

# NEWSLETTER



Makana Local Municipality welcomed the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the Makana Way Road Rehabilitation Project, valued at R12.6 million. The project was officially declared complete during a ceremony held in Extension 9 on Friday, 7 August 2026.



## Recycling and Environment (p.2)

Makana Local Municipality, in partnership with POLYCO, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), hosted a World Environment.



## EMC Business Breakfast (p.7)

Eastcape Midlands TVET College (EMC) hosted a Business Breakfast aimed at strengthening collaboration between education, industry and key stakeholders to address skills mismatch.



## MAKANA LM 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, Tanty, Xolani, Extension 10



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# Promoting Recycling and Environmental Responsibility in Makhanda

Makana Local Municipality, in partnership with POLYCO, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), hosted a World Environment Day event aimed at promoting environmental awareness and encouraging residents to embrace recycling as part of their daily lives.

The event highlighted the importance of responsible waste management and the role that communities can play in creating cleaner, greener, and healthier neighbourhoods.

Residents were educated on proper waste disposal practices, the different types of recyclable materials, and the environmental impact of reducing waste sent to landfill sites.

Discussions also emphasised how recycling can contribute to reducing illegal dumping while helping to keep communities clean.

Residents were encouraged to view recycling not only as an environmental responsibility but also as an opportunity to contribute towards sustainable livelihoods.

The programme further highlighted the LandCare initiative, which provides school learners and young people with practical knowledge on natural resource conservation, environmental management, and the challenges associated with land degradation.

Through the initiative, young people are equipped with knowledge and

skills that encourage them to become active participants in protecting and preserving the environment.

As part of the event, residents had an opportunity to sell recyclable materials to POLYCO at the Indoor Sports Centre, demonstrating how recycling can create income-generating opportunities while contributing to a cleaner environment.

The event reinforced the message that keeping Makhanda clean is a shared responsibility. Through simple actions such as recycling, proper waste disposal, and reducing litter, residents can contribute to protecting the environment and building a healthier and more sustainable community for future generations.



## Makana Municipality strengthens community engagement through Service Delivery programme

Makana Local Municipality conducted a service delivery programme in Zolani and Phaphamani, Makhanda, as part of its ongoing commitment to engaging directly with communities and addressing service delivery challenges raised by residents.

The programme forms part of a series of weekly community outreach initiatives that will take place every Monday in different areas across the city.

The initiative provides an opportunity for residents to raise concerns, share their experiences, and engage with the Municipality on matters affecting their communities.

The programme is aligned with the Municipality's Non-Negotiables Booklet, which outlines key service delivery priorities and areas of focus aimed at improving municipal services and strengthening accountability and community engagement.

Through these ongoing engagements, the Municipality seeks to ensure that community concerns are heard and that service delivery priorities remain responsive to the needs of residents.

The initiative further reinforces the Municipality's commitment to working together with communities to address challenges and improve the quality of services delivered across Makhanda.



## Winter customary male initiation season launched in Makana

The Makana Local Municipality Initiation Forum officially launched the 2026 Winter Customary Male Initiation Season on Thursday, 11 June 2026, at the Foley's Ground Indoor Sports Centre.

The launch brought together parents, prospective initiates, traditional leaders, government departments, initiation practitioners and community organisations to promote a safe and culturally respectful initiation season.

Parents and future initiates were urged to comply with initiation regulations, while stakeholders highlighted measures aimed at protecting lives, preventing violence, and addressing risks such as underage drinking, dehydration and unsafe circumcision practices.

The programme was chaired by Council Speaker, Cllr Mabhuti Matyumza, with Nkosi Buyanda Matanzima, Vice-Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, as the guest speaker.

The Makana Initiation Forum will continue monitoring registered initiation schools, preventing illegal practices and promoting awareness to ensure the safety and cultural integrity of the initiation season.



The Office of the Speaker in collaboration with the IEC led a Voter Education/Registration Outreach Program at the TEM Mrwetyana Secondary School on Wednesday, 22 July 2026. The programme is meant to encourage first time voters to register to vote.



# Makana Rural Extensions Project to connect 246 households

Makana Local Municipality, led by Executive Mayor Cllr Yandiswa Vara, joined Eskom for the official launch of the Makana Rural Extensions Electrification Project, which will connect 246 households across six areas to the electricity grid.

The project will benefit households in Yandell, Dawn, Broughton, Salem, Nonzaliseko and Nyongweni, bringing much-needed electricity services to communities in Ward 13.

