

# Mixed response to renaming of Intsika Yethu to Vuyisile Mini municipality

Expectations are that this will promote goodwill among people, build a sense of ownership and help refine society

SIKHO NTSHOBANE

Though opinions vary on some of the name changes in the Eastern Cape, such as KuGompo City, the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality has been renamed the Vuyisile Mini Local Municipality, with authorities saying it is hoped the decision will help spark economic growth in the area.

It is also envisioned the renaming will help preserve Mini's legacy.

The municipality consists of the towns of Cofimvaba, the birthplace of iconic liberation hero Chris Hani, and Tsomo, where Mini originally hails from.

Born in Mhlahlane village, Mini, the anti-apartheid struggle icon and renowned trade unionist, was hanged by the apartheid government in 1964, which sparked an international outcry.

Municipal spokesperson Zuko Tshangana confirmed the new name had been gazetted in late December.

"The renaming process emphasises recognition of the role played by the struggle stalwart from the Mini family.

"This name change embodies restorative justice in compliance with the South African Geographical Name Change Council Act," he said.

"The process included consultations with communities, the provincial geographical names committee and other key stakeholders like the department of co-operative governance and traditional affairs and the Chris Hani District Municipality."

Tshangana said Mini's role in the liberation of SA continued to inspire the struggle for justice.

"His legacy reminds the community of this area and the rest of SA to [remain committed] to the ideals of South Africans.

"It is expected this name change will promote goodwill among people, build a sense of ownership and help refine society.

"Most importantly, we hope



VUYISILE MINI

communication materials and systems. All of this requires public funds," he said.

"At the same time, communities within the municipality continue to face real and pressing challenges.

"Roads in many areas in the municipality are still gravel and in poor condition, affecting mobility, access to services and local economic activity.

"In Mhlahlane location, there is a school called Gugulethu JSS, which stands as a stark example of neglect, with infrastructure that is not conducive to learning or dignity."

Bukula said these were not minor issues. They affected the daily life, safety, education outcomes and long-term development of communities.

He said when basic infrastructure and services were lacking, spending on symbolic changes felt misplaced.

While the renaming carried symbolic or political significance, he said "symbols should not come at the expense of substance."

"The focus must shift towards practical delivery where resources are directed to areas that make a tangible difference in people's lives.

"Fixing roads, improving schools and investing in essential services would have a direct and lasting impact on communities," Bukula said.

While Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders deputy chair Nkosi Gwazizamba Matanzima, who hails from Cofimvaba, said he had nothing against the renaming of the municipality after Mini, whose legacy was well-known, he did have a gripe with the processes involved.

"I do not understand why politicians think everything should be politicised by using only the names of politicians, as if there are no other people outside of politics or the struggle who had done amazing things."

He also said not everyone had been given enough opportunity to have their say on name changes. Nor had it been properly explained why the name of Intsika Yethu had to go.

He said it would be good if ordinary citizens with brilliant legacies were also considered when deciding on name changes.

## Demanding Justice



Gauteng health MEC Faith Mazibuko and community members picket outside Roodepoort magistrate's court for justice for "Reabetswe" on Tuesday. The group demonstrated against the bail application of a man who is accused of raping a child. Picture: GALLO IMAGES/SHARON SRETLELO

## Hill-Lewis targets shift in racial voting patterns

THANDO MAEKO

Newly minted DA leader Geordin Hill-Lewis is pushing to close the gap between the party and black voters, and is betting on service delivery and growing disillusionment with the government's empowerment model to woo voters.

"We have to make it clear to black South Africans that we are genuinely invested in and care about their advancement but we do not support the current model of elite enrichment," Hill-Lewis told journalists on Monday.

Hill-Lewis was named new party leader at the DA's elective conference over the weekend.

"There are millions of new entrants into the middle class in South Africa, most of them young black professionals who have worked really hard to obtain, for the first time in their lives and probably for the first time in their whole family's lives, to be able to afford medical aid — and to have that ripped from them for a system that is going to create the most enormous corruption honey pot in the history of South Africa. I don't think that they buy that," he said, referring to National Health Insurance.

The DA, under previous leader Mmusi Maimane, made an explicit bid to grow its support among black people but ultimately alienated a section of the party's classical liberal constituency. This contributed to the party's slight decline in votes in the 2019 general elections.

Since then, the DA has attempted to recast itself as a non-racial party, moving away from explicitly targeting specific racial groups and positioning itself instead as the most diverse party in the country.

