

NDLAMBE MUNICIPALITY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



INFORMATION PAGE

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Published by Amisile Media**

Ndlambe Municipality officially handed over site ERF 8638



On Friday, September 15, 2025 Ndlambe Municipality officially handed over site ERF 8638 to Ezethu Holdings (Pty) Ltd for the development of, inter alia, a shopping centre and 102 residential houses. The development will be undertaken by Stag African, development group, as a shareholder. The property is strategically located opposite Station Hill along the R67 Bathurst Road and this development marks a major milestone for both the municipality and the community.

The site handover was led by Ndlambe Municipal Mayor, Cllr. K. Ncamiso, alongside Municipal Manager Adv. Rolly Dumezweni. Speaking on behalf of Ezethu Holdings and Stag African, shareholder Mr. Piet de Clerk expressed excitement about the long-awaited development and outlined the project phases.

“The reason for being here today is the official handover of the development site for the contractor to begin the first phase of development, which is the shopping centre with Shoprite as the anchor tenant. The second phase will see the construction of about 102 houses that will be sold to qualifying beneficiaries. We are thrilled to finally begin this journey after nearly 10 years of planning and due process,” said de Clerk.

The shopping centre is expected to cover approximately 4,500 square metres of retail space, bringing much-needed services closer to the community. De Clerk noted that the project followed extensive environmental impact assessments (EIA), rezoning applications and compliance procedures before reaching this stage.

“This day is a true milestone for us. Without the cooperation of Ndlambe Municipality, we would not have made it this far. We extend our gratitude to the municipality for walking this journey with us,” he added.

Construction activity was set to begin immediately, with contractors starting to set up site offices, clear spaces and establish boundaries. De Clerk confirmed that all paperwork had been finalized and expressed optimism that the shopping centre will officially open its doors by November this year.

Ndlambe Municipal Mayor, Cllr. K. Ncamiso, welcomed the development as a symbol of progress and opportunity.

“Indeed, this is an occasion we are proud of. As the municipality, we are delighted that this land, which lay unused for years, will now bring value to the community. This project will not only create much-needed jobs but also provide services that uplift the lives of our people. We wish the developers the very best. She said”

Eastern Cape Social Development MEC, Bukiwe Fanta, led a dynamic outreach programme



On July 24, 2025 Bathurst came alive with activity as Eastern Cape Social Development MEC, Bukiwe Fanta, led a dynamic outreach programme aimed at bringing vital government services directly to the people. The day began with a political briefing at Emzini Lounge, where MEC Fanta was given a comprehensive update on the pressing challenges facing local residents. These included social issues such as poverty, youth unemployment and gender-based violence.

The outreach then moved to Nolukhanyo Community Hall, where MEC Fanta addressed a packed hall of community members. She outlined the wide range of services provided by the Department of Social Development, SASSA and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

In her address, the MEC also delivered a strong message condemning gender-based violence, substance abuse and corruption—highlighting government’s zero-tolerance approach to these societal ills.

As part of the outreach initiative, MEC Fanta handed over groceries and blankets to needy families identified by Social Development officials, closing the day on a compassionate and high-spirited note.

Other departments and service providers, including Home Affairs, SAPS, SASSA, banks, and insurance companies were also on site to offer assistance and services to community members throughout the day.

Ward 5 Councillor Mzwandile Sweli commended MEC Fanta for her continued commitment to service delivery. He especially applauded her efforts in the development and renovation of Velile School, describing it as a clear sign that the MEC “walks the talk” when it comes to uplifting communities.

Ndlambe Municipality successfully hosted a Men's Dialogue session at Titi Jonas Hall

Ndlambe Municipality successfully hosted a Men's Dialogue session at Titi Jonas Hall in June last year, bringing together men and various community stakeholders for a day of reflection, empowerment and positive engagement. The event, aimed at building responsible, supportive and emotionally present men in society, saw participation from different departments and community leaders.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome from Cllr Runeli, who encouraged the men in attendance to embrace the importance of such dialogues. This was followed by words of support from Cllr Venene, who commended the initiative and expressed appreciation for the meaningful conversations being encouraged.

The Human Resources Manager of Ndlambe Municipality Mr Nondzube then outlined the purpose of the day, emphasizing the municipality's commitment to promoting inclusive and supportive environments for men to grow and evolve.

The highlight of the event was the powerful address by the guest speaker, Mama Nkomfa, who delivered an inspiring and heartfelt message. She began by acknowledging the biblical and societal role of men, emphasizing that men are created by God to love — not only their biological children but all those around them. She urged men to reclaim their loving and caring nature, noting that a society grounded in such values would be a far better place.



In her impactful closing, Mama Nkomfa introduced the concept of being “FAT” in relationships — a memorable acronym standing for Faithful, Available and Teachable:

F – Faithful: “Isela alifuni kubelwa,” she said, urging men to remain loyal and trustworthy in their relationships.

A – Available: She stressed the need for men to be present, emotionally and physically, in their families and communities.

T – Teachable: Recognizing that times are changing, she encouraged men to be open to learning and evolving, especially in their relationships.

Her message resonated deeply with the attendees, setting a positive tone for future engagements. The Ndlambe Men's Dialogue is part of a broader commitment by the municipality to encourage social cohesion and gender-based awareness by creating safe and open spaces for constructive conversations.

