper Municipality's Ward 15, Comrade Jobson of Rosedale is the ANC candidate. Born in Uptington, she holds a National Qualification in Management from Tshwane College and serves as Ward Chairperson of the ANC Women's League. A long-time Ward Committee member for youth affairs, Jobson has a six-point plan: establishing a skills school at Westerkim Primary, accelerating housing delivery, allocating church stands, creating children's play parks, ensuring quality municipal services, and holding regular ward meetings. "The youth are the leaders of the future," Jobson said. "I will ensure the Municipality's 'Youth Desk' functions fully, get school-aged youth back into education, and work with stakeholders to fight drug and alcohol abuse."

District Mobilization Continues

With the Siyathemba Ward 2 by-election approaching, the ANC says mobilization and engagement will continue across Pixley Ka Seme. The party is urging residents to participate actively in both the by-election and the main elections to "shape the future of their municipality and the country at large." Both Louw and Jobson emphasized service, humility, and community unity, and share deep ties to church structures and Community Policing Forums.

Together we can do more to establish better communities," the ANC said.

Prieska

The African National Congress has intensified its campaign activities across two local municipalities, Siyathemba and Dawid Kruiper ahead of upcoming by-elections.

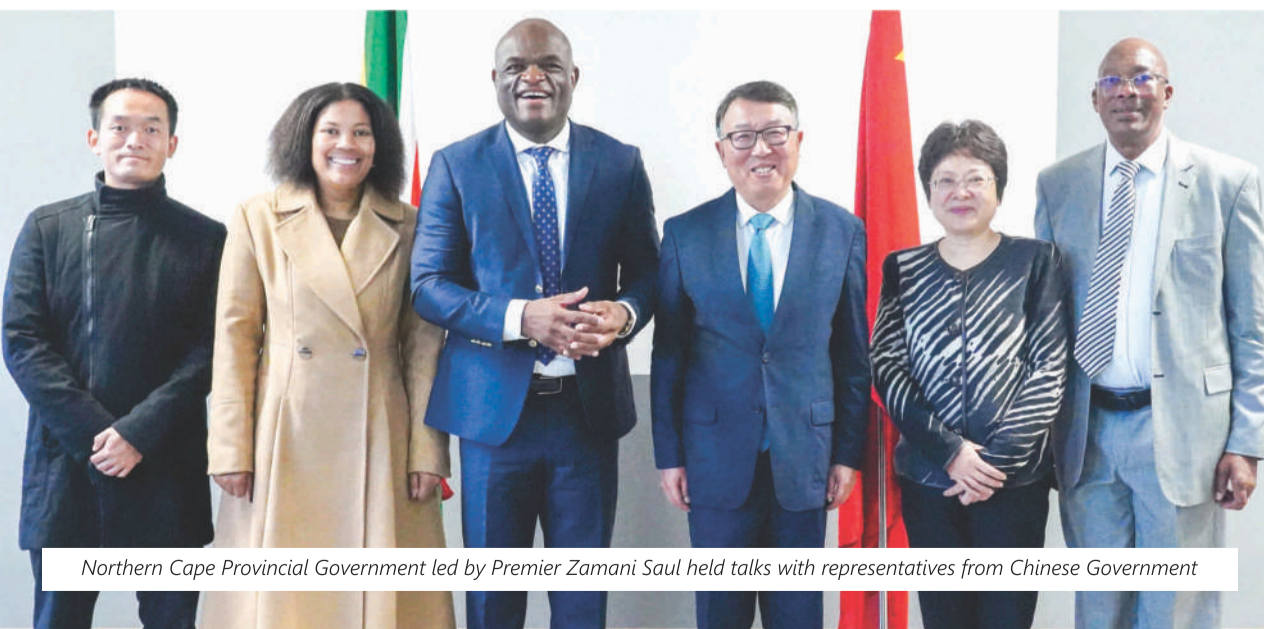
Campaign activities began last Saturday with community outreach programmes, including Candidate's Assemblies aimed at strengthening voter engagement and addressing local concerns. Regional chairperson Khathazile Tolong addressed the programme, stressing unity, voter education, and community involvement. "This is a critical period,"

Tolong said. "The ANC is committed to improving service delivery and responding directly to the needs of residents in Siyathemba and surrounding areas."

