



Sol Plaatje Local Municipality

# The RESIDENT

[www.solplaatje.org.za](http://www.solplaatje.org.za)

ISSUE 03  
DECEMBER 2025



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Stormwater Canal Lining  
in Wards 16 and 17



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# The RESIDENT

## Message from the Executive Mayor, Cllr Martha Bartlett



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**Issued by:** Sol Plaatje Municipality Communications Unit

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The opinions expressed by interviewed persons are not necessarily those of the municipality or the publishing team.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this edition of our The Resident Magazine, a platform that keeps us connected, informed, and united as a community. As we reflect on the progress made over the past year, I am encouraged by the collective strength and resilience shown by our residents. Together, we are building a municipality rooted in accountability, safety, and dignity for all.

A key priority for my office continues to be the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). GBV remains one of the most devastating challenges facing our nation, and it demands our unwavering commitment. As a municipality, we stand firmly with survivors and are strengthening support networks, awareness campaigns, and prevention initiatives across our communities.

I call on every resident to take a stand, speak out, support victims, and help create homes and neighbourhoods where everyone, especially women and children, feels safe and protected.

The Municipality hosted a successful Safety Imbizo on 2 December 2025, which resulted in the swift appointment of a Rapid Response Task Team as part of the Festive Safer City Campaign.

Working together with law enforcement authorities and key stakeholders, this initiative aims to keep our city safe and clean. To date, more than 40 unlicensed gambling machines have been confiscated from tuckshops across the city.

As we enter the festive season, a time for family, celebration, and togetherness, we must also prioritise road safety. Through our Arrive Alive messaging, we urge all residents to travel responsibly: obey speed limits, never drink and drive, buckle up, and remain alert at all times. Every life lost on our roads is one too many, and together we can prevent unnecessary tragedy. We will also ensure increased visibility of traffic officials on our roads to keep motorists safe.

In strengthening partnership and collaboration, a team of peace officers is in close partnership with SAPS during this month in a decisive and impactful campaign to reclaim the CBD. This operation focused on enforcing municipal by-laws and restoring order in our city's Central Business District.

All residents are encouraged to continue honouring their municipal accounts to ensure uninterrupted service delivery. As a caring municipality, we remain committed to supporting households that cannot meet their monthly obligations. The Municipality has an ongoing Indigent Registration Programme to assist our most vulnerable residents, and we encourage eligible households to visit the Credit Control Section to make the necessary arrangements.

The festive period also brings renewed hope and the opportunity to reflect on our shared goals as a municipality.

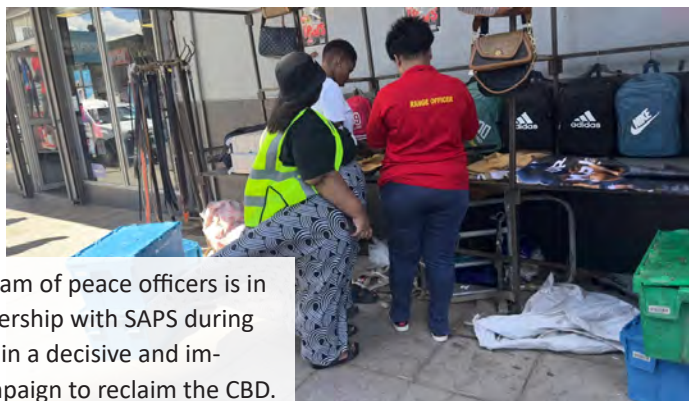
Let us celebrate responsibly, look out for one another, and carry forward the spirit of unity that continues to move our community forward.

Thank you for your partnership, your compassion, and your contribution to a safer, stronger, and more vibrant municipality.

**Cllr Martha Bartlett**  
**Executive Mayor**



**Photo:** The Municipality hosted a successful Safety Imbizo on 2 December 2025.



**Photo:** A team of peace officers is in close partnership with SAPS during this month in a decisive and impactful campaign to reclaim the CBD.

## Message from the Acting Municipal Manager, Ms. Busisiwe Mgaguli



The Resident, our city's most prized jewel, we thank you for your support throughout 2025.

As the year begins to wind down, we reflect on our shared journey. Each year brings economic drawbacks. Yet together - community, stakeholders and organs of state - we continue to overcome challenges and aim to progress and be a better serving Municipality than the year before.

In 2025, Sol Plaatje Municipality celebrated significant progress, taking pride in the swift implementation of programmes and processes to strengthen our digital payment ecosystem and expand smart metering coverage.

As an institution, we cannot, however, shy away from some of the challenges we faced that inconvenienced our residents, such as water leaks and electricity outages. On this front, we are wholly committed to improving.

To ensure alignment on our collective responsibilities, we would like to highlight strategic risks and reaffirm our commitment to the successful realisation of all projects, recognising their potential economic and social benefits to the Kimberley Central Business District (CBD) and the residents of this city. We look fondly towards 2026.

We appreciate your active citizenry - from paying municipal accounts to participating in our IDP and Budget engagement processes - and we look forward to working in continued partnership to maximise the potential of this city and strengthen our governance processes. We furthermore urge our residents to work with the Municipality to curb and fight vandalism and theft of key infrastructure, as this continues to put the Municipality under further financial strain. Together, these collective efforts to grow and improve our city move us closer to regaining our sparkle.

May 2026 welcome us, determined to achieve and build better, together.

We wish all our residents a festive year-end and a prosperous and developmental 2026.

**Ms. Busisiwe Mgaguli**  
**Acting Municipal Manager**

*A Historic First for the Diamond City*



## *Diamonds and Dorings* **Kimberley Big Hole Marathon**

On Saturday, 22 November 2025, runners from near and far gathered at Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley to experience the inaugural Diamonds and Dorings Kimberley Big Hole Marathon. While some athletes arrived to compete, many others came simply to be part of this long-awaited milestone event.

As an official qualifier for both the Comrades Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon, the race attracted thousands of participants — including several elite runners. The result was a memorable day filled with competitive spirit, community unity, and economic activity across the city.

