

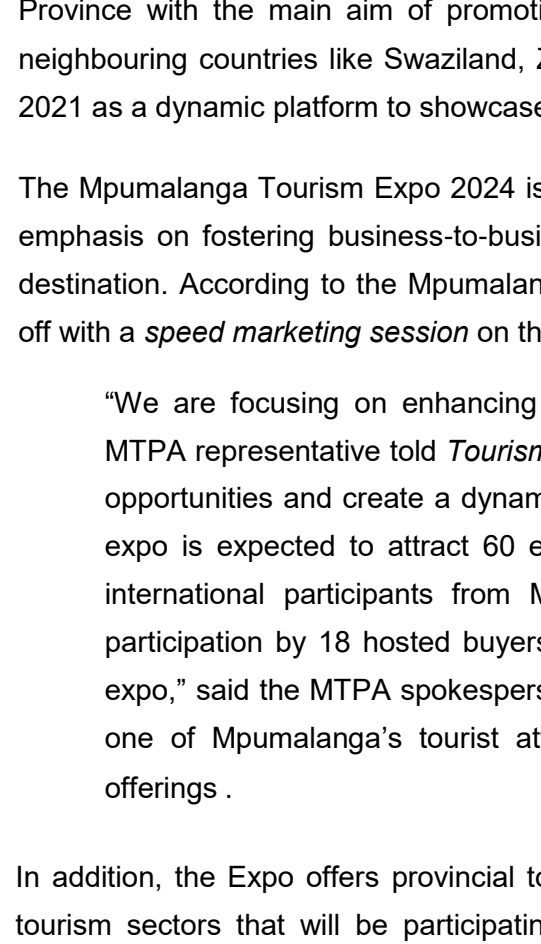


30 Years of Democracy:
Partnership and Growth

#Freedom30



From the EDITOR'S desk



The month of September is dedicated to the Tourism industry as "Tourism Month", wherein we celebrate our beautiful tourism destination in the Province of the Rising Sun. In celebrating the industry, **Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRRT)** as critical player in the industry through our Hospitality & Tourism Academy, managed to establish a strategic relationship with both the overseeing of tourism in the province, the **Mpumalanga Tourism Parks Agency (MTPA)** as well as the organisers of the **Mpumalanga Tourism EXPO** which has proven to be very beneficial and value-adding to our entity.

This strategic partnership led to the entity being afforded the opportunity of participating in the Tourism EXPO, but most importantly of hosting the pre-event media launch at the MRRT hotel.

The hosting of the media launch provided the entity with an opportunity to expose our HTA products and services to various and diverse industries within the tourism sector. The Mpumalanga Tourism Expo Media launch gala dinner was hosted at MRRT on the evening of the 15th of August, 2022. The event was graced by key stakeholders in the Tourism and Hospitality industry, from government and the private sector.

The event was specifically aimed at various media houses and indeed, both national and provincial media houses graced the launch event. Also gracing the event as the main sponsor and key player and overseer of the Mpumalanga Tourism sector was the **Mpumalanga Tourism Parks Agency (MTPA) Board of Directors** and the entity's executive leadership. The main aim of the media launch event was to brief the media with the planned activities and objectives of the 2024 Mpumalanga Tourism EXPO set to take place on the **4th to the 6th of October 2024** at the Riversides Mall in Mbombela. The Mpumalanga Tourism EXPO Director Mr Mthethwa gave a detailed address on the aim and objectives of having a Mpumalanga Tourism EXPO which will provide a platform for The Mpumalanga Tourism industries to showcase their products to the public and expose potential students to various products in the tourism and hospitality. MRRT and other key stakeholders were provided with a platform to deliver messages of support, while the Chairperson of MTPA board, delivered a very enlightening key note address.

The Mpumalanga Tourism EXPO is an Annual Tourism Exhibition event hosted in the Mpumalanga Province with the main aim of promoting local or domestic tourism, with regional integration with our neighbouring countries like Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The Tourism Expo was launched in 2021 as a dynamic platform to showcase a diverse range of tourism products and services.

The Mpumalanga Tourism Expo 2024 is gearing up to be a key event for the tourism industry with strong emphasis on fostering business-to-business (B2B) interactions and promoting the province as a tourist destination. According to the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), this year's expo will kick off with a *speed marketing session* on the first day, which is October.

"We are focusing on enhancing B2B interaction through the speed marketing session," an MTPA representative told *Tourism Update*. This approach is designed to streamline networking opportunities and create a dynamic platform for exhibitors and buyers to connect directly. The expo is expected to attract 60 exhibitors from various provinces of South Africa as well as international participants from Mozambique and the Kingdom of Eswatini. We anticipate participation by 18 hosted buyers who will take part in the speed marketing session and the expo," said the MTPA spokesperson. These buyers will also experience a familiarisation trip to one of Mpumalanga's tourist attractions to enhance their understanding of the province's offerings.

In addition, the Expo offers provincial tourism students a unique opportunity to engage with the various tourism sectors that will be participating at the EXPO. This year's expo will also strongly emphasise educating and inspiring future tourism professionals. The MTPA announced that 50 tourism students will be invited to participate in educational activities. As part of the Tourism Expo activities, plans have been put in place for students to visit the Makhonjwa Mountain World Heritage Site and Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport. These visits are intended to deepen students' understanding of tourism operations and inspire them to consider careers in the industry.

Happy Tourism Month!

Ms. Zanele L. Khoza

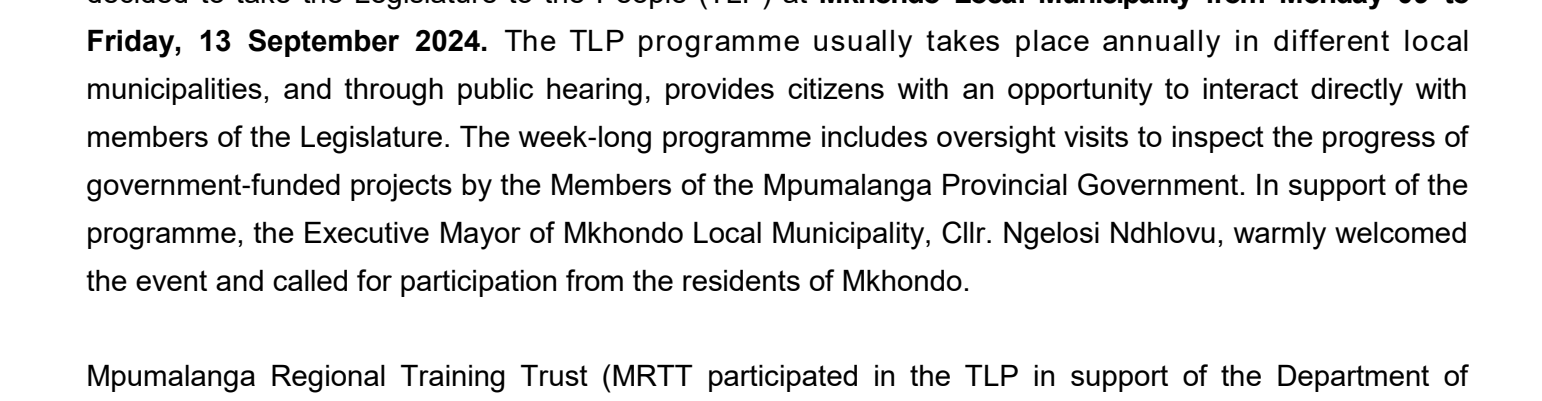
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The editorial team would like to hear from you. Please send your views and opinions to us.

VISION

To be recognised as an accredited sustainable skills development agency throughout Southern Africa.

MISSION

To provide quality customer training interventions, practical workplace training, placement and after-care according to the demands of the market that we serve for job creation and poverty alleviation

VALUES

- Accountability;
- Transparency;
- Commitment;
- Innovation;
- Professionalism; and
- Respect

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MRRT PARTICIPATED IN THE 2024 TAKING LEGISLATURE TO THE PEOPLE AT MHONDO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Guided by **Section 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa**, which provides for legislatures to facilitate public engagement in legislative and other processes of their committees, the Honourable Speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature, Ms Lindi Masina, and the provincial government decided to take the Legislature to the People (TLP) at **Mkhondo Local Municipality from Monday 09 to Friday, 13 September 2024**. The TLP programme usually takes place annually in different local municipalities, and through public hearing, provides citizens with an opportunity to interact directly with members of the Legislature. The week-long programme includes oversight visits to inspect the progress of government-funded projects by the Members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government. In support of the programme, the Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr. Ngelosi Ndhlovu, warmly welcomed the event and called for participation from the residents of Mkhondo.

Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRRT) participated in the TLP in support of the Department of Education under the Education Sector Stakeholder Engagement Session. MRRT also supported the MEC of Education, Ms Cathy Dlamini's various school project activities during the TLP week. The entity was tasked by the Department on day 3, the 11th of September to visit and assess two schools in the Mkhondo farming communities for assessment of repairs work required. The following day morning session on a Thursday 12 September the MEC with her team and MRRT visited the two schools **Cana secondary** and **Delfkom primary** where celebration events where held separately on the same day. Private sector also joined and supported the MEC with great sponsorships for the schools from laptops, sanitary towels, school shoes and soccer and netballs kits.



The afternoon session was a community engagement on the education sector stakeholders which included various key stakeholders in the Education sector lead by the Portfolio Committee on Education including Mkhondo Local Municipality; Traditional Leadership; Educator Unions (SADTU, NAPTOSA, SAOU, NEHAUWU); Federation of Associations of Governing Bodies of South African Schools (FEDSAS); School Governing Body Associations (NASGB); South African Principals Association (SAPA); LRCs & COSAS; Provincial Treasury and Office of the Auditor-General (AGSA)

The Portfolio Committee on Education under the leadership of Ms Thulisile Khoza held a stakeholder engagement session with stakeholders in the education sector on Thursday, 12 September 2024 at Hoerskool Piet Retief. The principal of Hoerskool Piet Retief, Mr Schiebush welcomed all attendees and appreciated the Legislature for choosing his school to host the session. The Chairperson outlined the purpose of the session as being to listen to stakeholders so that together they can find solutions to challenges that they are facing.

MEC for Education, Ms Cathy Dlamini started her overview by hailing education as the mother of all professions before continuing to speak on what her department has achieved in the Mkhondo Local Municipality as well as new infrastructure that is being built. She indicated that 3 boarding schools have been built to help learners from the farms with Mkhondo Boarding school being finalized, two secondary schools, the new St Andrew's primary school being constructed as well as additional Classrooms due to populace growth. The District Director indicated that all efforts are being made to ensure that Mkhondo Boarding school starts to operate early in 2025. He also acknowledged that the Thandukukhanya schools are extremely overcrowded, thus extra classes are being built, as well as the serious concern on a huge number of undocumented learners.

SELBY MOENG: FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO CULINARY EXCELLENCE - JOURNEY OF PASSION AND GROWTH



The Marketing team is excited to bring you a story of our own product, a trained MRRT-HTA learner who is now, part of us as an employee in the entity. We proudly introduce to you Selby Moeng, our new **HTA Demi Chef** hailing from Aconhoek under the Bohlabela District. Mr. Moeng holds an N6 certificate in Hospitality and Catering, along with an NQF Level 1 certificate in Food Preparation and Cooking, which he obtained through a learnership program. His culinary journey began in 2007 when he registered for Hospitality and Catering Services at Ehlanzeni TVET College, completing his studies in 2009. He started his in-service training at **Royal Malewane Lodge** under the supervision of Executive Chef Nithan Maake and Sous Chef Vincent.

At the Lodge, he learned the art of preparing bush breakfasts and bush dinners, relishing the experience of cooking while surrounded by wildlife. Mr Moeng was employed at **Magnolia Restaurant in Casterbridge**, White River in 2010.

The following year, he had the opportunity to participate in a learnership programme sponsored by the **Tourism and South African Chefs Association for Level 1 IVQ Food Preparation and Cooking at the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust Hospitality and Tourism Academy (MRRT-HTA)**. By November 2011, Selby was employed at **Forever Resort Blyde River Canyon**, where he thrived under the mentorship of Head Chef Harold Maatjie and Chef Calvin Mashego. He grew up watching his grandfather cook traditional food, and a pivotal moment in 2006, when he watched celebrity chef Reuben Riffel on a cooking show, sparked his deep interest in cooking. In 2013, he moved to **Makalali Game Lodge**, where he served as a Sous Chef until August 2014. In September 2014, he joined **Tsogo Sun (Emmotweni Hotel)**, working under his former lecturer from the School of Culinary Art (HTA), Head Chef Kholofelo Herbert Ramosa. After five months, he secured an opportunity to work with the MRRT - Hospitality and Tourism Academy in collaboration with the Department of Education on a project in Bushbuckridge from 2015 to 2016.

In 2017, he completed a short course in food safety (NQF 5) with the Tourism & Business Institute of South Africa (TTBISA). By December 2017, he was employed at **Graskop Gorge Lift CC** and also began a part-time confectionery business. In 2019, he became a Hospitality Workshop Assistant at Ehlanzeni TVET College, a role he held until 2020. In 2021, he took on the position of **Sous Chef at The Hoedspruit Café**. Selby Moeng's extensive experience and passion for culinary arts makes him a valuable addition to our team at MRRT. We look forward to seeing his creativity and expertise in action as he contributes to the success of our Hospitality and Tourism Academy. He emphasizes his focus on various cuisines, including South African, French, and Italian, due to his experience working in diverse organizations and catering to different groups from around the globe. "You have to focus on different types of dishes," he adds. During his tenure as a **Sous Chef at Makalali Game Lodge**, Mr. Moeng was responsible for overseeing the kitchen in the absence of the Executive Chef. His duties included planning the menu, ordering stock, conducting monthly stock takes, and training staff on new dishes.

Mr. Moeng's passion for new ideas drives him to constantly seek knowledge. He frequently watches food channels and YouTube videos to stay updated with the latest culinary trends and techniques. Mr. Moeng, a seasoned chef, stood before his team, ready to share the wisdom he had accumulated over the years. He knew that the culinary world was fraught with challenges, and striking the right balance between creativity and cost management was one of the biggest hurdles they faced.

"It's one of the biggest challenges," he began, "to strike the right balance between creativity and cost management. Some of the utensils or ingredients you need might be too expensive, but you have to be creative. Use your skills and what is available."

He emphasized the importance of planning and resource management. "You need to check product availability, budget, the types of clients, resources, and staff skill levels. Develop menus or meals that will excite customers and keep them coming back for more."

Cleanliness was another cornerstone of his teachings. "Always keep yourself clean and keep the food preparation areas clean," he said firmly. "Separate equipment to avoid cross-contamination. Use different color-coded equipment, like cutting boards and storage containers." Mr. Moeng continued, stressing the importance of food safety. "Cook food to the proper temperature and store it correctly. Separate cooked foods from raw foods to prevent contamination. And always use standardized recipes." His eyes gleamed with passion as he spoke about growth and innovation. "Learn new skills, develop new recipes, and train less experienced cooks to improve their skills. Do special dishes and promotions to keep things exciting."

The team listened intently, inspired by Mr. Moeng's dedication and expertise. He had a way of making every challenge seem like an opportunity for creativity and growth. Under his guidance, they were not just preparing meals—they were crafting experiences that delighted their customers and elevated their own skills. When asked about handling feedback and criticism regarding his dishes, Mr. Moeng provided a response that was both positive and motivating for future chefs. He said: "Embrace feedback and criticism, as they help you grow and avoid repeating the same mistakes in the future. Listen carefully to complaints, don't take them personally, always thank the person giving feedback, and act on it by seeking support from mentors or colleagues."

Reflecting on his career aspirations and some words of motivation and encouragement, he indicated: "I see myself growing within the organization, perhaps taking on more responsibilities and continuing to develop my culinary skills and creativity. Ultimately, I aim to contribute to the overall success of food and beverage operations in the hotel. "Come with passion, love for the industry, and be flexible. It must come from your heart, and you will enjoy every step towards your career. Hospitality education develops essential job skills for your future."

EMPOWERING FUTURE ARTISANS: 57 LEARNERS ENROLL AT MRRT ON AN APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY



On the 21st of July 2024, 57 eager learners embarked on their journey toward becoming skilled artisans at the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust. The learners have been selected to participate in apprenticeship programs in Carpentry, Plumbing, and Electrical Engineering, with the aim of gaining hands-on experience and knowledge in these essential trades.

The apprenticeship programs are generously funded by the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), reflecting a strong commitment to equipping young South Africans with the skills necessary for the country's growing infrastructure needs. Out of the 57 learners, 17 have been selected for the Electrical Engineering program, while 20 learners will specialize in Plumbing and another 20 in Carpentry.

The duration of the program is three years, during which learners will receive extensive training in their respective trades. At the conclusion of the program, the apprentices will take a trade test, and those who pass will become fully qualified artisans. This qualification will open doors to a wide range of career opportunities in their chosen fields.

MRRT warmly welcomed the new apprentices and extended their best wishes for a successful journey ahead. The organization expressed confidence that the learners would excel and make meaningful contributions to the country's workforce, ensuring a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

With the support of MRRT, CETA, and NYDA, these apprentices have a valuable opportunity to develop vital skills that will not only boost their individual growth but also strengthen South Africa's skilled labor force.

The Plumbing Industry Registration Board (PIRB), in collaboration with South African Women in Plumbing and Trades (SAWIPT), is visiting the MRRT Emalahleni Training Centre today as part of the PIRB's nationwide roadshow across South Africa.

The purpose of this visit is to engage with MRRT plumbing learners in a dialogue aimed at promoting improved plumbing practices, ensuring continuous growth in the industry, and educating learners about the importance of PIRB.

MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST
MRRT HOSPITALITY & TOURISM ACADEMY

BEST AFFORDABLE HOTEL in the lowveld

About Us?

The Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRRT) owns a fully operational 3 star hotel that also serves a Hospitality & Tourism Academy (HTA) offering hospitality skills training programmes. The hotel consists of the following services

- 23 rooms for accommodation
- Restaurant & Bar
- 3 conference rooms
- Swimming pool

The onsite 3 star graded hotel also ensures that learners are trained, coached and mentored in various sections of the hotel through in order to be integrated seamlessly in any work environment within the Hospitality & Tourism Industry

Our Guest Rooms

Each of the hotel bedrooms, offers quality beds with crisp linen and bedding ensuring a good night's sleep. The spacious yet cosy bedrooms offer guests a sense of warm ambience.

- Business Work Desk/Station
- Flat-Screen Smart TV With Selected DSTV Channels
- Ensuite Bathrooms
- Free WIFI
- Electronic Room Safe
- Tea/Coffee Facility Replenished Daily
- Individually Controlled Air-Conditioning & Telephone

The rooms are serviced daily by a professional housekeeping team. The committed team undertakes to ensure that all of the 23 bedrooms are neat, clean and comfortable and maintained with the highest standards of expectation.

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Empowerment Through Training