Ndlambe Municipality extended its heartfelt congratulations to Port Alfred High School pupils



Ndlambe Municipality extended its heartfelt congratulations to Port Alfred High School pupils — Imange Mbande, Lelethu Masentile, and Khazimla Nkalitshana — for their outstanding achievement in the Eastern Cape Port Alfred UNISA Marine and Ocean Photography Competition which was held on October 18, 2025.

Imange Mbande secured first place, receiving R3000 and a tablet, while Lelethu Masentile took second place, walking away with R2000 and a tablet. Khazimla Nkalitshana earned third place, taking home R1000 and a tablet.

The three-day UNISA competition, saw enthusiastic participation from Nomzamo Senior Secondary School, Kuyasa Combined School and Port Alfred High School. Learners showcased their creativity and environmental awareness through photography under various themes, including:

- Life Beneath the Waves – focusing on marine biodiversity
- Coastal Connections – exploring interactions between people and the ocean.

Ocean in Motion – capturing waves, currents, and dynamic water scenes.
Marine Conservation in Action – highlighting environmental efforts like clean-ups and protected areas
Hidden Treasures of the Shoreline – showcasing detailed shots of shells, seaweed, and tidal textures.

On the first day, Ndlambe Municipality's Community Services Deputy Director, Mr. Fanie Fouché, joined the learners and shared educational insights about Ndlambe's beautiful beaches and ongoing marine conservation efforts.

Ndlambe Municipality staff gathered to bid a heartfelt farewell to Ms Phumeza Bhuti

July 24, 2025 marked an emotional moment for Ndlambe Municipality as staff gathered to bid a heartfelt farewell to Ms Phumeza Bhuti, who left the institution at the end of July after 16 years of loyal and dedicated service.

Phumeza began her journey with the Municipality on 6 October 2009 as an intern under the Municipal Finance Management Programme.

Her commitment and professionalism saw her permanently appointed as a Senior Accountant in March 2013. Two years later, in 2015, she was transferred to the Internal Audit Unit to strengthen the team, where she served as an Audit Controller until her departure.

Reflecting on her journey, Bhuti expressed deep appreciation for the opportunities she received: *"I feel like I learned more under the Internal Audit Unit. I truly appreciate the capacitation I was given in terms of education and I also enjoyed the conducive working environment."*

She fondly remembered her mentors and line managers over the years, saying: "I really enjoyed working with the late Luthando Nelana. May his soul rest in peace. He had a unique way of getting things done. But I learned the most from Mr Landzela. I am very grateful for his patience and everything he taught me."

Speaking after the farewell, Phumeza was visibly moved by the kind words shared by her colleagues: "It was very heart-warming to hear colleagues say nice things I didn't even know about myself."



Most of the time, people are only appreciated when they are no longer with us, and I am grateful to receive that while I'm still alive."

During the send-off, Municipal Manager Adv Rolly Dumezweni presented Bhuti with a certificate of long service and extended his heartfelt gratitude and blessings as she embarks on a new chapter. While she kept the details of her next step private, she did hint that it would be "similar work to what I am currently doing."

"I feel like I learned more under the Internal Audit Unit. I truly appreciate the capacitation I was given in terms of education and I also enjoyed the conducive working environment."



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ndlambe Municipal Ward Councillors and staff members braved the adverse weather conditions in October 2025 as they walked from Krantz to Guido's and back to the Port Alfred Town Hall Civic Centre in commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October).

Despite thunderstorms and lightning, the determined group — dressed in pink — continued their walk to raise awareness about breast cancer and to show solidarity with those affected by the disease.

After the purposeful walk from Guido's, No Limits Fitness enthusiasts led an energetic aerobics session at the Civic Centre to promote healthy living and physical wellness.

Addressing participants, Director of Corporate Services, Mrs Maneli-Payi, encouraged everyone to "know their bodies," highlighting that early detection greatly improves the chances of successful treatment.

She also emphasized the importance of open conversations about breast cancer, noting that talking about it provides emotional relief.

Ms. Maneli-Payi further urged colleagues to stand by those currently battling cancer, reminding all that collective compassion and awareness can make a difference.

The event concluded with a heartfelt prayer, marking a meaningful close to a day of unity, strength and awareness.

Ndlambe Municipality extended its heartfelt appreciation to Pick n Pay Heritage, Port Alfred Nemato Spar and Port Alfred Bucu for their generous support.

Speaker Visits Home After Fire Devastation



Ndlambe Municipal Speaker Andile Marasi visited the Timana family after their home was tragically destroyed by fire. The Speaker had just concluded an interview on Ndlambe FM, where he was addressing the dangers of the "pens down" phenomenon among school learners, when he received a distress call from the family. Upon arriving at the scene, he was met with devastation—nothing but rubble remained of the shack structure that once sheltered the family.

Deeply moved by the incident, Speaker Marasi immediately tasked Mr Tembani Mazana with assisting the affected family members by confirming the identity of 95-year-old Zanyiwe Menze, who lost all her belongings in the fire.

The collected information was to be handed over to Ndlambe Municipal Housing Manager, Olwethu Jobela, who would facilitate the process of applying for a temporary structure. Other victims of the fire included Bongani Timana, Siphamandla Timana, and Buyisile Timana. Fortunately, despite the total loss of property, there were no injuries or fatalities.

