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ELANGENI

NEWS



From Soft Skills to Strong Citizens:
Higher Health Ignites Student Transformation at ETVET

Editorial



Every institution tells its story in different ways—through its people, its progress, and its purpose. At Elangeni TVET College, that story is shaped daily in classrooms, workshops, campuses, partnerships, and communities where skills are not only taught, but lived. In this sense, **Elangeni NEWS** is more than a publication. It is a curated reflection of impact, intention, and institutional identity—capturing not only what the College is doing, but what it is becoming. Our **Cover Story** highlights the College’s holistic approach to education through the introduction of a **Higher Health** endorsed qualification, aligned with a **QCTO Level 5** framework. It explores how student wellbeing, behavioural competencies and life skills development are being intentionally integrated into technical training to produce graduates who are not only workplace-ready but also socially responsible citizens.

World of Work tracks diverse pathway stories from a young farmer’s progression through classroom learning to commercial agriculture to a TVET graduate reinforcing education as a catalyst for long-term transformation. Within **SSS**, the publication reflects on the SRC’s strategic planning processes and student governance priorities, while also celebrating student participation and achievement in sport. A key reflection here will remind readers that success is not solely defined by results, but also by the character, discipline, teamwork, and personal development. **Registrations** reports on a significant milestone through the **NSFAS Laptop Initiative**, strengthening digital inclusion and ensuring equitable access to learning resources for students entering the 2026 academic cycle. ETVET continues to demonstrate excellence in practice-based learning with coverage at the **WorldSkills ZA 2026** exhibiting the College’s strong impression in national skills competitions and its commitment to benchmarking against global industry standards. A new column is introduced in **Change Management**, for the purpose of roadshows aimed at updating staff on the College’s transition from legacy programmes to occupational qualifications, strengthening shared understanding and readiness for a future-ready TVET model. Under **Partnerships**, the College continues to expand its collaboration through international and sectoral engagements including the introduction of a maritime skills development initiative. **Marketing & Communications** unpacks strategic communication and stakeholder engagement initiatives that continue to strengthen the College’s visibility and presence. These include a podcast conversation with College Principal Mrs T.J. Kula offering insight into the College’s vision and mission, frontline ambassador training, the revival of the **KZN TVET Marketing and Communications Forum**, outreach programmes and the use of dynamic multimedia storytelling to enhance the College’s profile across multiple platforms. By the end of this publication, the intention is that you take away more than a record of activities, but a reflection of an institution whose presence continues to expand across the broader TVET landscape. As the African proverb reminds us, **“The sun doesn’t forget a village because it is small”**. In the same way, Elangeni TVET College continues to grow in visibility among the country’s 50 TVET colleges—strengthening its footprint, amplifying its voice within the sector, and extending its impact beyond scale or geography.

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ON THE COVER

Turn to **pages 8 and 9** to explore how the Higher Health Civic and Soft Skills Qualification is empowering ETJET students with the confidence, resilience, and life skills needed to thrive in today's evolving world of work.

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From the Rector's Desk



I extend my warmest greetings to our staff, students, and valued stakeholders. At Elangeni TVET College, we continue to embrace this season with focus, determination, and a shared commitment to advancing **teaching and learning**. It is through our collective effort and dedication that we continue to strengthen the College's mission and build a future rooted in opportunity, excellence, and impact. As we move deeper into the transition towards **occupational programmes**, we are not simply adjusting curricula; we are reshaping our identity. This transformation requires clarity of purpose, disciplined execution, and collective responsibility. It demands unity across all levels of the College, with every unit and campus aligned to a shared vision of a **future-ready TVET institution** that responds directly to industry and societal needs. What gives me confidence is not only the

direction we are taking, but the readiness we have demonstrated as an institution. Through planning, accreditation processes, enrolment alignment, quality assurance mechanisms, and throughput strategies, we have laid a strong foundation. What now matters most is disciplined purpose. **Leadership**, in this context, is not about position but about stewardship of change. When we remain focused and aligned, we do not merely respond to change—we shape it. This period of transformation is also marked by meaningful expansion in our partnerships and strategic engagements. A key development is our emerging collaboration within the **maritime and shipbuilding skills space**, which introduces new opportunities for industry-aligned training and specialised programme development. In addition, the College continues to make its mark through a range of institutional events and knowledge platforms. The upcoming **PSET Research Conference** is one such example, providing a space for critical dialogue, research engagement, and innovation within the post-school education and training sector. It reflects our commitment not only to implementation, but also to thought leadership within the **TVET landscape**.

