

NEWSLETTER

Edward Vasco
Success Story

How a single
academic
experience
can change
one's life

**GRADUATES
SHAPING
SOUTH AFRICA'S
ENGINEERING
FUTURE**

"Committed to do more"



higher education
& training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Ehlanzeni TVET College

EHLANZENI TVET COLLEGE

celebrates

a major
achievement

with QCTO
accreditation for

72

occupational
programmes

Ehlanzeni TVET College
celebrates a major achievement
with QCTO accreditation for
72 occupational programmes,
reinforcing its position as a
leading provider of vocational
and occupational skills.

A world-class college
providing **relevant quality**
education and training.



TABLE OF CONTENT

4	MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
5	INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT
6	MESSAGE FROM THE CORPORATE SERVICES OFFICE
7	AGAINST ALL ODDS, DR. NTIMANE REACHES THE PINNACLE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
8	COLLEGE LEADERSHIP SETS DIRECTION AT 2026 OFFICIAL OPENING MEETING
9	HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER GONDWE VISITS MBOMBELA CAMPUS TO ASSESS THE 2026 STATE OF READINESS
11	SECOND SATVETSA ACADEMIC CONFERENCE FOR 2025
12	EDWARD VASCO SUCCESS STORY
13	TVET GRADUATE SHAPING SOUTH AFRICA'S ENGINEERING FUTURE
14	THE COLLEGE LAUNCHES THE END GBVF 100-DAYS CHALLENGE
16	THE COLLEGE VISITS HIGH SCHOOLS IN NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
17	STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL 2026 PLENARY
18	HOW A SINGLE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE CAN CHANGE ONE'S LIFE
18	EHLANZENI TVET COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS AT COSACSA PROVINCIAL ARTS AND CULTURE COMPETITION

MESSAGE FROM THE **PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE**

As we progress through 2026, Ehlanzeni TVET College continues to position itself as a modern, innovative and student-centred institution committed to academic excellence and skills development.

The beginning of the 2026 academic year marked significant improvements in our online application and registration systems. We successfully enhanced our digital platforms, resulting in smoother processes, fewer technical glitches and improved accessibility for students and parents. As a College, we remain committed to building a paperless environment and fully embracing digital solutions in teaching, learning, administration and student support services.

Our vision of becoming a world-class College remains at the centre of everything we do. We are dedicated to producing graduates who are employable, entrepreneurial and capable of making meaningful contributions to the economy of South Africa and the global community. Through quality education and practical training, we continue to empower young people with the knowledge and skills required in a rapidly changing world.

This year also marks an important transition in the Technical and Vocational Education and

Training sector as the phasing-out implementation of Report 191 programmes continues, with increased focus on Occupational Programmes. These programmes are industry-aligned and accredited by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). They combine theoretical knowledge, practical training and workplace experience to prepare learners for specific careers and trades.

The occupational programmes offered through TVET colleges are aligned with the country's critical skills needs and include fields such as Engineering and Construction, Automotive, Hospitality and Services, Business and ICT, as well as specialised trades such as Solar Photovoltaic Technology and Aircraft Maintenance. These programmes are designed to ensure that graduates are workplace-ready and equipped to participate meaningfully in the economy.

As a College, we remain committed to working closely with government departments, industry partners, communities, labour, students, parents and

all relevant stakeholders for the advancement and sustainability of the institution. Collaboration remains essential in ensuring that the College achieves its strategic objectives and continues to provide quality vocational education and training.

As we continue into the new academic year, I would also like to re-emphasise the importance of ethical conduct and professionalism among all employees of the College. Staff members are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, including compliance with regulations prohibiting employees from doing business with the state and the disclosure of any additional income generated outside of state employment.



**Mr EM Mbuyane:
College Principal**

**In closing, I wish to reaffirm my personal commitment to the College and to our shared vision for growth and excellence. Together, we will continue to live by our 2026 motto:
"Committed to Do More."**

INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Innovation and Development Unit continues to play a strategic role in strengthening institutional effectiveness through the integration of entrepreneurship development, partnerships, digital systems and administrative support functions. In February 2026, the Unit adopted a more coordinated and system-driven approach to improving operational efficiency, with a strong focus on stakeholder engagement, entrepreneurship, Information Technology (IT), Management Information Systems (MIS) and student registration.



