

Eastern Cape chef shines on global culinary scene

Sesethu Bukani now playing his trade at top hotel in Doha

At just 28 years of age, Mdantsane-born chef Sesethu Bukani has already carved out a name for himself on the global culinary stage.

From humble beginnings in the township, he now works against the backdrop of the glittering skyline of Doha, Qatar, as a commis chef at Nobu Doha, a world-renowned Japanese-Peruvian restaurant located inside the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel.

"I was born and raised eLokishini [township]. From the dusty streets of Mdantsane, I learnt resilience, faith and the importance of chasing my dreams no matter the obstacles."

Bukani's love for cooking began under the guidance of his mother, who introduced him to the kitchen when he was just five years old.

By his teenage years, he was already experimenting with flavours and techniques, often challenging his mother in playful kitchen competitions.

"She was my first teacher. Helping her with catering and church dinners taught me not just how to cook, but how to serve people with love and creativity."

Before he ever wore a professional chef's jacket, Bukani was already running a small food business from his home, selling kotas and dagwoods under the name Kota Past 9.

In 2024, he enrolled at the Capsicum Rosebank campus in Johannesburg, signing up for the professional chef programme.



MOVING UP: Eastern Cape-born chef Sesethu Bukani is working as a commis chef at Nobu Doha restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel in Qatar. Picture: SUPPLIED

"I was nervous but excited, and that interview changed my life."

He officially joined Nobu Doha shortly after graduation from Capsicum in absentia on June 23.

He said as the garde manger chef, he was responsible for salads, cold dishes and intricate seafood preparations.

"Whenever I can, I learn from other stations — tempura, sauté, sushi bar — because I want to master all seven. Each one teaches me something new."

"Discipline is everything. Whether it's the gym, the kitchen, or my spiritual life, consistency is key."

Influenced by the Japanese-Peruvian fusion at Nobu and his South African roots, Bukani's style reflects elegance, balance and innovation with dishes which often highlight seafood, modern plating and refined flavour harmony.

"I'm inspired by the beauty of simplicity and Japanese cuisine has taught me that less can be more."

"It's about precision, respect for ingredients and emotion on the plate."

He said in five years, he envisioned himself leading his own kitchen, mentoring young chefs.

"I want to create a space where people not only enjoy exceptional food but feel inspired by the story behind it," he said.

"Your dreams are valid. Your passion is your fuel."

"Combine faith, hard work and the willingness to learn, and the kitchen can take you anywhere in the world." — *The Herald*

Zungula's marriage bridges royal divide

LULAMILE FENI

The wedding of ATM founding president and parliamentary leader Vuyo Zungula to Zoleka Mathiso has been hailed as a moment of reconciliation for the AmaMpondomise royal clans, bringing together families long divided by a historic succession dispute.

The Dosini and Jola royal houses — whose differences over the AmaMpondomise throne once reached the Constitutional Court — set aside decades of tension to celebrate the union in a ceremony described as a symbol of unity and renewal.

The usually quiet village of KuGoqwana, near Tsolo, came alive as guests, villagers and political leaders gathered for the three-day celebration.

Flashy cars lined the rural roads as parliamentarians, traditional leaders, businesspeople and clergy joined the festivities.

Nyandeni mayor Viwe Ndamase, who attended the wedding, said it reflected the region's cultural pride and capacity for healing.

"It showed that even families with deep divisions can come together for the sake of progress," he said.

The celebrations began on Friday with the traditional ritual, *ukutyiswa utsiki*, during which Mathiso was introduced to Zungula's ancestors.

The ceremony was led by Prof Caesar Nongqunga, chief apostle of the Twelve Apostles Church in Christ, who also officiated the couple's vows.

Nongqunga, who succeeded



LOVE WINS: The wedding of ATM founding president and parliamentary leader Vuyo Zungula to Zoleka Mathiso was a momentous occasion, uniting the AmaMpondomise royal clans. Pictures: LULAMILE FENI

Zungula as ATM president, described the event as a spiritual and cultural milestone.

Throughout the weekend, AmaMpondomise songs, dances and chants echoed across the village.

A striking *umguyo* performance, led by Zungula and joined by Nongqunga, drew cheers from the crowd as the men's rhythmic movements kicked up dust in a display of discipline and unity.