On a personal note, 11 January 2026 marked ten years of service to this College, its students, and its communities. It is a milestone I hold with deep gratitude, not as a personal achievement, but as part of a collective journey shared with colleagues, partners, and students who continue to shape this institution. Many have led before me, and many will follow. What remains constant is the responsibility we all carry to strengthen the foundation we inherit and improve it for those who come after us. **Elangeni TVET College is not defined by a moment in time, but by its ongoing evolution.** The road ahead will challenge us, but I remain confident in who we are, what we stand for, and where we are going.

Mrs T.J Kula
Rector

ETVET Council Chairperson

Message from Council



The Council of Elangeni TVET College extends a warm welcome to all students and staff as we begin the 2026 academic year. As Council members, we are privileged to serve this institution and remain steadfast in our commitment to the highest standards of service, accountability, and integrity. Effective governance is fundamental to the success of any educational institution. We therefore continue to champion transparency, inclusivity, and responsible leadership to ensure that ETVET remains a place where students and staff can thrive. In the ever-evolving technical and vocational education sector, sound governance is essential in creating an environment that supports excellence in teaching, learning, and innovation. As Council, we believe that through meaningful engagement and open communication, we can strengthen our shared purpose of delivering quality

education at ETVET. We encourage all members of the College community to share their ideas and feedback, as your input is valuable in shaping the future of our institution. Together, we can uphold the principles of good governance while ensuring that ETVET continues to be a centre of learning, opportunity, and progress. As the year unfolds, remember that education is a lifelong journey. To our students, the knowledge, skills, and experiences you gain during your time at ETVET will contribute greatly to your future success. Some of you may discover new interests and strengths, while others will continue building on their goals.

Wherever you are on your path, remain committed and trust the process as your ambitions take form. We sincerely value the continued dedication and support of Senior Management and staff at ETVET. As we move through 2026, we do so with confidence, optimism, and a shared commitment to educational excellence.

Mr L.S Gabela
Council Chairperson

ETVET SRC President

Message from SRC



Greetings fellow students. Welcome to the 2026 academic year at ETVET. Congratulations to every student who successfully completed 2025. Your hard work and resilience brought you here, and we are proud of you.

As your SRC, our commitment remains firm: we will stand with you, listen to you, and act for you. We recognize the difficulties many of you faced last year. Your frustrations were heard, and your determination to raise your concerns showed how much you care about this college. Your voices matter, and we will keep pushing to ensure those issues are resolved.

We know that students continue to face challenges with registration, NSFAS, accommodation, transport, and campus resources. You are not alone in this. Your SRC will continue to be your voice and defend your rights at every level. For 2026, we have planned programs to support, develop, and unite you. Expect academic support sessions, leadership and skills workshops, cultural activities, and sports events. There is a space for everyone to grow and belong. Your involvement drives these programs. Whether you lead, participate, or support your peers, your contribution makes the difference. Your SRC works daily to find solutions

engage college management for real change. Progress takes time, but we are determined to deliver results you can see and feel. To our Nated trimester students who recently completed exams, we wish you success with your results. We look forward to welcoming you back. From the SRC President's heart, I share these words from Nelson Mandela: ***"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*** Let us use it together.

Ms. Londiwe Mathe
SRC President

*"A leader is the one who knows the way,
goes the way and shows the way"*

- John C. Maxwell



CALLING ALL ELANGENI TVET COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Are you currently employed and making your mark in the world of work?
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Share your journey with us by emailing your details and current role to:

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You could be featured in the next edition of **Elangeni News – Official College Newsletter**

Your story can inspire the next generation!

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Cover Story

From Soft Skills to Strong Citizens: Higher Health Ignites Student Transformation at ETVET



Elangeni TVET College’s Pinetown Campus was transformed into a hub of empowerment, leadership and democratic learning on 13 March 2026, as Higher Health hosted its flagship Civic & Soft Skills Programme Camp, led by Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube in commemoration of Human Rights Month. In her welcome address, College Principal Mrs TJ Kula, welcomed guests and participants to a day that reflected the institution’s commitment to producing graduates who are academically capable, socially conscious and workplace ready and reaffirmed ETVET’s commitment to inclusive and supportive learning spaces. **“At Elangeni TVET College, we are committed to creating inclusive, safe and supportive learning environments. Here, human rights are not abstract ideals — they are practiced every day when students feel safe, respected, and able to pursue their goals without fear or bias,”** she said. She further encouraged students to stand for fairness, challenge injustice and uplift those around them while reinforcing the growing partnership between Higher Health and the College in advancing holistic student development and active citizenship.