Family representative Babalwa Timana expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ndlambe Disaster Management Officer, Mr Bavuma, and Sarah Baartman District Chief Whip, Cllr Athi Diniso, for their swift response and support. The family had since received essential relief items, including mattresses, blankets, clothing, and groceries, as part of Ndlambe Municipality's ongoing commitment to victim support and community care.

The event concluded with a heartfelt prayer, marking a meaningful close to a day of unity, strength and awareness.

Ndlambe Municipality extended its heartfelt appreciation to Pick n Pay Heritage, Port Alfred Nemato Spar and Port Alfred Buco for their generous support.

Port Alfred Contesting for TOWN OF THE YEAR

Port Alfred has recently taken part in the Town of the Year competition! This exciting platform showcases the beauty, development and potential of towns across the country — and Port Alfred proudly represented the Ndlambe region.

As part of the feature, our Community Services Deputy Director Fanie Fouche along with other prominent stakeholders spoke passionately about what makes Port Alfred a special place — from its stunning coastline and vibrant communities to its investment opportunities and warm hospitality.



Blue Flag Status for Various Ndlambe Beaches

On Friday, 31 October 2025 Ndlambe Municipality was proudly awarded Blue Flag Status for Kelly's Beach, Kariega Beach, and Kenton-On-Sea's Middle Beach at the prestigious WESSA National Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards Ceremony held at the Royal St Andrews Hotel in Port Alfred.

This recognition reaffirms Ndlambe's commitment to environmental sustainability and coastal excellence. Notably, Kelly's Beach celebrated an outstanding milestone, receiving Blue Flag Status for the 20th consecutive year — a remarkable achievement that showcases the municipality's dedication to maintaining world-class standards.

Blue Flag and Green Coast certificates were presented to municipalities across South Africa for beaches, marinas and tourism charters that meet international criteria for safety, environmental management and education. Ndlambe Municipality management extended heartfelt appreciation to Fanie Fouche, Mark Dixon, his Blue Flag team working with residents and business for their continued efforts in keeping our beaches clean and safe for all. Together, we continue to make Ndlambe a leading coastal destination.



Expanded Public Works Programme

Ndlambe Municipality, in proud partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, had a good story to tell! Through the Environmental Programmes Branch, 332 residents were employed to help address pressing environmental challenges as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The appointed workers were tasked with cleaning and maintaining our coastal areas, stretching from Bushmans River to Fish River, ensuring that our shores remain safe, clean and environmentally sound.

The EC-WftC (Working for the Coast) project officially began in June last year and continued until the end of November.

Ndlambe Municipality congratulated the new team and extended its best wishes as they played a crucial role in both conserving our environment and uplifting our communities through job creation. Let us continue building a cleaner, greener Ndlambe together!



Councillor's Competition Brings Light To Issues Surrounding Social Media Use

In September 2025, Ward 5 Councillor Mzwandile Sweli brought together learners from Velile High School and Qhayiya Primary School for an engaging educational programme targeting Grade 8 and 9 pupils. The initiative aimed at sharpening learners' intellectual skills while also raising awareness about the responsible use of social media.

The programme featured two key activities: a spelling competition and a debate on the pros and cons of social media. Qhayiya Primary School emerged victorious in the debate, convincingly arguing that social media presents more disadvantages than advantages for learners. Velile High School, however, redeemed themselves by excelling in the spelling competition, proudly taking first place.

Adding weight to the discussions, Bathurst SAPS officers graced the occasion and addressed learners about critical issues linked to social media misuse. They highlighted dangers such as cyberbullying, the creation of fake accounts to insult others and the risks of online kidnapping.

Councillor Sweli closed the day on a celebratory note, ensuring that all participating learners received medals in recognition of their efforts and participation.

IDP Forum

On September 5, 2025 Ndlambe Municipality convened an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Forum meeting, bringing together ward councillors and municipal officials. The session provided a platform for directors and heads of various municipal departments to present detailed presentations reflecting projects that address community needs in the current financial year (2025/2026).

The presentations outlined specific projects to be implemented across all wards, with clear timeframes for delivery. Following the meeting, ward councillors embarked on community engagements, sharing feedback with their respective wards. Those consultations gave residents an opportunity to understand planned projects and strengthen community participation in the municipality's service delivery programmes.





Special Build-Up To Human Rights Day

In a special build-up to Human Rights Day, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs, and Tourism MEC Nonkqubela Pieters arrived with a mission to empower small businesses at Titi Jonas in March last year. Informal traders and entrepreneurs from Ndlambe and Makana gathered with hopeful hearts, ready to take the next step toward business growth.

With a warm smile, she handed over much-needed machinery and equipment to 13 hardworking entrepreneurs, each one determined to create a sustainable future.

"This is not just equipment," MEC Pieters said firmly. "This is an opportunity. Use it wisely to grow your businesses and increase your income."

She stressed the importance of commitment, warning against selling the equipment for quick gains. "I will personally follow up to see how your businesses are doing," she assured them.

"This is an opportunity. Use it wisely to grow your businesses and increase your income."