Prieska: Businessman and CPF Leader Contests Ward

Franklin Vaughan Louw is the ANC's ward candidate. The ward covers 15 streets and roughly 450 households, with JJ Dreyer Primary School and Omega Community Hall serving as voting stations. A total of 1,965 voters are registered for the by-election — 467 at JJ Dreyer and 1,498 at Omega Hall. Louw, a former traffic officer and current driving school owner, also chairs the Prieska Community Policing Forum and

Northern Cape Courts China for Investment, Growth



Northern Cape Provincial Government led by Premier Zamani Saul held talks with representatives from Chinese Government

Northern Cape Premier Dr. Zamani Saul met with Chinese Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Mr Wu Peng, on Wednesday in a strategic engagement aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and unlocking new trade and investment opportunities.

MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Ms Venus Blennies-Magage, joined the Premier for the meeting. The discussion reaffirmed the province's commitment to deepening economic cooperation with China. Talks focused on expanding opportunities in key sectors including mining and beneficiation, attracting investment, and fostering sustainable development."

Such engagements are critical in positioning the province as a competitive investment destination, while building partnerships that drive economic growth and job creation," the Office of the Premier said. The meeting forms part of ongoing efforts to build international partnerships that support the Northern Cape's economic priorities.

Kimberley

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The Launch of the Northern Cape Youth Choir



both spiritual and electrifying.

The Northern Cape Theatre was filled to capacity, with parents, families, and supporters singing along, their voices blending with those on stage in a powerful display of unity. It was not just music. It was connection. It was clear that what unfolded on that stage was the result of discipline, sacrifice, and a shared belief in something greater. Mr. Carlo, in reflecting on the evening, described it as one of the most beautiful and special nights of his life, a sentiment that echoed throughout the theatre. In his heartfelt message to the choir following the performance, he expressed deep gratitude for their dedication, their resilience, and their willingness to pursue excellence.

He reminded them that what they achieved was not ordinary, it was extraordinary. "Last night, we made a statement," he said. "We announced ourselves with pride and excellence... we were not just good, we were great." Indeed, they were. But perhaps the most powerful part of his message was not about what had been achieved, but what lies ahead. "That was only the beginning," he told them. "Only a glimpse of what this choir is truly capable of." It is this vision of growth, of higher standards, of bigger stages, that sets the Northern Cape Youth Choir apart. It is not just about performance; it is about shaping young people, instilling discipline, and nurturing a culture of excellence.

As the choir now looks ahead to Extravaganza 2026, their biggest show of the year, one thing is certain: the foundation has been laid, and the bar has been set high. Saturday night was not just a launch. It was a declaration. A declaration that the Northern Cape is home to exceptional young talent. That when guided with purpose and passion, young people can rise beyond expectation. That music, in its purest form, still has the power to unite, to inspire, and to move. As a parent, I left the theatre with a full heart, proud, inspired, and hopeful. Because in those voices, I did not just hear music. I heard the future.

Halala Northern Cape Youth Choir, halala!

By Zandisile Luphahla

This past weekend will be remembered as a defining moment for choral music in the Northern Cape - a night where young voices rose, not just in song, but in purpose, pride, and promise.

On Saturday evening, the Kimberley Theatre came alive for the official launch of the Northern Cape Youth Choir (NCYC), under the visionary leadership of its founder and conductor, Mr Nathan Carlo. For much in attendance, it was more than a performance, it was the birth of something deeply special. For me, it was even more personal. My daughter, who joined the choir earlier this year, stood among those young voices on stage. Watching her perform, surrounded by equally

passionate and disciplined young people, was a moment of immense pride; not just as a parent, but as someone witnessing the power of youth finding expression through art.