As the sun set, the sound of drums and chanting carried across the nearby river and gumtree plantations.

Senior traditional leader Nkosikazi Nophumlani Mditshwa represented the Jola royal house and AmaMpondomise King Luzuko Zwelozuko Mawane, reaffirming the families' commitment to peaceful coexistence.

Zungula, from the Dosini royal house, and Mathiso, of the Bhayi clan from Welkom, share a faith through the Twelve Apostles Church in Christ.

The 33-year-old politician described his bride as "a partner grounded in faith and family", adding that their union was "a blessing that joins not only two

people but two lineages".

The ATM said the occasion underscored its belief that strong families were the foundation of a prosperous society.

"This moment reflects our vision of social cohesion and moral leadership," the party said in a statement congratulating the couple.

The guest list included prominent figures from politics and traditional leadership.

Among those present were Western Mpondoland King Ndamase Ndamase, AmaXhosa Queen Nonzuzo Sigcawu, amaHlubi leader Muziwenkosi

Hadebe (Langalibalele II) and representatives of AbaThembu King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo.

Also present were UDM deputy president Nqabayomzi Kwankwa, who proposed the toast, and Western Mpondoland Queen Tina MaDosini Ndamase, who formally welcomed Mathiso into the Zungula family.

Politicians including the ANC's Andile Lungisa, former Hawks head Bering Ntemeza, and ATM, ANC and UDM MPs were among those present.

Observers said the union could mark a new chapter for the AmaMpondomise royal institution, which has faced prolonged disputes over seniority and succession.

The wedding was seen as an informal step towards healing and dialogue within the royal structure.

The celebrations were also a cultural showcase for the Tsolo region, following another high-profile traditional wedding earlier in 2025 when Miss Universe 2019 Zozibini Tunzi married her childhood sweetheart, Luthando Bolowana, in nearby Sidwadweni village.

Zulu King Misuzulu kaZwelithini married Nomzamo Myeni at KwaKhangalamankengane Royal Palace in Nongoma, KwaZulu-Natal, on the same weekend.

For KuGoqwana residents, however, it was Zungula's wedding that lit up the village.

"It was a proud moment for our community. We saw that even leaders can show humility and bring people together," one elder said.

It showed that even families with deep divisions can come together for the sake of progress

Viwe Ndamase

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)

CONSULTATION ON THE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE CERTAIN PROPERTIES SITUATED IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE AS A NEW NATIONAL PARK WITH THE NAME "GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK" IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr Dion Travers George, hereby in terms of sections 20(1)(a)(i) and (b) read with sections 31 and 33 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), gives notice of his publication of a Government Notice of his intention to declare certain properties situated in the Eastern Cape Province as a new national park with the name "Grasslands National Park" in the Government Gazette No. 53515 Notice No. 6738 of 17 October 2025 for public comments. A copy of the Government Notice can be obtained from the following departmental website link: www.dffe.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within 60 days, from date of publication of this Notice in the Government Gazette No. 53515 Notice No. 6738 of 17 October 2025, or in the newspaper, whichever date is the last date, written comments to the following addresses:

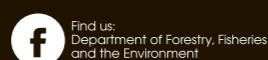
Post: The Director-General, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Private Bag X447, PRETORIA, 0001. Attention: Mr S Nkosi
By hand to: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Street, Arcadia, PRETORIA, 0083
By mail to: smampe@dffe.gov.za

Any enquiries in connection with the Notice can be directed to Mr Sydney Nkosi at 012 399 9065

For Communication and media enquiries, kindly contact Ms Thobile Molobi: Media Liaison Officer on Cell: 082 513 7154 / Email: tmolobi@dffe.gov.za; Call Centre: 086 111 2468

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act. Comments received and responses thereto will be included in the comments and response report which will be made available to the public. If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company or organization, being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, such objection should be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.



Call centre: 086 111 2468
Website: www.dffe.gov.za



NDLAMBE MUNICIPALITY PORT ALFRED



TENDER T10/2526

INVITATION TO TENDER – ARREAR AND UNTRACEABLE DEBTOR CONTACT DETAILS VERIFICATION SYSTEM

Ndlambe Municipality hereby invites all experienced and competent suitable service provider that are fully equipped for the provision of a software system that can provide verification services on arrear and untraceable debtor contact details

Tender prices submitted should be based on a monthly fee to search +- 15 000 identification document numbers per annum for a contract period duration of 24 months.