Ms GVZ Matthews:
Deputy Principal Innovation
and Development

A key priority for the Unit is to promote and nurture entrepreneurship across the institution. Through various initiatives, students and graduates are encouraged to embrace innovation, self-employment and enterprise development. These efforts contribute to building a sustainable entrepreneurial culture while aligning with national priorities on inclusive economic participation and job creation. The Unit also facilitates access to opportunities through strategic partnerships and supports innovation-driven solutions.

Student registration remains a critical component of institutional efficiency and service delivery. During the reporting period, targeted interventions were introduced to improve data accuracy, accessibility and turnaround times. Administrative processes were streamlined and coordination across departments was strengthened. As a result, student access has improved and the institution now benefits from more reliable data to support planning, monitoring and reporting.

A major milestone was the successful implementation of 100% online registration for the academic cycle under the MIS. This achievement marks a significant step forward in the institution's digital transformation journey. The effective use of the ITS system enabled a robust and integrated platform for seamless data processing and improved system functionality. Strong collaboration between the Registration Unit and MIS team was key to this success. Data capturers and relevant personnel worked closely to ensure data integrity, system efficiency and a smooth user experience for students. This integrated approach has significantly improved operational efficiency and

strengthened real-time data reporting.

Information Technology (IT) played a vital supporting role in these advancements. Throughout the registration period, IT ensured the stability of online platforms, uninterrupted system performance and improved digital accessibility. This reflects the institution's growing capacity to leverage technology to enhance service delivery and overall user experience.

Another highlight during the period was the successful facilitation of a media stakeholder engagement by Corporate Communications. This initiative strengthened relationships with external stakeholders, enhanced institutional visibility and provided a platform to communicate key developments, achievements and priorities. It also contributed to greater transparency and positioned the institution more prominently within the post-school education and training sector.

The Unit also continued to strengthen its strategic partnerships and linkages. These collaborations support knowledge exchange, resource mobilisation and entrepreneurship development, creating opportunities for innovation, mentorship and sustainable growth.

In summary, the Innovation and Development Unit remains committed to driving institutional progress through a balanced focus on entrepreneurship, efficient registration systems, reliable IT infrastructure and strong stakeholder engagement. Key achievements, including the successful rollout of 100% online registration and the hosting of a media stakeholder engagement, reflect the Unit's ongoing commitment to innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement.

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The college remains committed to ensuring disability compliance throughout the implementation of all infrastructure projects.

Ms A Mayosi: Deputy Principal Corporate Services

MESSAGE FROM THE CORPORATE SERVICES OFFICE

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has confirmed the resumption of the migration process of ministerially approved posts from the Council payroll to the DHET payroll. This process will be undertaken in consultation with the College Implementation Committee (CIC), which comprises the Principal, Deputy Principals, Campus Managers, Assistant Director: Labour Relations, Assistant Director: Human Resources and relevant appointed union representatives, as stipulated in the business rules governing the migration process.

All ministerial approved posts that form part of the post provisioning norms structure are advertised nationally. In line with employment equity objectives, advertisements include a clause encouraging applications from previously disadvantaged groups and persons living with disabilities. This initiative seeks to address past imbalances and

support the College in achieving its Employment Equity (EE) targets.

Cleaning supervisors have also been appointed across all College sites to strengthen operational efficiency and maintain cleanliness standards.

The 2026/2027 performance agreements and annual performance assessments were submitted within the stipulated timeframes. In addition, the 2026 Training Plan was recommended by the Training Committee, approved by the Principal and submitted to the Regional Office within the required deadlines.

Capacity building for lecturers involved in delivering occupational programmes remains ongoing. Several academic staff members are currently pursuing an Advanced Diploma in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) through the University of Pretoria. Support staff members have also completed firefighter training and general residential repairs training

to enhance institutional skills and workplace readiness.

In an effort to strengthen relations and promote labour peace between management and employees, the Labour Forum continues to serve as a regulated platform with clear terms of reference to address labour-related challenges and celebrate successes within the College.

The College has appointed four panels of engineering consultants to support infrastructure development projects. Refurbishment of the student residence and hall at Mlumat Campus has resumed, while similar processes at Mapulaneng Campus are underway. These projects will contribute significantly towards the removal of asbestos, which poses a health and safety risk. The college remains committed to ensuring disability compliance throughout the implementation of all infrastructure projects.

