



# NEWSLETTER



## East Cape Midlands

Executive Mayor joins celebrations as East Cape Midlands students take South Africa to global stage.



## Repairing lights

The Makana Local Municipality team restored a high mast light in Extension 8 on Tuesday, 20 January 2026,

## Refuse Collection schedule

**Mondays:** CBD, Sunnyside Transit Camp, Phaphamani

**Tuesdays:** Albany Road and surrounding areas, Seymour, from M - A Street, Vukani

**Wednesdays:** Joza, Extension 8, Extension 4, Extension 6, Zolani, Eluxolweni, Lingelihle, Ethembeni

**Thursdays:** Somerset Street, Hill 60, Graeme College area, African Street, Extension 9

**Fridays:** Extension 7, Tantiyi, Zolani, Extension 10



## Municipality encourages residents to keep communities clean

Makana Local Municipality hosted an illegal dumping awareness campaign in two wards on Wednesday, 18 March 2026.

The Campaign took place in Ward 6, Extension 6 and in ward 9 Extension 5. The campaign aims to educate residents about the harmful effects of illegal waste disposal on the environment and on the community's general well-being.

The Municipality's Public Safety and Community Services directorate emphasised that illegal dumping damages the appearance of neighbourhoods. During the campaign black plastic bags were handed out to the residents to encourage responsible waste disposal.

Community members were also encouraged to report incidents of illegal dumping to help the municipality take action against anyone who is dumping illegally. Makana Local Municipality also adopted a bylaw which stipulates that residents can be fined up to R5 000 if caught illegally dumping refuse.

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## Makana backs local teen ahead of provincial pageant

Makana Local Municipality would like to wish local aspiring model Mr Jayden Brand well for his upcoming participation in the Mr & Miss Elegance Eastern Cape 2026 pageant.

Jayden met with the Executive Mayor, Cllr Yandiswa Vara in her office on Thursday, 12 March to discuss ways in which he can be supported as he prepares to compete in the provincial competition.

The Executive Mayor congratulated the 16-year-old PJ Olivier learner on the work he has done to get to where he is and wished him well for the upcoming competition.

The provincial competition will take place in East London, where he will proudly represent Makhanda and the youth of our community. The Grand Finale will take place in East London on 28 March 2026.

To participate in the competition, Jayden requires assistance with the following:

1. Sponsorship Fee: This mandatory fee covers the official finalist programme including the BNB stay the night before the event, dinner and breakfast with all finalists, and organisational costs related to the event.
2. Transport: To travel between Makhanda and East London.
3. Accommodation Support: The

pageant will take place in East London and Jayden will need accomodation.

4. Attire Assistance & General Preparation Costs: Community Engagement and Representation

Since the start of his journey earlier this year, Jayden has been actively involved in community engagements including church activities, youth events, school speaking engagements, and public appearances. Before the closing date on 25 March, he would like to continue participating in at least one more community and charity engagement within Makhanda possibly with help and suggestions from the Municipality.

Each finalist is also required to sell 10 event tickets, which contributes to their overall score in the competition. The more tickets sold also increases chances and can go over 10 tickets. Support in helping promote the event and encouraging attendance would therefore be greatly appreciated.

Follow Jayden and support him on social media on the following pages: Facebook: Jayden Brand Instagram: jaydenbrand00 Email: jayden123brand@gmail.com

Anyone who wishes to support Jayden here is his account number:  
 - Bank: ABSA  
 - Account number: 9401977332  
 - Account name: JC Brand

# Makana Local Municipality Executive Mayor hosts Mayoral Imbizo

The Executive Mayor highlighted key development priorities, with a strong focus on improving basic services and infrastructure.

This includes the replacement of ageing water infrastructure, the rollout of prepaid smart water and electricity meters, and refurbishing the Belmont Valley Waste Treatment plant, which is currently the only working facility for sewerage treatment in Makhanda.

Road rehabilitation projects are also progressing in different areas of Makhanda, such as the upgrade of Makana Way (ii) Upgrade of Ncame Street (iv) Upgrade of Taxi Route (M Street and Albert Road)(v) Upgrade of Van Behrens Street in Riebeek East, rehabilitation of several disaster damaged roads:

1. Struben and Linney,
2. Smith and Vogt,
3. Irving street,
4. K street joining P Street,
5. Tumbler Street,
6. Hobson Street,
7. B street,
8. Mbombela Street Ext 4,
9. Ngcuka Street Ext 9,
10. Lamani joining N Street all to be rehabilitated using interlocking block paving and upgrading the stormwater system,
11. Hill Street to be repaired and



overlaid with Asphalt.

