

STREET LEGACY

**HUMAN'S RIGHTS
EDITION**

*Empowering SMMEs &
Informal Traders |
Protecting Communities |
Driven Impact*

**Safety Products.
Protected People.**

Protecting Consumers' Rights Through Compliance:
Empowering SMMEs for safe and sustainable growth

FEATURING:

SIVE THABETHE

Environmental Health Practitioner & Compliance Consultant



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Awethu Magobongo**

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MESSAGE FROM EDITOR

In every community, every marketplace, and every opportunity created, there exists a deeper story one that goes beyond business, beyond growth, and into the fundamental rights that shape our shared humanity. This Human Rights Edition is a reflection of that truth. Too often, human rights are spoken about in abstract terms, as policies or principles reserved for global conversations. Yet, in reality, they live in the everyday experiences of people the safety of the food we consume, the dignity of work, the right to access opportunities, and the responsibility to protect one another in the spaces we operate. Across our communities, we are witnessing a powerful shift. Entrepreneurs are not only building businesses, but are becoming custodians of public trust. Compliance is no longer just a requirement it is a commitment to protecting lives.



Awethu Magobongo

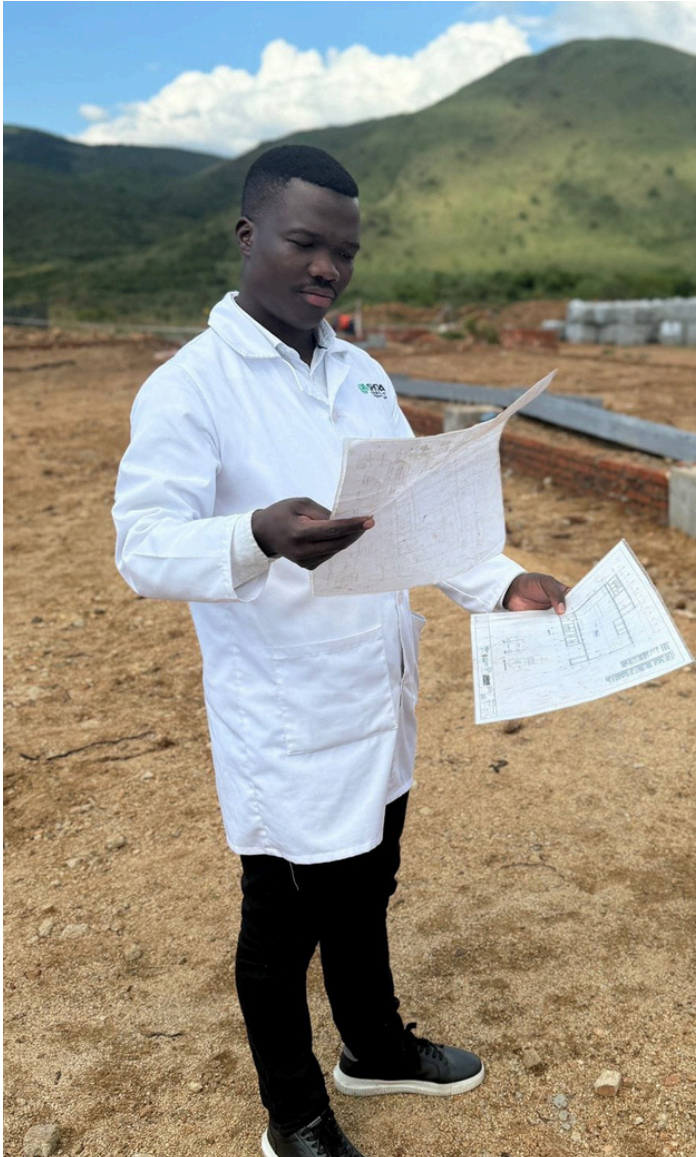
Innovation is no longer just about progress it is about inclusion, access, and equity. Growth is no longer just about profit it is about impact. This edition highlights individuals and initiatives that embody these values. From those ensuring safer production practices, to those empowering small businesses, to those redefining informal economies with dignity and structure each story is a reminder that human rights are not separate from development; they are its foundation. But this is also a call to action.

As a community, we must ask ourselves: Are we building systems that protect people? Are we creating opportunities that are fair and inclusive? Are we holding ourselves accountable to the standards that uphold human dignity?. Because the future we are shaping will not be defined solely by how much we grow, but by how well we protect, empower, and uplift one another. Human rights are not an abstract ideal they are a daily responsibility.