The launch followed what was already a remarkable milestone for the choir - their performance at the Diamonds and Dorings Music Festival in Kimberley on Easter Sunday, where they shared the stage with award-winning house DJ KG Smallz. That performance alone had set the tone, captivating audiences at the Oval Stadium and leaving many in awe of what this new ensemble could deliver. But Saturday night was something else entirely. From the very first note - a moving rendition of "O mohau, O Mohau wa Modimo", the audience was drawn into an experience that was

MEC Makatong Issues Urgent Flood Warning as Storms Hit Province



Kimberley

MEC for Roads and Public Works Fufe Makatong has urged road users and communities to exercise

extreme vigilance after the South African Weather Service issued a Level 2 warning for severe thunderstorms across parts of the Northern Cape. The warning, issued on 29 April 2026, highlights slow-moving thunderstorms with heavy downpours that may cause localised flooding and damage to vulnerable infrastructure.

Affected municipalities include Dikgatlong, Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Joe Morolong, Kgatelopele, and Magareng. The alert comes as parts of the province's road network are already severely affected by recent torrential rains. On Monday, 27 April, MEC Makatong visited the John Taolo Gaetsewe District to assess flood damage.

John Taolo Gaetsewe District -

***MR0947: Heiso to Dithakong** – Temporarily closed due to flooding between Heiso and Dithakong, affecting access to Colston. Motorists are advised to use the Damross route.

***MR0952: Dithakong to Bothitong** – About 4.2 km from Dithakong, a section of the road edge has been washed away. One lane remains open.

***MR0948: Bendel to Ditshipeng** – Two overflowing culverts have restricted access to schools and a clinic. Warning signage is in place.

***DR03493: Bothetheletsi** – Flooding has made the gravel road muddy and slippery. A bridge has been cordoned off. A temporary bypass is open 200 metres from the affected section.

Namakwa District

The following roads are impacted: MR584/DR2306 Fraserburg/Western Cape Border; TR84/LUS10 near

the N14; DR2972 Loeriesfontein/Granaatboskolk; DR2976 Brandvlei/Katkop; and DR2268 Sutherland/Williston. Some roads have been graded, with teams on-site repairing washed-away sections.

ZF Mgcau District

Continuous rainfall has caused significant damage to gravel roads. Many are wet, muddy, and experiencing water ponding. Heavy-duty vehicles, particularly trucks, are strongly advised not to use these roads to prevent accidents and further damage, especially in Kalahari areas. "MEC Makatong urges all road users, motorists and communities to exercise the utmost caution during this period," said Acting Government Spokesperson Ms Nomonde Mnu kwa. "Members of the public are strongly advised not to attempt crossing flooded roads, bridges or drifts."

During thunderstorms, residents should stay indoors and keep away from metal objects, trees and tall structures. Road damage assessments are underway, with response and relief efforts being coordinated in affected areas. MEC Makatong has directed urgent, comprehensive assessments across all affected sections. A dedicated response team has been established to consolidate field reports, coordinate interventions, and accelerate recovery efforts. Departmental teams are on high alert and monitoring continues. Communities will be updated as restoration work progresses.

Members of the public can report road damage or hazards to the Department of Roads and Public Works via WhatsApp Hotline: **066 581 5626**.

Schools in Kimberley Embrace “Trash to Cash” Initiative



Kimberley

On 29 April, the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform, through its Environmental Management Unit, successfully hosted an Environmental Awareness Campaign at Kimberley Boys’ High School, focusing on the critical issue of waste management.

The campaign, led by Environmental Officer Mr

Mfwaze Noko, aimed to educate and inspire learners to take responsibility for their environment. Through an interactive and thought-provoking session, learners were encouraged to maintain clean schools and communities while adopting sustainable waste practices. A key message that resonated strongly throughout the engagement was the call to shift mindsets, urging learners to view “trash as cash” rather than justifying littering as a means of job creation.

Learners were challenged to recognise waste as an

opportunity that can contribute to both environmental sustainability and economic value. As part of the initiative, and with the support of Waste Management Manager, Ms Dineo Kgosi, three waste bins were donated to Grade 10 learners. This marked the official launch of the school’s recycling project titled “From Trash to Cash.” Each bin has been designated for specific recyclable materials; bottle caps, plastic bottles, and cans, and will be clearly spray-painted for easy identification. The collected materials will be stored in a compressed form to maximise efficiency and value.