“We always go to Durban and the Southern Cape, so this is something new for me. This race is very nice and beautiful, and we are willing to promote it. We will definitely come again next year — one hundred percent,” said Michael Mokone from the Hollywood Athletics Club in Gauteng on the day before the race (photo: Michael is on the right).



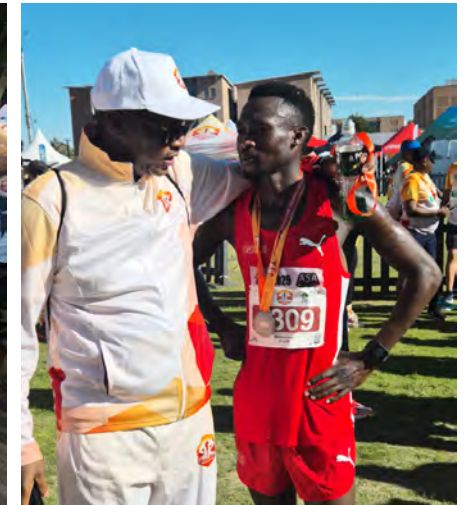
Race Director Thato Setholo and Project Manager Carey Moraladi led the organising team, supported by athletics officials, volunteers, sponsors, and safety partners. Organis-

ers emphasised the marathon’s positive impact on local tourism and the economy, with visitors filling restaurants and supporting small businesses throughout Kimberley.

“It was truly an honour and a privilege to be part of the dedicated crew that made history on Saturday by hosting and organising the Kimberley Diamonds and Dorings Big Hole Marathon. A heartfelt thank you to Thato Setholo and Bontle Carey Moraladi — your guidance, leadership, and commitment played a major role in making this event the success it was,” said Velile Hessi in a Facebook post.

The route showcased Kimberley’s rich heritage, while a festive, energetic atmosphere marked this historic weekend in the Diamond City. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this landmark event a resounding success!

Photo by DND Comms



The men’s 42,2 km winner was Bennet Seloji with a time of 2:13:22





# CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN DAY

The Sol Plaatje Municipality hosted a Christmas Family Fun Day on 5 December at the Municipal Garden. Residents gathered to enjoy a relaxed and festive afternoon together. The event was filled with joy and featured DJ performances, creating a vibrant atmosphere for families and friends.



*Real Pointers - local pantsula dancers*

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a memorable day of celebration and togetherness. Your presence helped make this Christmas Family Fun Day truly special.



## GALESHEWE CREATIVE ARTS MARKET 2025

MC- DJSPANKY

DJ LINEUP:

DEETONE LIVE BAND  
OLE ON THE MIC LIVE BAND  
DJ QUINN  
PRECIOUS DEEJAY  
KRB 95  
STALA

13 DECEMBER 2025

FREE ENTRANCE: GATES OPEN AT 10:00AM VENUE  
OPEN AIR ARENA



- Are you living in a formal settlement?
- Do you want to build on your plot owned by Sol Plaatje Municipality and do you have the means to do so?
- Do you want the plot transferred to your name so you can obtain a title deed?

Contact the Municipal Housing Division at the Sol Plaatje Housing Development Section, Moshoeshoe Street, Galeshewe.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

PAID!

## COUNCIL APPROVES DEBT RELIEF PROGRAMME

In terms of Council resolution number C236/12/25, Council resolved on a Debt Relief Programme afforded to all Sol Plaatje Municipality Customers owing the Municipality for a period equal to or over 90 days.

# 50% SETTLEMENT DISCOUNT

**FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNT -  
50 % SETTLEMENT DISCOUNT  
(ON TOTAL MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT).**

*Valid until 28 February 2026. Terms and Conditions apply.*



**SOL PLAATJE  
MUNICIPALITY**  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY / DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT  
MASEPALA WA SEDIKA / U MASEPALA WE SITHILI



At its final Ordinary Council Meeting held on 04 December 2025, the Sol Plaatje Municipal Council tabled and considered two key reports, namely the first quarter Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) for Financial Year 2025/26 and the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) oversight report for the 2023/24 Financial Year Annual Report.

Through robust deliberations and strong inputs, both reports were ultimately resolved on with critical amendments and recommendations. The SDBIP highlighted progress of service delivery and budget implementation while identifying areas of underperformance where corrective actions can be taken. The MPAC report emphasised compliance with legislation and accountability, following consultation with directorates. The approval of these reports demonstrates the Municipality's commitment to transparency, improved governance and greater service delivery for the community.

In addition to considering directorate reports by Section 79 and Section 80 Committees, the Sol Plaatje Municipality Council, in recognising economic pressures faced by households and businesses, took a resolution to extend a welcomed Special Municipal Debt relief programme, effective 05 December 2025 to 28 February 2026. This initiative aims to assist ratepayers by reducing their financial burden, while improving the municipality's revenue collection and financial position.



# Launch of the Sol Plaatje Municipality Junior Council

The Office on the Rights of the Child (ORC) is mandated to institutionalise children’s rights systems and strengthen the delivery of children’s rights across the province. As part of this mandate, the office is responsible for implementing the National Child Participation Framework, which emphasises the importance of children’s voices being heard in matters that affect them — including their participation in legislative processes.

In support of this vision, the ORC initiated the establishment of Children’s Ward Forums across all wards in Sol Plaatje Municipality. To date, the office has received access, assistance, and support from leadership in 26 wards, enabling the successful launch of Children’s Forums in these areas.

The ORC commemorated National Children’s Day on 31 October 2025 by officially launching the Sol Plaatje Junior Council.

During this event, the Junior Ward Councilors elected their:

- **Junior Mayor** – Reabone Malekeco
- **Junior Speaker** – Ameries Kouter
- **Junior Chief Whip** – Remofilwe Seshawane
- **Municipal Manager** – Siphamandla Kolodzi
- **Sergeant of arms** – Paballo Louw and Tebogo Serai

These positions were inaugurated by the Acting Speaker of Sol Plaatje Municipality, Casper Rammutle, who also transferred skills to the Child President, Amogelang Mashele, elected at the Nelson Mandela Children’s Parliament on 9 October 2025 in Cape Town. The Acting Speaker further administered the oath of office for all Junior Council members.

