



Honouring Mandela Day through service and dignity



Kimberley

In honour of Nelson Mandela Day 2026, Sol Plaatje University, through the Human Resources Department in collaboration with the Student Wellness Unit, visited

the National Association of the Blind and the Women to Women Centre on Friday, 17 July 2026.

The delegation, led by the Director: Human Resources on behalf of the University, handed over essential

toiletries generously donated by members of the SPU community. The outreach initiative formed part of the University's commitment to giving back and supporting organisations that provide essential services to vulnerable groups.

The visits provided an opportunity for staff to engage with both organisations and learn more about the important work they undertake. At the National Association of the Blind, the delegation also gained greater insight into the experiences of blind and visually impaired people and the importance of awareness around eye health.

Sol Plaatje University extends its sincere appreciation to every staff member who contributed towards the donation drive. Their generosity made it possible to provide items that support the comfort and dignity of those served by the two organisations.

The University also acknowledges the staff volunteers who dedicated their time to participating in the outreach visits. Their willingness to serve and represent SPU reflected the spirit of Nelson Mandela Day and the values of Ubuntu.

As the University reflects on Nelson Mandela's legacy, the SPU community is encouraged to continue supporting future outreach initiatives and volunteer opportunities. Through collective action and meaningful partnerships, SPU can continue making a difference in the communities it serves.

MEC Makatong wraps up Vala Zonke visit in Namakwa



MEC Fufe Makatong with Mr Louis Fourie, a local farmer, at Bonnekraal Road

Calvinia

The Northern Cape MEC for Roads and Public Works, Ms Fufe Makatong, has concluded the Namakwa District leg, the fifth district to be covered, of the Operation Vala Zonke Pothole Patching Programme, coupled with an assessment of flood damaged routes in the Hantam Local Municipality.

The oversight visit monitored the implementation of Operation Vala Zonke and assessed progress on road

maintenance initiatives aimed at improving mobility, road safety and service delivery across the district. The MEC was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the Hantam Local Municipality, Councillor Koos Alexander, as they inspected ongoing pothole patching operations along Steyn Street in Calvinia, where the Department of Roads and Public Works is working in partnership with the municipality through the Root Out the Dust (ROD) Programme. The visit reaffirmed the importance of cooperative governance and demonstrated how collaboration between provincial and local government is delivering practical solutions to improve road

infrastructure while responding directly to the concerns raised by communities.

A key highlight of the oversight visit was the Department's skills transfer programme. Road maintenance personnel from the Springbok Maintenance Team worked alongside municipal road workers from Calvinia, transferring practical engineering knowledge and technical expertise in pothole repairs using Jetpatcher technology and edge break repair methods. This initiative strengthens municipal capacity while ensuring that road maintenance skills remain within local communities. At the same time, another Departmental road maintenance team continued pothole and edge break repairs along the Williston to Carnarvon Road (TR16/5), improving safety and preserving one of the province's important transport corridors.

Operation Vala Zonke remains one of government's flagship road maintenance programmes, focusing not only on repairing potholes but also on preventative road maintenance, stormwater management, road reserve cleaning and preserving existing infrastructure. In the Northern Cape, the programme has been integrated with the Root Out the Dust Programme to provide practical support to municipalities in maintaining critical road networks and improving service delivery. As part of the oversight programme, MEC Makatong and Mayor Alexander also travelled to the Bonnekraal Road (DR2275) near Middelpos, where they met with members of the local farming community, including Mr Louis Fourie, to assess extensive flood damage affecting the route.

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MEC Makatong wraps up Vala Zonke visit in Namakwa

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The farmers used the opportunity to call on the Department of Roads and Public Works to collaborate with them in the rebuilding of the flood damaged routes, which remain critical to the movement of goods, livestock and people in the area.

The Bonnekraal Road serves as a vital economic corridor linking farming communities and supporting agricultural production in the Namakwa District. During the engagement, the MEC outlined the Department's infrastructure funding model, explained the significant financial pressures created by widespread flood damage across the provincial road network, and reaffirmed government's commitment to restoring critical transport infrastructure despite funding constraints. The engagement highlighted the

importance of continued dialogue between government and local stakeholders to ensure that infrastructure interventions respond to the realities experienced by communities and contribute to long term economic resilience.