Higher Health’s Vision in Action



The Civic & Soft Skills Programme is the brainchild of Higher Health through its CEO Professor Ramneek Ahluwalia and was conceptualised as a national intervention to equip young South Africans with the soft skills, civic understanding and leadership qualities required to succeed in both society and the economy. According to Professor Ahluwalia, **“The programme accredited by QCTO at NQF Level 5 and developed in partnership with UNESCO, has become one of Higher Health’s most impactful student empowerment initiatives across the post-school education sector”** he said. He emphasised that employers increasingly value soft skills such as confidence, emotional intelligence,



leadership, empathy, time management, goal setting and a positive attitude, noting that **“85% of job success comes from soft skills,”** while also reminding students that active participation in democratic processes, including voting, remains essential in shaping South Africa’s future.

Deputy Minister Challenges Students to Live the Values

Delivering the keynote address, Deputy Minister DHET Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube challenged students to ensure that the values taught through the programme extend beyond certification. **“This must not be just what is on the paper of the certificate, it must be what you honour and live every day. It must be what you believe in every day when you wake up and**

when you go to sleep,” she said. Dr Dube - Ncube urged students to embody leadership, responsibility and active citizenship so that society may recognise them as future leaders and global citizens. A proud highlight of the day followed as the DM Dr Dube Ncube & College Principal Mrs TJ Kula awarded QCTO NQF Level 5 certificates to graduates, recognising their dedication to ethical leadership and personal development. Students then proceeded into the active camp sessions including a Group Project on Human Rights where students engaged directly with the curriculum. The Deputy Minister and Principal Mrs Kula joined students in the module activities, reinforcing the importance of participatory learning. The programme also featured testimonials from graduates who had completed the Civic & Soft Skills Camp.



Among them, was ETVET SRC President Ms Londiwe Mathe, who shared the impact the programme made on her thinking: **“I have learnt a lot about civic education and my favourite module was disability, where I learnt about the different types of disability. I now understand that some disabilities are visible while others are invisible,”** she said. In the end, the success of the Higher Health Civic & Soft Skills Programme Camp at Elangeni TVET College is a reminder that transformation often begins with a simple idea — a belief that students can be equipped not only with qualifications, but with values, confidence and purpose. What starts as a thought, a collaboration, or a shared vision

between institutions can grow into something far more powerful: young people who understand themselves, their rights, and their responsibility to society. Through initiatives like this, potential is not only recognised but actively shaped into impact. It is in these moments — where learning meets humanity — that the true value of education is revealed.



Seeds of Change: Young Farmer's Rise from Classroom to Commercial Agriculture



In the heart of Mtubatuba, a young farmer is quietly cultivating more than just crops and poultry—he is growing a vision for self-reliance, community upliftment, and entrepreneurial success. At just 30 years old, Gift Nkosi, a proud alumni of Elangeni TVET College's Mpumalanga Campus, is turning his passion for agriculture into a thriving business. Nkosi's journey began long before he stepped into a college classroom. As a high school learner, he discovered a deep appreciation for farming, inspired by his agricultural science teacher and his uncle. This early exposure ignited a passion that would later shape his future. Determined to transform this interest into a viable career, Nkosi enrolled for Primary Agriculture at ETVET, where he studied from 2021 to 2023. Today, that decision has borne fruit. Nkosi is now the director of Inkosinhle Farming, a growing agricultural enterprise specialising in poultry farming and vegetable production. While still a student, Nkosi made it clear that his ambitions extended beyond the

classroom. He actively sought guidance from his lecturers, sharing his dream of starting his own farming business. Their mentorship, coupled with his own drive, laid a strong foundation for his entrepreneurial journey. A pivotal moment in his development came in 2022, when he was selected as part of the NUFFIC exchange programme to the Netherlands. There, he witnessed young farmers successfully managing their own agricultural enterprises—an experience that broadened his perspective and strengthened his resolve. ***"That experience showed me what is possible,"*** he says.

