



### Mhangwana joins GTM from Greater Giyani

Greater Tzaneen Municipality (GTM) mayor, Gerson Molapisane welcomes the new municipal manager of GTM, Donald Mhangwana on his first day on April 1. Mhangwana was appointed by the GTM'S council on March 29 from the Greater Giyani Municipality where he served as the chief financial officer. He obtained a BCom Accounting degree from the University of Limpopo and a MBA from Mancosa among others. He has extensive experience in provincial and local government. His appointment comes after the previous municipal manager, Thapelo Matlala resigned from his position with immediate effect in August last year. He was succeeded by Alex Nkuna in an acting capacity. In February, Benjamin Mathebula replaced Nkuna, also in an acting position.

# School feeding scheme receives R1.5 billion

**Tintswalo Shipalana**

A total amount of R1.530 billion has been allocated for the national school nutrition programme (NSNP) by the Department of Education in Limpopo.

This was presented by MEC for Education, Polly Boshielo, during her 2022/23 budget speech at the provincial legislature in Polokwane recently.

“The department implements the NSNP with an aim to improve the health and nutritional needs of learners from public schools in quintiles 1-3 and special schools.

“The NSNP provides learners with nutritious meals for specific number of school days over a year in order to alleviate hunger, access to education and to contribute to the enhancement of the learning capabilities.

“Since the implementation of NSNP, learners’ retention and punctuality levels have been positively recorded,” she said. Boshielo also mentioned that voluntary

food handlers have increased from the previous financial year.

An amount of R35.345 million has been allocated for the sanitary dignity programme.

In March the department officially

launched the Programme at Tshivhase Secondary School in the Vhembe East Education District.

According to the MEC, in the 2021/2022 financial year, 2.3 million packs of sanitary pads were procured and distributed to 195 000 girl learners

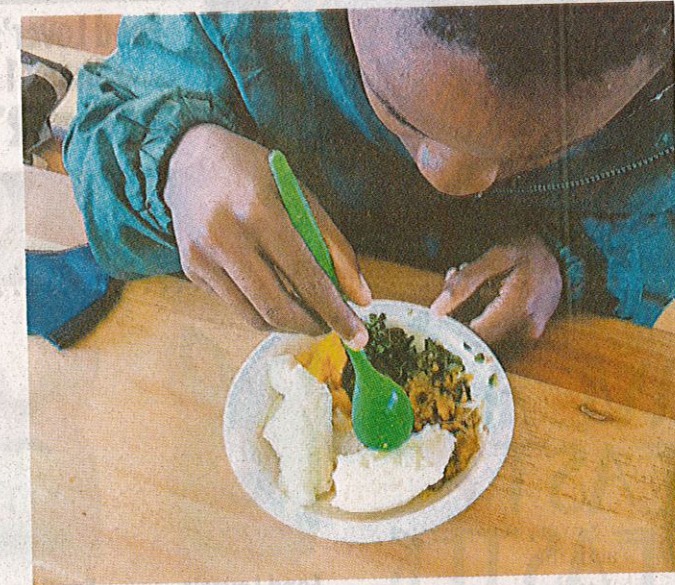


Photo: Department of Basic Education Twitter @DBE\_SA.

in quintiles 1-3 public and special schools.

The department has also allocated funds toward projects such as R26.875 million for life skills, HIV/Aids programmes.

The total infrastructure development budget amounts to R1.534 billion.

Schools that are scheduled to start with construction this year are Naledi ya Meso Secondary School, Alldays Primary School, Gidela High School, Marude High School, Mahlagaume Primary School and Leduma Mahume Primary School.

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# Matlala's "Silk Roads" finally materialize

Joe Dreyer

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality officially opened the resurfaced Boundary Street on Friday morning the 8th of April during a brief ceremony. Mayor Gerson Molapisaane, the newly elected Municipal Manager Donald Mhangwana, the Ward Councillor for Ward 15 Chrizelle Dreyer, and the Roads Manager for the GTM Olga Tshisevhe, were all present.

In his brief address to the media the mayor said he was extremely proud of the work the municipality's engineering department accomplished in their partnership with local private civil construction company, Quality Plant Hire. "It is work such as this that we can be proud of and look upon as comparable to infrastructure anywhere else in the country," he said. "Thank you to Quality and their team for the outstanding workmanship on not only this road, but Billy Maritz Street as well. Through proper and constant maintenance these roads will have a very long lifetime and be a part of our legacy."