The Child President, Amogelang Mashele, formally handed over two critical national frameworks designed to guide child-rights implementation at the municipal level:

1. Safe and Caring Communities – Strengthening Local Governance for

Children: A Child-Friendly Communities Framework

2. The National Child Participation Framework

The Sol Plaatje Junior Council will convene quarterly sessions during school holidays. The ORC and Sol Plaatje Municipality will ensure that members receive the necessary empowerment, training, and support required to fulfil their responsibilities with dignity and competence, both in Council sittings and within their respective Children’s Ward Forums.

The government acknowledges children’s rights and remains dedicated to fostering a culture of responsibility and participation among young people. The presence of ac-

complished Child Dignitaries at this launch shows that the children of this province are ready to lead and influence governance structures. Distinguished attendees included:

- **Child President:** Amogelang Mashele – JTG District Municipality
- **Legend Ambassador (Outgoing):** Chareez James
- **District Ambassador:** Aaliyah Barker – Frances Baard District Municipality
- **National Ambassador of the Boys Parliament:** Shaydon Bezuidenhout

Although the current Provincial Ambassador (Child Premier), Bjorn Maarman from Namakwa District, was unable to attend, the event was graced by outgoing Legend Ambassador Chareez James.



# Roads and Maintenance

July 2025 - November 2025

Sol Plaatje Municipality's Roads and Maintenance teams carried out road repairs at the following areas/streets between July 2025 and November 2025:

Eagle Street	Bird Street	Civic Centre	Lawrence Road
Amethyst Street	Green Street	Daisy Street	Tyson Street
Bede Street	Adamant Road	Hammerkop Street	Meyer Street
Garnet Road	Petrus Steet	Cassia Street	Looney Street
Onyx Crescent	Bodley Street	Begonia Street	Stockdale Street
Reed Street	Maputle Street	Chrysanthemum St	Craven Street
Park Road	Lang Street	Stapelia Street	Queens Way
Amakhuzane Street	Phelindaba, Ritchie	Melia Street	Belding Street
Schmidtsdrift Road	Main Road	Rust en Vreugd Avenue	Michau Street
Hentrich Street	Apricot Street	Lyndhurst Road	Reserve Road
Chapel Street	14 <sup>th</sup> Street	Dalham Road	Dingaan Street
John Daka Street	19 <sup>th</sup> Street	Roper Street	Matanzima Street
Letsholo Street	Armstrong Street	George Street	Madelane Street
Kwena Street	Pimm Road	Waterloo Road	Warren Street
Marang Street	Boshof Road	Stewart Street	Conrad Street
Manzana Street	Rudd Drive	Reservoir Road	Rogers Avenue
Chris Mariss Street	Ripon Street	Scanlan Street	Anderson Road
Bean Street	Hexham Street	Holland Road	Ford Street
Long Street	Renie Street	Angel Street	Dutch Reform Street
Sidney Street	Freezia Street	Ramatshela Street	Sediti Street
Bultfontein Road	Verbena Avenue	Mac Dougall Street	12th Street
Du Toitspan Road	Ohlia Road, Ritchie	Gerrit Schouten Ave	

## Looking ahead: November 2025 - January 2026

Superintendent of Roads and Maintenance, Hope Phuthi, has outlined the department's operational plan for November, December, and January.

"Preparations continued throughout November for the major marathon hosted in our city, focusing on interlinking roads connecting surrounding towns to the city and the roads used for the marathon. During December, teams will continue working on interlinking roads and the main routes leading to the city.

"In January, the focus will shift to roads leading to schools to support the smooth reopening of the academic year. At the same time, the department will continue responding to emergency issues, including road deterioration caused by burst water pipes and sewer failures.

"From mid-January, the Roads and Maintenance teams will dedicate full attention to pothole repairs across the city, including both planned and emergency pothole maintenance," Puthi said.

Residents are encouraged to report urgent road issues during the festive season.

For emergencies, please contact Sol Plaatje Call Centre: 053 830 6111



A team from the Municipality conducting road repairs at Onyx Crescent

# Kimberley 4 *Kimberley*

Project Update

Kimberley 4 Kimberley (K4K) is a private/public collaboration dedicated to restoring pride and strengthening the city of Kimberley. Founded two years ago, K4K unites residents and businesses, in partnership with Sol Plaatje Municipality. The movement focuses on practical, visible improvements that uplift daily life and promote a positive culture of shared responsibility.

## LOCAL PRIDE AND COLLECTIVE EFFORT

K4K is a grassroots initiative built on local pride, collective effort and voluntary contribution. It is not political or profit-driven. Its purpose is to bring Kimberley's people and businesses together to care for their city, support municipal efforts and help maintain core public spaces and roads.

## HOW IT WORKS

K4K operates as a community-led partnership where residents assist with upkeep and cleaning, businesses provide funding, resources, or machinery, local contractors bring technical expertise and the Sol Plaatje Municipality supplies materials and administrative support.

This approach ensures that improvements are delivered quickly, collaboratively and with community ownership.

## THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT

DF Marais, contractor for K4K, says the idea grew from the energy seen during the

annual Absa Wildeklaar sports tournament, when Kimberley showcases its potential as a vibrant host city. Kimberley is home to the world-famous Big Hole, a historic mining legacy, a growing university and major hospitals and business hubs. K4K encourages residents to see this potential and take pride in shaping their city's future. "When 12 000 people descend on Kimberley during the tournament, we have an opportunity to shine. Our aim is to get Kimberley in better shape by the time the next tournament takes place, that can draw people to consider living here, starting businesses, opening guest houses, coffee shops, art galleries. We have the most beautiful historical buildings and the story of Kimberley is unique, we should be celebrating it and that should flow over to the rest of the country."

## CORE FOCUS - ROADS AND STREETS

The Road Repair and Street Revival Initiative is K4K's primary focus. The work includes repairing potholes, restoring surfaces, clearing stormwater channels, cleaning street edges and removing sand and debris. Kimberley has over 540 km of road surface and the movement works area by area, bringing together volunteers, local contractors and business-sponsored resources.

## WHY ROADS MATTER

Road conditions affect everyday life.