Hill-Lewis said: "The ANC has been quite clever. It's been a kind of sleight of hand to say, 'if you oppose this model of elite enrichment you are opposed to the concept of black advancement.'"

However, there is growing public sentiment that the system "is not delivering the advancement that it promises for the huge majority of poor and black South Africans".

The disillusionment, coupled with municipal failures, has opened a political window for the DA, and long-standing racial voting patterns are beginning to shift, he said.

"The level of dysfunction is so advanced that more and more voters are saying, 'well, actually, we just want this party. We want the institutions to be repaired. We want cities to work'."

"For a long time, the kind of racial silos in South Africa have been very firm and kind of concrete. But they are cracking and breaking down ... You can't blame the voters for not agreeing with your message or not supporting what you're offering. You have to ... look at why that trust deficit gap still exists."

His first meeting with President Cyril Ramaphosa was meant to take place on Tuesday. Details of what was discussed were not known at the time of going to print.

However, he said the meeting was meant to be merely introductory, adding that he previously has had minimal contact with the president.

Though he has opted to remain in his position as the mayor of Cape Town, Hill-Lewis intends to share his views on the government's performance so far.

He took over the reins from agriculture minister John Steenhuisen in the most significant leadership race in the DA's history. The party has set ambitious growth targets heading

into the local government elections, after which it has set its sights on being the country's largest party in the 2029 general elections, unseating the ANC.

The ANC and the DA are the two largest parties within the coalition government and have, since the formation of the GNU in 2024, clashed on various policies, including foreign policy, economic reforms and the ANC's use of cadre deployment.

On the broader policy dynamics inside the GNU, Hill-Lewis challenged the ANC's approach to collective decision-making. "What you are seeing at the moment is ANC policy dressed up as GNU policy ... You can't say we're all bound in by collective decision-making and this is a GNU policy, but we're also not going to let you discuss this and have any give and take."

On the cabinet, Hill-Lewis confirmed a review of the DA's ministerial representatives is under way.

"I'm not committing myself now to changes, but I am definitely committed to reviewing the performance there," he said. "No-one is entitled to any office or position. That should never be the case that anyone in the DA feels entitled to that." — BusinessLive



BIG GOAL: DA leader Geordin Hill-Lewis's target is to make his party the country's largest in the 2029 general elections. Picture: FREDDY MAVUNDA

## Julius Malema wins defamation case against Musa Khawula

ERNEST MABUZA

The Johannesburg high court has ruled in favour of EFF president Julius Malema in the defamation action against social media commentator Musa Khawula.

The court declared on Tues-

day that Khawula published unlawful and defamatory statements regarding the marriage of Malema and his wife Mantoa Matlala Malema.

The court also issued an order compelling Khawula to permanently remove the statements made by him on his X account

and other platforms used or controlled by him within 24 hours of the order.

The court also ordered Khawula to publish, within 24 hours from service of the order, an apology to Malema and his wife in which Khawula unreservedly apologises to them

for the allegations he has made.

The court said the apology must take the form of a statement and must be issued by Khawula in his name. The court ordered Khawula to publish this apology on his X account and also distribute the apology

to a number of media houses and online blogs that have repeated or referred to these statements.

Khawula was ordered to pay the costs of the application on the scale as between attorney and client, including the costs of two counsel where so employed. — TimesLIVE

## Germany grants SA nearly R4bn climate loan

Germany has agreed to give SA a new €200m (about R3.86bn) concessional climate loan and the two countries will deepen cooperation in other areas like critical minerals, minister of international relations and cooperation Ronald Lamola said on Monday.

The loan will support investment in SA's power grid and renewable energy capacity, Lamola said after talks with German counterpart Johann Wadepuhl in Berlin.

He said German and EU funding for green hydrogen and battery value chain cooperation had also been extended by more than €270m.

Minister Lamola thanked Wadepuhl for German support despite SA's strained relation-



12th German-South African Bilateral Commission

ship with the US during President Donald Trump's second term in office.