While sports facilities such as the Oval Sports ground are being upgraded to support community development and job creation.

In terms of housing, 178 infill houses are being built across Makhanda.

These include the following:

- (i) Construction of 91 units for Human Settlements
  - (ii) Construction of 87 units of Human Settlements
- A total of 178 houses in infill areas will benefit from this project: Xolani (35), Upper Mnandi (15); Rhini ER103 (30); N Street (31); Lower Mnandi (42) and Lingelihle (25).

A total of 150 houses are being built for people whose homes were affected by a mini tornado in 2008.

The Mayor also highlighted key strategic focus areas, including local economic development, financial sustainability to improve the local economy, good governance, and the strengthening of public participation. Vandalism, especially damage to smart water and electricity meters remains a major problem that slows down service delivery.

Makana Local Municipality remains committed to transparent governance and working collaboratively with communities to improve service delivery.

## Makana Enourages residents to keep communities clean



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This initiative forms part of the Municipality's ongoing efforts to improve service delivery and promote a culture of environmental responsibility within the community.

Makana Municipality is confident that all illegal dumping sites can be eliminated in our communities with

the assistance of our residents. The municipality would like to plead with residents to stop dumping their refuse on the street.

The Makana Local Municipality collects refuse weekly according to our well publicised collection schedule.



# Fixing Makana one road at a time

Road infrastructure is critical for municipalities in terms of economic development, social connectivity, and basic service delivery.

Makana Municipality continues to improve the local road network to ensure access to jobs, schools, and health facilities as well as to support local business growth.

We are beginning to see good progress all around Makhanda in particular, with a large number of roads being rehabilitated.

## Disaster Project

The rehabilitation of the following 11 streets is currently underway:

- Struben and Linney,
- Smith and Vogt,
- Irving street,
- K street joining P Street,
- Tumbler Street,
- Hobson Street,
- B street,
- Mbombela Street Ext 4,
- Ngcuka Street Ext 9,
- Lamani joining N Street ,
- Hill Street to be repaired and overlaid with Asphalt

All the other streets will be redone with interlocking block paving and the stormwater drains will be upgraded.

Money that's to be spent on the Disaster project amounts to R29 110 000. About 6 people have been employed since the start of the project. The duration of the project is 12 months from March 2025 to March 2026 however we have extension up to end June 2026.

Completed projects include:

- Albert Street in Fingo Village
- Phase 1 of Makana Way in Joza
- M Street and Sani Street

Projects that are currently underway include Phase 2 of Makana Way which will improve driving experience in areas such as Extension 9, Extension 8, and Joza.

Streets to be rehabilitated in Makana Way Phase 2 include:

## Section 1

- Ncede Street from intersection
- Pikoko Street to the intersection

- Nompondo and Nxanxadi Street

## Section 2

- Nompondo Street to the intersection of Ncame Street

## Section 3

- Nxanxadi Street from the intersection of Nompondo and Ncede Street to the intersection of Hlosi Street

The Small Towns Revitalisation Project is also proceeding well where three sections are currently being rehabilitated.

The upgrades cover the following streets:

- African Street, (yet to commence)
- Milner Street, (completed) and the High Street traffic circle (in progress).

Makana Municipality is committed to fixing all of the roads within the municipality's jurisdiction. We will continue to provide updates on plans to fix more roads and progress on ongoing work.

# Makana responds to water quality concerns

Makana Local Municipality informs residents of recent microbiological water quality results from samples collected on 27 February 2026.

The Treated water supplied from municipal treatment works, including James Kleynhans, Riebeek East and Waainek, remains compliant with drinking water standards, with no detection of E. coli. This confirms that water treatment processes are functioning effectively.

However, elevated microbiological levels have been detected at specific points within the distribution network. The affected areas include:

- Nyaluza High School
- Raglan Road Clinic.

As a precautionary measure, residents in these areas are advised to boil water before consumption. Water should be brought to a rolling boil for at least 1–3 minutes before use for drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth. Put 1 teaspoon (5ml) of bleach (eg. JIK) in 25 litres of water and leave to stand for 30 minutes before consumption.