Smooth, safe streets influence mood, travel, safety, emergency response, school access, business flow and neighbourhood pride. Improving roads is one of the fastest ways to restore confidence and uplift the community.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Support comes from businesses, for instance Absa, small enterprises and former residents living around the country and abroad. People contribute by donating, offering equipment, maintaining the street in front of their home or business, volunteering for cleaning efforts, or helping coordinate neighbourhood zones. Communication happens through Facebook, Telegram, WhatsApp and local networks. "What we are creating here is a movement towards change. When one person cleans in front of their house, it flows over to neighbours. We have big plans with regards to community participation and education. When you change the narrative of a town, you change the way people think about it. Kimberley should not be a forgotten town where you just drive through, it should be a tourist destination and in order to be that, we need to start from the

inside," says Jana Engelbrecht, spokesperson for K4K.

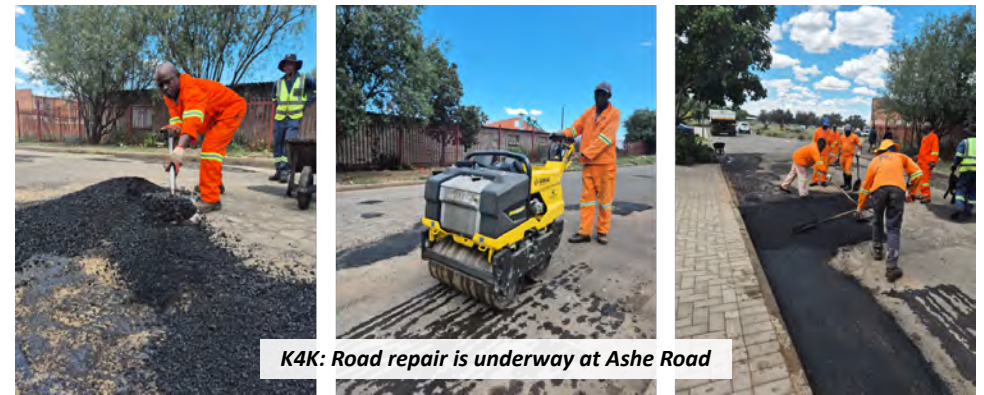
Kimberley 4 Kimberley shows that communities can work alongside local government to make meaningful improvements. Small actions build momentum, pride spreads quickly and visible progress inspires more companies to get involved.

## THE VISION GOING FORWARD

**K4K plans to expand through several phases:**

- Phase 1: Roads and street maintenance
- Phase 2: Parks and public spaces
- Phase 3: Clean neighbourhoods
- Phase 4: School-area upgrades
- Phase 5: Local pride events and community training
- Phase 6: Business corridor support
- Phase 7: Partnerships with neighbourhood associations

The long-term vision is a Kimberley where residents feel hopeful, motivated and proud to call the city home. If you want to get involved, send an email to [info@kimberley4kimberley.co.za](mailto:info@kimberley4kimberley.co.za) or follow K4K on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kimberley4kimberley>.



**K4K: Road repair is underway at Ashe Road**



## MUNICIPALITY STRENGTHENS INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY THROUGH THE IUDG



Sol Plaatje Local Municipality continues to make progress through the Integrated Urban Development Grant (IUDG), which has been received since 2020/21. The grant, administered by the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), supports municipalities in aligning infrastructure investment with spatial planning goals. The primary purpose of the grant is to fund public infrastructure investment for the poor, while encouraging municipalities to leverage their own capital to achieve greater impact.

### STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Municipality's IUDG programme directly supports:

- Improved access to municipal infrastructure and essential services.
- Upgrade community facilities to enhance the quality of life.
- Strengthened spatial integration by aligning projects with the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), District Development Model (DDM), and Capital Expenditure Framework (CEF).

### COMMITMENT TO GRANT COMPLIANCE

Gcobani Mhleka, Manager of the Project Management Unit (PMU), says Sol Plaatje Municipality, in line with DCoG conditions, has ensured that:

- The 10-year Capital Expenditure Framework (CEF) and three-year capital plan are fully aligned with the IDP and IUDF outcomes.
- The Municipality has submitted its Infrastructure Asset Management Plan and Audited Asset Register.
- Project prioritisation reflects spatial integration, benefiting low-income communities and previously underserved areas.
- At least 60% of transferred IUDG funds will be spent before the next tranche, ensuring strong fiscal performance.

### LOCAL JOBS AND SMME SUPPORT

"In Quarter 1, 85 temporary jobs were created — many for youth and women — and four local SMMEs were contracted for construction, supply, and transport services. All projects follow labour-intensive EPWP guidelines to maximise community benefits," says Mhleka.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

IUDG-funded projects continue to improve daily living across Sol Plaatje through:

- Better infrastructure: improved sanitation, stormwater channels, roads, and lighting.
- Community development: Halls, sports grounds, and the Greenpoint Business Development Centre support social and economic growth.
- Economic stimulation: Local SMMEs and temporary employment help sustain township economies and promote inclusive development.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHT FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR (JULY 2024 to JUNE 2025)

Construction of sewer pipeline in Phomolong, Ward 15 (phase 1 & 2): A significant infrastructure investment aimed at improving sanitation and health conditions for the residents of Phomolong. The project involved installing a new sewer pipeline, providing reliable services to over 2,419 beneficiaries. This project supports the growth of residential developments and was completed successfully within budget (R10,000,000).



As the Municipality continues to provide infrastructure that supports social and economic growth, additional funding will be essential. Let us remain committed stewards of our projects and communities, ensuring each initiative continues to add value and promotes long-term change for every resident of Sol Plaatje Local Municipality.

# IUDG PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2025 (YEAR: JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026)



## BEACONSFIELD WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS



Progress

Budget: R14,500,000

**Description:**  
Two kilometres of wastewater pipeline replacement to ensure safe sanitation. Reduces environmental risks for residents in Diamond Park, Greenpoint.

**Status:**  
Contractor has been appointed.

**Employment / SMME Opportunities:**  
Provision will be made for SMMEs based on the contractor appointed.



## OLD SINK TOILETS REPLACEMENT



Progress

Budget: R11,000,000

**Description:**  
Replacing old, unsafe toilets with modern facilities. Improves hygiene and dignity for users across Sol Plaatje.