Speaking during the oversight visit, MEC Makatong said: "Every road we restore is a pathway to opportunity, economic growth and safer communities. Through Operation Vala Zonke, we are not only repairing infrastructure, we are investing in people, building local skills, and strengthening partnerships that improve the lives of our residents." The MEC further emphasised that the Department remains committed to accelerating road maintenance interventions across the province through strategic partnerships with municipalities under the District Development Model. She also encouraged residents to

continue reporting road infrastructure concerns through the appropriate municipal and provincial channels, emphasising that community participation plays an important role in guiding maintenance priorities and ensuring responsive service delivery.

With the Namakwa District now concluded, the Department has completed Operation Vala Zonke oversight visits in five districts across the province, reflecting the scale and reach of the programme's implementation and the Department's ongoing commitment to restoring road infrastructure damaged by recent flooding. The Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works remains steadfast in its commitment to building safer, more reliable and resilient road infrastructure that connects communities, supports economic growth and improves the quality of life of all residents.

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MEC Vilakazi Honours Madiba Through Community Service in De Aar



By Simamkele Teka

De Aar

Northern Cape MEC for Health, Mrs Nontobeko Vilakazi, marked Nelson Mandela Day by leading a series of community service initiatives in De Aar, within the Emthanjeni Local Municipality.

As part of the 67 Minutes for Madiba campaign, the MEC joined officials and community members in painting and revamping the Nonzwakazi Community Hall and the De Aar East Community Hall

to improve public facilities. The Department of Health also deployed its mobile health unit to provide free health screening services, including tuberculosis (TB), HIV testing, and screening for chronic illnesses, ensuring residents had access to essential healthcare services.

The day's programme concluded with a special lunch for elderly residents of De Aar, recognising their contribution to the community and promoting the spirit of care and respect. Addressing residents, MEC Vilakazi encouraged people to embrace the values of Nelson Mandela every day.

Pixley ka Seme District strengthens preparedness for Ebola and Bundibugyo virus outbreaks



By Simamkele Teka

The Pixley ka Seme District Department of Health, in partnership with key stakeholders, recently hosted a district preparedness session aimed at strengthening readiness for potential Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD) outbreaks.

The meeting focused on reviewing and validating the district's outbreak preparedness plans, identifying areas that require improvement, and strengthening coordinated response

efforts among government departments and partner institutions.

Officials also highlighted the importance of Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to ensure communities receive accurate and timely information on disease prevention and response. District Director Mrs Mc Cloen stressed that effective preparedness depends on strong collaboration between all sectors, including the public and private healthcare sectors.

She emphasised the need for effective disease surveillance.

MEC Mangaliso Matika leads Mandela Month outreach to support older persons



Kimberley

the 22 July 2026

As part of the Mandela Month programme, the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr , conducted an outreach programme to support older persons at Bophelong Care Centre, GAASCA Old Age Home, Seochwareng Old Age Home, and the AFM Fountain of Joy Church on

The outreach programme was aimed at providing much-needed support and essential services to older persons in recognition of Mandela Month, while promoting the values of compassion, dignity and selfless service inspired by the legacy of former

President Nelson Mandela. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Al-Imdaad Foundation, whose partnership contributed significantly to ensuring that older persons received essential items to improve their well-being.

During the visits, the four institutions received donations of mattresses, food parcels and blankets to enhance the comfort and quality of life of their elderly residents. In addition, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture made financial commitments to further support the facilities and strengthen the services they provide to older persons. The Department committed R10 000 to Bophelong Care Centre, R20 000 to GAASCA Old Age Home, R10 000 to Seochwareng Old Age Home, and R10 000 to the AFM Fountain of Joy Church.

Speaking during the outreach, MEC Matika reaffirmed government's commitment to protecting the dignity and welfare of older persons.