"TVET colleges are for practical visionaries. I want other students to realise that they can use their skills to build something meaningful." Despite his progress, Nkosi is candid about the realities of building a business from the ground up. Limited resources, lack of transport, and insufficient infrastructure often constrain his ability to meet growing demand.

"Sometimes we experience shortages because the business is still small," he explains. ***"We don't yet have the capacity to supply everywhere, and funding remains a major challenge."*** Without external funding, sponsorship, or grants, Nkosi continues to rely on resilience and community support. Encouragement from those around him fuels his determination to keep moving forward. ***"People believe in my business, and that motivates me,"*** he says. Unlike many young professionals seeking opportunities elsewhere, Nkosi is firmly rooted in his community. ***"I don't want to relocate,"*** he says. ***"I want to see agriculture grow here in my village and inspire other young people to get involved."***

Over the next five years, he aims to expand production and supply agricultural products across South Africa, contributing to both food security and local economic development. His message to current and prospective students is clear and compelling: ***"Take your studies seriously, especially the practical components. They prepare you for independence. And don't wait for the perfect moment—start small, start now. Your breakthrough could be just one step away."***



Anele Turns Up the Success in the HVAC Sector



In an industry often perceived as male-dominated and physically demanding, one young professional is steadily reshaping expectations through skill, consistency and a growing reputation for reliability in the workplace. Anele Msomi, a 24-year-old from Inanda, is building a promising career in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) sector, where she continues to challenge stereotypes while strengthening her technical expertise. Msomi's journey began after completing her high school studies in 2017 when she enrolled at Elangeni TVET College KwaMashu Campus for the Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation programme, where she developed the foundational technical skills that would later prepare her for industry placement and employment. Thereafter Msomi was placed for in-service training at Cold Point Aircon Service. Her performance

during this period proved instrumental in shaping her career trajectory. The company later offered her permanent employment after recognising her competence and consistency, and she was appointed as a Junior Technician.

Reflecting on her entry into the workplace, Msomi described how her training experience opened unexpected doors:

"I started as a trainee doing my in-service training, and at the end of my training they decided to hire me due to my excellent work performance" she says. She credits both her training environment and academic support structures for helping her transition into the workplace, including guidance from her former lecturer, Mr Mbatha. ***"The College and my instructor played a big role in helping me find my way and secure placement. That support made a real difference in my journey"*** she says.

Like many young women entering technical fields, Msomi has encountered assumptions about gender roles in the workplace. However, she notes that success in HVAC is driven more by technical understanding, critical thinking and problem-solving ability than physical strength. ***"HVAC work is not just about strength. It is about thinking critically, diagnosing problems and applying technical skills correctly"*** she says. She has also highlighted personal growth areas, including building confidence in public speaking, while emphasising her strengths in problem-solving, discipline and working under pressure. Despite the challenges, Msomi remains focused on her long-term goals. She aspires to progress into a senior technician role, expand her professional qualifications, and engage with industry networks that support skills development within the HVAC sector. Her story reflects the growing impact of TVET graduates in critical technical industries and underscores the importance of workplace exposure, mentorship and opportunity in shaping career pathways. ***"I am proud of how far I have come and I am grateful for the opportunity to keep learning every day"*** she says. Through ambition and grit, Msomi continues to demonstrate that technical excellence knows no gender boundaries, and that skilled trades remain a powerful avenue for meaningful and sustainable careers.



World of Work

From TVET to Doctoral Aspirations: Mkhwanazi Champions Education as a Tool for Change



What began as a modest qualification at a TVET college has evolved into a steadily advancing academic and professional journey for Sinqobile Mkhwanazi, a 39-year-old former student of Elangeni TVET College who is now contributing meaningfully to the education sector while pursuing advanced studies.