**Status:**  
Re-advertised

**Employment / SMME Opportunities:**  
Local contractors and SMMEs can participate.



## ABC CEMETERY FENCING



Progress

Budget: R6,000,000

**Description:**  
Securing cemetery areas to improve safety and appearance. Enhances community pride and respectful access.

**Status:**  
Completed

**Employment / SMME Opportunities:**  
Local contractor involved.





## INEP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2025 (YEAR: JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026)

Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP)

✓ **ELECTRIFICATION OF SANTA CENTRE** Budget: R3,225,000



✓ **ELECTRIFICATION OF JACKSONVILLE** Budget: R6,775,000



✓ **GALESHEWE TRANSFORMER** Budget: R9,000,000



## EEDSM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2025 (YEAR: JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026)

Energy Efficiency and Demand-Side Management Grant (EEDSM)

✓ **STREETLIGHTS AND HIGH MAST RETROFITTING** Budget: R5,000,000



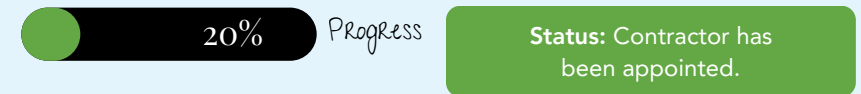
## WSIG & CRR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2025 (YEAR: JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026)

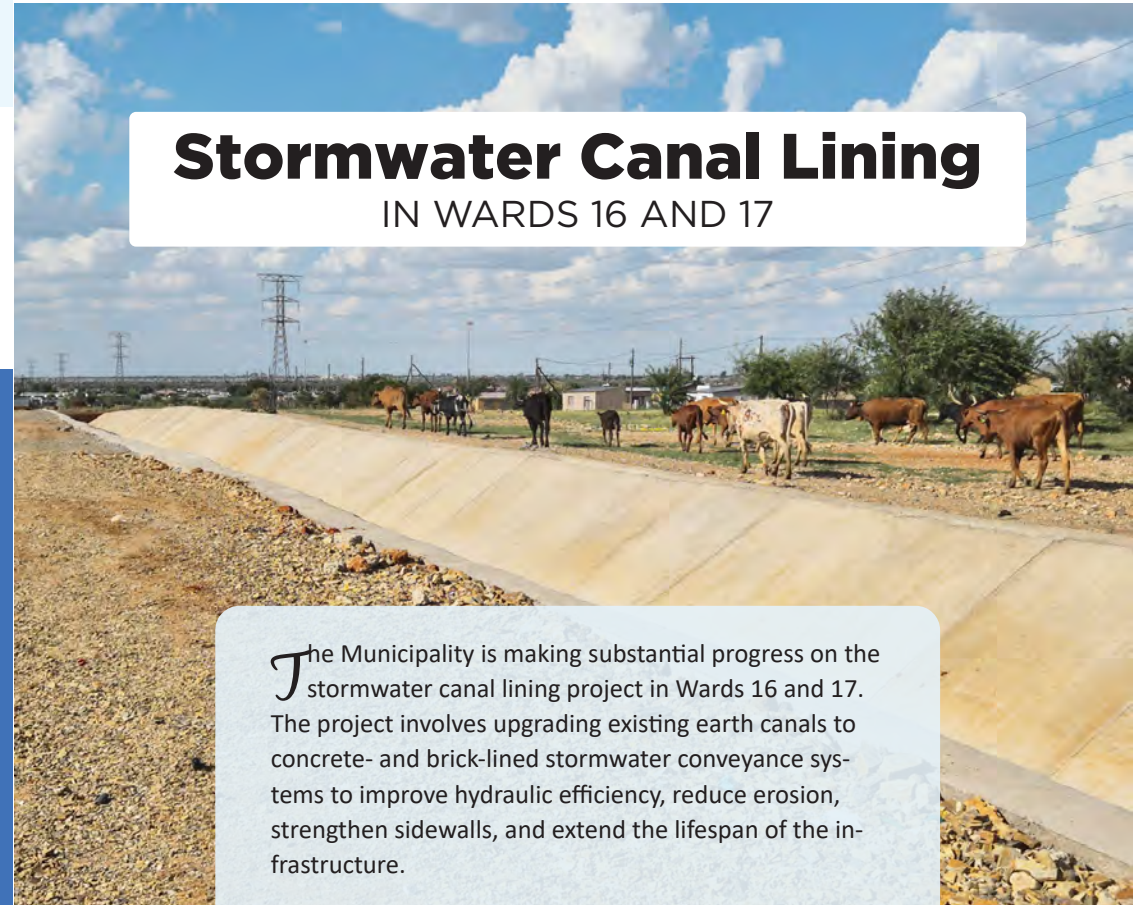
Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG)

Capital Replacement Reserve (CRR) - internal municipal funding

✓ **CARTERS GLEN SEWER PUMP STATION PHASE 2** Budget: R18,000,000



## Stormwater Canal Lining IN WARDS 16 AND 17



The Municipality is making substantial progress on the stormwater canal lining project in Wards 16 and 17. The project involves upgrading existing earth canals to concrete- and brick-lined stormwater conveyance systems to improve hydraulic efficiency, reduce erosion, strengthen sidewalls, and extend the lifespan of the infrastructure.

## BACKGROUND

Dean Appels, from the Roads and Stormwater Unit, said the project began in July 2024 with a focus on clearing and grubbing, bulk earthworks, and detailed surveying.

“Active construction could only start in 2025 due to procurement delays and long lead times for clay bricks and ready-mix concrete, which were appointed in January and March 2025, respectively.”

## WEATHER DELAYS

“Heavy rainfall in March and April caused flooding, unstable work platforms, rapid vegetation regrowth, and erosion of previously completed earthworks.

These conditions significantly slowed progress and pushed concrete works to late May 2025,” explained Appels.

## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

After stabilising and rehabilitating the site, active construction began as follows (2024/25 financial year):

- **Preparatory Works:** Late May 2025
- **Concrete pouring:** Ward 16 on 6 June and Ward 17 on 20 June 2025.
- **Brickwork:** Started on 24 June 2025.