"Mandela Month reminds us that serving our communities is a shared responsibility. Through this outreach, we are demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that older persons are cared for, respected and supported. We appreciate the partnership with the Al-Imdaad Foundation in making a meaningful difference in the lives of our senior citizens," said MEC Matika.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture remains committed to strengthening partnerships that improve the lives of vulnerable groups and ensure that older persons continue to receive the care, support and respect they deserve. The financial commitments made during the outreach will further assist these institutions in addressing their immediate needs and enhancing the quality of care provided to elderly residents.

A New Home, A New Start as Norvalspont families Get Keys and Title Deeds



There were smiles, tears, and a lot of applause in Norvalspont this week as five families finally got the keys to their own homes.

The Speaker of Umsobomvu Local Municipality, Councillor Stafa, accompanied by other Councillors, the Municipal Manager, housing unit officials and officials from the COGHSTA District Office, handed over the five houses to beneficiaries at the Norvalspont 50 Housing Project. For the families receiving them, it wasn't just a house. It was security, dignity, and a place to call their own.

The Norvalspont 50 Project forms part of the Northern Cape Provincial Government's R1 Billion Housing Project. So far, forty of the houses have been handed over, and work is continuing to complete the remaining ten. As part of the provincial Title Deeds Friday Campaign, beneficiaries also received their title deeds on the day. The title deeds serve as immediate confirmation of legal ownership, giving families certainty that the house truly belongs to them.

To mark the occasion, Councillors and the new homeowners planted trees at their newly built houses. The tree planting was part of efforts to green and beautify the project site and help families put down roots in their new community. For Norvalspont, these five handovers are another important milestone, with 10 more houses still to be completed. Home. Ownership. A tree in the yard. For these five families, that's what the day was about.



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Department:
Roads and Public Works
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
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FLEET UNDER DIRECT DEPARTMENTAL CONTROL

Yellow Fleet Rolls Out to Reclaim the Northern Cape's Roads

R98 million investment in graders, tippers and excavators moves flood-battered districts off outsourced services and onto the department's own machinery.

MEC Fufe Makatong and Premier Dr. Zamani Saul launched the R98 million Yellow Fleet first in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, before extending the roll-out to Frances Baard and other districts across the province.

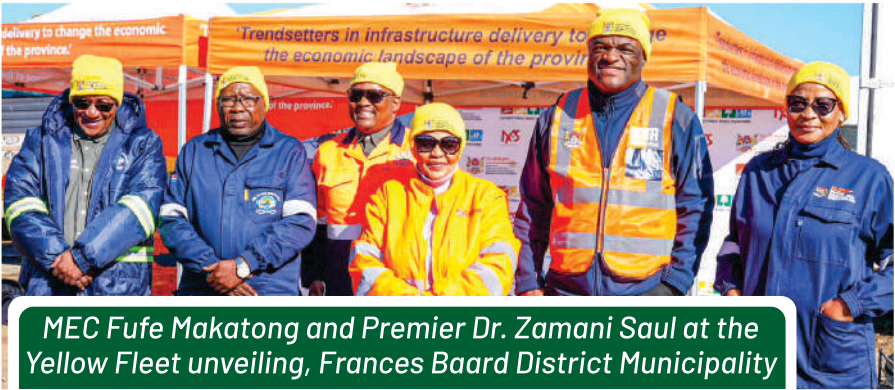
Frances Baard, John Taolo Gaetsewe and ZF Mgcawu districts have experienced the heaviest flood damage in the province and carry the weight of our manganese economy on their roads every day.

So far, 2 districts, namely Frances Baard and John Taolo Gaetsewe have received the departmentally owned fleet and this is where it has done its first work.

"This fleet is not a ribbon-cutting exercise. It is a functional arsenal of infrastructure delivery."
— MEC Fufe Makatong

The fleet comprises graders, tipper trucks, water tankers, front-end loaders, TLBs (tractor-loader-backhoes), excavators and other critical machinery, now under direct departmental control.

Placing this equipment in the department's own hands dramatically reduces our reliance on outsourced services, and puts delivery back where it belongs: with government, working for the people who elected it.