The project represents the beginning of a broader environmental movement within the school. Plans are in place to expand participation to Grade 11 and 12 learners, with the long-term goal of involving the entire school community. The initiative also supports the school’s ongoing efforts within the Eco-Schools Programme, as it prepares to register for its Silver Award in its second year of participation.

On the same day, the Department extended its outreach to Reneilwe Primary School, where the Environmental Awareness Unit conducted a teachers’ workshop. The session focused on capacitating and onboarding new educators into the Eco-Schools Programme, ensuring continuity and sustainability as the current programme coordinator prepares for retirement later this year.

These initiatives form part of the Department’s ongoing commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable practices across communities, particularly within the education sector.

Local Farmer Cultivates Change in De Aar Community



Sambesiwe Ntsele

De Aar

By Simamkele Teka

In the heart of the Karoo, where harsh weather often tests farmers, 27-year-old Sambesiwe Ntsele is showing that vision and grit can transform both land and lives.

Ntsele is the founder of SNR Broedery, an initiative focused on producing affordable, organic food while tackling food insecurity in De Aar and surrounding areas. But her work goes beyond crops. At the core of SNR Broedery is empowerment. Ntsele runs hands-on training and mentorship, equipping community members with practical skills to start and maintain their own gardens and small-scale farms.

The goal: self-sufficiency and new economic opportunities. “I want people to see that they can grow their own food, even in small spaces,” Ntsele said. “It’s about independence, dignity, and creating a better future for ourselves.” One of her standout projects, “One Family, One Garden,” urges households to take control of their food supply by cultivating produce at home. The initiative is already shifting how families in the region think about food access, especially where resources are limited.

Operating in the Karoo’s demanding climate is no easy task, yet Ntsele keeps adapting and innovating. Her resilience is reshaping how young people, particularly women, view agriculture in rural communities. SNR Broedery also creates local jobs, strengthening De Aar’s economic fabric. Community members call Ntsele a role model and catalyst for positive change. Her work feeds people and plants seeds of hope.

As she grows her initiative, Sambesiwe Ntsele is emerging as a leading voice in sustainable farming and youth-led development in the Northern Cape — proof that real change starts with one idea and the courage to pursue it.

MEC Fufe Makatong Leads Operation Vala Zonke Pothole Fridays

Prieska

The Department of Roads and Public Works has rolled out Operation Vala Zonke – Pothole Friday across the Province. Recently, MEC Fufe Makatong was in Prieska as part of intensified efforts to improve road infrastructure and support municipalities through visible service delivery.

MEC Makatong, joined by Pixley ka Seme District Manager Mr. Khathazile Tolong, led interventions on the Wilge Street, Old Upington Weg and surrounding streets, where pothole repairs are undertaken. Speaking during the program, MEC Makatong said Operation Vala Zonke demonstrates government's practical commitment to communities. "Through Operation Vala Zonke, we are intensifying our support to local government and demonstrating that this program is not just about talk, but about practical work on the ground. We are taking our services directly to communities, addressing potholes and improving road conditions in our districts," said MEC Makatong.

She added that the Department's Pothole Friday interventions reflect a sustained commitment to safer roads and collaborative service delivery. "Every Friday, through our Pothole Friday interventions, we want communities to see the Department of Roads and Public Works working hand in hand with municipalities to respond to local needs. This programme reflects our commitment to safer roads, stronger municipal support, and visible service delivery for our people," she said.

The intervention forms part of the Department's broader effort to maintain road infrastructure, enhance road safety, and strengthen connectivity for communities while supporting local economic activity. Operation Vala Zonke continues to demonstrate government in action, taking services to the people and building stronger, safer and more connected communities.



Department of Roads and Public Works MEC Fufe Makatong



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De Aar Organisation Brings 'Moment of Pride' to Matric Learners



De Aar

Simamkele Teka

The De Aar Disability Fundraising Organization (DDFO) is restoring dignity and creating lasting memories for vulnerable matric learners in the Pixley Ka Seme District through its "Moment of Pride" Project.

Established on 7 May 2024, the DDFO is led by directors Gabriël Klaassen and Dricolene Louw. The organisation's mission is to support less fortunate and disabled individuals while promoting equality, dignity, and inclusion. At the centre of its work is the "Moment of Pride" Project, launched in 2025. The annual initiative assists Grade 12 learners facing financial challenges to attend their matric farewell.