The Wards 16 and 17 Project (Phase 2) for the financial year 2025/26 is currently at 68% progress as of 30 November 2025.

## COMMUNITY ROLE

The longevity and performance of the newly lined stormwater canals primarily

rely on community involvement and environmental stewardship. While technical work improves structural integrity and hydraulic performance, the surrounding community plays a vital role in ensuring the canals function as designed.

## ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping of household waste, rubble, tyres, or vegetative material into stormwater canals:

- Reduces hydraulic capacity.
- Triggers blockages and localized flooding.
- Damages new concrete and brick structures.
- Increases maintenance costs for the Municipality.

## ILLEGAL SEWER CONNECTIONS

Unauthorised sewer connections into stormwater canals are strictly prohibited and result in:

- Environmental contamination.
- Community exposure to public health risks.
- Long-term infrastructure deterioration caused by chemical degradation of concrete.
- Violations of national water and sanitation regulations.

Ongoing community awareness is essential for maintaining an effective system. A sustainable stormwater system depends not only on quality engineering but also on responsible community behaviour.

## CONCLUSION

Despite early setbacks, impressive progress has been made since construction activities resumed in late May 2025.

With ongoing municipal oversight and community support, the newly lined stormwater canals will significantly reduce flooding risk and enhance resilience in Wards 16 and 17.



“I believe the stormwater canal project is one of the greatest achievements in Ward 16. In the past, heavy rains made the canal extremely dangerous to cross, causing some people to get hurt. Sometimes, residents couldn't cross the canal at all to reach taxis and get to school or work.

This new canal marks a significant milestone for the community. Its impact is remarkable—not only improving safety and access but also improving the area's overall appearance. Residents are pleased and excited about the change.” - **Ward 16 Councilor, Casper Rammutle**



# Property Rate *Rebates*

## FOR PENSIONERS AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

The Sol Plaatje Municipality is inviting eligible pensioners and people living with permanent disabilities to apply for property rate rebates.

### WHO QUALIFIES?

#### PENSIONERS

Pensioners may apply for the rebate if they meet the following requirements:

- They are the registered owner of the property or hold a registered right of usufruct over the entire property.
- They are at least 60 years old on 1 July of the financial year in which they apply.
- They reside on the property.
- They do not own more than one property anywhere in South Africa.
- The property is classified as *Residential*.
- Their total gross household income does not exceed the annual maximum set by the Municipality.

#### PEOPLE LIVING WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES

Property owners who are people living with permanent disabilities may apply if:

- They are the registered owner of the property or hold a right of usufruct over the entire property.
- They can provide valid proof of permanent disability, such as:
  - A medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner confirming the nature and permanence of the disability; or
  - Confirmation of a disability grant from SASSA or another recognised authority.
- They do not own more than one property nationally.
- Their property is classified as *Residential*.
- Their total gross household income does not exceed the annual maximum set by the Municipality.

#### IMPORTANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Applications must be submitted **before 30 June each year**, unless included as part of an indigent application.

- Late applications *may* be considered and, if approved, will be granted on a **pro rata** basis from the date of the successful application.
- Approved rebates take effect from the **month following approval**.
- The Municipality may conduct periodic reviews to ensure continued compliance.

#### REBATES CONDITIONS

Rebates will lapse if:

- The applicant passed away (where they owned 100% of the property).
- The property is transferred to another owner.
- The applicant no longer resides permanently on the property.
- The property's classification has changed and no longer meets the criteria.

**Please note:** Rebates granted in error or based on false/incorrect information will be reversed immediately.

#### NEED HELP OR WANT TO APPLY?

Residents seeking more information or wishing to submit their applications can contact the Sol Plaatje Municipality Rates Department:

- **Phone:** 053 830 6524
- **Email:** NJacobs@solplaatje.org.za / pulane@solplaatje.org.za / JKruger@solplaatje.org.za

The Municipality encourages all eligible residents to apply early to avoid delays and ensure access to their rebates.



# Indigent Verification and Debt Collection Campaign

As highlighted in the Budget Speech, our city continues to face significant challenges related to excessive water and electricity use and losses. Illegal connections and bypassed meters worsen these losses.

“In addition to water and electricity losses, low collection rates continue to decline due to the economic hardships faced by households and businesses. To improve this situation, the Municipality and the community must work together—services need to be provided, and all beneficiaries must pay their bills in full. The total debt has grown to R 4,2 billion, and amounts owed to creditors, such as Eskom, are also increasing.

“This situation is not ideal for the Municipality and the community at large, as it negatively affects how services are planned and delivered. To address these challenges, the Municipality will be launching a comprehensive Indigent Verification & Debt Collection Campaign,” says the Municipality’s Chief Financial Officer, Lehlohonolo Rapodile.

The purpose of the campaign is to:

- Share information that will help customers manage and settle their municipal accounts.
- Inform qualifying residents about the **indigent assistance programme** available to low-income households.
- Provide an opportunity for our customers to learn more about the collection methods currently employed by the Municipality, including the appointment of accredited Debt Collection Agencies.

## INDIGENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

The Indigent Policy ensures that the most vulnerable households in our community receive basic services. Residents are encouraged to visit their nearest municipal office to check whether they qualify. To register under the Indigent Policy, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The total household income must not exceed R4,500 per month.
- The applicant must be the account holder.
- The applicant must reside at the relevant property on a full-time basis.
- The applicant cannot own more than one property.
- The relevant property cannot be used for rental purposes.
- The property must not have any business operations, e.g., tuckshop, tavern, guest house, etc.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- ID document.
- Proof of income: current payslip if employed or pension from previous employment.
- Unemployment affidavit.
- Proof of Sassa income/pay.

## SUBSIDISED SERVICES, IF APPROVED



These measures are in place to help relieve financial strain and promote dignity and well-being for households in need.

Municipal staff are available to assist residents with the application process and ensure that all qualifying households can access the support.