MEC Fufe Makatong and Premier Dr. Zamani Saul at the Yellow Fleet unveiling, Frances Baard District Municipality

THE FLEET AT A GLANCE

R98 million

Total investment in the Yellow Fleet

JTG District

First district to receive the fleet

Frances Baard

Second district, now expanding further



MEC Fufe Makatong and Premier Dr. Zamani Saul at the Yellow Fleet unveiling, John Taolo Gaetsewe District

WHAT'S IN THE FLEET

- Graders
- Tipper trucks
- Water tankers
- Front-end loaders
- TLBs
- Excavators





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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ROOT OUT THE DUST

Operation Vala Zonke: No Municipality Left Behind

Provincial machinery, municipal capacity and community labour combine to patch potholes and restore riding quality across 26,542 kilometres of road.

VALA ZONKE BY THE NUMBERS

26,542 km
Provincial road network maintained

5
Districts targeted for expansion

6
Municipalities already collaborating

WHERE WE ARE WORKING

MUNICIPALITY	DISTRICT
Sol Plaatje	Frances Baard
Phokwane	Frances Baard
Siyancuma	Pixley ka Seme
Dawid Kruiper	ZF Mgcawu
Ga-Segonyana	John Taolo Gaetsewe
Hantam	Namakwa



Community labour and provincial machinery patch a road surface under Operation Vala Zonke

No single department can maintain 26,542 kilometres of road alone.

Operation Vala Zonke is our living model of intergovernmental collaboration, combining provincial machinery, municipal capacity and community labour to attack potholes, repair surfaces and restore riding quality every day, through the Root Out the Dust initiative.

The programme is already proving itself. Successful collaborations have been implemented in Sol Plaatje in Frances Baard, Siyancuma in Pixley ka Seme, Dawid Kruiper in ZF Mgcawu, Phokwane in Frances Baard, Ga-Segonyana in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, and the Hantam Local Municipality in Namakwa.

“The quality of life of our residents cannot be determined by which side of a municipal boundary they happen to live on.”
— MEC Fufe Makatong

We will expand to additional municipalities across all five districts. Government will leave no municipality behind, because every resident, wherever they live, deserves a road that carries them safely to work, to school and to home.



SAPS, Higher Education strengthen campus safety with Northern Cape forum launch



Kimberley

The South African Police Service (SAPS), in partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), has launched a Campus Community Safety Forum at the Northern Cape Urban TVET College, strengthening efforts to improve safety and security at institutions of higher learning. The launch, led by Northern Cape MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison Limakatso Koloi, forms part of a national SAPS-DHET initiative to create safer learning environments for students, lecturers and support staff at universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges across South Africa. Koloi was

joined by the Northern Cape Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Policing, Major General Johnny Besnaar; DHET Chief Director Sabelo Buthelezi; Northern Cape Urban TVET College Deputy Principal Elgin Mokokong; senior SAPS management, stakeholder representatives and students. To date, SAPS has launched 12 Campus Community Safety Forums nationwide, underscoring its commitment to strengthening safety and security at institutions of higher learning. The forums provide a platform for SAPS, campus management, security personnel, students and community stakeholders to work together to identify safety concerns, address crime

threats and implement proactive crime prevention measures on and around campuses. "The initiative seeks to enhance coordination among all role players to tackle challenges such as gender-based violence and femicide, robberies, theft, drug-related crimes, bullying, intimidation and other threats that may negatively affect the learning environment," SAPS said in a statement. Addressing the launch, Koloi stressed that partnerships are critical to creating safer campuses. "A safe and secure campus environment is essential for academic success and the wellbeing of students. We encourage students to actively participate in safety structures such as the Campus Community Safety Forum and to work closely with law enforcement and campus management in preventing crime. Safety is a shared responsibility, and together we can build campuses where students can learn without fear," Koloi said. Besnaar welcomed the establishment of the forum, saying stronger safety and security measures would help create an environment where students can focus on achieving their academic goals. The two-day engagement concluded with stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to supporting the forum and its initiatives to strengthen safety, security and crime prevention on and around the campus. "SAPS remains committed to ensuring that students at institutions of higher learning across South Africa are able to pursue their education in environments that are safe, secure and conducive to learning," the police said. – [SAnews.gov.za](https://www.sanews.gov.za)