The Municipality will continue implementing corrective actions, including:

- Taking follow-up sampling and increasing monitoring
- Verification of chlorine residual levels
- Flushing and disinfection of the reticulation system
- Investigation into possible sources of contamination in the reticulation system.

The Municipality is actively addressing the situation and will provide updates on the website under notices as full analysis results (physical, chemical and microbiological) become available.

For enquiries, please contact:  
Makana Local Municipality  
Tel: 046 603 6000

We appreciate the community's cooperation.

## Municipality supports learners through back-to-school campaign



As part of the ongoing Back-to-School Campaign, Makana Local Municipality visited local schools on Wednesday, 21 January 2026.

Corporate and Shared Services Portfolio Chairperson Andile Hoyi visited D.D. Siwisa Primary School,

where essential school items such as shoes, sanitary pads, and toiletries were distributed to learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. The municipality once again expressed gratitude to Lutifusion and Unlimited Incubator for their continued support of the initiative.



## Executive Mayor joins celebrations as East Cape Midlands students take South Africa to global stage

Makana Local Municipality would like to congratulate the East Cape Midlands (EMC) hospitality department which will represent South Africa in an international competition in China later this year.

Executive Mayor, Cllr Yandiswa Vara, welcomed two EMC Hospitality students in front of the Cathedral following their successful participation in the National Skills Competition in Durban. Uphumlo Ketile and Nikita Fourie represented EMC in the national competition. Nikita won the gold medal in the baking category and will represent South Africa in Shanghai, China in September this year.

The students were welcomed back to Makhanda by lecturers and their peers who gathered to celebrate their achievement with them in front of the Cathedral on Monday, 16 March 2026.



## Government Departments join forces for community progress in Makana

On the 13th of March 2026, Makana Local Municipality held an intergovernmental relations meeting with different government departments situated around Makana.

The purpose of the meeting was to encourage departments to work together to address the issues faced by the community of Makhanda. During the meeting, each department presented its plans, achievements, and challenges.

The Department of Agriculture highlighted support programmes for farmers, including the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), while also noting challenges such as high input costs, climate change, and drought.

The Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture shared plans for upcoming events, including Egazini Battlefield celebrations in April, as well as other arts and culture activities, and library programmes.

The Department of Health raised concerns about staff shortages, which have resulted in Joza Clinic

not operating on weekends. Other concerns included incidents of vandalism at health facilities, especially in Fort England where the water treatment works fencing was stolen and machinery vandalised.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure outlined current projects and its bursary programme, and came under serious criticism for the slow pace of the renovations of the Fingo Library.

The Department of Employment and Labour encouraged job seekers to use the DPSA website for employment opportunities, even if they have registered on their database. They also mentioned that they provide career guidance for job seekers and assist them to choose suitable jobs.

The forum is an important platform for departments to coordinate efforts aimed at improving service delivery and community development. Overall, the meeting helps departments to share information to work together to improve services and development within Makana Municipality.

# Building stronger Community Voices in Makana

On the 11th of March 2026 Makana Local Municipality, together with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), hosted a stakeholder engagement and education session aimed at strengthening public participation within the municipality.

The session provided a platform to discuss and explore ways for the municipality to adopt a universal Public Participation Strategy that is both effective and supportive of community development. It also focused on identifying practical approaches to improve communication and cooperation between the municipality and the community. Ultimately, the engagement was meant to help build a potentially strong partnership between the municipality and its residents, in order to promote transparency and accountability while ensuring a democratic system that works in the best interests of all citizens.

The session which took place at the Council Chambers on Wednesday, 11 March 2026 was facilitated by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs senior official Mr. Mboniswa Nodlabi. The meeting engaged around a comprehensive discussion document.

The document was intended to guide conversations around governance practices, service-delivery improvements, and strategies that will influence future municipal planning and development. The session was aimed at providing a platform where stakeholders could openly discuss challenges and contribute ideas that will help shape policy and decision-making in the municipality.

The facilitator highlighted several pressing challenges faced by local communities, including ongoing



service-delivery issues, under-development in certain areas, and broader socio-economic inequalities that continue to affect residents' quality of life. It was emphasized that addressing these issues cannot be the responsibility of the government alone. It was agreed that sustainable solutions require collaborative efforts between the municipality, community members, and other stakeholders.