# 10% UNDERSTANDING THE Municipal Payment Incentive

A 10% payment incentive is available on Rates, Sewerage, Refuse, and Water charges when a municipal account is paid in full on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. This incentive is designed to reward timely payment and assist account holders in managing their monthly obligations.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS

Residents who use third-party payment platforms must ensure their payments are reflected in the municipality's bank account on the due date. To avoid delays in processing, payments must be made at least four (4) working days before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Payments that reflect late payment will not qualify for the incentive and may attract interest.

## ACCOUNT HOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Account holders are required to pay all amounts due as shown on their monthly municipal accounts. It remains the account holder's responsibility to verify the accuracy of each account.

Key provisions include:

- Council may, from time to time, offer a discount as an incentive for paying current amounts by the due date.
- Any discount earned will appear as a credit on the next month's account.
- The account holder must still pay the full amount due by the due date, irrespective of any incentive.

## BILLING AND ACCOUNT CYCLES

- Each property receives one consolidated municipal account covering all services and rates.
- Accounts are issued monthly, with cycles of approximately 30 days.
- Payments must be received by the close of business on the due date.

# TOWARDS A SAFER CITY DURING THE festive season

A Safety and Security Imbizo was held on 2 December 2025 at the City Hall, focusing on strengthening partnerships to enhance community safety. The live stream of the event is available on the Sol Plaatje Municipality Facebook page. The Imbizo led to the establishment of a Rapid Response Task Team, which has already carried out a successful operation targeting illegal gambling machines operating in local tuckshops.

“As we enter the Festive Season, and in my capacity as the MMC for Safety and Security, I wish to reaffirm our collective commitment — together with our law enforcement agencies — to building a safer, cleaner, and more orderly city. This is a time when nightlife intensifies, community activity increases, and families move more freely across our municipality. It is therefore my duty to ensure that every resident and visitor feels protected in all public spaces,” says Councillor Nomazizi Shwababa, MMC for Safety and Security.



**Photo right:** Several unlicensed gambling machines were confiscated, and tuckshop owners were issued with compliance notices.



The Sol Plaatje Emergency Services serves as Kimberley’s primary authority for fire and emergency response. Through the Number Awareness Programme, residents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the official fire emergency contact number to ensure rapid assistance when needed.

 **Emergency Number: 053 832 2222/053 832 4211**

### PUBLIC FIRE SERVICES

The Sol Plaatje Emergency Services operates under the Fire Brigade Services Act of 1987, which empowers municipalities to manage fire safety, rescue operations, and disaster response. The department is committed to protecting lives, property, and the environment through effective emergency intervention.

Contact **053 83 22222/053 832 4211** in the event of fire emergencies:

- House fires
- Shack or informal dwelling fires
- Vehicle fires
- Grass or veld fires
- Industrial fires
- Any other fire-related emergency

### WHY IT’S IMPORTANT TO PROMOTE THE EMERGENCY SERVICES NUMBER

Making the emergency contact number widely known ensures that residents can access help quickly in critical situations.

#### Key Benefits:

- **Public Safety:** Faster reporting leads to quicker assistance.
- **Rapid Response:** Shortens the time it takes for fire, ambulance, or police services to arrive.
- **Preparedness:** Helps people act quickly during stressful situations.
- **Universal Access:** Ensures all residents — including children and older persons — know how to get help.

- **Reduced Harm:** Early reporting prevents emergencies from escalating.
- **Efficient Resource Use:** Ensures responders are mobilised accurately and without delay.



## FAREWELL TO TWO DEDICATED FIRE & RESCUE VETERANS

We proudly honour two long-serving members retiring after decades of exceptional service.

Station Officer C.G. Andrews retires after 35 years of dedicated service. Ntanti Sephiri, Senior Manager of Emergency Services, says Officer Andrews demonstrated outstanding commitment, courage, and professionalism over the years. “He exemplified discipline, teamwork, and compassion - qualities that strengthened the fire service and inspired many young firefighters. His leadership in emergency response, dedication to community safety, and steadfast support for colleagues leave a legacy at the Kimberley Fire Station and in the community.”

Senior Firefighter Lukas Mgoma, a respected Leading Fire Fighter, concludes an extraordinary 40-year career. “Throughout four decades, he has been a pillar of courage, dependability, and mentorship, responding to count-

less emergencies with calm authority and unwavering bravery. His composed presence during crises and dedication to serving the public have earned him respect, admiration, and genuine appreciation from colleagues and residents alike,” says Sephiri.

We sincerely thank both members for their sacrifices, long hours, and unwavering dedication to service. Their legacies will continue to inspire future generations of firefighters.



*Station Officer C.G. Andrews (photo left)  
Senior Firefighter Lukas Mgoma (photo right)*

# Snake Smart

## AWARENESS SEASON: OCTOBER-APRIL

The Sol Plaatje Municipality's Emergency Services and Disaster Management unit has launched its **Snake Smart Community Education Programme**, running from **October to April**, the period when snake activity increases significantly.

Although most local species are non-venomous, dangerous snakes such as the Cape Cobra and Puff Adder are known to occur in and around residential areas.

Each year, a few snakebite cases are reported to local clinics and hospitals, with rare but possible fatalities linked to delayed medical treatment or lack of awareness. The Snake Awareness Programme aims to lower snakebite incidents, prevent unnecessary snake killings, and promote safe coexistence between humans and wildlife.

### SNAKES COMMONLY FOUND IN THE AREA

- The Cape Cobra (*Naja nivea*) is one of the most common venomous snakes seen in Kimberley.
- The Puff Adder (*Bitis arietans*) is also present in the region and is frequently reported.
- The Brown House Snake (non-venomous) is found near homes and is often mistaken for more dangerous species.
- The Mole Snake (also non-venomous) may resemble the Cape Cobra in colour, so careful identification is needed.
- The Speckled Shieldnose Snake (*Aspidelaps scutatus scutatus*) is less common but has been recorded in the Northern Cape.



Cape Cobra

### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A SNAKE

- Maintain a safe distance of at least five meters.
- Stay calm and observe from a distance.
- Contact your local snake handler or municipal environmental services. Close doors and keep pets away.
- Teach family and children not to panic.