And through collective effort, intentional action, and unwavering commitment, we can build a society where opportunity and dignity go hand in hand.

Enjoy the edition

Empowering Township Entrepreneurs: How Compliance Unlocks Business Success



Sive Thabethe

This realization inspired him to establish Shoba Consultant, a company dedicated to helping SMMEs navigate and overcome compliance barriers. Through his work, Sive discovered that many entrepreneurs rely heavily on traditional production methods, often without proper knowledge of hygiene and safety standards. Recognizing the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, he introduced innovative approaches such as AI-powered CCTV monitoring systems to observe production processes. This allows for real-time identification of hygiene risks and contamination points, ensuring that production environments meet the highest standards.

His approach not only improves efficiency but also promotes a culture of accountability and excellence among small businesses. Shoba Consultant provides both practical and technical support to SMMEs. On the practical side, Sive offers consultations to guide entrepreneurs through compliance requirements, while on the technical side, he conducts on-site inspections to assess the conditions under which products are manufactured. He often collects food samples for laboratory testing to identify potential hazards and even inspects the sources of raw materials used in production.

For Sive, compliance is not something that can be solved from behind a desk it requires going into the field, understanding the realities entrepreneurs face, and working alongside them to implement solutions.

One of the major challenges SMMEs face, according to Sive, is the lack of proper infrastructure. Many entrepreneurs operate from any available space just to survive, only to find that these environments are not suitable for producing consumable goods. Poor conditions often lead to bacterial contamination, putting consumers at risk. In addition, there is a lack of training and access to information, which further complicates the situation.

In many township and rural communities, entrepreneurship continues to rise, but for many small businesses, the journey to success is often blocked by one critical challenge compliance. This is where Sive Thabethe has stepped in to make a difference. As an Environmental Health Practitioner and a graduate of the University of Johannesburg, with four years of experience at the Ehlanzeni district Municipality, Sive identified a major gap affecting SMMEs: the inability to meet compliance standards required by retailers. Many small businesses struggle to get their products onto retail shelves, not because of lack of quality ideas, but because they fail to meet required safety and regulatory standards.



Some businesses unknowingly use raw materials such as fruits and vegetables without properly removing pesticides, contributing to cases of food poisoning. To address this, Sive even recommends the use of mobile shops for start-ups as a safer alternative to unsuitable infrastructure. Understanding that access to resources is equally important, Sive has formed partnerships with laboratories to offer testing services at more affordable prices. He has also taken his mission to the public by raising awareness about food safety on platforms such as RISE FM and Voice of Hope FM, educating both entrepreneurs and consumers about the importance of compliance and hygiene.

The impact of his work is evident in the success stories he has helped shape. Products such as Phuza Futhi Mageu, which initially faced serious quality issues due to poor hygiene conditions, are now successfully stocked on retail shelves after interventions by Shoba Consultant. By identifying contamination risks and improving production environments, Sive helped restore product quality and market trust. Similar success has been seen with products like Mabundu Mageu, as well as a group from Bushbuckridge Farmers Association that now supplies vegetables to the Kruger National Park.

These achievements demonstrate how compliance can unlock opportunities and transform small businesses into competitive market players. Beyond business growth, Sive strongly believes that compliance is a matter of human rights. Food safety is a public concern, and failure to clearly indicate ingredients, allergens, and safety information is not only unethical but a criminal offense. Consumers have the right to know what they are consuming, and lack of transparency can lead to serious illness or even death. Through his work, Sive is ensuring that SMMEs not only become profitable but also operate responsibly, protecting the health and dignity of their customers.

Despite the challenges within the system, including slow government processes in assisting SMMEs with product testing, Sive remains committed to his mission. He believes that institutions need to engage more with realities on the ground rather than making decisions from offices. His advice to entrepreneurs who feel discouraged is simple but powerful: find a mentor who will guide and support you, invest in proper training, and fully understand the health and safety requirements of your product. Entrepreneurship, he notes, can be a lonely journey, but with the right support, it becomes manageable.

Sive Thabethe's vision is clear to see entrepreneurs rise from township conditions and compete with established brands in major retail spaces. Through Shoba Consultant, he is not only building compliant businesses but also shaping a future where small enterprises thrive without compromising consumer safety. His work stands as a reminder that true entrepreneurship is not just about profit, but about responsibility, impact, and protecting the rights of others.