At the Barberton Campus, electrical

damage has been repaired and the replacement of damaged guardhouse glass is currently underway. Roof leaks at the Central Office have also been repaired and maintenance work at Mashishing Campus is ongoing.

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Practitioner is a registered graduate member of the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (SAIOSH), a recognised professional body for Occupational Health and Safety in South Africa. Campus Managers have been appointed as Section 16.2 legal

appointees by the Principal, who serves as the Section 16.1 appointee.

Furthermore, OHS Committees, OHS Representatives, seventy-two (72) First Aiders and eighty (80) Firefighters have been appointed across all College sites to strengthen workplace safety and emergency preparedness.

As part of the College's commitment to employee well-being and productivity, the Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) Office continues to work diligently in addressing

challenges that may affect employee performance and well-being in the workplace.

The College remains compliant with the submission of Return of Earnings documentation and has obtained a Letter of Good Standing. In addition, the implementation of the Business Continuity Management Plan has resumed to ensure operational resilience and sustainability across the institution.

AGAINST ALL ODDS, DR. NTIMANE REACHES THE PINNACLE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Born in the heart of Masibekela, in Nkomazi area, Dr. Nonhlanhla Princess Ntimane has emerged as a beacon of dedication, resilience and academic excellence. Her journey which began with Ehlanzeni TVET College, Mlumatlwa Campus, on 1 February 2000, has now reached a remarkable milestone: the attainment of her Doctoral Degree. This achievement is a testament to her lifelong commitment to learning and her unwavering passion for education.

Dr. Ntimane's doctoral research focused on leadership and management among Heads of Departments (HODs). Through rigorous study, she identified critical gaps in existing literature and developed a unique research question aimed at strengthening leadership practices within TVET colleges.

Her path to this accomplishment was not without obstacles. Securing approval for data collection from various institutions proved challenging, with some participants withdrawing or failing to attend scheduled interviews. Undeterred, Dr. Ntimane adapted her approach, extending her research to private colleges while balancing full-time

work with demanding academic requirements and navigating logistical and financial challenges—all with remarkable perseverance.

Collaboration with colleagues remained a highlight of her journey. Through exchanging ideas and exploring innovative strategies, she not only expanded her own knowledge but also contributed valuable insights to the TVET sector.

Reflecting on her experience, Dr. Ntimane shares guidance for aspiring PhD students:



Set realistic expectations, prioritise self-care, build a strong support network and stay focused. Communicate with your supervisor, take breaks when needed and practice self-compassion. Stay organised, adaptable and never hesitate to seek help.



Dr NP Ntimane

She credits her success to the mentorship of Professor N. Ndou and the encouragement of Professor S. Mokoena, whose introduction to a supportive PhD group provided motivation throughout her journey.

In her current role as Education Specialist for Fundamentals, Dr. Ntimane's professional responsibilities are managing lecturers, conducting class visits, ensuring equitable resource distribution and supporting training needs which closely aligns with her

research while reinforcing high standards of teaching and learning at Ehlanzeni TVET College.

Dr. Ntimane's story is one of resilience, dedication and leadership. It serves as an inspiring reminder that great achievements are not born from ease but from steadfast commitment, a passion for education and a heart that refuses to give up. Her journey continues to motivate colleagues and students alike, exemplifying how perseverance and purpose can transform challenges into triumphs.

COLLEGE LEADERSHIP SETS DIRECTION AT 2026 OFFICIAL OPENING MEETING



Ehlanzeni TVET College successfully hosted its Official Opening Meeting at its Barberton Campus, formally marking the commencement of the 2026 academic year and setting the strategic direction for the months ahead.

The significant gathering brought together College leadership, staff, Student Representative Council (SRC) members, organised labour and key stakeholders in a unified platform of reflection, renewal and institutional alignment.

The programme was expertly directed by Ms SV Nkosi,

ensuring seamless proceedings throughout the event. Messages of support were delivered by SRC President Mr V Gininda, Mr IT Matjie representing organised labour and Ms P Shongwe from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Regional Office. Their contributions underscored the critical role of collaboration in promoting student success and maintaining a stable, enabling learning environment.

In his keynote address, College Principal Mr EM Mbuyane, supported by the Deputy Principals responsible for Corporate Services, Innovation and Development,

Finance and Academic Affairs, reflected on the institution's key milestones achieved during 2025. These included notable progress in academic performance, sound governance, institutional growth and strengthened stakeholder relations.