He boycotted a G20 summit in Johannesburg in November. "We feel we are part of it [the G20] because of the support that we have received from Germany and from other G20 members," said Lamola. — Reuters

WORKING TOGETHER: International relations and cooperation minister Ronald Lamola and German foreign minister Johann Wadepuhl shake hands after signing an action plan during a meeting in Berlin, Germany, on Monday. Picture: AXEL SCHMIDT

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**IDP/PMS & BUDGET PUBLIC ROADSHOWS: FOR 2026/2027 DRAFT INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)**

The Local Government Systems Act No 32 of 2000, Chapter 4 section 16(1) requires the municipality to develop a culture of municipal governance that complements formal representative government with a system of participatory governance, and must for this purpose encourage, and create conditions for, the local community to participate in the affairs of the municipality, including: the preparation, implementation and review of its Integrated Development Plan and the preparation of its Budget.

In compliance with the above legislation, from the 20-22 April 2026 Vuyisile Mini Local Municipality will be conducting IDP/PMS & Budget Public roadshows for 2026/2027 Draft IDP within the municipal jurisdiction.

The Honourable Mayor Cllr K Mdleleni accompanied by Councillors together with Municipal Officials will be taking rounds to all the municipal wards to get public inputs towards the Final 2026/2027 IDP. Communities and interested parties are invited to attend.

The community consultative meetings will be held as reflected below:

DATE	WARDS	VENUE	COUNCILLORS	TIME	
20 April 2026	20	Lubisi Community Hall	Cllr Ludaka	10H00	
	11	Mdibaniso – Komkhulu	Cllr Mngangeni	10H00	
	15	Mcumgco Komkhulu	Cllr Mangangwana	09H00	
	12	Tshatshu – Rabe Church	Cllr Sabata	10H00	
	03	Ntsitho – Dumezweni School	Cllr Malusi	10H00	
	16	Mtyamde Komkhulu	Cllr Mzizana	10H00	
	10	Mahlubini Community Hall	Cllr Ndondo	10H00	
	19	Mthingwevu SASSA Hall	Cllr Sindile	10H00	
	05	Ntakwefofo Pre-school	Cllr Nyandana	10H00	
	13	Mgqobozweni Community Hall	Cllr Genu	11H00	
21 April 2026	06	Xolobe TRC Hall	Cllr Cekiso	10H00	
	02	Ntshingeni Community Hall	Cllr Gadeni	10H00	
	14	Cofimvaba Town Hall	Cllr Gulubela	14H00	
	22 April 2026	21	Ngxabangu Community Hall	Cllr Mggamqho	10H00
	04	No-Gate Community Hall	Cllr Twani	10H00	
	18	Choto – KwaBhodi	Cllr Mpofo	10H00	
	17	Ncora Tribal Hall	Cllr Mfana	10H00	
	07	Ndungwana Community Hall	Cllr Ngamlana	10H00	
	01	Hoita Community Hall	Cllr Bani	10H00	
	08	Tsomo Town Hall	Cllr Ngwane	10H00	

For more information please contact Mr L Mkonjiswa at 047 874 8700/ mkonjiswa@intsikayethu.gov.za or Miss T Zinganto at zingantot@intsikayethu.gov.za

M. MABONO - MUNICIPAL MANAGER

**LAND NOTICE**

**BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**

**NOTICE OF SUBDIVISION AND REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS ON ERF 377, MACLEANTOWN: CORNER OF KEI STREET AND KROG STREET**

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipal Spatial Planning and Land Use Management By-Law 2016, for an application that has been made to the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality for:

**SUBDIVISION OF THE ERF 377, MACLEANTOWN INTO 1 PORTION AND A REMAINDER.**

AND

**REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS (a), (b) and 2(c) ON TITLE DEED NO. T5782/2007 PERTAINING TO ERF 377 MACLEANTOWN.**

Details of the proposal can be obtained from Mr S. Ouyile on (043) 705 2502 (e-mail: sipakamiseq@buffalocity.gov.za) or Mrs. M. Goliath on (043) 705 2235 and/or a copy of the application may be viewed at the Town Planning Enquiry Counter, First Floor, Planning and Engineering Building, 26 Oxford Street, on weekdays from 08:00 to 12:45. Any person/s who cannot write may visit during office hours where a staff member will assist to transcribe that person's objections, comments or representations.

**Members of the public are invited to lodge written objections to the proposal, with reasons, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice as follows:**

To the HOD: Spatial Planning and Development, P.O Box 81, East London, by registered mail or hand delivery and

The applicant: Lyulo Ludzija obo WADS PROJECTS, 15 St. James Road, Belgravia, East London, 5201, 069 349 6399, wadsproject2@gmail.com

Should you fail to lodge or forward objections to both parties by the said date your objection will be invalid