District Director Applauds Beef and Mutton Producer's Workshop in Francis Baard



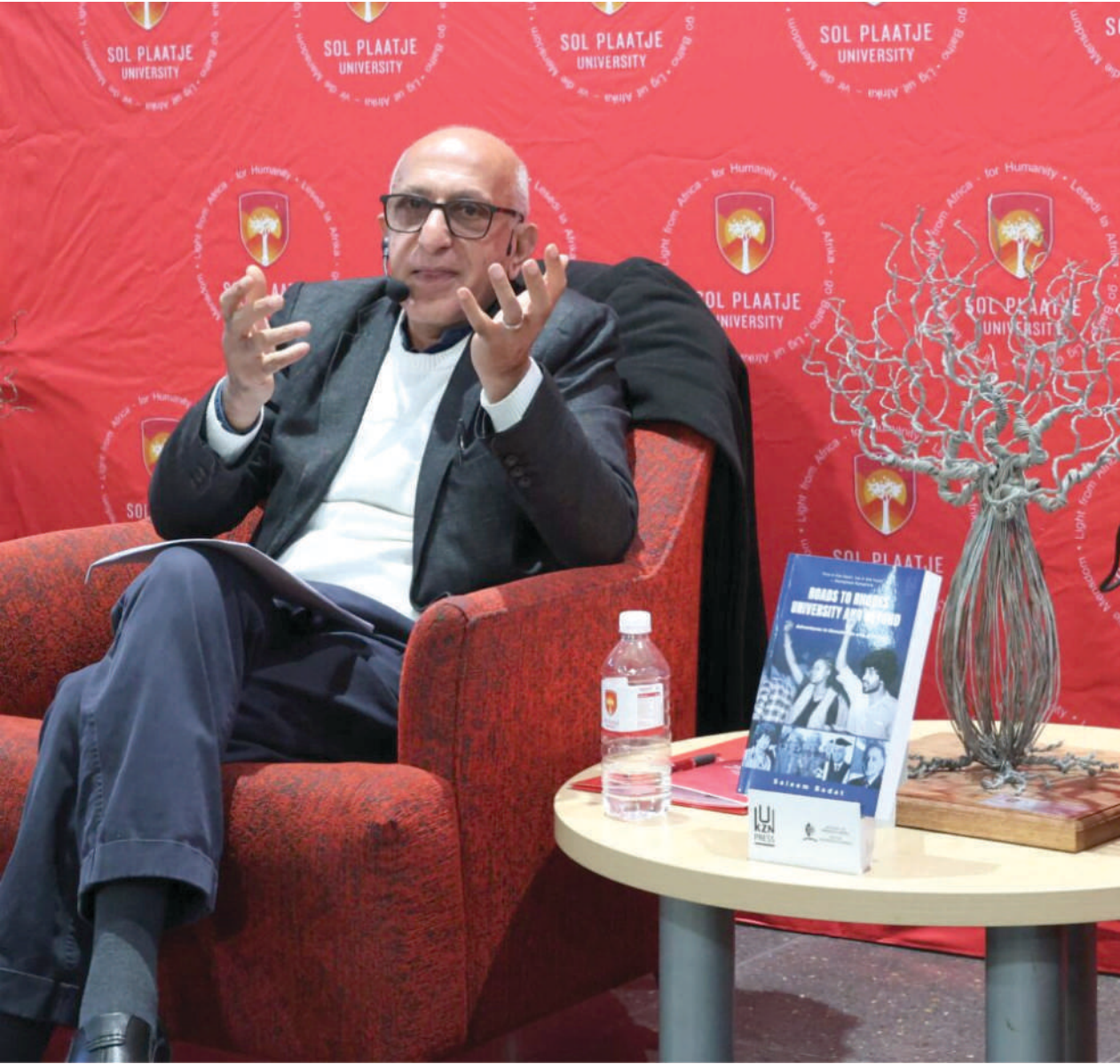
Kimberley

The Department's Francis Baard District Director, Mr Tsiamo Moncho, has applauded the outstanding work done by the Beef and Mutton Commodity in the district to equip its members with knowledge. Mr Moncho was speaking on the final day of a three-day workshop