Mkhwanazi's academic pathway started at Elangeni TVET College's Inanda Campus, where he completed a Diploma in Management Assistant. He describes this as the turning point that shaped his outlook on education and personal development. From there, he progressed to the Durban University of Technology, where he completed a B-Tech in Business Management Sciences. His academic ambition did not stop there; he went on to complete a Master's Degree in Business Management in 2025 and is currently pursuing a PhD in

Management Studies, with a focus on leadership and entrepreneurship. Beyond his academic achievements, Mkhwanazi has built a career in teaching and facilitation, working across colleges and higher education spaces as a lecturer, tutor and facilitator. Over the years, he has been involved in mentoring more than 120 students and contributing to research in the area of women's entrepreneurship. He explained that his approach to education is centred on impact rather than instruction alone. ***"My goal has always been to create a learning environment where students feel supported and believe that education can genuinely change their lives"*** he says. He further emphasised the importance of inclusivity in education and the role of mentorship in shaping future professionals. ***"When students are guided properly, they begin to see possibilities beyond their circumstances. That is where real transformation begins"*** he says. Despite his progress, Mkhwanazi acknowledges that his journey has not been without challenges. Working in the education sector, he had to confront perceptions about gender roles, particularly the assumption that nurturing and mentorship are traits reserved for women. ***"One of the biggest challenges has been breaking the stereotype that leadership in education must look a certain way. I have learned that empathy and structure can exist together in effective leadership"*** he says. He notes that his strengths lie in communication, adaptability and analytical thinking, which he believes are essential in both teaching and academic research. His philosophy is that education must combine knowledge with human connection to be truly effective. Looking ahead, Mkhwanazi aspires to take up a senior academic leadership role where he can influence curriculum development, strengthen student research capacity and promote entrepreneurship among young people. ***"In the next five years, I see myself leading initiatives that empower students to create opportunities for themselves and contribute meaningfully to their communities"*** he says.

He also continues to encourage young people to remain focused on long-term goals despite their starting point. ***"Your background does not define your future. Discipline, consistency and belief in yourself are what matter most. Elangeni TVET College gave me my foundation, but growth comes from what you build on top of it"*** he says. Mkhwanazi's journey reflects a broader narrative of TVET alumni who are transitioning into academia and leadership roles, demonstrating the long-term value of vocational and higher education pathways in shaping socially responsive professionals.



Inside the TVET Experience: Growth, Service and a Voice for Skills Development



Elangeni TVET College recently hosted Njabulo Mabaso, a TVET graduate and active sector influencer, who joined the institution as an NSFAS Student Support Administrator from 13 January - 30 April 2026.

His placement was aimed at strengthening student support services across campuses while enhancing administrative efficiency and student experience within the College. Mabaso originates from Majuba TVET College, a sister TVET institution, where he built the foundation of his academic and professional journey in Engineering Studies, specialising in Millwrights (Electro-Mechanician). He completed his N4–N6 qualifications, followed by an apprenticeship through the College's Artisan Training Centre, and is currently working towards completing his Trade Test certificate. In addition, he holds a National N Diploma in Engineering Studies and is further advancing his academic profile through an Advanced Diploma in TVET Teaching. He also completed an Entrepreneurship Skills Certificate through NYDA, equipping

him with business and self-employment competencies. Reflecting on his temporary placement at ETVET, Mabaso described the experience as both impactful and affirming. ***“Being at the College has been ecstatic and inspiring and supported my journey from students right up to Senior Management,”*** he said, adding that ***“Mr Duma and Mrs Mchunu from the Registrations Unit ensured that all students were equally served from campus to campus.”*** He further highlighted the institutional culture and leadership support he experienced during his placement, noting that ***“From the SLOs, Acting AD Marketing Ms Reddy to the progressive Principal Mrs TJ Kula, all played a pivotal role in ensuring a supportive and enabling environment throughout my placement,”*** Mabaso explained. ***“One of the lessons I learned is that together we can do more. A great environment enables greater results, and Elangeni TVET College helped me see potential in myself that I never saw before”*** he said. For ETVET, Mabaso's placement added value not only in strengthening student support operations but also in amplifying the visibility and voice of the TVET sector through his active role as an influencer and advocate for vocational education and training. ***“For far too long, TVET Colleges have been treated as a second option or fallback plan,”*** he said. ***“What people don't realise is that TVET Colleges are critical levers in addressing the skills demands of our economy. Most programmes offered give students the opportunity to enter the workplace directly or start their own businesses through entrepreneurship hubs”*** said Mabaso. He added that his advocacy is driven by the real-world impact of the sector: ***“What motivates me to raise my voice is seeing the good impact TVET Colleges have in our communities and industries. TVET programmes turn job seekers into job creators.”*** Concluding his message to prospective students, Mabaso encouraged a shift in mindset towards vocational education and believes that stronger engagement with communities is key to changing perceptions about vocational education. ***“TVET Colleges need to be on the ground through community outreach programmes and by inviting high school learners into workshops,”*** he said. ***“It is important to show the difference between academic and trade qualifications. When you are skilled, you are forever useful—skills do not expire.”***

All Systems Go: ETVET State of Readiness Confirmed for 2026 Academic Year



Elangeni TVET College welcomed Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube, during her visit to KwaZulu-Natal on 14 January 2026, as part of the provincial Back-to-School Programme and oversight engagements ahead of the new academic year.