Eskom's Nomfundo Gonya thanked

residents for their patience and understanding during the delays experienced in bringing the project to fruition. Ignite Electrical was appointed as the contractor, with the project expected to be completed by 31 November 2026.

The project will also create local employment opportunities, with 10 casual workers to be appointed from the beneficiary areas.

A Steering Committee and Community Liaison Officer will support the

implementation and address challenges that may arise.

Executive Mayor Cllr Yandiswa Vara emphasised the Municipality's role in coordinating the project and called on the community to protect the infrastructure and ensure the project is completed successfully.

Residents welcomed the project and expressed their appreciation to Eskom and the Municipality for bringing the long-awaited electrification programme to their communities.



## PETCO visits Makana's Landfil Site

PETCO visited the Landfill Site to encourage waste reclaimers to continue recycling and to highlight the importance of responsible waste management.

As part of the visit, recyclers were gifted various items as a gesture of appreciation for their efforts and to

encourage them to remain committed to recycling.

The initiative aimed to recognise the valuable role recyclers play in keeping communities clean while promoting sustainable recycling practices and environmental awareness.



## Makana hosts 52nd National Arts Festival

Makana Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Mzobanzi Nkwentsha, welcomed members of the media and stakeholders to Makhanda for the media briefing ahead of the 52nd National Arts Festival, held on 25 June 2026.

The Executive Mayor highlighted the importance of the festival to Makhanda, noting that it provides residents and visitors with a rich cultural experience while creating opportunities for local artists, SMMEs, traders and businesses to benefit

from increased economic activity.

The Municipality has undertaken extensive preparations to ensure that essential services, including water, sanitation, roads, electricity, street lighting, cleansing and public safety, are available throughout the festival.

Dedicated teams and standby personnel have been put in place to respond to emergencies and service-related challenges.

As part of its support for local

economic development, the Municipality also purchased six trading stalls for the festival, providing opportunities for local food vendors, craft exhibitors and designers to participate.

The Executive Mayor expressed appreciation to the National Arts Festival organisers and all stakeholders involved in ensuring the successful hosting of the festival, assuring visitors that Makana is ready to welcome them.

## Makana engages livestock owners on stray animals and livestock management

Makana Local Municipality, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, held a stakeholder engagement with local livestock owners to address the growing concern of stray animals and livestock within the municipality.

Municipal officials explained the relevant by-laws governing livestock management, highlighting owners' responsibilities to prevent animals from roaming freely and the consequences of non-compliance.

Livestock owners were also briefed

on the proposed 2026/2027 tariffs, including impoundment, pound and animal maintenance fees.

Mrs Nontsikelelo Khatshaza from the Department of Agriculture outlined support available to farmers and livestock owners, including assistance with boundary fencing, livestock dipping services and various agricultural development programmes.

Farmers requiring dipping services were reminded to provide accurate livestock numbers to access the

programme. The engagement provided an opportunity for livestock owners to raise concerns, gain clarity on municipal regulations and learn more about available agricultural support.

The Municipality encouraged livestock owners to comply with the relevant by-laws and take responsibility for ensuring that their animals are safely contained, helping to prevent accidents, damage to property and unnecessary impoundment costs.



# Makhanda Disability Forum elects new leadership structure

The Makana Disability Forum (MDF) held a successful meeting on Wednesday, 24 June 2026, to introduce and elect a new leadership structure that will represent persons with disabilities across Makhanda.

The meeting also gave the previous leadership an opportunity to share a report on the work they have done and the progress made over the years.

Mr L. Soxujwa presented a report on the forum's achievements and thanked Makana Local Municipality, the Department of Social Development, and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture for their continued support.

He explained that during 2022 and 2023, the forum worked to build relationships with government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. The forum also searched for opportunities and resources that could benefit people living with disabilities.

Mr Soxujwa said that in 2024, the forum strengthened its partnership

with SANRAL, which helped create more opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community projects.

In 2025, the forum partnered with Makana Local Municipality to create employment opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), allowing members of the disability community to access temporary jobs.

He also thanked all forum members, government departments, and stakeholders who have supported the growth and success of the Makhanda Disability Forum.

Speaking on behalf of the Interim Committee, Ms N. Moyikwa reflected on the establishment of the forum in 2018. She emphasized that the forum is a non-political organisation that exists to support and empower persons with disabilities.