The Gateway to Growth: Why Mpumalanga is South Africa's Investment Destination



The Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) took center stage at the South African Investment Conference held at the

Sandton convention Centre, joining leaders from government, business, and investment sectors to spotlight opportunities for growth. In March, the agency showcased Mpumalanga as a dynamic and competitive investment destination, highlighting key sectors including agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism, and green energy.

Through meaningful conversations with investors and partners, MEGA presented bankable projects and tailored investment support services, demonstrating its pivotal role in driving sustainable economic development.

By fostering connections and opening doors for new ventures, MEGA continues to advance investment, spark growth, and create opportunities across the province, positioning Mpumalanga as a hub for innovation and business excellence. The province's strategic location, abundant natural resources, and skilled workforce make it an attractive choice for investors looking to expand their footprint in South Africa.

With ongoing infrastructure development and supportive government policies, Mpumalanga is increasingly becoming a launchpad for innovative projects and green energy initiatives. By combining its economic potential with a rich cultural and tourism offering, Mpumalanga is not only shaping its own future but also contributing significantly to South Africa's broader economic growth story

Empowering Local Enterprises: SMMEs Take Center Stage in Lydenburg



Creating a platform for local businesses to thrive, the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) joined provincial partners in Lydenburg for the vibrant SEDFA Pop-Up Market. The initiative brought a diverse group of SMMEs, each showcasing their unique products and services while gaining valuable access to new markets. Amid the lively atmosphere, MEGA engaged directly with business owners exploring the creativity and quality behind locally produced goods, while also opening conversations around growth and sustainability. These interactions went beyond exhibition, creating a platform for knowledge-sharing and connection.

Entrepreneurs were introduced to the various support mechanisms and development opportunities offered by MEGA, aimed at strengthening their enterprises and unlocking their full potential. The engagement highlighted the importance of collaboration in building a thriving local economy, where small businesses are not only supported but empowered to scale and succeed. Beyond the marketplace, the initiative reinforced the critical role that grassroots platforms play in driving inclusive economic growth. By bringing services closer to entrepreneurs and meeting them where they operate, such engagements ensure that no business is left behind. As more spaces like these are created, the pathway for informal traders and emerging enterprises to transition into sustainable, competitive businesses becomes increasingly attainable.





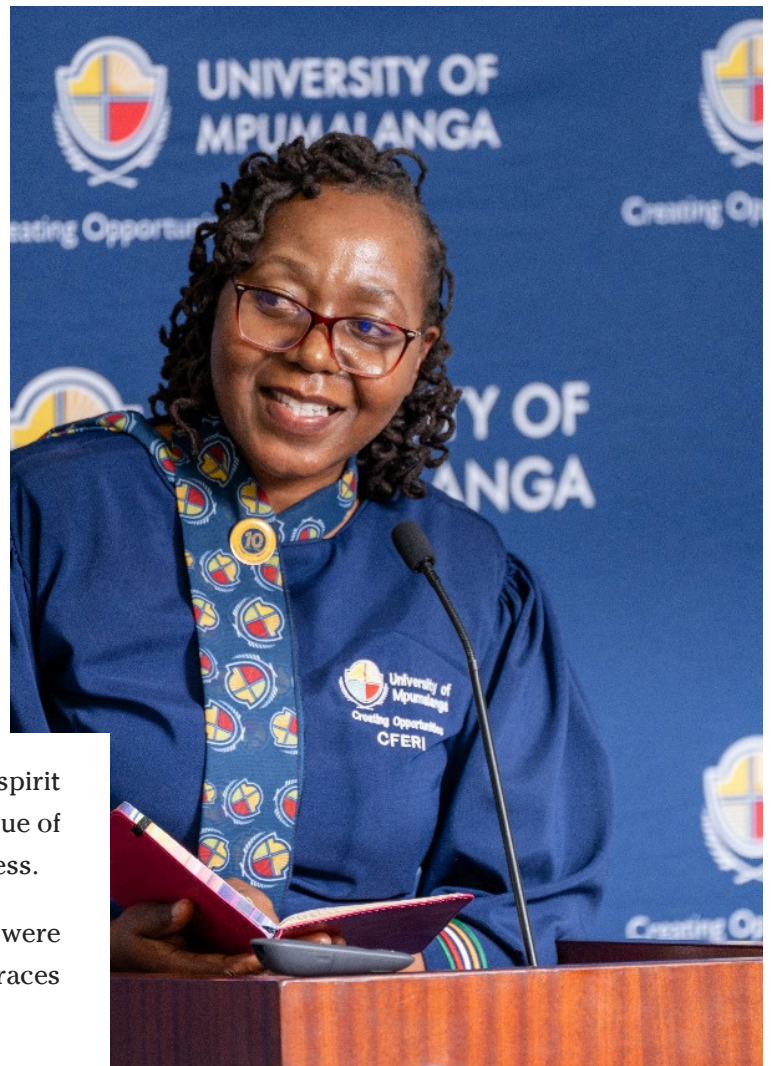
From a young trader to a celebrated mentor: Melody Chiume's journey is one of hard work, passion, and impact.