Grass-cutting Equipment for Local SMME

As part of Ndlambe Municipality's ongoing support for local SMMEs, Mayor K. Ncamiso donated two grass cutting machines to KF Silungu Trading in June. This gesture aligns with the municipality's commitment to promoting small business growth and job creation.

Upon receiving the donation, a grateful and soft-spoken Lethu Frank Silungu expressed his appreciation, saying the equipment would go a long way in helping him expand his business operations and take on more work within the community.

World Play Day at the Port Alfred Civic Centre



In May 2025, Ndlambe Municipality in partnership with the Kariega Foundation commemorated World Play Day at the Port Alfred Civic Centre. Staff members from both organisations participated in a variety of fun-filled team-building activities, including football, netball, aerobics and tug of war.

The event aimed to promote wellness, collaboration and the spirit of togetherness among colleagues. While the day was marked by excitement and camaraderie, the Municipality assures the public that all essential services remain uninterrupted and fully operational.

Information Day On Pineapple Production



The Department of Agriculture recently held an Information Day on Pineapple Production at Peninsula Farm in Bathurst, where farmers gathered to learn more about improving pineapple yields and production quality. The session was coordinated by Ms. Konjiswa Sali, the Extension Officer for the area, and supported by Mrs. Nontsikelelo Khatshaza from the Department's Deputy director coordination Ndlambe & Makana LM.

Farmers had an opportunity to hear from several experts and stakeholders, including:

- Mr. Hercules Dupreez from Kynoch Fertilizer Company, who spoke about their fertilizer solutions and shared tips on improving soil health and crop performance.
- Mr. Simbongile Lingishe, Horticulture Scientist, who gave valuable technical advice on pineapple management.
- Mr. Vusumzi Pefile from Rural Development, who shared information on land reform initiatives and farmer support programmes available to producers.

Mrs. Nontsikelelo Khatshaza also gave an insightful presentation on the Ilima/Letsema (Ilima Lokulima) Programme, explaining how farmers can access production inputs and support to boost food security and productivity. She also touched on aggregator opportunities and other services the Department offers, such as extension support, farmer development and market access.

One of the farmers, Mr. Chris Gidana from Orange Grove Farm, who also serves as Chairperson of the Bathurst and Port Alfred Farmers Association, encouraged farmers to work together. He reminded those who are already successful in the industry to motivate and support smallholder farmers so that everyone can grow together.

Mr. Thembekile Mbunge, Local Economic Development Officer from Ndlambe Local Municipality, also attended and emphasized the importance of partnerships between government, agribusiness and farmers in building strong and sustainable local agricultural economies.



The Office of the Premier's Isiqalo Fund Support Programme

Ndlambe Municipality welcomed Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane on 27 November 2025, accompanied by the Department of Water and Sanitation and Sarah Baartman District Municipality, for a visit that brought meaningful progress to local economic development.

The visit marked a proud moment for local entrepreneur Robyn May, owner of Ndlambe Tanks, who received critical business equipment as part of the Office of the Premier's Isiqalo Fund support programme. Ndlambe Tanks, a Port Alfred-based manufacturer of rainwater tanks, received machinery aimed at expanding production capacity to meet growing demand from clients across the region.

The donated equipment includes a colour mixer and a rotational moulding machine, both essential for scaling up the manufacturing process and enhancing product quality.

Stakeholders present reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the business beyond the equipment handover. They pledged to walk with Robyn May through all necessary compliance processes to ensure the business is fully aligned with regulatory requirements and positioned for sustainable growth.

An emotional and soft-spoken Robyn May expressed heartfelt gratitude to Ndlambe Municipality for its ongoing support and extended appreciation to the Office of the Premier for its guidance and fairness throughout the application process.

Ndlambe Municipality celebrated this milestone as a clear demonstration of government's commitment to empowering local businesses and strengthening community-based economic development.

Book Club Festival At Graaf Reinet



The first day of the Book Club Festival elimination rounds recently took place in Graaff-Reinet, hosted by the Department of Arts and Culture and Recreation in partnership with the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality. This vibrant two-day event brought together learners from various schools to celebrate literature, literacy and the joy of reading.

On Day One, the Ndlambe Municipality Libraries proudly celebrated the achievements of our young champions:

- Avuyonke Mxabanisi – 3rd Place, IsiXhosa Book Review, from Kuyasa Combined School. Avuyonke walked away with a stylish bag and a smartwatch.
- Masiluve Bavuma – 2nd Place, English Book Review, also from Kuyasa Combined School. Masiluve won a branded bag and a tablet.

Day Two was aligned with International Literacy Day 2025, celebrated under the theme: “Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era.”

The theme highlights the importance of equipping people of all ages with the skills to navigate, evaluate and create content in a rapidly evolving technological world. The celebration in Graaff-Reinet demonstrated how books, technology and creativity can work together to empower communities and shape a literate informed future.

Once again, Ndlambe shone brightly:

- Ngogela Agcobile – 2nd Place, Treasure Hunt Activity, from Nomzamo High School. He won a branded bag and an 8-inch tablet.
- Cuan Hendricks – 1st Place, Afrikaans Quiz, from Station Hill Primary School. He proudly took home a branded bag and a 10-inch tablet.
- Iminathi Gongqoba – 3rd Place, Izaci namaqhalo (Proverbs), from Nompucuko High School. Iminathi won a branded bag and a smartwatch.