The project started with a success story in its first year. DDFO, together with community members and local

businesses, supported a learner from High School Veritas in De Aar. "The initiative not only transformed the learner's experience but also highlighted the strength of community unity and compassion," the organisation said. Building on that momentum, the 2026 project is expanding.

This year, DDFO is supporting a learner from Monwabisi, once again mobilising individuals, businesses, and political organisations to make the milestone possible. "Through initiatives like the 'Moment of Pride' Project, DDFO is doing more than just fundraising — it is restoring dignity, building confidence, and creating unforgettable memories for young people who deserve to celebrate their achievements," the organisation said.

Looking ahead, DDFO plans to expand its reach across the district and continue creating moments of pride, one matric farewell at a time.



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Department leads successful Veldfire Awareness Campaign

Colesberg

The Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform, together with the Pixley Ka Seme District Fire Protection Associations and the South African Police Service, embarked on a successful veldfire awareness campaign roadblock along Colesberg's busy N1 route.

The purpose of the campaign was to make motorists aware of the dangers of veldfires, while encouraging

them to remain consistently vigilant and mindful of open fires. Veldfires pose a serious threat to agriculture and the environment and, in some instances, can lead to loss of life. Every effort to prevent and control veldfires is therefore critical. A representative from the Department's Disaster Management Unit, Ms Mojatsohle Kumang, outlined the impact of veldfires on farmers.

"Fires devastate vast areas of grazing land, leaving livestock without sufficient feed and water. During these veldfires, many animals sustain burns, suffer from

smoke inhalation, and experience stress-related health challenges, while others die during the blaze," she emphasised. She further noted that effective disaster risk reduction requires a collective effort from all stakeholders. Through coordinated action, the risks associated with veldfires can be reduced, ensuring a safer environment for all. The Disaster Management Act (Act 57 of 2002) emphasises the importance of coordinated risk reduction efforts rather than sole reliance on post-disaster relief measures.

During the roadblock, more than 500 veldfire awareness pamphlets, fridge magnets, and car disk stickers were distributed to motorists.



Northern Cape Launches SASCE District Choirs with Tribute to 1976 Uprising



Kimberley

The Northern Cape has kicked off the district leg of the South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) in

Kimberley, with voices from across Frances Baard District filling the venue on day one. Primary schools took to the stage today, aiming to secure a spot at the provincial elimination rounds. Secondary schools will compete at the same venue tomorrow. This year's competition also marks a commemoration of 50 years since the 1976 Soweto uprising. Schools from across the district joined the event, using their voices as a reminder of the youth who carried the fight on 16 June 1976.

Provincial and district officials attended in support, underscoring a commitment to cultural and artistic development. SASCE is a School Enrichment Programme of the Department of Basic Education (DBE). It aims to promote unity in diversity, national reconciliation, positive values, a new South African national identity, social transformation, social cohesion and mass participation among school-going learners.

Organisers wished all participants good luck and patrons a great experience at the event.

My Road to Graduation: supported to succeed



Martha Kegomoditswe Moholoagae

Kimberley

For Martha Kegomoditswe Moholoagae, graduating with a Diploma in Retail Business Management marks more than the completion of a qualification. It reflects a journey of growth, discipline and perseverance, supported every step of the way through the academic and student support systems at Sol Plaatje University (SPU). Her interest in business and finance began in high school and developed into a clear academic path, shaped by curiosity and a vision of building a professional future. Like many students, Martha encountered challenges along the way, particularly with time management and procrastination. The transition to university required her to take full responsibility for her academic progress, demanding discipline, accountability and consistency.

It was through this period of adjustment that the support structures at SPU became central to her journey. Martha actively made use of the University's resources, including library services and academic advising, which helped her stay focused and improve her approach to learning. The health and wellness initiatives further equipped her with practical skills in managing stress and time effectively, while her lecturers provided guidance and support beyond the classroom, helping her gain clarity and confidence in her studies. Through consistent engagement with these support systems, Martha was able to strengthen her discipline and remain committed to her goals, even during challenging periods. Coming from a

disadvantaged community, Martha is driven by a strong sense of purpose. She believes that meaningful change begins at home and is committed to using her knowledge and experience to contribute to improving the conditions of her community.