"Last year, 2025, demonstrated what can be achieved when we work together with a shared vision and commitment to excellence. As we move into 2026, our focus remains on strengthening quality teaching and learning, advancing innovation, ensuring institutional sustainability and supporting the holistic well-being of our students



**Mr EM Mbuyane:
College Principal**



**DR BJ Mwale:
Council Chairperson**

and staff,” said Mr Mbuyane.

The keynote address by Council Chairperson Dr BJ Mwale further reinforced the importance of ethical leadership and governance within the institution.

“A credible and successful institution is built on integrity, accountability and respect for the dignity of all members of its community. The Council remains committed to ensuring that the College continues to operate within a clean and ethical governance framework that places students and stakeholders at the centre of all decisions,” said Dr Mwale.

A highlight of the programme was the recognition of top-performing campuses for the 2025 academic year, announced by Deputy Principal for Academic Affairs, Mr BC Kwayiyo. The Barberton Campus was awarded Best Performance in NCV and Best Performance in Report 191: Business Studies. Mapulaneng Campus received recognition for Best Performance in Report 191: Engineering Studies. Mthimba Campus was honoured as the Overall Best-Performing Campus and Cleanest Campus, while Nelspruit Campus was acknowledged as Early Adopters of College initiatives.

The Official Opening Meeting served as a vital platform to celebrate excellence, reinforce unity among stakeholders and articulate a clear, forward-looking strategy for 2026.

HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER GONDWE VISITS MBOMBELA CAMPUS TO ASSESS THE 2026 STATE OF READINESS

The College welcomed the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mimmy Gondwe, to its Mbombela Campus as part of a national oversight programme led by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

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led by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the institution's state of readiness for the 2026 academic year and ensure in that academic

year, the delivery of infrastructure and student support services are fully prepared to serve students effectively from the beginning of the academic programme.



Mbombela Campus students

During the visit, the Deputy Minister engaged with students, management and key stakeholders, including representatives from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and the College's Student Representative Council. The engagement provided a valuable platform for open dialogue on achievements, existing challenges and opportunities within the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector.

In her address, Honourable, Dr Deputy Minister Gondwe emphasised the importance of expanding occupational programmes across college campuses, securing relevant programme accreditations, strengthening partnerships with Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) and enhancing opportunities for student workplace placement. She noted that the success of the TVET sector relies on strong collaboration between government, institutions, industry and students.

College Principal Mr EM Mbuyane highlighted the institution's key achievements during the 2025 academic year. Among these was the College's outstanding academic performance, having secured third position nationally in National Certificate Vocational (NCV) results. The College also received an unqualified audit report,

demonstrating the institution's commitment to sound governance, accountability and responsible financial management.

Deputy Minister Gondwe commended the College community for these accomplishments and encouraged management, staff and students to maintain the momentum in 2026 as the institution continues to strengthen its role in skills development and youth empowerment.

The visit concluded on a positive note, with the Deputy Minister expressing confidence in the College's preparedness for the academic year ahead and its continued commitment to delivering quality education and comprehensive student support services.



Hon. Dr Deputy Minister Gondwe



Hon. Dr Deputy Minister Gondwe, Dr BJ Mwale and Mr EM Mbuyane

SECOND SATVETSA ACADEMIC CONFERENCE FOR 2025

South African Technical and Vocational Education and Training Student Association held a three-day Academic Conference from 12–14 December 2025 at the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, bringing together key stakeholders from across the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. The conference created a valuable platform for engagement, reflection and collaboration among representatives of TVET College SRCs, college management, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), various Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), industry representatives, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and other strategic partners. Over three days, delegates engaged in meaningful discussions focused on strengthening academic delivery and shaping a more responsive, industry-aligned and sustainable TVET sector.

The conference officially commenced on Friday, 12 December 2025, in a vibrant and energetic atmosphere. From the outset, it was clear that

the gathering would serve as more than a routine engagement; it was a collective effort to address the most pressing challenges facing vocational education. Discussions on the first day centred on the relevance of current programme offerings and how future qualifications can better respond to the evolving needs of students and the labour market. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of aligning curricula with industry demands, strengthening partnerships with employers and ensuring that students graduate with practical, workplace-ready skills. The presence of the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela, added significance to the

occasion, highlighting government's commitment to advancing and transforming the TVET landscape.