Ndlambe Municipality Libraries also received prestigious recognition:

- Most Innovative Municipality in Outreach and Marketing Programmes.
- Freestone Public Library – Most Compliant Library in Revenue Collection.

Zinyuse brings back esteemed Comrades Marathon Medal



Ndlambe Municipality extended its heartfelt congratulations to our very own staff member, Mr. Zinyuse Zonwabele Maka, who proudly returned to work adorned with a medal from the recent Comrades Marathon held in KwaZulu-Natal last year.

Maka successfully completed the gruelling race from Pietermaritzburg to Durban in an impressive time of 10 hours, 48 minutes and 13 seconds. Last year marked his fifth time participating in this prestigious ultra-marathon.

As a true running enthusiast, Maka consistently trains after work hours, embodying discipline, resilience and dedication-values we deeply admire and celebrate. We are incredibly proud of his achievement and the positive spirit he brings to both his work and personal passions.



Mandela Day Honours

On July 18, 2025, Ndlambe Municipal Mayor K.C. Ncamiso, alongside Ward 9 Cllr Siyabulela Melani, Ward 8 Cllr Ayanda Bukani, Ward 7 Cllr Sibusiso Zweni and Cllr Xolisa Runeli visited vulnerable families and gender-based violence victims to hand over donations in honour of Mandela Day.



Sarah Baartmaan District Municipality's Core Development Priorities Outlined

The Sarah Baartman District Municipality (SBDM) hosted its Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget Outreach meeting at the Ndlambe Municipality Council Chambers last year, engaging with local stakeholders on the district's developmental priorities and financial plans.

The session was led by the Executive Mayor of Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Cllr Deon de Vos, alongside the Mayor of Ndlambe Municipality, Cllr Khululwa Ncamiso.

In his address, Mayor de Vos outlined SBDM's core development priorities, which include:

- Infrastructure Development – investing in roads, water, sanitation and other key infrastructure to support economic growth and improve quality of life.
- Local Economic Development – promoting sustainable job creation, tourism and support for SMMEs across the district;
- Municipal Financial Viability and Good Governance – ensuring sound financial management, clean audits and efficient municipal operations.
- Basic Service Delivery – enhancing access to essential services such as water, sanitation, and waste management for all communities in the district.

Spaza-shop funding made easy



The Eastern Cape Department of Small Business Development, in partnership with Ndlambe Municipality and Sarah Baartman District Municipality, hosted a Spaza Shop Support Fund workshop at the Ndlambe Municipality Council Chambers on 24 October 2025. The event drew a large turnout of small business owners from Ndlambe and nearby towns, filling the venue to capacity. Ndlambe Municipal Speaker Cllr Andile Marasi officially opened the workshop, followed by an informative presentation by officials from the Department of Small Business Development.

According to the department, R500 million in funding had been made available to support South African spaza shop owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. The programme offers three funding categories:

1. Stock Support (Grant): Applicants can apply for stock funding up to R40 000, which is a full grant.
2. Assets and Infrastructure: This category supports the renovation and upgrading of business infrastructure, with funding of up to R50 000. Fifty percent of this amount is a loan, repayable after six months over a five-year period.
3. Capacity Building: Applicants can also apply for up to R100,000 for business training and development.

Officials highlighted the low application rate, urging local entrepreneurs to seize this opportunity. It was reported that only 204 applications had been received across the Eastern Cape — with seven from the Sarah Baartman District and only one from Ndlambe Municipality.

The Spaza Shop Support Fund was launched in April this year in response to incidents of food poisoning linked to unsafe products sold in spaza shops. The initiative aims to promote compliance, food safety, and sustainability among township and rural businesses.

Interested individuals can apply online at www.spazashopfund.co.za, where full application requirements are also listed.

Ndlambe Municipality encourages all local small business owners to make use of this opportunity to strengthen and grow their enterprises.

Impactful Supplier's Day Competition offers financial boost for local SMME's



Recently, Ndlambe Municipality in partnership with Standard Bank, proudly hosted a successful and impactful Supplier's Day Competition at the Port Alfred Civic Centre. The event celebrated local entrepreneurship and provided a platform for SMMEs to showcase their innovation and potential.

Three outstanding local businesses emerged victorious, walking away with cash prizes that helped elevate their enterprises to new heights. QhaweQha Multi Talent Agri Cosmetic (Pty) Ltd claimed first place, receiving R75,000 from Standard Bank. In second place, Ellos Laundry Service walked away with R50,000, while Mlatsha General Trading secured third place, taking home R25,000.

This competition followed a call made in August, when Ndlambe Municipality in collaboration with Standard Bank invited all local SMMEs to submit their innovative business proposals for funding consideration. The three winning proposals stood out for their creativity and sustainability,

The event was further enriched by the participation of key stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development, SANParks, DEDEAT, National Empowerment Fund, Sarah Baartman District Municipality, NYDA, CIDB, and SEFA, who shared valuable information about funding and support opportunities available to local businesses.

Ndlambe Municipality extended warm congratulations to the winners and wished them continued success in growing their businesses and contributing to the local economy.