Her time at SPU has not only shaped her academically but also strengthened her independence and resilience. Being far from home required her to take ownership of her journey, developing the confidence and responsibility needed to succeed. Reflecting on her experience, Martha encourages prospective students to make full use of the opportunities and support available to them. She emphasises the importance of staying focused, seeking guidance when needed, and actively participating in programmes that contribute to personal and professional growth.

Following her graduation, Martha carries forward not only a qualification, but a clear vision of using her knowledge to make a meaningful impact. Her journey stands as a reflection of what is possible when determination is met with the right support, and how the road to graduation can be shaped through both personal commitment and a strong institutional foundation.

Written by Mosima Mehlaphe
www.spu.ac.za

Workers the "heartbeat of the economy": Minister Nomakhosazana Meth



Employment and Labour Minister Nomakhosazana Meth has outlined government's plans to expand economic opportunities, particularly for young people, as South Africa marks International Workers' Day.

In a statement on Friday, the Minister paid tribute to workers across sectors, describing them as the "heartbeat of the economy" and central to the country's democratic foundation. She said Workers' Day serves not only as a celebration of past struggles, but as a commitment to ensuring that decent work becomes a reality for all South Africans. The Minister announced that 2026 has been declared the "Year of Putting Young South Africans to Work", in honour of the 1976 youth

and the upcoming golden jubilee of the uprising. She said government interventions, including Labour Activation Programmes (LAP), are being used to tackle unemployment nationwide. According to Meth, nearly R3.4 billion in contracts has already been allocated to implementing partners across six provinces, benefiting more than 118 000 people.

These efforts are aimed at expanding access to jobs and skills development. "We are ensuring that the dignity of work is accessible to more South Africans than ever before," she said. Meth highlighted the ongoing enforcement of the National Minimum Wage and occupational health and safety standards, stressing that fair pay and safe working conditions are essential for productivity and economic growth. On the legislative front, the Minister pointed to several reforms currently before Parliament. These include the Employment Services Amendment Bill, which seeks to modernise labour market regulation and address unemployment, particularly by managing the employment of foreign nationals. She said the National Labour Migration Policy, approved by Cabinet, will work alongside the Bill to regulate foreign labour through quotas and sector-specific restrictions.

In addition, proposed labour law amendments aim to strengthen worker protections, improve enforcement

mechanisms and expand rights for vulnerable groups. Among the changes is a new shared parental leave system, replacing existing maternity and parental leave frameworks with a more equitable model. Meth noted that workers in sectors such as retail, security and hospitality remain particularly vulnerable due to irregular hours and unstable income, and said reforms are designed to address these challenges. The Minister reaffirmed government's broader priorities, including strengthening labour protections, expanding social security through the Unemployment Insurance Fund and Compensation Fund, and accelerating job creation through partnerships with the private sector.

She referenced President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement of 10 000 labour inspectors, supported by an additional 20 000 inspector interns, to improve enforcement of labour laws and protect workers. Meth urged organised labour, business and civil society to work together to advance economic growth and fairness in the labour market. "We must act together as a united people," she said, urging South Africans to continue building an inclusive and equitable labour market. Meth wished workers a peaceful Workers' Day, acknowledging their role in shaping the country's future.

sanews.gov.za

Karoo Trio Leads N.Cape Charge to National Schools Athletics Champs



From left is Alwaba Luxaba from Umso High in Colesberg; Middle Liviwe Williams from Richmond High in Richmond; Right Randy Oerson from Noupoort
Picture by - Nosipho Theodora Williams,

Despite this, he believes the athletes will perform well. "I believe our athletes will give a good account of themselves." He added that Pixley Ka Seme District has 13 athletes in the Northern Cape team, and that most parents are heavily involved. "Most of the parents will travel to the competition at their own expense," De Klerk said. Senior Education Specialist for school sport, arts and culture in the Pixley Ka Seme District, Luvo Manona, said the Department of Education is running a full athletics programme to develop learners. "We implement a full athletes programme through inter-school athletic events where learners are identified and nurtured," Manona told Pixley Independent. Preparation in the district runs through four levels: inter-house, towns, circuit, and district championships. "This is where talent is identified and nurtured," he said. Manona added that community interest in athletics is massive. "The interest by the local community in athletics is so massive and we appreciate the huge support. I believe our athletes will leave no stone unturned in their quest for glory at the championships."