Day two placed strong emphasis on the implementation of Occupational Programmes, a critical component in the ongoing transition within the sector. Representatives from QCTO, SETAs and industry contributed valuable insights into quality assurance, accreditation processes and workplace-based learning opportunities. Delegates engaged in solution-driven dialogue on improving programme rollout, lecturer capacitation and institutional readiness. The discussions reflected a shared commitment to ensuring that occupational qualifications are

effectively delivered and that they respond directly to the skills needs of the economy. Collaboration between colleges, quality assurance bodies and industry partners emerged as a central theme, with stakeholders reaffirming the need for coordinated action to strengthen academic standards and student outcomes.

On Sunday, 14 December 2025, the final day of the conference shifted the focus to the impact of TVET education on students and graduates. TVET alumni took centre stage, sharing inspiring success stories that



Conference attendees and Ms Choke SATVETSA President

demonstrated how vocational training has opened doors to employment, entrepreneurship and career growth. Their testimonies served as powerful reminders of the value of skills development in transforming lives and communities.

The programme also included important updates from NSFAS, where delegates unpacked developments affecting student funding and support systems. This session allowed stakeholders to engage constructively on matters impacting access to education and student success. The conference concluded with commission sittings dedicated to strategic discussions, particularly on the transition from traditional TVET programmes to Occupational Programmes. Delegates reflected on progress made, identified areas requiring further collaboration and mapped a way forward for a stronger, more agile TVET system.

Overall, the 2025 SATVETSA Academic Conference reinforced the importance of partnerships among government, quality assurance bodies, training authorities and industry. By bringing together diverse voices under one roof, the conference strengthened collective resolve to build a TVET sector that is inclusive, relevant and capable of equipping students with the skills required to thrive in a dynamic and evolving economy.



**Hon. Minister
Buti Manamela**

EDWARD VASCO SUCCESS STORY

Our college provides a strong foundation in engineering principles, which allows students to adapt to new challenges and technologies throughout their career. The hands-on learning experiences and collaborative projects at Ehlanzeni TVET College has helped students to develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed as a professional Electrical Engineer.

A young man by the name of Edward Vasco, who was born and raised in Barberton (Emjindini Trust), who was admitted by Ehlanzeni TVET College to study for Electrical Engineering at the Barberton Campus. He completed his N6 in Electrical Engineering in 2019 and graduated for his Diploma in 2022.

Edward was working while studying, which somehow resulted in him getting poor grades in one of his modules, since he had insufficient time devoted to studying which led to poor performance. He would sometimes come back from work tired and have less time to study. The only thing that encouraged him to continue studying hard is that he understood that Electrical Engineering Diploma graduates typically earn higher salaries than those with no qualification and also personal growth. He viewed college as a transformative experience that fosters personal growth, independence and self-discovery.

What drove him to finish his Diploma is his passion and interest of wanting to explore the real world, seeing the practical



Mr Edward Vasco

relevance and importance of learning. The perceived value of education and career opportunities, believing that a college Diploma will lead to better career prospects and higher earning potential. He is now employed by Barberton Mines as an Electrician and is also registered for a degree in Electrical Engineering at UNISA.

His experiences at Ehlanzeni TVET College have taught him the importance of collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. The skills have been essential in his success as an Electrical Engineer. The faculty and staff at Barberton Campus were exceptional mentors and role models. They instilled a passion for lifelong learning and commitment to making a positive impact in his field of study. Edward's time was a transformative experience that helped him to discover his strengths, passions and values. He is forever grateful for the opportunities that helped him to grow, learn and connect with others.



Mr Innocent
P. Mkhathshwa

“

Ehlanzeni TVET College proudly celebrates the inspiring journey of Innocent Prince Mkhathshwa, whose success story reflects the transformative impact of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in South Africa.

TVET GRADUATE SHAPING SOUTH AFRICA'S ENGINEERING FUTURE

Born and raised in the township of Pienaar, Mkhathshwa faced the challenges common to many first-generation students, including limited resources and financial constraints. Despite these obstacles, he remained focused on his goal of building a better future through education.

In 2016, he enrolled at Ehlanzeni TVET College's Mlumati Campus to pursue Electrical Engineering. He successfully completed his N1 and N2 qualifications before progressing to Barberton Campus, where he advanced from N3 to N6. In July 2018, he graduated with a National Diploma in Electrical Engineering.