### THINGS NOT TO DO

- Don't try to kill or catch the snake.
- Don't throw objects or pour substances on it.
- Don't run or make sudden movements.
- Don't corner the snake — give it an escape route.
- Don't assume it's harmless — treat all snakes with caution.

### WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A SNAKE BITE

- Keep the victim calm and still.
- Call emergency medical services (EMS) immediately: dial 112 from your cellphone or 10177. Fire Department: 053 832 2222/ 053 832 4211.
- Do not cut, suck, or apply a tourniquet. Immobilise the bitten area.
- Note the snake's colour and pattern from a distance (if safe).

### WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

By staying informed and following safe practices, the community can reduce snake-related incidents during the high-activity season. The Municipality calls on all residents to support the initiative and help spread awareness.

For emergencies or assistance with snake removal, contact **Sol Plaatje Emergency Services** immediately.

**Sol Plaatje Municipality – Emergency Services Control Room**

053 832 2222 or 053 832 4211

**Ambulance Service**

10177 or 112 (from your cellphone)





## SOL DRIVES MEN'S CANCER AWARENESS IN COLLABORATION WITH CANSA

*Theme: Man Up for a Cause*

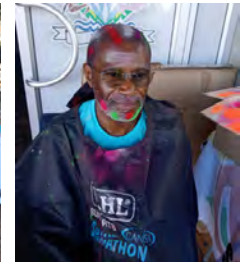
On 19 November, Sol Plaatje Municipality, in partnership with the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), hosted a men's cancer awareness event at the Civic Centre. The initiative aimed to highlight the different types of cancers affecting men and reinforce a vital message: Early detection saves lives. Do regular check-ups, especially for prostate cancer. Be counted in breaking the silence.



As part of the programme, the Municipality proudly supported the Movember Campaign, bringing employees together in a vibrant demonstration of unity and commitment to men's health. Staff showed up in high spirits — wearing shades of blue, spraying their hair with fun washable colours, and purchasing socks. All funds were raised for CANSA.

Executive Mayor Cllr Martha Bartlett, Speaker Cllr Dipuo Peters, and Acting Municipal Manager Ms Busisiwe Mngaguli were among those who took part, underscoring the Municipality's continued dedication to raising awareness and encouraging residents to undergo regular health screening.

Together, we stand strong for men's health. Join us — schedule a health check-up today, support CANSA, and help spread the lifesaving message of early detection.



## CULTIVATING A GREENER FUTURE

On 24 September 2025, Sol Plaatje Municipality participated in the 1 Million Tree Planting Initiative, which aims to promote environmental sustainability and encourage community involvement in greening efforts. Community members and various stakeholders joined hands to plant indigenous trees across different areas of the city.

As we close off the year, the Municipality continues to emphasise that tree planting is not limited to the September campaign. The One Million Trees Campaign forms part of the broader effort to revitalise South Africa's National Greening Programme, which aims to plant ten million trees over a five-year period. This national programme raises awareness of the importance of planting and caring for trees, and encourages communities to participate in ongoing greening initiatives.



# Lenacapavir

## Advances in HIV Prevention



As part of this year's World AIDS Day theme, *"Renewed efforts and sustainable commitments to end AIDS,"* the Social Development Unit and the Workplace Peer Educators in partnership with NGO partners, is highlighting new advances in HIV prevention:

### LENACAPAVIR – Building on PrEP and PEP

"In ongoing workplace HIV awareness initiatives, we've shared information about PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) – two medicines that significantly reduce the risk of HIV infection when taken correctly," explains Mmabatho Watermeyer, Social Development Officer at Sol Plaatje Municipality.

Lenacapavir is a long-acting injectable medication that strengthens these prevention tools. Unlike PrEP pills, it requires only two injections a year. Lenacapavir offers high levels of protection for up to six months per dose - along with increased convenience and privacy. Early evidence also shows it is effective against some resistant HIV strains. While highly effective, no HIV prevention method - PrEP, PEP or Lenacapavir - can guarantee complete protection.

This breakthrough builds on existing PrEP and PEP initiatives and supports greater efforts to reduce new infections.

**Remember:** Prevention is better than cure. Abstaining before marriage remains the most effective way to prevent HIV.

For more information visit: [SA to roll out lenacapavir for HIV prevention | SAnews](#)



# WORLD AIDS DAY

1 December

World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1st. It provides a chance for communities to come together to fight HIV, support people living with HIV, and honour those who have passed away.



The day serves as a reminder that HIV has not disappeared and that continued awareness, education, and action are essential. It reinforces the need to address stigma, expand prevention efforts, and advance the aims of the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB (2017–2022).

The Social Development Unit and the Workplace Peer Educators in partnership with NGO partners, hosted the 2025 World AIDS Day Commemoration under the global theme: *"Renewed efforts and sustainable commitments to end AIDS."* This theme highlights the importance of revitalising strategies to close gaps in prevention, care, and treatment, while emphasising long-term investment—particularly in the face of funding cuts and shifting global priorities that affect HIV programmes.

**Photo:** A special workplace event was held on Thursday, 4 December 2025, at the Civic Centre Gardens.



# *Festive Season*

## Cashier Operating Hours

DECEMBER 2025 – JANUARY 2026

Please be informed of the adjusted cashier hours for the upcoming festive season in December 2025 and January 2026.

### Key dates to note:

- 16 December 2025 – Closed (Public Holiday)
- 17–19 December 2025 – Open, 07:45 to 15:30
- 20 December 2025 (Saturday) – Open, 07:45 to 12:45
- 22–23 December 2025 – Open, 07:45 to 15:30
- 24 December 2025 – Open, 07:45 to 12:45
- 25 December 2025 – Closed (Public Holiday)
- 26 December 2025 – Closed (Public Holiday)
- 27 December 2025 (Saturday) – Closed
- 29–30 December 2025 – Open, 07:45 to 15:30
- 31 December 2025 – Open, 07:45 to 12:45
- 1 January 2026 – Closed (Public Holiday)
- 2 January 2026 – Open, 07:45 to 15:30
- 3 January 2026 (Saturday) – Open, 07:45 to 12:45

Regular operating hours commence from 5 January 2026. We encourage all residents to plan ahead and use the available hours of operation during this period.