Ms Moyikwa also spoke about the launch of the Interim Committee in March 2026 and its action plan, which focuses on promoting inclusion and ensuring that people with disabilities are represented in community

projects and programmes.

In addition, she announced the launch of a support group that will assist people who experience abuse, neglect, discrimination, and other social challenges. The support group aims to provide a safe space where members can receive guidance and support.

Mr L. Bhesi also addressed the meeting and explained the Makhanda Disability Forum Constitution. He outlined how the constitution protects the rights of persons with disabilities and guides the forum in meeting the needs and expectations of its members.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment/advice

Executive Community was established.

The meeting marked an important step in strengthening the voice of persons with disabilities in Makhanda and promoting a more inclusive community for all.



## EMC Business Breakfast tackles skills mismatch and graduate unemployment

Eastcape Midlands TVET College (EMC) hosted a Business Breakfast aimed at strengthening collaboration between education, industry and key stakeholders to address skills mismatch and graduate unemployment.

The programme focused on career development and ensuring that graduates are equipped with relevant, practical skills that meet the changing needs of the labour market.

Stakeholders highlighted the importance of working together to co-create the skills needed by the economy.

Diana Hornby from Rhodes University's Community Engagement emphasised the importance of

collaboration, sharing the message, "It's time to co-create knowledge." Yandisa Jubase from the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) called for the "Skills Revolution" to move beyond being a buzzword and become a practical approach to creating meaningful opportunities for young people.

The Business Breakfast provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on skills development, employability and stronger partnerships between education and industry.

EMC also highlighted its introduction of new courses aimed at responding to emerging industry needs and preparing graduates for the evolving world of work.



## NARYSEC learners receive encouragement ahead of training

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# MPAC assesses the state of ongoing projects in Makhanda

MPAC led by Chairperson Cllr Mzamo Booyesen conducted a site visit to assess the state of the newly completed roads in some parts of Makhanda.

The purpose of the site visit was to inspect the condition of the roads following the implementation of the project, assess the work undertaken, and identify areas that may still require repair or further intervention.

The project was funded by the Department of Transport and implemented by the Sarah Baartman District Municipality.

Work commenced in 2024 in “A” Street, with the project aimed at addressing road infrastructure needs within the affected areas.

During the inspection, the delegation followed the route from “A” Street near Nyaluza Secondary School, proceeding along Albert Road and up “M” Street.

The inspection continued onto Ncame Street at the entrance to Joza Township, passing in front of Nombulelo Secondary School, before concluding at the corner of Ncame Street .

The inspection provided an opportunity for MPAC to assess the completed work on the ground and identify areas that still require attention. The findings from the site visit will assist in highlighting outstanding road infrastructure needs and ensuring that areas requiring further work are brought to the attention of the relevant authorities.

As part of the inspection, the delegation also visited the Oval project to assess the completed Phase 1 and identify any areas that may require the contractor’s attention.

The team was also briefed on the upcoming Phase 2, which will include the rugby field and the construction work planned for the area.





# Makana schools celebrate outstanding achievements

Young environmental champions from across the Sarah Baartman district gathered in Gqeberha on 11 and 12 August for the 2026 Eastern Cape Environmental Awards, organised by the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT).

The event provided learners with an opportunity to showcase their creativity, knowledge, and innovative ideas in support of environmental protection.

Makana Primary School secured first place in the Sarah Baartman District Astro Quiz, earning the opportunity to represent the district in East London.

The school also achieved third place in the Regional Environmental Awards.

Makana Primary School further received R16 000 in prize money, which will support initiatives that will benefit its learners.

The celebrations didn't end there for local schools. Andrew Moyake High School secured first place in the high school category at the Eastern Cape Environmental Awards.

Makana Local Municipality congratulates all the learners, educators, and schools for their dedication, hard work, and outstanding achievements.



## Women in Business programme promotes entrepreneurship

The Women in Business programme brought together women from across Makhanda to discuss challenges affecting women and explore opportunities for achieving financial independence through entrepreneurship and agriculture.

Supported by the Local Economic Development (LED) Office, the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), and the Department of Agriculture, the programme provided women with practical information on starting and growing sustainable businesses.

Presentations and one-on-one sessions covered business registration, required documentation, funding opportunities and available support programmes. Participants were encouraged to explore different business opportunities and make use of available resources to grow their enterprises.

The programme highlighted the importance of empowering women with the knowledge, resources and opportunities needed to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute to the local economy.