The discussion also acknowledged deeper structural challenges, sometimes referred to as the "triple challenges," which include persistent inequality, gaps in government performance, and lingering colonial-era mindsets that still influence institutional structures and societal attitudes. The meeting therefore aimed to help participants better understand how government systems function while also encouraging collective responsibility in finding solutions.

## Guiding Principles for the Engagement Process

The session was guided by several key principles intended to ensure that the engagement process remains meaningful and productive:

- **Responsiveness and Inclusivity:** Local government must remain accessible and responsive to the needs of the people it serves. This requires actively listening to community concerns and ensuring that all voices have the opportunity to

be heard.

- **Democratic Accountability:** Municipal decisions should be grounded in democratic principles, including fairness, transparency, and accountability. Public participation strengthens these principles by ensuring that communities remain involved in governance processes.

- **Commitment to Democratic Governance:**

The council reaffirmed its commitment to democratic leadership and governance practices that reject authoritarian approaches and instead promote dialogue, cooperation, and shared decision-making.

## Encouraging Active Participation

Participants were encouraged to engage actively throughout the session by contributing insights, asking questions, and sharing perspectives on the discussion document. The facilitator emphasized that the input of all stakeholders is essential in developing practical strategies that will improve accountability, transparency, and community engagement in local governance.

Stakeholders in attendance included: Cogta, Makana Municipality Council Speaker Cllr Mabuthi Matyumza, Ward Councillors, Community Development Workers (CDWs), Ward Committee Secretaries and municipal officials.



## Makana Restores High Mast Light in Extension 8

The Makana Local Municipality team restored a high mast light in Extension 8 on Tuesday, 20 January 2026, as part of ongoing streetlight repairs aimed at improving safety in the community.

The municipality will work on additional high mast lights and continue the procurement of equipment required to repair larger structures.

Despite challenges such as vandalism and cable theft, the municipality remains committed to restoring streetlights and high mast lights for the benefit of residents.



## Makana welcomes Amakrwala after a safe initiation season

The Office of the Speaker of Makana Local Municipality facilitated a welcoming programme for initiates (Amakrwala) returning to the community on Tuesday, 20 January 2026.

The initiative was led by the Makana Municipality Initiation Forum under the guidance of Council Speaker Mabhuti Matyumza. During the summer initiation season, the forum conducted five awareness campaigns focused on ensuring the safety and wellbeing of initiates.

These activities included visits to initiation schools, guidance to

initiates, discouraging harmful behaviour, and ensuring the availability of water.

Makana Municipality recorded zero fatalities, making it one of the safest local municipalities during the initiation season. This success was attributed to strong collaboration between parents, families, traditional leaders, and key stakeholders.

The programme marked the conclusion of both the summer and winter initiation seasons and highlighted the importance of addressing gender-based violence and femicide.





# Floods claim the life of a young girl

Makana Local Municipality would like to send its deepest condolences to the family of a 14-year-old Grade 8 Mary Waters learner whose body was discovered in the Kowie stream this morning, 25 February 2026.

Makana Municipality, led by the Executive Mayor Cllr Yandiswa Vara, had visited the family of the teenager this morning to inform them of efforts to look for her and to comfort them during this period. However, news of her drowning came shortly after the visit.

Makana Municipality had been engaging with the relevant stakeholders in efforts to intensify the search and rescue operations since becoming aware that the 14-year-old had been swept away while attempting to cross the Kowie river near Lavender Valley on her way from school on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

The Executive Mayor had contacted

district and provincial police to request assistance to strengthen search and rescue efforts yesterday, however, the persistent rain also delayed further efforts.

Police had since confirmed that arrangements for search and rescue teams to come out today were already in place, while arrangements for air support were ongoing. Other efforts included making available drones to assist in the search. The divers and search and rescue teams from Cradock and East London were also scheduled to come and assist.

The Executive Mayor would like to send heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, school and the community at large during this difficult time. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the young girl; we are saddened by the tragic loss of her young life."

The municipality is also aware that

the rain caused extensive damage to many homes and infrastructure all around Makana on Tuesday.

This morning, Makana Municipality organised a meeting in front of the City Hall to visit and assess areas that were damaged by the rain.

Damage includes the following:

- Formal and informal houses were damaged
- Trees were uprooted in some cases damaging properties
- Infrastructure such as electrical substations and cables were damaged
- Roads were flooded due to blocked stormwater drains

Makana Local Municipality is actively on the ground trying to assess the damage caused by the rain and escalate it to the relevant stakeholders for rapid response.