His passion for engineering was driven by its practical applications and its ability to bring meaningful change to communities and society.

With unwavering support from his mother, Mkhathshwa persevered through financial hardships and completed his studies in record time. Reflecting on his journey, he said: "I knew that education was the key to changing my life and making an impact in my community."

Following his graduation, Mkhathshwa began his professional career at K2 Electrical, where he gained valuable industry experience. He later joined Lowveld Electrical, where he has

been working as a professional electrician since 2020. Throughout his career, he has not only strengthened his technical expertise but has also championed values such as accountability, transparency and community development and principles he attributes to his time at the College.

Encouraging aspiring engineers, Mkhathshwa emphasised the importance of resilience and innovation: "TVET colleges broaden your knowledge, enhance participation and strengthen your skills. They prepare you to make a tangible difference."

His journey highlights the critical

role that TVET institutions play in shaping South Africa's engineering future. These institutions are more than pathways to employment. They are hubs of innovation, practical skills development and nation-building.

The College remains committed to empowering students with industry-relevant skills and opportunities that enable them to contribute meaningfully to the economy and their communities.

Mkhatshwa's story stands as both an inspiration and a powerful reminder that practical skills education is key to unlocking South Africa's potential and building a brighter future for all.

THE COLLEGE LAUNCHES THE END GBVF 100-DAYS CHALLENGE



Students during the launch

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) remain urgent and deeply troubling challenges in South Africa. GBVF refers to violence and abuse directed at individuals because of their gender and is often linked to broader systems of inequality and discrimination. Femicide refers to the killing of women, often by intimate partners, which direct represents the most extreme and devastating form of this violence.

South Africa continues to experience one of the highest rates of GBVF globally, making it a serious societal and public health

concern. According to statistics from gbvf.org.za, in 2022, more than 8,000 women were murdered, over 11,000 women suffered serious assaults, while 243 children lost their lives due to violence. These alarming figures highlight the urgency for collective action from government institutions, civil society, educational institutions and communities.

On 27 February 2026, Ehlanzeni TVET College hosted the launch of the End GBVF 100-Days Challenge at Mbombela Campus. The initiative sends a clear message that the College stands firmly against gender-based violence and

femicide.

The Deputy Principal Academic of Ehlanzeni TVET College, Mr BC Kwayiyo, addressed participants on the various forms of gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, sexual violence, human trafficking and violence against marginalized communities. He encouraged students and staff to critically reflect on their role in either perpetuating or challenging harmful behaviours and called for collective responsibility in creating safer and more equitable environments.

A candle-lighting ceremony led by Dr Macuvela from the University

of Mpumalanga symbolised hope, remembrance and solidarity with survivors of gender-based violence. The ceremony served as a moment of reflection and unity as the College community reaffirmed its commitment to supporting victims and advocating for justice.

Participants also took part in a pledge-signing ceremony facilitated by Mr LD Lentsoane, Student Support Officer from Mthimba Campus. By signing the pledge, attendees committed themselves to actively working towards ending gender-based violence and supporting survivors.

During the programme, Ms Cynthia Mkhathshwa from the National Prosecuting Authority emphasised the need for a renewed and collaborative approach in tackling GBVF.

“While many organisations, particularly non-profit organisations, have worked tirelessly to address gender-based violence, the reality is that the current efforts alone have not achieved the impact we hoped for. We need a fresh and coordinated approach that focuses on collaboration rather than competition among stakeholders,” said Ms Mkhathshwa.

She further highlighted the importance of sustained community engagement and practical interventions that reach people at the grassroots level.

“The fight against GBVF cannot rely only on once-off awareness events. We need consistent, meaningful programmes that reach communities, educate young people and ensure that victims are supported while perpetrators are held accountable through the justice system,” she added.

Also addressing the gathering, Ms Miranda Mhlanga from the Department of Justice stressed that gender-based violence should never be treated as a private matter.

“Many incidents of GBVF occur behind closed doors,



but they are not private issues. They are serious crimes and violations of fundamental human rights. Women and girls have the right to live free from violence, discrimination and fear,” she said.

She further emphasised the need for stronger, multi-level interventions that address the social and systemic factors that contribute to violence, while ensuring that survivors have access to psychological support services and legal assistance.