SANParks Vision 2040 Indaba



The Ndlambe Municipality Local Economic Development (LED) Unit, together with Ekuphumleni Kenton-On-Sea Fishing Cooperative and Alexandria QaweQha Agro-Cosmetic, proudly participated in the SANParks Vision 2040 Indaba, which took place in Gqeberha from 3 – 5 September 2025. The indaba served as a critical platform for dialogue, innovation, and collaboration aimed at shaping sustainable pathways for the future of conservation and economic development.

The three-day gathering brought together a diverse range of stakeholders including government departments, farming communities, academia, civil society, private sector players, land claimant communities, donors, sponsors, conservation partners and youth representatives. Participants shared valuable insights and expertise in their respective fields, with a strong emphasis on linking conservation with socio-economic development, rural empowerment and inclusive growth.

For Ndlambe Municipality, participation in this indaba created an opportunity to showcase local initiatives such as fisheries and agro-cosmetic enterprises that contribute to community livelihoods while promoting sustainable resource management.



Kenton-On-Sea Ratepayer's Meeting

Ndlambe Municipality management held a constructive, solution-based meeting with Kenton-On-Sea ratepayers recently, focusing on the ongoing water supply interruptions affecting Wards 3 and 4.

During the meeting, residents presented a memorandum of grievances and demands relating to the water crisis. This followed an initial set of questions previously sent to Ndlambe Municipality, to which management provided responses during the engagement. Understandably, emotions ran high as some residents expressed dissatisfaction, highlighting the seriousness of the issue and its impact on daily lives.

In response, Ndlambe Municipality highlighted progress made since the recent handover of the Bushmans River Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant from Amatola Water Board. Management confirmed that Sizwe Amanzi had been contracted as the service provider to operate and maintain the plant efficiently. Representatives from the service provider were also present at the meeting and assured residents that many of the concerns raised were directly addressed in their submitted proposals.

While acknowledging that the RO Plant was currently underperforming due to its state of disrepair, the service provider emphasized that this was not a dead end. They specialize in remanufacturing, operating, and maintaining similar assets, and committed themselves to restoring the plant's efficiency. Their explanations gave residents renewed hope, showing that tangible solutions were underway.

Ndlambe Municipality sincerely thanked all attendees for their meaningful discussions, patience and tolerance during the engagement. We assured the community that every concern raised had been taken into account and would be attended to as part of our ongoing commitment to improving service delivery.



Interns Successful Induction

Ndlambe Municipality proudly welcomed and inducted 13 interns in June 2025 as part of the internship programme supported by the Eastern Cape Office of the Premier in partnership with Chippa United.

The interns, who hold qualifications in Management Assistant, Business Management, Electrical Engineering, Financial Management, and Public Management, were warmly received by Mayor Cllr K. Ncamiso, Cllr S. Kolose and the Human Resources management team.

During the induction, the interns were congratulated on their achievements and encouraged to make the most of the opportunity. HR management also guided the enthusiastic group through the municipal code of conduct, ensuring they understood the standards and responsibilities expected of them as part of the Ndlambe team.

Initiation Training And Workshop



The Office of the Speaker of Ndlambe Municipality, Cllr A. Marasi, convened an Initiation Forum meeting in June to assess the state of readiness for the upcoming 2025 winter initiation season. The meeting brought together key local stakeholders, including representatives from the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Department of Health, traditional surgeons, church leaders and members of the various Ndlambe Initiation Ward Forums.

During the session, each Ward Forum reported on its level of preparedness and provided updates on the number of boys registered to undergo the initiation process. Both SAPS and the Department of Health confirmed their full readiness, affirming that all health and safety protocols were in place to support a safe and dignified initiation period.

Speaker Marasi reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to supporting the process, highlighting that Ndlambe Municipality would continue to provide water and other essential services to ensure the well-being of initiates across the region.

Ndlambe traditional surgeons (iingcibi) and caregivers (amakhankatha) attended a training session at the Ndlambe Municipality Council Chambers ahead of December Initiation Season. The training was facilitated by Ikamva Lesizwe Institute in collaboration with the Department of Health, with SAPS also taking part.

The programme focused on legal regulations and the Bill of Rights that protect initiates. Participants were being educated on how cultural practices intersect with health and safety, as well as the legal requirements regarding the appropriate age for initiation.



Summer Initiation Season Launched

During summer initiation season Ndlambe Municipal Speaker Cllr A. Marasi, together with his Initiation Committee which includes religious leaders, ward councillors, SAPS officers and Department of Health officials visited initiates across all Ndlambe wards to assess their wellbeing during that sacred passage to manhood.

Speaker Marasi expressed his satisfaction at finding the initiates in good health and spirits. He commended the Initiation Committee for the exceptional work they continued to do in monitoring the progress and safety of initiates throughout the season.

Addressing the initiates, Speaker Marasi encouraged them to refrain from alcohol abuse, drug use and negative peer pressure. He further urged them to pursue their education once they completed that important cultural journey.

Drawing from his own life experience, he said; "After this stage, go back to school and to church. These are the only institutions that have a proven record of shaping good men. Education and church helped me become the person I am today."

He also emphasised the urgent need to end gender-based violence, noting that it has become a national crisis: "In South Africa, unemployment and alcohol abuse used to be our major challenges, but now gender-based violence has become another crisis. When you come out of this, respect this tradition and help change this narrative."

Ndlambe Municipality remains committed to supporting safe initiation practices and nurturing responsible, respectful young men within our communities.