hosted by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) together with the Northern Cape's Kaonafatsoya Dikgomo in Kimberley. The three-day workshop sought to equip Beef and Mutton Producers with knowledge and skills on how to produce quality livestock and achieve better yields.

ARC's Dr Thami Mpanza presented to farmers on the topic: "Nutrition for Ruminant Animals". Dr Mpanza outlined that nutrition is the means of providing animals with feed that meets their nutrient requirements in order to maximise production. He explained that it is the most expensive component in livestock farming, accounting for over 60% of operational costs. "Therefore, to understand nutrition is critically important so that the farmer feeds the correct feed to livestock, and at the same time buys the correct ingredients to formulate the right feed for animals," he said. He called on farmers to get the basics right when it comes to nutrition. "Nutrition is the combination of different ingredients that are mixed in the correct proportions to meet the protein, energy, minerals, and vitamin needs of the animal being fed." Meanwhile, Beef and Mutton Producer's chairperson Mr Duncan Choche outlined that workshops such as these are critical, as farmers must meet market requirements in order to maximise performance. Various other topics were also shared with farmers during the workshop. About 21 farmers were presented with certificates of competence to the delight of workshop attendees from ARC

SPU hosts launch of Professor Saleem Badat’s book



By Persome Oliphant

Sol Plaatje University (SPU) hosted the launch of Professor Saleem Badat’s book, *Roads to Rhodes University and Beyond: Adventures in Knowledge and Activism*, on 6 July 2026. The event brought together staff, students, scholars and members of the public for a wide-ranging discussion on universities, leadership, transformation and the public good.

Professor Badat is a renowned sociologist, higher education scholar and former Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University. Blending memoir, institutional reflection and critical analysis, the book draws on his experiences as a scholar, activist and university leader to examine higher education in South Africa.

In welcoming guests, Professor Russel Viljoen, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, said SPU was honoured to host the event. “This launch is not only an opportunity to acknowledge a significant scholarly contribution, but also to reflect on the importance of the conversations, deliberations and debates that this work invites us to engage in,” he said.

Professor Dipane Hlalele, Dean of the Faculty of Education, directed the programme and noted that book launches provide opportunities for academics, students and communities to engage with contemporary issues through research and lived experience. Dr Phindile Dlamini, Director of UKZN Press, described the publication as a significant

contribution to the field of higher education, noting its combination of theory and practice.

A panel of SPU academics then reflected on the book. Dr Violet Pule, Lecturer in Setswana, presented on behalf of Ms Lesego Bertha Kgatitswe and highlighted the role of memoir and intellectual biography in preserving histories of Black scholarship, activism and institutional transformation. Professor Jesmael Mataga, Associate Professor in Museum and Heritage Studies, described the book as personal and deeply relatable. He also reflected on SPU’s opportunity, as a young university, to build a distinctive institutional culture. Professor Anthony Mpsi, Associate Professor in Psychology of Education, traced Professor Badat’s journey after Rhodes University, including his work with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and his continuing engagement with transformation, inequality and social justice.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Debra Meyer reviewed the book’s final section, which examines leadership, transformation and the state of South African universities. She highlighted its case for ethical, principled and distributed leadership, as well as for transformation that extends beyond representation to include epistemic, cultural and structural change. Reading the section from the perspective of a university leader, she concluded that its chapters “function as a blueprint for vice-chancellors and other university leaders” and said the book “should be prescribed reading for everyone who considers themselves a university leader or who wants to become one.”

Responding to the panel, Professor Badat reflected on the purpose of universities and the importance of developing the next generation of scholars. He emphasised that universities must remain committed to producing and disseminating knowledge while ensuring that this work responds to society’s development needs.