Melody discovered her entrepreneurial spirit early, selling as a child and learning the value of independence, diligence, and resourcefulness.

Growing up in a family where selling and side hustles were the norm, she developed a mindset that embraces opportunity, persistence, and growth.

Her dedication to enterprise development has been unwavering. Before joining the University of Mpumalanga's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubation (CFERI), Melody trained countless SMMEs and small-scale farmers, helping them transition from survival projects into real, sustainable businesses. At CFERI, she translated her experience into mentorship, guiding studentpreneurs to build businesses, create jobs, and participate fully in the economy.

This passion and relentless effort were recently recognized when Melody was awarded **University Coordinator of the Year at the Hult Prize**, marking a significant milestone not just for her, but for the university as a rising force in the global entrepreneurship ecosystem. The award is a testament to her leadership, dedication, and the tangible impact she has had on young entrepreneurs.



Melody Chiume

For Melody, entrepreneurship is not just a career it's a lifelong commitment to growth and empowerment. Her story demonstrates that consistent effort, belief in others, and a hunger for progress can turn passion into lasting influence.

Her journey inspires both aspiring entrepreneurs and mentors alike proving that hard work, dedication, and vision truly lead to recognition and meaningful change.

Article: How Township Traders Are Redefining the Informal Sector

Across South Africa's townships, the informal sector has long been viewed through a narrow lens one often associated with survival, instability, and limited growth. Yet, a new wave of entrepreneurs is quietly reshaping this narrative. These are individuals who are not only trading to make ends meet, but are building structured, customer-focused, and impact-driven micro-enterprises that challenge outdated perceptions of informality. At the centre of this shift is a powerful redefinition of what it means to be an informal trader. No longer confined to basic transactions, today's traders are embracing consistency, quality, and customer trust as core pillars of their operations. Their businesses are becoming reliable community assets places where people do not just buy, but return, refer, and build relationships.

One of the most striking elements of this transformation is the intentional approach to service delivery. Food vendors, in particular, are moving beyond simply selling meals to creating experiences rooted in cleanliness, taste, and care. In environments where food safety concerns have often been raised, some traders are setting new standards by prioritising hygiene, presentation, and customer satisfaction. This shift is gradually restoring confidence in township food economies and positioning them as viable contributors to local development. Equally important is the mindset driving this evolution. Rather than viewing their work as temporary or informal, these entrepreneurs are operating with a long-term vision. They are thinking about growth, brand identity, and sustainability. They understand their customers, adapt to demand, and continuously refine their offerings. In doing so, they are demonstrating that informality does not equate to a lack of professionalism it simply reflects a different entry point into the business world. This redefinition also speaks to resilience and self-determination. Many of these traders operate in challenging environments with limited access to funding, infrastructure,



Dudu's Kitchen

and formal support systems. Yet, through innovation and persistence, they are able to create opportunities not only for themselves, but for others within their communities. Their businesses become sources of income, learning, and inspiration. What makes this movement particularly significant is its broader implication for the township economy. As more traders adopt structured and value-driven approaches, the informal sector begins to position itself as a critical driver of economic activity and employment.

It challenges policymakers, institutions, and society at large to rethink how informal businesses are supported, recognised, and integrated into the mainstream economy. Ultimately, this emerging generation of informal traders is proving that the sector is not defined by its limitations, but by its potential. Through discipline, innovation, and a deep commitment to their customers, they are building businesses that reflect excellence in its truest form grounded, accessible, and community-driven.

This is not just a story of trade. It is a story of transformation where purpose meets opportunity, and where the informal sector evolves into a space of dignity, growth, and lasting impact.