Issued by the Makana Municipality Communications Office.



## Street lights plan kicks into action

On Saturday the 10th of January Makana Municipality issued a notice on the implementation of a streetlight maintenance plan.

The pace at which the electricity department was moving in implementing the streetlight maintenance plan was greatly affected by constant vandalism of the electricity network. This daily vandalism necessitated the department to redirect all its resources (the cherry picker and streetlight team) to repairs caused by vandalism instead of focusing on the actual maintenance work.

The above-mentioned challenge was counterproductive to achieving the department's planned maintenance programme and ensuring that faults and streetlighting in all areas were attended to promptly.

The department remained committed to fixing the streetlights around Makana Local Municipality despite the above-stated challenges.



## Makana Local Municipality Launched Multi-Phase Road Upgrade Project

Phase 1 of the project started from the R67 and moved past the Extension 6 Indoor Sports Centre, all the way to the Extension 9 Hall. Phase 2 was set to commence from the Extension 9 Hall up to Ncame Street.

The old tar road was removed and replaced with paving blocks. The project created employment opportunities for the residents of the affected area. Local SMMEs also benefited from the project.

Addressing councillors, officials and local residents who attended the ceremony on 23 January 2026, Executive Mayor Cllr Yandiswa Vara

said the municipality was aware that many of the roads were in a bad state.

However, over the past few years, the municipality had done significant work to improve the situation.

Other work that was undertaken included curbing, stormwater upgrades and paving-related work.

On 22 January 2026, the municipality conducted a sod-turning ceremony to mark the beginning of the flood-damaged roads project.

That project implemented the upgrade of 12 roads.

## Makana Municipality Strengthens Animal Welfare and Public Safety

In line with ongoing efforts to reduce the number of stray animals roaming Makhanda, on Friday, 16 January 2026, Makana Local Municipality issued a notice informing residents that all stray animals were impounded at Fiddlers Green Field, located in town.

Livestock owners were requested to claim their animals by providing proof of ownership and paying the required fee. The municipality urges all animal owners to take responsibility for their livestock, as unattended animals would be impounded.



## Executive Mayor comes bearing back to school gifts

The Executive Mayor of Makana Local Municipality marked her birthday on Monday, 19 January 2026, by joining learners at Fikizolo Primary School as part of the municipality's annual Back-to-

School Campaign. The initiative aimed to support learners from disadvantaged backgrounds by providing essential school items such as school bags, sanitary towels, and toiletries,

helping learners begin the academic year with dignity and confidence. The municipality also expressed appreciation to Lutifusion for their continued support of the programme.



## Back-to-School campaign inspires learners across Makana

On Wednesday the 14th of January 2026, through its Back to School Campaign Makana Local Municipality visited different schools within Makana to encourage learners to continue doing well.

Councillors, led by the Executive Mayor Cllr Yandiswa Vara and Council Speaker Cllr Mabhuti Matyumza, in performing their oversight role, engaged principals and school management regarding results and other issues facing the schools.

The councillors met with various stakeholders shortly after addressing the learners to discuss the state of readiness of the schools as the academic year began.

The municipality also heard from the schools about challenges related to the municipality that they faced and

undertook to address them. Some issues of concern raised were related to poor parent participation in the education of their children. At Nombulelo Secondary School, the SGB had only four members serving at the time.

The principal raised concerns about parent participation in school activities, such as poor attendance at meetings organised to plan and take decisions about the future of the school and its learners.

In response to the issues raised, the Executive Mayor said it was important to understand the challenges of local schools in order to raise them on the different platforms in which they participated and to ensure they were addressed.

Stakeholders included the School Governing Body (SGB), the

Department of Education (DoE), the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU), school management, the South African Police Service (SAPS), Ward Councillors, Ward Committee members and parents (Curriculum, ESSS, SCM, Finance, HR), Ms Kelekethe, Mrs Nqimfa-Danster, Dr Mayana, Mrs Hanisi, Mrs Chepete, Dr Zazini, Ms Languza, Mr Stomen, Mr Gobane, Ms Christian, Dr Nako, Ms Betela, Dr Mayana, Mr Abel and Mr Henning.

Learners who were going to repeat the same grade were encouraged to remain positive and work hard to do better during the year.

They were wished good luck for the year ahead and encouraged to work hard from the onset to ensure their success at the end of the year.