The launch concluded with a question-and-answer session on accountability, leadership, institutional culture and the role of universities in advancing social equity and democratic life. The discussion made the event more than a celebration of a publication; it became a serious reflection on the purpose of universities and how they should serve society.

Electoral Commission Strengthens the Fight Against Online Disinformation Ahead of the 2026 Local Government Elections



The Electoral Commission hosted the National Party Liaison Committee (NPLC) Social Media Workshop as part of preparations for the 2026 Local Government Elections. Opening the workshop, Chief Electoral Officer Sy Mamabolo welcomed delegates and highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration to safeguard South Africa’s elections against online misinformation and disinformation.

James Aphane, General Manager: Electoral Matters, outlined the Electoral Code of Conduct and the role of political parties in promoting responsible digital engagement.

The workshop brought together political parties and strategic partners, including Meta, Google, Moxii Africa and Africa Check, to strengthen information integrity by equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to identify, prevent and respond to misinformation and disinformation throughout the electoral process.

Banyana settled in Morocco with full complement of players ahead of WAFON 2026



Sasol Banyana Banyana have settled in nicely at their hotel in Casablanca, Morocco, ahead of the CAF Women’s Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON 2026) scheduled to take place from 26 July to 16 August.

The 2022 African Champions arrived on Sunday and wasted no time in continuing with their preparations. The South Africans have already had two intense training sessions as they build up to their Group D encounters which feature matches against Tanzania,

Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. “It was a long travel, but we’ve had two sessions now trying to acclimatize to the heat as we are coming from a cold South Africa, but fortunately, for now, it’s not as hot as it was last year. We had really good sessions and now we are looking forward to the rest of the week,” said Head Coach Dr Desiree Ellis. There is now a full complement of players in camp following the arrival of the overseas-based Thembi Kgatlana, Amogelang Motau (both Mexico), Bongeka Gamede (Denmark) and Linda Motlhalo

(Scotland). Both Kgatlana and Gamede have already taken part in the training sessions while Motau and Motlhalo will get their first taste on Wednesday. “It’s very exciting to have them, we have sat down with them to show them what we did last week and to continue with preparations. Of course, it’s a couple of days to go and we need to make sure that everybody understands what it is that we need to do,” added Dr Ellis. Among the squad of 26 players selected for WAFCON 2026 is midfielder Robyn Moodaly-Salgado who last played for Banyana Banyana in 2023 after the FIFA Women’s World Cup in New Zealand and Australia. Prior to that, she was part of the history-making WAFCON winning team in 2022.

“Obviously I haven’t been here for a while, so I am really excited to be back wearing national team colours. It’s super exciting being back, being welcomed again and playing the game with old teammates and just being back in the WAFCON setup, I am really looking forward to it. I’m ecstatic, new expectations, new goals, new year, we want to qualify for the World Cup, and we want to bring it home again,” said Moodaly-Salgado.

WAFCON 2026 kicks off on Sunday, but South Africa will be in action the following day (Monday, 27 July) when they face Tanzania in their opening game, followed by clashes against Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso in the group stages. The top four nations will automatically for the 2027 Brazil FIFA Women’s World Cup

Gunners Crowned U13 Grassroots Holiday League Champions



By Simamkele Tekka

The U13 Grassroots Holiday League came to an exciting conclusion in De Aar, with Gunners FC emerging as the tournament champions after a series of impressive performances throughout the competition.

Gunners secured first place and were crowned champions, while Sunrise FC finished as runners-up after a strong campaign. Kareeville FC claimed third place, completing the top three teams in the tournament. The holiday league provided young

footballers with an opportunity to showcase their talent, develop their skills, and enjoy competitive football during the school holidays. The tournament also brought together families, coaches, and community members in support of youth sport.

Final standings:- 1st: Gunners FC- 2nd: Sunrise FC- 3rd: Kareeville FC Congratulations to all the participating teams, coaches, and organisers for making the U13 Grassroots Holiday League a success and for continuing to promote youth football development in De Aar.

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