According to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the provincial team will be supported by a dedicated management team that includes a coach and medical personnel – a doctor and a physiotherapist – to ensure athletes are well-prepared and cared for throughout the championships. "School sport remains a vital pillar in the development of young people. It not only provides a platform for identifying and nurturing sporting talent, but also promotes discipline, resilience, teamwork and a healthy lifestyle," the department said. It also acknowledged the role of educators, coaches, parents and guardians in supporting athletes. "The Northern Cape wishes all 86 athletes the very best as they prepare to compete against the best young talent from across the country."

"The province stands proudly behind them and is confident they will represent the Northern Cape with pride, determination and excellence," the statement concluded. About the Championships The South African Schools Athletics Championships is the premier track and field competition for school athletes in the country. Hosted annually by Athletics South Africa in partnership with the Department of Basic Education, the event draws top qualifiers from all nine provinces competing in U15, U17 and U19 age groups. Athletes must advance through circuit, district and provincial meets to secure a spot.

The four-day meeting at Pilditch Stadium in Tshwane is a key scouting ground for national junior teams and university scholarships, with events covering sprints, middle and long distance, hurdles, relays, jumps and throws.

By Khaya Mntsantsa

Colesburg

Three young athletes from the Karoo are fine-tuning their form in Kimberley as they prepare to represent the Northern Cape at the South African Schools Athletics Championships in Tshwane. Randy Oerson, 17, from Noupoort; Alwaba Lubaxa from Colesberg; and Liviwe Williams from Richmond are part of a strong provincial team heading to nationals at Pilditch Stadium from 30 April to 2 May 2026.

The Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture confirmed this week that 86 talented learners will represent the province at the championships. The athletes earned their provincial colours through school, district and provincial trials. "The structured system ensures that only the most dedicated and high-performing athletes are selected to represent the Northern Cape on the national stage," the department said in a statement. Oerson started running at 13. He competed at nationals in Bloemfontein in 2025 and has qualified again this year. "I made it again to the nationals athletics of 2026 in Pretoria," he said.

Lubaxa, a learner at Umso High School in Colesberg,

began athletics at just 7 years old in 2017. He first reached district level in 2022 but his journey ended there each year – until now. "This year I trained very hard and I made it to the nationals," Lubaxa said. Williams, who runs for Richmond High School, also started at age 7 at Bennie Groenewald Primêre Skool. For years he qualified only to circuit level. He reached provincial level in 2025 and pushed through to nationals in 2026 after intense training. "I trained very hard and reached the South African School Athletics (National)," Williams said. His mother, Nosipho Theodora Williams, has been by his side throughout. "I'm very proud of him and I'm always there for him."

Since he started athletics I'm traveling with him as well from regional level. Even now I'm going to Pretoria to watch him. I'm his number one supporter," she said. His coach is Mr Roderick de Klerk, an educator at Richmond High School. Although not with the team in Kimberley at the moment, he said the mood in the Northern Cape squad is positive. The team held a practice session at De Beers Stadium on 27 April and continues training. De Klerk highlighted the challenges facing his school. "Richmond High School forms part of a very impoverished community where we don't even have any proper sporting facilities and infrastructure," he said.

Banyana get a bye in the LA 2028 Olympic Games first round qualifiers



we cannot lose focus of what is ahead of us, the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON 2026), which is equally important as it gives us the ticket to the World Cup in Brazil. We want to make it three in a row. Once the competition has concluded in Morocco, the entire focus will shift to the Olympic qualifiers."

The qualifiers will be played over five rounds, with South Africa, Ghana and Nigeria exempted from the first round. Round three will see the 16 teams battle it out in the two-legged qualifiers with the remaining eight teams advancing to the penultimate round. After this phase, the final four teams will produce the last two standing that will represent Africa in the United States of America.