The End GBVF 100-Days Challenge reflects Ehlanzeni TVET College’s commitment to fostering safe and supportive environments where abuse is not tolerated and survivors are acknowledged, supported and empowered. Through this initiative, the College aims to educate students about the impact and prevention of GBVF, strengthen support systems for victims and facilitate access to justice by assisting survivors in reporting cases and navigating legal processes.

Ehlanzeni TVET College calls upon students, staff, community leaders and stakeholders to actively participate in the campaign and to work together in building communities free from violence and abuse.



THE COLLEGE VISITS HIGH SCHOOLS IN NKOMAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The College recently carried out a two-day outreach programme to high schools in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, aimed at connecting with learners and giving them a clear picture of the opportunities that await them after matric. These visits go beyond simply sharing information, they create a space for meaningful interaction, allowing students to ask questions, explore their interests and get guidance on planning their future. For many learners, it was their first chance to meet college representatives face-to-face to discuss study options and understand the benefits of pursuing further education at the College.

On 11 and 12 February, two College representatives visited five schools in the municipality: Mbhunu Secondary School, Mbhudula Secondary School, Lambalati High School, DD Mabuza Comprehensive School and Gebhuza Secondary School. At each school, learners eagerly attended the sessions, which offered detailed insights into the academic and vocational programmes available, within the college, the application and admission process and the requirements needed to secure a

place at the College. A significant part of the presentations focused on available funding options, giving learners peace of mind that financial challenges should not prevent them from pursuing higher education. Representatives also shared information about the College's extracurricular activities, which aim to nurture talent, promote leadership and encourage personal growth beyond the classroom. This helped learners understand that college life is not just about academics but also about discovering and developing their passions.

The sessions were highly interactive, allowing learners to ask questions about programmes, career pathways and practical training options. Many students were excited to learn that the College offers a balance of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, preparing them for both



Ms MN Mpandza making a presentation

further studies and direct entry into the workforce. The combination of affordable programmes, hands-on learning and talent development made the College an attractive choice for learners considering their next steps after high school.

The warm reception from learners and educators made the outreach programme rewarding. It was clear that initiatives like these have a lasting impact, helping learners make informed subjects selection and

career choices, develop confidence and gain a better understanding of their potential. By taking these sessions directly to schools, the College continues to demonstrate its commitment to youth empowerment, skills development and community engagement. We believe that engaging with learners early helps them envision a future full of opportunities, while also preparing them to make thoughtful decisions about their education and careers.



Joyful learners after the presentation



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL 2026 PLENARY

The Student Support Services (SSS) division hosted a focused and forward-looking plenary session at The Capital Mbombela, bringing officials together for two days of reflection, planning and strategic alignment in preparation for the 2026 academic year. Held from Wednesday, 26 November 2025, to Thursday, 27 November 2025, the engagement offered the team a valuable platform to assess their progress and strengthen their collective approach to student support.

On day 1, Wednesday, 26 November 2025, opened on a warm and welcoming note as Ms D.N. Khoza officially opened the sitting and extended her welcome to all attendees. Her remarks set a positive and purposeful tone for the session. The programme for the day was directed by Mr Bafedi, who guided the discussions with structure and clarity. In outlining the purpose of the engagement, Mr Sikota emphasised that meaningful participation would ensure the smooth running of the

SSS in the upcoming academic year.

The team spent the day reflecting on their achievements and experiences from the 2025 academic cycle. Open dialogue allowed officials to speak honestly about both successes and challenges, helping them identify areas needing improvement. These reflections paved the way for productive strategic planning, enabling the team to begin shaping practical priorities and interventions for 2026. With Higher Health as a stakeholder at the College, they also were part of the plenary session.

The engagement concluded on Thursday, 27 November 2025, marking the final day of what proved to be a purposeful and insightful plenary session. Under the direction of Mr L.D. Lentsoane, who introduced a refreshing approach to the day's programme, the team approached discussions with renewed enthusiasm. They revisited the year's accomplishments, evaluated ongoing challenges and

explored innovative strategies to enhance student support services moving forward. Throughout the session, officials identified opportunities for improvement, shared forward-thinking ideas and strengthened their collective vision for the academic year ahead. Their contributions played a central role in shaping clear and focused operational plans for 2026.