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## Phase 2 of the alien plant eradication project commences

The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) in collaboration with stakeholders like Department of Forestry fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) hosted an Environmental Capacity Building activity under the theme, “Alien eradication management for plant eradication outcomes.”

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the impacts of invasive alien species, capacitate participants on how to identify common invasive species found within the Makana area.

The municipality has received R2.9 million for the new financial year to continue with Phase 2 of the project, which will also create employment opportunities for 120 participants.

The increase in the number of participants is attributed to the good work being done by the Makana Local Municipality in ensuring that alien invasive species are effectively eradicated around Makhanda.



The programme featured presentations from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), focusing on the impact of alien invasive plants and the importance of their eradication.

Ultimately, the event aimed to give

participants the knowledge they need for the work they will be doing.

It also aimed to encourage them to work hard so that the programme can continue in Makhanda, as there is still much work to be done to remove alien invasive plants.



## Youth Parliament District Workshop

Makana Local Municipality, through its Special Programmes Unit, in partnership with the South African Youth Council (SAYC) Sarah Baartman Region, hosted a Youth Parliament District Workshop to provide young people with a platform to discuss issues affecting youth development and prepare potential delegates for the Provincial Youth Parliament.

The workshop focused on youth economic empowerment and inclusive development, as well as Gender-Based Violence, femicide and other social ills.

Young people were encouraged to honour the legacy of the youth of 1976 by actively participating in decisions that affect their future and ensuring that their voices are heard.

Potential delegates also received guidance on parliamentary conduct, including professional behaviour, respectful engagement, parliamentary procedures and appropriate dress.

The workshop strengthened youth participation and empowered young people to become active citizens and advocates for positive change in their communities.



## Makana Way Road Rehabilitation Project Completed

Makana Local Municipality welcomed the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the Makana Way Road Rehabilitation Project, valued at R12.6 million.

The project was officially declared complete during a ceremony held in Extension 9 on Friday, 7 August 2026.

The project transformed sections of damaged road infrastructure into improved paved roads, providing residents and motorists in Extension 8, Extension 9 and Joza with better access to main routes leading to the CBD.

The project also created temporary employment and economic opportunities for local SMMEs and community members.

Three local SMMEs and several skilled and general workers were appointed during the project.

In addition to employment opportunities, the project provided training to local community members.

During the completion ceremony, Executive Mayor Cllr Yandiswa Vara, Infrastructure and Engineering Services Portfolio Chairperson Cllr Ramie Xonxa, and Finance MMC and Ward Councillor Cllr Gcobisa Mene awarded 30 certificates to participants.

The project's completion marked an important investment in improving road infrastructure while creating opportunities for local communities.

## Makana LM partnered with PETCO to host capacity-building workshop

Makana Local Municipality, in partnership with PETCO, hosted a capacity-building workshop for recyclers, reclaimers, and community members interested in the recycling sector.

The workshop focused on plastic, cardboard, Aluminum and Steel, paper and glass recycling processes and creating sustainable income opportunities from recycled materials.

Participants were introduced to recyclable materials and informed about the support available through PETCO, including skills development, accredited business training, and equipment and infrastructure support.

Community members were encouraged to register their businesses through the Local Economic Development (LED)

Office. Once registered, qualifying businesses can access PETCO's support programmes to help grow their recycling initiatives and create sustainable economic opportunities.

The workshop forms part of ongoing efforts to reduce illegal dumping, particularly on the eastern side of Makhanda, while promoting environmental sustainability and economic empowerment.



# Makana Mayoral Committee spends Mandela Day at Sun City Nursery School

On Friday, 24 July 2026, the Makana Local Municipality Mayoral Committee, led by Executive Mayor Cllr Yandiswa Vara, dedicated the day to serving the community at Sun City Nursery School as part of the Nelson Mandela Day 67 Minutes of Community Service initiative.

The programme, chaired by Cllr Ramie Xonxa, brought together members of the Mayoral Committee, who spent the day cleaning and improving the school environment while sharing gifts with the children.

Addressing those in attendance, Executive Mayor Cllr Vara highlighted the importance of giving back to communities despite financial constraints.

She explained that the Municipality does not have a budget specifically allocated for Nelson Mandela Day activities.

However, she noted that the initiative was made possible through personal contributions from members of the Mayoral Committee, demonstrating their commitment to serving the people of Makana.