Proposed Name Change Meeting Held

On 6 August 2025, the Eastern Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee (ECPGNC) held a heated stakeholder engagement on the proposed name changes of Kowie and Port Alfred. The meeting, held at the Port Alfred Town Hall Civic Centre, was set to engage key stakeholders on the applications for renaming the Kowie River and Port Alfred. However, it became clear early on that many residents felt insufficiently informed about the meeting's date — a requirement that, by law, must be communicated 14 to 21 working days in advance.

In response to these concerns, the Eastern Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee (ECPGNC), in collaboration with Ndlambe Municipality, agreed to reschedule the meeting. The revised date for the stakeholder meeting was confirmed for 10 September 2025, aligning with legal consultation timeframes and ensuring wider community awareness and participation.

One of the key issues raised during the session was around the definition and scope of the term "stakeholder." Some individual homeowners expressed concern that the term might exclude ordinary residents. In clarifying this, Mr Martin, an official from the ECPGNC, reassured attendees that all entities, organisations and individuals — even if representing a small group — are considered stakeholders. This clarification opened the door for broader participation and ensured that no voice was left out of the dialogue.

Ndlambe Municipal Speaker Cllr Andile Marasi encouraged interested stakeholders to submit their names to his office ahead of the next meeting. The upcoming stakeholder session was to be followed by a public meeting, where all members of the community would have the opportunity to express their views before any decisions were finalised.

This proactive step by the municipality and the ECPGNC showed a commitment to transparency, inclusivity and lawful governance in addressing sensitive matters such as geographical name changes. The postponement was not a delay, but a solution-focused approach to ensure that the process was fair, representative and participatory

Water And Sanitation Projects Inspected By Premier



The Eastern Cape Office of the Premier, the Department of Water and Sanitation, and the Sarah Baartman District Municipality were in Ndlambe on 27 November 2025 for a two-day visit to assess ongoing and completed water and sanitation projects. Their programme included inspections of key sites in Port Alfred aimed at strengthening service delivery for local communities. The delegation began its visit at the Nemato Water Filtration Plant and the Nuwater Treatment Plant, where Ndlambe's Infrastructure Director, Dr Masiza, provided a detailed overview of the systems that ensure safe and reliable water supply for residents.

Dr Masiza explained that the first Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant is a 2.3-megalitre ultrafiltration system, producing 2.3 million litres of water per day for residents of Nemato, Thornhill and surrounding upgrading projects. Ndlambe requires approximately 8.3 megalitres daily during peak periods, and this plant plays a critical role in augmenting supply—currently enabling the municipality to meet 6.3 megalitres per day.

She highlighted that when the plant was tested in December 2024, no water complaints were recorded, demonstrating its effectiveness in meeting demand. The plant has since been upgraded with more powerful pumps, allowing improved water pressure and supply to high-lying areas that previously experienced interruptions.

The plant uses a membrane filtration system, a modern technology that enhances efficiency and ensures high water quality. Its built-in SCADA system allows for real-time monitoring and immediate detection of any water quality issues, reducing reliance on lab results and improving response times.

"This new technology positions Ndlambe to move away from conventional systems and operate more sustainably," said Dr Masiza. "We want Ndlambe to become a hub of innovation and green technology." She added that the Municipality is applying for R12 million in government funding to install systems that will further optimise the plant's energy use. Savings from reduced Eskom costs will be redirected to other service delivery priorities.

The visit continued at the Wharf Street Sewerage Pumpstation, where Dr Masiza explained the importance of the newly developed infrastructure. "This pumpstation collects sewerage from both town and the township," she said. "We redesigned it in partnership with the Department of Water and Sanitation due to repeated vandalism at various pumpstations. We could not risk sewer overflows, as that is a significant health hazard."

To prevent contamination and protect the Kowie River, the Municipality constructed an emergency holding dam to manage sewerage inflow during system interruptions. The project was completed in phases, with extensive work carried out to ensure resilience and environmental protection.

Dr Masiza expressed appreciation to the Department of Water and Sanitation for its ongoing support in Ndlambe's water and sanitation improvement projects.



The Department of Social Development hosted a vibrant Youth Day programme

In commemoration of Youth Month, Ndlambe Municipality in partnership with the Department of Social Development hosted a vibrant Youth Day programme in Marselle on June 27, 2025. As part of the initiative, Cllr Siphokazi Dyakala officially handed over car wash materials to 13 selected young business owners from across Ndlambe on behalf of Mayor K.C. Ncamiso. The programme aimed to support youth-led businesses and was further highlighted by the donation of a dance kit to the Abantwana Group from Bathurst.

Cllr Dyakala praised the car wash entrepreneurs for their resilience in the face of tough economic conditions. The event was also attended by fellow councillors Randy Asanda Nyumka and Kolose, who came to show their support for the life-changing youth empowerment programme.



Ndlambe Municipality proudly hosted a high-level delegation led by the office of the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande

On Monday, 8 September 2025, Ndlambe Municipality proudly hosted a high-level delegation led by the office of the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande. The delegation included officials from the Department of Human Settlements, and Nelson Mandela University.

Their visit to Ekuphumleni Eco Sun Green Village formed part of an oversight inspection ahead of Minister Nzimande's forthcoming official handover of the newly built Multipurpose Centre and Eco Sun Green Village to Ndlambe Municipality.