In a jolly and celebratory spirit, the event ended with a cheerful "Gift Exchange" exercise, symbolising unity, appreciation and shared commitment within the team. The activity brought warmth and laughter to the closing moments, reinforcing the strong bonds among colleagues. The Plenary Session concluded with the Student Support Services team motivated, aligned and well-prepared to continue advancing student success. Their collaborative effort ensured that the division enters the new academic year with strengthened strategies and a renewed commitment to impactful student support.

HOW A SINGLE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE CAN CHANGE ONE'S LIFE

For Sifiso Malatjie from Sabie, Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, enrolling at Ehlanzeni TVET College (Mbombela Campus) marked the beginning of a life-changing journey. Accepted in 2013 to study Electrical Engineering (NCV), he completed his theory and practical work in 2015. Surrounded by motivated classmates, Sifiso was inspired to further his studies, eventually graduating with a Diploma in Electrical Engineering in 2023.

His path was not without challenges. After losing his father, who had been his main source of support, Sifiso faced severe financial difficulties and NSFAS delays. "When my father passed away, I felt lost, but I told myself I had to continue no matter what," he recalls. Despite the obstacles, he completed his N6 in 2017 and secured an internship at Ehlanzeni TVET College (Mthimba Campus) as an Electrician. By 2021, he had successfully completed his Trade Test.

Sifiso later worked at Power Plant Electrical Technologies and Two Rivers Mine, before joining Mobile Labour Systems, where he is currently employed.

Reflecting on his journey, he says, "College taught me more than electrical work it taught me about life, resilience and believing in myself."

His story is a testament to perseverance, proving that with hard work and determination, a single academic experience can truly transform one's life. "Ehlanzeni TVET College didn't just give me a qualification it gave me direction," says Sifiso.



Mr S Malatjie



KaNyamazane Campus Traditional Dance group

EHLANZENI TVET COLLEGE CELEBRATES SUCCESS AT COSACSA PROVINCIAL ARTS AND CULTURE COMPETITION

The College began by successfully hosting its 2026 Arts and Culture Festival on Saturday, 23 May 2026, at the Ehlanzeni District Municipality Disaster Management Centre in Mbombela. The festival brought together students from the seven campuses to celebrate cultural diversity through music, dance, visual arts and choral performances. Beyond celebrating culture, the event also served as a platform for students to compete for an opportunity to represent the College at the Provincial Arts and Culture Competition.

Following an exciting and highly competitive festival, the winning students proudly represented Ehlanzeni TVET College at the 2026 Provincial Arts and Culture Competition, which was hosted by Nkangala TVET College at the eMalahleni Civic



Francisco Mdene

Centre on 30 and 31 May 2026. Students from TVET colleges in Mpumalanga gathered to showcase their talents and compete for top honours in a variety of artistic and cultural categories.

Ehlanzeni TVET College delivered an exceptional performance throughout the competition, demonstrating the remarkable talent,



Traditional dancers from Nkangala TVET College



Londeka Shabangu with Ms RM Mampye

creativity and dedication of its students. In the Visual Arts category, the College secured first place in Brush Male, Brush Female, Charcoal Male and Charcoal Female categories. These achievements highlighted the artistic excellence of the students and their ability to produce work of an outstanding standard under competitive conditions.

The College also excelled in the Performing Arts category, where students claimed first place in Gumboots, Freestyle Dance and Traditional Dance categories. The performances captivated audiences and judges, showcasing not only talent and creativity but also a strong sense of cultural identity and pride. The students' passion and commitment were evident in every performance, contributing significantly to the College's success.

The first to these achievements, was

when Ehlanzeni secured first place in the Mezzo category in the Choral Music section. The accomplishment reflects the dedication of the singers and coaches who worked tirelessly

in preparation for the competition and once again demonstrated the high standard of talent within the College. Making Ehlanzeni TVET College to claim first position, Nkangala

second and Gert Sibande third.

As a result of these outstanding performances, the first-place winners have earned the honour of being selected to form part of Team Mpumalanga, which will represent the province at the upcoming CoSACSA National Arts and Culture Competition in the North West Province. This is a significant achievement that provides students with an opportunity to showcase their talents on a national stage while proudly representing both Mpumalanga and Ehlanzeni TVET College.

The College extends its heartfelt congratulations to all students, coaches, lecturers and everyone who contributed to this success. Their hard work, determination and commitment to excellence continue to position Ehlanzeni TVET College as a leading institution in arts and culture development.



Mapuleng campus Gumboots dance



Mthimba Campus freestyle group



Ehlanzeni TVET College



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