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the group which included Hans Nienaber, Ampie Vermeulen, Wendy Rasetsoka (Safety Officer) and Phelo Mdani (Project Assistant) of Quality Plant Hire, William Molokomme, the GTM director of Civil Engineering, Olga Tshisevhe, Roads Manager of the GTM, and Constance Ramatswana the head of Infrastructure, left to Billy Maritz Street where the road was turned from a pothole-laden tyre-eating gauntlet into a proverbial silk road.

Councillor Dreyer thanked the mayor and the construction crews and added that the public has expressed their gratitude for the new roads and hoped that soon they will enjoy this with all other roads within the municipality. "It may seem like something trivial, it's just a road after all, but as a parent with young school going children, I can promise you that the hectic morning commute has just become a lot more bearable. Boundary and Billy Maritz Streets are vital arteries in ward 15 and carry a lot of traffic. Hopefully these roads will now be properly maintained to keep them in this condition for many years to

come."

**\*\*\*Editor's Comment:** In 2019 Thapelo Matlala, then municipal manager of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality had a meeting with me in his office. During this meeting we discussed a lot of things including the failing infrastructure and specifically the roads. Matlala at one point exclaimed that he had a vision of turning the street in Tzaneen, into "silk roads". In 2021 he approved the construction of the road that now links Boundary

Road to the R71 passed Sasol, and gave the go ahead for other similar rehabilitation projects. In September 2021 he suddenly resigned following an assassination attempt, unionists consistently calling for his head because he cut down on overtime, and many legal battles over illegal tenders which essentially made it difficult for him to be an effective accounting officer. In his absence it appears that what he set in motion has now gained momentum.



## Post office closed

Joe Dreyer

Letsitele's post office is closed temporarily due to an issue related to rent. The employees at Letsitele post office have been redeployed to other post offices including Tzaneen Post Office until such time as an agreement regarding the lease of the Letsitele building is resolved. "The SA Post Office is negotiating with the landlord and we hope to re-open it soon," said Johan Kruger of the South African Post Office's media department. "The employees have been deployed to post offices in the area to make sure the service is not affected by the increase in customers. Alternative post offices are the Tzaneen, Nkowanowa and Lenyenye post offices. We would like to apologise for this inconvenience."

## Mob kills woman

Jeff Jackson

A 37-year old woman believed to have been a Mashonisa (loan shark) was killed by an angry mob at Salema village on Monday evening. The Police received a complaint about an act of vigilantism in which a mob intended to burn down the house of a 37-year-old woman believed to be a money lender. The Police rushed to the scene and discovered that the mob had tied the victim to her motor vehicle and dragged her to the bushes. The mob then started to throw stones at the Police while they attempted to search for the victim.

Eventually the police officer resorted to the use of rubber bullets to disperse the crowds and managed to retrieve the victim. Afterwards, the mob

## Unlike anything you've seen

Joe Dreyer

The bush behind Best Drive in Tzaneen's infamous CBD is the epitome of disgusting. Not only do the taxi drivers do as they please there, street mechanics dump oil and spare parts into the stormwater drains and street hawkers erect their illegal shacks everywhere, but prostitution runs rife too.

A short walk into the overgrown bush will lead you to a site that is genuinely unbelievable when you first come across it (pun intended). Just a few metres from the railroad tracks the narrow footpath carved through the shrubbery by tavern patrons and opens up into a clearing big enough for two adults to perhaps lay side-by-side in.

It is evident however, that lying down is not the practice being exercised here. The first impression is that sex is being had there. A lot of sex. In fact, it could be deduced that whoever is having the sex among the bushes is either training for an Olympic sport, or is a vivacious supporter of local entrepreneurs.

Howsoever it may be, we sent this image to the spokesperson for the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Neville Ndlala, and the Councillor for Ward 15, Chrizelle Dreyer, under whose jurisdiction the area falls, to bring to their attention that something needs to be done to clean up that particular section of bush.

"I think prostitutes might be operating there," said Ndlala. "I will send the relevant team there to see what we can do." In her response, Dreyer said that the solution would not



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