- CAF Women's Olympic Games Qualifying Dates:
- Round 1: 1-9 June 2026
 - Round 2: 5-13 October 2026
 - Round 3: 23 February-6 March 2027
 - Round 4: 4-12 October 2027
 - Round 5: 23 November-4 December 2027

Sasol Banyana Banyana have advanced to the second round of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games qualifiers after receiving a bye in the first round. At a draw conducted in Cairo in Egypt recently, Banyana were pitted against the winners between South Sudan and Madagascar who will get the ball rolling in the early stage of the competition. The first round is scheduled to be played in June 2026 while the second round matches

will be held our months later.

"We haven't been to the Olympic Games since 2016, and that is a long time ago. We need to get back to that big stage," said Banyana Banyana coach coach Dr Desiree Ellis. "Now that we have seen the draw, it will help us plan thoroughly for the qualifiers. But for now,

There are 35 nations taking part in the qualifiers with only two slots allotted the African continent at the Olympic Games which will get underway from 11-29 July 2028 in Los Angeles.

'Blue Machines' Excel at Kuruman Freedom Run



One of the participants

Kuruman

Runners from the Northern Cape SAPS Marathon Club, known as the 'Blue Machines', delivered outstanding performances at the Annual Kuruman Freedom Run held at Wrenchville Sports Grounds

recently.

The event united athletes in sport to recognise national unity, social cohesion and reflect on progress made in overcoming poverty, inequality and discrimination. The Kuruman Freedom Run also serves as a Comrades Marathon qualifier.

Standout Performances:

42km

Sergeant Keagoleboga "Shoni" Pule secured a podium finish, taking 3rd place in the females' 42km category — not her first time claiming this accolade at the marathon.

Other finishers included:

- Sergeant Rasmeni Amen – 03:13:06
- Sergeant Lerato Tshagare – 03:56:00
- Constable Aphiwe Ngqwala – 03:56:28
- Sergeant Keagoleboga Pule – 04:11:31
- Sergeant Tlale Mutsi – 04:33:25

21km

- Warrant Officer Silas Mokwa – 01:39:11
- SCC Joe Maphalla – 01:57:58
- Lieutenant Colonel Tebalo Julies – 01:56:36
- Constable Tebogo Poha – 02:01:57
- Sergeant Othusitse Sepalamele – 02:02:51
- Captain Joanita Becker – 02:14:00
- Warrant Officer Lizzy Gabuza – 02:42:28

10km

- Sergeant Goitse Mogotsi – 01:17:49
- Captain Ketshepile Setlhabi – 01:24:44

The Northern Cape Provincial Management commended the runners for their outstanding performance and wished them well for the final leg of preparations ahead of the Comrades Marathon.

Sunrise Junior Edge Cosmo FC 2-1 in De Aar Thriller



Sunrise Juniors Team

De Aar

By Simamkele Tekka

Under the bright De Aar sun, Sunrise Junior clinched a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Cosmo FC in a match that had the community on its feet.

Sunrise Junior started strong, showing hunger and discipline from the first whistle. Coach Tosh directed play from the sidelines as his team controlled the midfield and kept their shape. Captain Magande led by example, pushing his teammates forward and staying calm under pressure. Cosmo FC made them work for it. Pressing high and creating chances, Cosmo broke

through Sunrise's defense to level the score at 1-1, sparking roars from the crowd. Sunrise Junior refused to fold. Coach Tosh's instructions and Magande's leadership steadied the team. They regrouped, stuck to their game plan, and found their rhythm again with sharp passing and confident attacks.

A well-worked move produced their second goal, putting Sunrise back in front. They then tightened up defensively and managed the pace until the final whistle.

Full-time: Sunrise Junior 2 – Cosmo FC 1

Cheers echoed across the field as Sunrise celebrated. Coach Tosh beamed with pride at his team's skill and resilience, while Captain Magande saluted the crowd before leading the celebrations.

 Pixley Independent

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IN THE NORTHERN CAPE**



**CONTACT:
KATLEHO MALANGABE
069 184 6640**

The Independent Voice Of Northern Cape 