Bids will be evaluated for functionality as follows (full details are set out in the returnable document):

FUNCTIONALITY

Tenders will be evaluated on the functionality criteria as set out below. Bidders that score less than 70 out of 100 points for these criteria will be regarded as non-responsive and will not proceed to the Preferential Points calculation.

Item	Category - Criteria	Evidence	Points
1	Previous Experience	Reference letters	30
2	System capabilities	Live system presentation	70
	Total		100

Bidder proposals not providing this information or not achieving functionality score of at least 70 points out of 100 will NOT go forward to the Price/PPFA points calculation stage of the evaluation process. Full requirements are set out in the tender document.

Detailed specifications are set out in the returnable tender document.

Bidders shall take note of the following BID CONDITIONS:

- Prices must be valid for the full duration of the validity period as noted in the bid document.
- Prices quoted must be firm and must, where applicable, be inclusive of VAT.
- Ndlambe Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest bid or any other bid and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the bid.
- An original tax clearance certificate issued by SARS must accompany all tenders OR a tax reference number and PIN or TCC number must be provided. Tax status will also be verified against the Central Supplier Database (CSD)
- Evidence of registration of company on the Central Supplier Database must be provided (CSD "MAAA" number).
- Bidders must complete the following forms, which are included in the returnable document:
 - Declaration of Interest (MBD 4).
 - Declaration of Interest (MBD 5).
 - Declaration of Bidder's Past Supply Chain Management Practices (MBD 8).
 - Certificate of Independent Bid Determination (MBD 9).
- Bidders who wish to claim preferential points for Specific Goals in terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy of Council and the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022, must submit a completed form MBD 6.1 (included in the returnable document) as well as a certified copy of the proof of B-BBEE status level of contribution and proof of locality.
- A Municipal Billing Clearance Certificate, which covers, if applicable, both the company and its directors, must accompany all bids (included in the returnable document).
- It should be noted that the 80/20 preferential points system will be applied, 80 being for price and 20 for Specific Goals as defined in the Preferential Procurement Policy.
- The award will be made in terms of the Municipality's Preferential Procurement and Supply Chain Management Policies.
- This bid is subject to the General Conditions of Contract (GCC)
- Documents are to be completed in full and in accordance with the conditions and bid rules contained in the bid documents.

To ensure that tenders are not exposed to invalidation, documents are to be completed in accordance with the conditions and bid rules contained in the bid documents. The returnable tender document, which includes full details of the specifications, is available for download, free of charge, from Ndlambe Municipality's website <https://ndlambe.gov.za/web/tenders/>

N.B. Bidders requiring a hard copy to be supplied by the municipality must pay a non-refundable tender deposit of R140.26 inclusive of VAT. In the latter case, the original receipt should be attached to the submitted tender document.

BIDS MAY ONLY BE SUBMITTED ON THE BID DOCUMENTATION ISSUED BY NDLAMBE MUNICIPALITY.

Tender documents may be collected from the Supply Chain Management office at Ndlambe Local Municipality Offices, 44 Campbell Street, Port Alfred, 6170 from 11 November 2025 (office hours 08h00 until 16h00). **Late submitted, unmarked, faxed, falsified, incomplete or e-mailed proposals will not be considered and will be disqualified.**

Completed Tender documents, supporting documents, and externally endorsed documents must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "T10/2526 – ARREAR AND UNTRACEABLE DEBTOR CONTACT DETAILS VERIFICATION SYSTEM" and deposited in the Tender Box at the Supply Chain Management Offices, 44 Campbell Street, Port Alfred, not later than 12h00 on 12 December 2025. Tenders will be opened at the Supply Chain Management Unit at 12h05 on the same day.

N.B. ENVELOPES NOT MARKED AS INDICATED ABOVE WILL NOT BE OPENED AND SUCH BIDS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. Further technical details may be obtained from tenders@ndlambe.gov.za

NOTICE NUMBER: 253/2025

11 November 2025

NOTICE BOARDS, WEBSITE, DAILY DISPATCH

ADV R. DUMEZWENI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER