



01 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 2026

EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

NEW BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

FINANCIAL YEAR APPROVED BY COUNCIL



Emakhazeni Local Council has approved its annual budget for the 2026/2027 financial year with steep increase in electricity tariffs and basic charges.

The budget was approved on 28 May 2026 during an ordinary council meeting which was attended by various community stakeholders. The electricity price increase shall be 9,01% for households and for commercial and industrial properties, the electricity increase shall be 15%.

Other municipal tariff increase of 3,40% on property rates, water, sewerage, pre-paid electricity and refuse collection will come into effect on 1 July 2026.

Municipal households and businesses will be faced with this sharp price increase at the start of the new financial year amid fuel price increases which affects other household necessities.

Council has also approved the following capital

expenditure.

- R38 million for roads, water, public facilities infrastructure and refuse trucks
- R14 million for electricity sub-station and streetlights.
- R41 million for sewerage infrastructure
- R340 for computer equipment and
- R150 000 for brush cutters

This new budget was shaped by various ward community consultations and stakeholders with the last budget indaba consultations on 5 May 2026. Council has declared the new financial year as the “YEAR OF DECISIVE ACTION TO FIX LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY” and is now using “one plan, one budget, one framework” to align resources and plans with other role players such as the District Municipality and sector departments.



MISSION

“Emakhazeni Local Municipality Exists To Improve The Quality Of Life Of It's Citizen By Providing Accelerated Services and Creation Of Conducive Environment For Economic Growth Through Good Governance, Innovation And Integrated Planning”

VISION

“A Developmental Local Municipality Striving To Accerate Provision Of Quality Services To The Satisfaction Of Community”

MOTO

**Kumnyama
Kubomvu
Siyanqoba**

EXECUTIVE MAYOR HOLDS COMMUNITY IMBIZO IN EMGWENYA AND EMTHONJENI

Addressing Service Delivery and Strengthening Community Partnership

On 25 February 2026, Executive Mayor Cllr N.A. Mashele held a Mayoral Imbizo with residents of Emgwenya and Emthonjeni at Paul Nkosi and Vusi Masango Halls.

She was joined by former Speaker Cllr L. Ndinisa, former Chief Whip Cllr T. Lukhele, former MMC for Finance Cllr S.S. Mthimunya, MMC for Technical & Community Services Cllr J. Mabila, Ward 6 Councillor Cllr C. Mmola, and Ward 7 Councillor Cllr S. Ndzimande.

Former Speaker Cllr L. Ndinisa highlighted key challenges affecting service delivery which are electricity infrastructure theft and meter tampering, non-payment for services, damaged municipal flats, water and sewer spillages, vandalism of community halls and sports facilities, shortage of grazing and housing land, job access, and concerns around local economic development.

Residents raised key requests including faster housing allocation in Gugulethu, vacant stands in Emasimini, urgent repairs to flats, improved response to water and sewer spills, action against illegal connections, and greater transparency in LED support.

In response, the Mayor outlined the progress made and that is completion of Emgwenya roads, 100 RDP houses built in Gugulethu, land identified for housing projects, bakery revival with R1 million allocation by Komati Mine, revival of the LED committee, and strengthened indigent registration. Residents were urged to report electricity theft and vandalism.



EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY HOUSING PROJECT HANDOVER REPORT

On 26 May 2026, a housing project was officially handed over for the construction of low-cost housing units under the Integrated Residential Development Program. The handover was done at Emakhazeni Local Municipality in Mpumalanga by the Department of Traditional Affairs, Cooperative Governance and Human Settlement.

The project is valued at R37 million for construction of 203 housing units and is set to take place in extension 7 & 13 in Siyathuthuka township Belfast. A construction company known as KJM Business Enterprises was awarded the contract. The project is expected to be completed within 24 months.

The municipality has set measurable targets for job creation, internships and sub-contracting to promote employment opportunities and skills transfer for local people and these targets will be closely monitored once the work begins.

The newly elected speaker of council Cllr SS Mthimunye presided over the proceedings. Also in attendance were MMC N Nkosi, MMC J. Mabila, Cllr S Ndimande, and Cllr DM Mahlangu of Emakhazeni Municipal Council.

The contractor called for support and cohesion in ensuring the timely completion of the long-overdue project. He stated that if any problems arise, all involved parties should sit down and discuss them to find a solution.

Mr. Mahlangu the chairperson of the steering committee expressed joy and happiness on the project handover which previously experienced many challenges and thanked the office of the Executive Mayor, Speaker and the Ward councilor Cllr D Mahlangu for their commitment to see this housing project done.

Cllr. D. Mahlangu the ward councilor also expressed satisfaction that the project has finally resumed after being abandoned by the previous contractor. Cllr. Mahlangu further thanked everyone involved in this project and expressed optimism that the remaining houses will finally be delivered.

The meeting was formally closed with a prayer.



CASNAN CIVILS HANDED ENKANINI STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AS 6-MONTH WORKS BEGIN

Emakhazeni Local Municipality has officially handed over the reconstruction of Enkanini Street in Emthonjeni, Hlalani Kahle to Casnan Civils, in joint venture with Tebogo Rationals. The site handover took place on Monday, 08 June 2026 at 08:00. The costs of the project is R8.17 million and will run for 6 months.

The meeting was chaired by the Speaker of Council Cllr. S.S. Mthimunya. Also in attendance was the Acting Executive Mayor Cllr J. Mabila, MMC N. Nkosi, Chief Whip Cllr C. Mmola. Cllr Mmola welcomed residents and the contractor, before Cllr Mabila introduced Casnan Civils as the appointed contractor.



Officials noted the street was previously constructed by another contractor and deemed complete. However, years of flooding and heavy rains caused extensive soil erosion due to the absence of stormwater drainage in the original design. The current contractor has been mandated to rectify these defects and complete the reconstruction to the required standard.

The Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Mabila outlined three key expectations:

1. Maximization of local job creation opportunities
2. Allocation of subcontracting opportunities to local enterprises
3. Proper construction of the road, including correction of the stormwater infrastructure omitted by the previous contractor

The residents used the platform to raise four key matters:

1. Equitable benefit: A request for clarity on ward benefits, with opportunities distributed fairly instead of going to the same individuals repeatedly

2. Labour rates: A call to review and increase the rate for local labour
3. Local employment: Security personnel should be recruited from within the community
4. Interim stormwater management: Interim measures to manage stormwater and prevent flooding during construction

Responding to the community, Cllr C. Mmola said due process would be followed in addressing all matters raised. Proceedings concluded with sod turning by all councillors present.



EMAKHAZENI BRICK PLANT REFURBISHMENT: PROGRESS UPDATE APRIL – JUNE 2026

Since the site visit on 8 April 2026, refurbishment works at the Emakhazeni Brick Plant have continued steadily. As confirmed in Progress Report 05, the project is at 70% overall completion stage and it started on 8 December 2025.

The contractual completion date was revised from 10 May to 6 July 2026 to recover from early delays caused by rainfall, missing electrical items and late transformer supply. Those issues have been resolved, and recovery is reflected in the current 70% progress.

SCOPE PROGRESS APRIL – JUNE

1. Guardhouse: Construction at final stage
2. Boundary wall: Construction completed this period
3. Storage/Office Block: Refurbishment works underway
4. Ablution Facilities/Toilets*: Refurbishment works underway
5. Generator + Tank Stands: Construction underway, concrete slab for tank stands cast
6. Clearview fence: Installation in progress
7. Plant supply: Rammer/compactor and other Yellow plant on site



PEOPLE, SUBCONTRACTORS + COMPLIANCE

Local subcontractors Special Aarow Trade & Project for security and Mandl'olukhanya for fencing, plus building works and plant supply, remain active on site. April's CLO report confirms 30 local workers were employed for 22 days with all workers and subcontractors paid on time.

Compliance is stable: no safety incidents recorded, PPE and sanitation standards met, no labour disputes or community complaints. No challenges or lost days were recorded for this period.

STATUS

With the boundary wall completed and guardhouse at final stage, remaining civil and building works are advancing. This combination of 1 major structure completed + 1 at final stage + other items underway supports the 70% overall figure. The project remains on track for the revised completion date of _6 July 2026_, ahead on physical progress and within budget.



Emakhazeni Municipality Opens Access Path for Nkosi Family at Sevenfontein Farm, Machadodorp



Emakhazeni Local Municipality assisted the Nkosi family on Wednesday, 23 April 2026 at Sevenfontein Farm in Machadodorp by grading an access path to their home. The route was never a formal road, just a narrow path, and it had become blocked so mourners and service vehicles could not reach the family after Mr Nkosi, the head of the household, passed away.

MMC and Ward Cllr N Nkosi worked on site with residents and municipal employees to oversee the work. Mr Masuku operated the TLB and Mr Skosana drove the Tipper Truck. Their teamwork restored access for the grieving family.

Cllr N Nkosi said the intervention shows the municipality's commitment to stand with vulnerable families during their time of loss and make sure they have basic access and dignity.



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (DFFE) HANDS OVER EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP) PARTICIPANTS TO EMAKHAZENI MUNICIPALITY IN PUSH FOR JOBS & CLEANER TOWNS

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), in partnership with Emakhazeni Local Municipality, officially handed over a new cohort of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants during a ceremony held at the Council Chamber on 18 June 2026 at 10H00. The Acting Speaker of Council, Cllr J Mabila, served as Program Director.

Cllr J Mabila welcomed all present with Mr. A. Nefale, Acting Senior Manager. Assigned with responsibility to introduce various stakeholders. Mr. S.C Nkosi, Acting Municipal Manager, outlined the municipality's role in EPWP implementation and urged participants to take the opportunity seriously, work diligently, and act as ambassadors of service delivery.



Partnership & Overview of the EPWP Program

Ms. N. Mtalana, Director: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), gave an overview of the program. She explained that DFFE and the municipality are jointly implementing the Municipal Cleaning & Greening programme under EPWP, without service providers. The project expands the National Good Green Deeds programme to create jobs and ensure a safe, healthy environment.

Work is focused on four sites – Machadodorp, Dullstroom, Belfast & Waterval Boven – covering 10 illegal dump sites, litter picking, and street cleaning. Ms. Mtalana reported progress since 2023 and confirmed the second intake started in May 2026. She reaffirmed DFFE's commitment to cohesion and good working relations with the municipality.

Ms. N. Ndlovu, EPWP Champion, presented the program's impact since 2023. To date, 421 work opportunities have been created under this program. Participants have acquired some work experience which will make them competent as they continue to seek permanent employment elsewhere.



engaged in green initiatives, cleaning, and environmental protection. Ms. Ndlovu noted the program has helped alleviate poverty in the community. Participants' Voice: Longer Contracts & Responsibility

Four Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants shared their experiences. They requested longer contracts for continuity and encouraged all participants to register to vote, noting that elections will determine if programs like EPWP continue. They also highlighted how EPWP keeps youth away from drug abuse and teaches responsibility and discipline*.

Mayor's Keynote: Discipline, Dignity & 3 Promises

Executive Mayor Cllr N.A Mashele thanked the project and all stakeholders. She explained that the Council Chamber functions like a legislature where service delivery decisions are made. While raising concern over low rural representation, she welcomed those present and

stressed that EPWP participants are ambassadors of the municipality, not just workers. She noted that mines in Emakhazeni cannot absorb everyone, making EPWP vital. The Mayor emphasized discipline and made 3 promises:

- 1) Respect and dignity at work.
- 2) Safety with PPE provided, and
- 3) Fairness with stipends paid on time and correctly.

She urged punctuality, pride in work, and ownership, saying conduct will serve as testimony for future job interviews. The Mayor celebrated women's dominance in the program, stating "women feed families," and encouraged everyone to save and start something after EPWP. She concluded that towns are clean because of participants' efforts.

Announcement

Cllr N. Nkosi, MMC Corporate Services, announced that a group photo will be taken outside using the backdrop banner. He requested that

the terms/period of service be added to assist underprivileged families with clarity and planning.

Closure

Cllr S.P Masango delivered the vote of thanks, thanking everyone who facilitated the partnership, the organizers, and all speakers.

The event concluded with a group photo of officials, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) representatives, and the newly inducted Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants.

This handover reaffirms the ongoing collaboration between the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and Emakhazeni Local Municipality to reduce unemployment and deliver meaningful work experience for community members.



Launch of Climate Smart Agriculture Training Programme

Nkangala District Municipality, in partnership with UN Women, the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, and other stakeholders, launched a three-day Climate-Smart Agriculture training programme at the Emakhazeni Council Chamber.

The programme equips 30 emerging farmers with practical skills in soil health management, water conservation, integrated nutrient management, pest and weed control, conservation agriculture, seedling preparation, and sustainable vegetable production. It forms part of NDM's Climate Change, Just Transition, and Biodiversity Programme.

Opening the session, Mr. Edwin Mametja, NDM Divisional Manager: Climate and Biodiversity, said climate change is already affecting local agriculture through droughts, erratic rainfall, heatwaves, floods, and declining yields. "We are empowering farmers with practical solutions to produce more with fewer resources, adapt to changing conditions, and build sustainable enterprises for future generations," he said.

The training prioritizes food security and inclusivity for women, youth, and vulnerable groups. By combining classroom instruction with hands-on demonstrations, farmers can immediately apply these techniques to support a green, climate-resilient economy in the district.



Emgwenya Bakery is Now Operating

The Emgwenya Bakery Project started operations on Wednesday, 24 June 2026. This is a community-driven project in Emgwenya, under Emakhazeni Local Municipality, created to create jobs, skills, and new business opportunities in the area.

The bakery is run by the Emgwenya Primary Cooperative. It is supported by the Uxolwethu Special Purpose Vehicle [SPV], which was appointed by Emakhazeni Local Municipality to train beneficiaries and support the project.

Mr. Mabutho Khumalo – SPV Director and Informal Economy Development Federation (IEDF) Africa Chairperson, Ms. Thandi Hlatshwayo SPV Administrator and Informal Economy Development Federation (IEDF) Secretary General, Mr. Jabulani Nyamazane – Emgwenya Bakery Cooperative Director and Community Development Committee Chairperson, Emgwenya resident, Ms. Lindiwe Thabethe Emgwenya Bakery Cooperative Director and Bakery Trainee, Emgwenya resident were all in attendance to celebrate this historic day.

Six Emgwenya residents are directors of the cooperative. This keeps the project owned and led by the community.

Trainees will receive monthly stipends funded by African Rainbow Minerals, Nkomati Mine while they learn. The training runs for 45 days in 3 parts:

1. Art of Baking – 15 days
2. Science of Baking – 15 days
3. Business of Baking – 15 days

More sectors are planned for the area that includes cooked food, agro-processing, wholesale and retail, and tourism. These will create jobs for more residents in the future.

The bakery is open 7 days a week, from 08:00 to 17:00. For now, only fresh white bread is available at R13.00 per loaf with ,120 loaves baked daily to meet community demand.

The community of Emakhazeni, and especially the residents of Emgwenya are requested to buy or adopt one loaf of bread for each house every day. If every household buys just one loaf a day at R13.00, it will sustain the bakery, make the project much stronger, and create more job opportunities.

Note :The official opening event will be announced at a later date.



Emakhazeni Municipality Swore In Two New Councilors, Restoring Full Council

Emakhazeni Local Municipality restored full Council between March and May 2026 when Ms Sarah Smangele Mahlangu was sworn in as Ward 6 councilor on 26 March 2026, replacing former councilor

F. Nhlapho, and Mr S.P. Masango took the oath of office on 18 May 2026 by filling the seat vacated by former Speaker Cllr S.L. Ndinisa. Both ceremonies took place at the Emakhazeni Council Chamber and were conducted by Speaker of Council, with Cllr S.L. Ndinisa presiding on 26 March and newly elected Speaker Cllr S.S. Mthimunye presiding on 18 May. With both councilors now sworn in, Council resumed full oversight and decision-making as the municipality closed the 2025/26 financial year and rolled out the 2026/27 budget as its "implementation contract" for service delivery.



Emakhazeni Circuit Matric Class of 2025 Results

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025 WITH 82% CIRCUIT PERFORMANCE.

The Executive Mayor of Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Her Worship Cllr N.A. Mashele, shared a message full of joy to celebrate the Matric Class of 2025 at the Academic Awards Ceremony held at the “Gateway to the Highlands.” The event recognized the hard work that led to the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results.

The Class of 2025 wrote their final exams late in 2025. When results were released, Emakhazeni Circuit achieved an 82% pass rate — a proud achievement for our learners, educators, and parents.

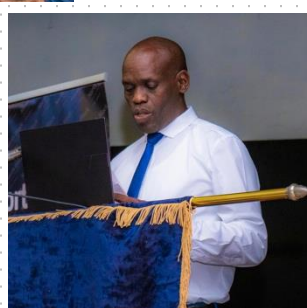


2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Results by School - Emakhazeni Circuit:

Pass Rate

1. Belfast Academy: 100%
2. Imemeza Secondary: 98.1%
3. Emakhazeni Boarding: 93.9%
4. Kwenza Combined: 92.7%
5. Môreli Combined: 83.9%
6. Khayalami Secondary: 78.4%
7. Tonteldoes Secondary: 74.1%
8. Siyifunile Secondary: 71.7%
9. Sikhulile Secondary: 66.7%

To every learner from the Class of 2025: Your results laid the groundwork for your future. The Mayor, together with Emakhazeni Local Municipality, remains proud of you and celebrates your success. These were the encouraging words of the Executive Mayor



COUNCILLORS LEAD FULL-FORCE ENCOURAGEMENT TO EMAKHAZENI LEARNERS IN JANUARY

Kicking Off the 2025 Academic Year with Discipline, Support & Motivation

In January 2025, Emakhazeni Local Municipality councillors visited schools across the municipality to set a strong tone for the academic year.

Executive Mayor Cllr N.A. Mashele addressed Khayalami Secondary School in Siyathuthuka. She stressed discipline and high morale as key to success, commended Emakhazeni schools for 60% to 100% pass rates in the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams, and urged learners to strive for greatness. She reminded girls that school is a learning centre, not a place for pregnancy, and urged all learners to work with police and parents to tackle gangsterism and vandalism. The Mayor announced that shoes and school supplies would be delivered. Circuit Manager Mr M.P. Sindane gave special recognition to Mr M.S. Shabangu, a Khayalami teacher, for sacrificing family time, weekends and holidays to assist learners with Accounting lessons before school reopened.

Chief Whip Councillor T Lukhele visited Morelig Combined School on reopening day, urging learners to start studying immediately and to “aim for 100 percent.”

Councillors C Mmola and Hepburn congratulated Emakhazeni Boarding School’s Class of 2025 for achieving 3rd place with 93.9% among Emakhazeni’s 9 high schools in the 2025 NSC results. They encouraged learners and teachers to maintain the “Learn and Teach” approach.

Cllr N Nkosi, MMC for Corporate Services and Ward Councillor, together with PR Cllr Nhlapo, attended Dumezizweni Primary School’s reopening on 14 January in eMthonjeni, eNtokozweni. They urged learners to focus on their studies and expect great results, “just like your big siblings in secondary schools.” The school appealed for assistance for learners without uniforms.





Boosting Morale and Social Support for Learners

On 22 January 2026, Minister of Social Development Ms. Sisisi Tolashe visited Emakhazeni Boarding School in Mpumalanga as part of the national Back-to-School Campaign. The visit aimed to boost learner morale and highlight social development support in the area.

The program, directed by Council Speaker Cllr L. Ndinisa, included a warm welcome with the national anthem, presentations on the school's status and challenges, and reflections from Executive Mayor Cllr N.A. Mashele and Minister Tolashe. The Minister also held a meet-and-greet session with the Matric Class of 2026, encouraging them to stay focused and use available support services.

After the school, Minister Tolashe extended her outreach to a storm-damaged farmhouse in the area, showing government's commitment to supporting vulnerable families beyond the classroom.



MAYORAL GAMES INSPIRE YOUTH IN EMGWENYA

Emakhazeni Local Municipality hosted a successful mayoral game events in Emgwenya on 27 June 2026 at Vusi Masina stadium.

The municipality co-hosted the events with Exxaro Mine and Tswelopele Undertakers where sporting events such as soccer, netball, volleyball and a 6km to 10km fun run were the prominent activities of the day.

The purpose of the games were to encourage young people to focus and be active in all areas of life, to build self-confidence and create trust in themselves, and move away from distractive activities.

Ms Cynthia Makhubela from Exxaro, welcomed the mayor’s initiative and acknowledged that, the mine has not yet come close enough to the people of Emgwenya. Whilst Mr Bheki Dlamini from Tswelopele encouraged residents to join burial schemes to reduce stress on families when death occurs.

The Executive Mayor Cllr M.A. Mashele highlighted key challenges facing young people which is drug abuse, alcohol misuse, and unemployment. She urged the participants players and residents to have discipline in everything they do by avoiding places where drugs are sold and focus on education and healthy lifestyle.

The top 3 winners of the 10-kilometre fun run were presented with trophies, and their names are Zolani Nkosi, John Moripe and Charles Hleza. Whilst the 6km winners were presented with bronze medals and their names are Aluwande Sinyaveni, Felix de Brouwer, Ngabonga Chavanguane.

The soccer games were very exciting to watch with the youngsters displaying their talent. The team from Entokozweni drew 0 – 0 with Emgwenya with the game proceeding to penalty shootouts. Entokozweni won 5 goals to 4 against Emgwenya. The semi-finals were 2-1 with Siyathuthuka winning against Sakhelwe. Siyathuthuka and Entokozweni proceeded to compete at the finals of the game with Siyathuthuka winning the game 1 – 0

against Entokozweni.

The Netball Champions were won by Entokozweni which received a score of 22 against 20 by Emgwenya. The Volleyball Champions called the “Bombas” won against Waterval Boven.

All sporting code winners received medals and R10 000 cash while runners-up received medals only. Adding to the day’s atmosphere was the support from community members with the best music dancer named Majaivane walking away with R100 cash. As the event was about to

officially close the Executive Mayor thanked the residents, organizers, and sponsors for their cooperation and unity. A special appreciation was expressed to Exxaro for the contribution of R30 000 towards winners’ prizes across all sporting codes.

The Mayoral Games reaffirmed Council’s commitment to youth empowerment, healthy living, and community cohesion as Emakhazeni closes the 2025/2026 financial year.

Issued by: Emakhazeni Local Municipality Communications





EMAKHAZENI

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Emergency Numbers



EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

013 253 7600



FIRE & RESCUE

072 584 5907 OR 072 344 9308



AMBULANCES

- Belfast 013 253 0114
- Waterval Boven 013 257 0342
- Call Centre 112 (cell)
10177(Land line)



HOSPITALS

- Belfast 013 253 1184/5
- Waterval Boven: 013 257 0375



SAPS

- Belfast 013 253 1214
013 253 1688
- Machado 013 256 0004
- Waterval Boven 013 257 0003
- Dullstroom 013 254 0141



ROAD ACCIDENT FUND

- Nelspruit 013 752 3075
- Emalaheni 013 690 3652



HOME AFFAIRS

013 253 1689
013 253 1647



SASSA

013 653 7154



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

013 253 1791/2



TELKOM DIRECT ENQUIRIES LINE

1024



LAND AFFAIRS

013 756 4000

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Emakhaseni Local Municipality,
Communication Unit
Contact: K.T Nkosi - 013 253 7636



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