As part of the day's activities, municipal teams trimmed overgrown trees, cleaned the school grounds, and removed a nearby illegal dumpsite, creating a safer and healthier environment for learners and staff.

The Municipality also handed over a range of items that will benefit the school and its learners. These included chairs, books, refuse bins, mattresses, plants, and children's scooters.

Makana Local Municipality extends its sincere appreciation to Remax, Makana Social Picnic, and Grooming 2010 for their generous

donations, which made a meaningful contribution to the success of the initiative.

The Executive Mayor also acknowledged Sizo Media for voluntarily covering the event, helping to showcase the spirit of community service and partnership that Nelson Mandela Day represents.

The Municipality reaffirmed its commitment to working with community stakeholders, businesses, and residents to improve the lives of local communities.

The Nelson Mandela Day programme served as a reminder that meaningful change can be achieved when people come together in the spirit of compassion, service, and active citizenship.



## Redundancy Pump Delivered to Howisonspoort

Makana Local Municipality took delivery of its newly purchased redundancy/spare pumpset, which was delivered and offloaded at Howisonspoort following the completion of transport arrangements.

The Municipality invested R2.3 million from its own revenue to procure and transport the pump. The new pumpset strengthened the

Municipality's capacity to respond to water supply challenges and minimise potential interruptions.

The delivery marked an important step towards strengthening water security for the Makana community.

During the National Arts Festival period, water supply in Makhanda remained stable on both the eastern and western sides. Contingency

measures, including standby personnel, were in place to respond to emergencies and maintain service continuity.

The Municipality remained committed to ensuring a reliable water supply and providing residents with responsive and sustainable services.

## SBDM and Makana handed over 252 wheelie bins



The Sarah Baartman District Municipality, together with the Executive Mayor of Makana Local Municipality Cllr Yandiswa Vara handed over 252 wheelie bins to residents of the Alicedale on Monday, 06 July 2026.

This initiative forms part of the Informal Settlements Upgrade Programme, which will soon commence in the area.

Makana Municipality is on a drive to improve waste collection to ensure cleanliness all around Makhanda and surrounding areas. Part of the process involves introducing wheelie bins instead of plastic bags for refuse collection.

The Executive Mayor thanked the District Municipality for the support role they played in the process.

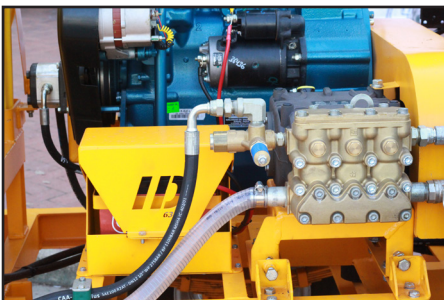
The SBDM also believes that the provision of these wheelie bins is about far more than distributing equipment.

It represents an investment in environmental sustainability, public health, and the dignity of our residents.

Clean surroundings contribute to safer neighborhoods, reduce illegal dumping, and encourage a culture of environmental responsibility.



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## Sarah Baartman District donates Jetting Machine to Makana

Makana Local Municipality received a jetting machine valued at R403,592.50 from Sarah Baartman District Municipality to assist in addressing sewerage backlogs and improving service delivery.

The machine will enable the Municipality to clear blocked sewer and stormwater drains more efficiently, helping to improve

sanitation and drainage services for residents.

The handover was attended by Makana Executive Mayor, Cllr Yandiswa Vara, and Sarah Baartman District Executive Mayor, Cllr Deon de Vos.

The occasion highlighted the continued collaboration between

the two municipalities and their shared commitment to strengthening service delivery.

Makana Local Municipality expressed its appreciation to Sarah Baartman District Municipality for the donation and continued support.



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# Local residents benefit from progressive training programme



## REMINDER:

# IDENTITY DOCUMENT COLLECTION NOTICE



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## The Department of Home Affairs is urging all residents who still need to collect their IDs to do so as soon as possible, before the uncollected IDs are returned to the Head Office in Pretoria.

The Sarah Baartman District Municipality partnered with East London IDZ - ELIDZ, East Cape Midlands College and Makana Municipality to offer the following free workshops on 26-28 August 2026:

- Computer Aided-Design (CAD) and Additive Manufacturing (3D printing)
- Game Development and Animation Training

Last week the chosen participants took part in a two-day training programme at the East Cape Midlands TVET College in Makhanda.

On the last day of the programme (Friday, 28 August 2026) the participants were presented with their certificates.