The state-of-the-art facility, constructed by CSIR in partnership with the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, is a model of innovation and sustainability. It features a digital hub to expose Ndlambe youth to technology, a water treatment chlorination plant that processes grey water, and an inverter room fitted with lithium iron batteries supporting the solar panel system.

During the walkabout, the delegation assessed key elements of the facility, including the stormwater retention pond and the 10 houses under construction for elderly beneficiaries. This meticulous inspection aimed to ensure that all aspects of the development meet the required standards before the official handover by Minister Nzimande on a date yet to be confirmed.

The Eco SUN Sustainable Village model offers a comprehensive infrastructure package that integrates ecological technologies in an innovative way. This includes ecological sanitation (Ecosan), safe drinking water systems, renewable and solar energy solutions, and sustainable housing. A central feature is the technology and community hub, which connects directly to individual homes, supporting both household hygienic needs and broader community services.

Key benefits of the EcoSUN model include the treatment and reuse of greywater for toilet flushing and laundry, access to safe tap water via centralized or point-of-use systems, and the use of solar energy for heating—replacing fossil fuels with cost-effective and sustainable alternatives. Architectural designs are tailored to local conditions, balancing technological requirements with community needs.

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In pursuit of this vision, Ndlambe Municipality has partnered with:

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Eastern Cape Department of Human Settlements (ECDHS)
- Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI)
- Nelson Mandela University (NMU)
- University of Potsdam (Germany)
- National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC)
- Green Building Council
- Agrément South Africa
- The community of Ndlambe

The Kenton-on-Sea EcoSUN Green Village is a groundbreaking initiative in sustainable human settlement development, integrating ecological sanitation, renewable energy, and innovative housing technologies.

While the project has faced challenges — particularly delays in the completion of ISBT houses and compliance issues with the contractor — significant progress has been achieved. Notable milestones include the completion of the Multipurpose Centre (MPC) and the successful certification of its solar electrical system.

However, housing delivery delays have affected the rollout of infrastructure and postponed beneficiary occupation. The Municipality is actively engaging with the NHBRC to resolve compliance matters and ensure uninterrupted project implementation.

The Eco Green Village project, inspired by Infrastructure Director Viti-Masiza's PhD research, stands as a transformative model for future human settlements. It not only underscores Ndlambe Municipality's commitment to sustainable development but also positions the region as a pioneer in eco-friendly community living.





Alexandria Usave Opens

On 22 May 2025, Ward 2 Councillor Phumlani Khungwayo joined the official opening of the new Usave store in Alexandria. As part of the programme, Councillor Khungwayo participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking an important milestone in local economic development within the town.

The opening of the Usave store brought much-needed convenience to the residents of Alexandria, who are now able to save both time and money that was previously spent travelling long distances to purchase groceries. The store also created improved access to affordable goods for the local community.

Ndlambe Municipality welcomed the addition of this major retail outlet, which contributed positively to the local economy and strengthened retail services in Alexandria.



Heritage Day Celebrations

On September 24, 2025 Civic Centre Hall was alive with colour, rhythm and heritage as Ndlambe residents came together to celebrate Heritage Day. The dress code said it all – Xhosa attire filled the room, reminding us that indeed it was a true heritage celebration.

As you'd expect in any African gathering, music took centre stage, with Maskandi artists keeping everyone on their feet. Local SMMEs also joined in the celebration, with catering entrepreneurs selling delicious traditional food and traders showcasing beautiful traditional clothing.

Our Mayor K.Ncamiso, Sarah Baartman District Mayor Cllr Deon De Vos, Ndlambe Municipal Speaker, Cllr Marasi, Cllr Dyakala and Director Maneli-Payi added even more sparkle to the day, dressed to kill in their traditional attire.

Heritage, culture, food and music – Ndlambe celebrated it all in style!

Sithi Huntshu Mazi enethole kumququzeleli Mr JJ.

Clean Up Ndlambe!

Ndlambe Municipality's dedicated general staff members led by Patrick, took to the streets of Nemato recently to improve the local environment. The team carried out a thorough cleanup along Runeli Drive Street, ensuring the area remains tidy and free of litter. In addition, they trimmed overgrown grass at Jauka Hall Community Hall, enhancing the space for community use. Let's all do our part, keep our environment clean and litter-free!



Demarcation board presents draft

On May 22, 2025 the Municipal Demarcation Board presented the draft ward configuration for Ndlambe Municipality to local residents at the Civic Centre Hall. During the session, residents were taken through the processes followed by the Board when redrawing ward boundaries. It was explained that the draft configuration was based on the number of registered voters and the voting stations information received from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

As this was a draft presentation, residents were encouraged to actively participate in the process by submitting their objections or comments. The deadline for submissions was 30 June 2025.

Fun and Games

SUDOKU

Puzzle

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cool2know

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Impressão de grilla de sudoku
by: Claudio Rodrigues

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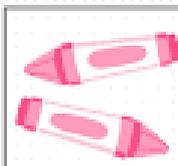
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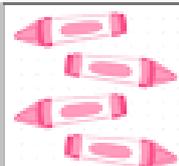
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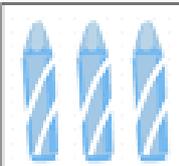
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