Expand Your Operations in Mpumalanga

Looking for the ideal space to grow your business? Whether you're scaling up or establishing a new operation, Mpumalanga offers the perfect environment for industrial expansion.

The Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) provides access to strategically located industrial parks, designed to accommodate both large enterprises and growing manufacturers. These spaces are tailored to support efficiency, accessibility, and long-term business success.

Flexible industrial sites for scale operations

Logistics-friendly locations with key transport routes

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Ideal for:

Manufacturing | Warehouse
Distribution Hubs | Industrial I

With its strategic location, strong infrastructure, and growing economy, Mpumalanga is positioning itself as a leading destination for industrial investment and business expansion.

Position your business for growth in Mpumalanga. Enquire today.

MEGA
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Empowering Entrepreneurs: Street Legacy

Joins MSME Support Roadshows

The Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) has invited qualifying MSMEs across the province to attend the District Funding and Business Support Roadshows taking place throughout April. The initiative aims to connect entrepreneurs with funding opportunities, business support, and strategic partnerships to drive growth. To participate, businesses must be formally registered, operating for over a year, able to produce financial statements, and compliant with statutory requirements within Mpumalanga.

The roadshows will also feature Street Legacy Foundation as a key stakeholder, where it will introduce its upcoming provincial programme focused on empowering SMMEs and informal traders through development, exposure, and access to opportunities.

This initiative offers a valuable platform for businesses to connect, learn, and grow within Mpumalanga's evolving entrepreneurial ecosystem.



MEGA SMME FUNDING & BUSINESS SUPPORT ROADSHOW

MEGA invites SMMEs, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, business forums, youth - and women-owned businesses, and local stakeholders to attend the MEGA SMME Funding & Business Support Roadshow taking place across Mpumalanga in March 2026.

The roadshow will provide information on MEGA funding instruments, business support programmes, compliance requirements, and business recovery support.

Date: 22nd April 2026

Venue: Ehlanzeni District Municipality

Time: 09:00

RSVP: mesie.ngomane@mega.gov.za

For Enquiries, please contact: Ms Sezanele Zondi on 072 228 1629
Join us as we support enterprise growth and economic development in Mpumalanga.

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Empowering Entrepreneurs: Street Legacy

Joins MSME Support Roadshows



GERT SIBANDE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



MEGA SMME FUNDING & BUSINESS SUPPORT ROADSHOW

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The roadshow will provide information on MEGA funding instruments, business support programmes, compliance requirements, and business recovery support.

Date: 23rd April 2026

Venue: Gert Sibande District Municipality

Time: 09:00

RSVP: simon.mnisi@mega.gov.za

For Enquiries, please contact: Ms Sezanele Zondi on 072 228 1629
Join us as we support enterprise growth and economic development in Mpumalanga.

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Where Care Meets Collaboration: Inside RMC's 2026 Gala Evening

Located in the heart of Riverside Park in Mbombela, Riverside Medical Centre (RMC) has established itself as a trusted hub of healing, care, and medical excellence. Its strategic location near key healthcare such as Mediclinic Nelspruit, Kiat Private Hospital, and Rob Ferreira Hospital positions it as a convenient and reliable one-stop destination for individuals and families seeking quality healthcare services. Founded in 2019 by a group of dedicated doctors, RMC was built on a clear and purposeful vision: to bring together diverse healthcare professionals under one roof to deliver integrated, high-quality care.

Today, the Centre continues to embody this vision by offering a wide range of specialist services, alongside general practitioners, radiology, laboratory services, and allied health professionals, ensuring patients receive holistic and efficient care in one location.

Beyond its medical offering, RMC is defined by its environment and values. Patients are received into a space designed for comfort, safety, and dignity, where every interaction is guided by professionalism, compassion, and respect. The Centre's belief that every life matters is reflected not only in words, but in the everyday experiences of those it serves.

On the 14th of March 2026, Riverside Medical Centre hosted a prestigious Gala Dinner that brought together healthcare professionals from across Mbombela and beyond. The event served as a powerful celebration of the commitment, resilience, and impact of those working in the medical field. More than just a formal gathering, it created a meaningful platform for professionals to connect, share insights, and strengthen relationships within the healthcare ecosystem. The evening highlighted the importance of collaboration in healthcare, reinforcing that quality patient care is achieved not in isolation, but through strong partnerships and shared purpose. It was a reflection of what RMC stands for: unity, excellence, and a continued commitment to serving the community with integrity and compassion.





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