The Deputy Minister's programme commenced at ETVET's KwaMashu Campus, which shares premises with Sivananda Technical High School. The Back-to-School Initiative aimed to encourage academic

excellence, support learner retention, and position TVET colleges as institutions of choice for post-school education and training. During the visit, Elangeni TVET College showcased a range of academic and skills programmes to learners, creating awareness of the opportunities available within the TVET sector and highlighting pathways to employability and entrepreneurship. Several stakeholders joined the programme, including NSFAS, NYDA, the IEC, various SETAs, Thekwini TVET College, local ward councillors, and the KZN Provincial Department of Education. Their presence reflected a shared commitment to supporting young people through education, funding access, career guidance, and skills development initiatives. Following the KwaMashu Campus engagement, DM Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube proceeded to Ntuzuma Campus to assess Elangeni TVET College's State of Readiness for the 2026 academic year. The visit included a campus walkabout, where the Deputy Minister viewed engineering-related workshops and various occupational skills programmes offered at the campus. ETVET's Agriculture Programmes, based at Mpumalanga Campus, also participated by showcasing their offerings. College Principal Mrs TJ Kula delivered the College's State of Readiness presentation, outlining progress made in preparation for the academic year. Discussions with the Deputy Minister focused on



occupational programmes, registration processes, institutional capacity, student alignment, and funding matters. The Deputy Minister also engaged with members of the Student Representative Council (SRC), offering guidance and encouragement on educational matters.

The successful visits to both campuses reaffirmed Elangeni TVET College's commitment to delivering quality education and training, while strengthening partnerships that contributed to student success and institutional growth.



Voter Education Strengthened Through ETVET–IEC Collaboration



In a proactive drive to strengthen democratic participation among young South Africans, the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) eThekweni Metro, in partnership with Elangeni TVET College, successfully hosted the Tertiary Institution Campaign (TIC) at Pinetown Campus Hall on 5 February 2026. The high-impact activation formed part of the IEC's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, which prioritises collaboration with key stakeholders to increase voter participation, particularly among the youth. With the Local Government Elections set to take place on 04 November

2026, the campaign arrived at a crucial time to encourage first-time and returning voters to register and participate in shaping the future of their communities. Students were engaged through a dynamic programme focused on civic education, voter awareness, and the importance of active citizenship. The event also highlighted the role young people play in safeguarding democracy through informed participation at the ballot box. The programme commenced with an official welcome by Pinetown Campus Manager, Mrs T Dookhi, followed by remarks on the objectives of the campaign from Ms I Dlamini, Outreach Manager from the IEC KZN Provincial Office. Messages of support were also delivered by Assistant Director Student Support Services, Mr E Mbhele, and College SRC President, Ms Londiwe Mathe, who encouraged students to make their voices count through voting. Further highlights included an address by Mr S Nkomo from the IEC, student entertainment, support messages from EMA, and an online voter registration demonstration led by Mr S Mzobe, providing students with practical guidance on the registration process.

Sexual & Reproductive Health Awareness: Promoting Informed Decision-Making

On 13 February 2026, Elangeni TVET College in collaboration with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, hosted a World Condom Day Awareness Programme at Ntuzuma Campus Resource Centre.

The event formed part of ongoing efforts to promote informed health choices among students and to strengthen awareness on HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unintended pregnancies. Mr Nzuzo Manqele from the AIDS Healthcare Foundation outlined the purpose of the engagement.

Guest speaker Mrs Mathe-MaNtuli encouraged students to prioritise both their physical and mental wellbeing, stating that those who are sexually active should consistently practise protection, while also encouraging abstinence for those who have not yet initiated sexual activity. Higher Health's, Ms Philile Nkosi provided an overview of the organisation's integrated student support services, which include health services, psychosocial support, education programmes, screening initiatives, and both social and clinical interventions across rural, peri-urban, township, and urban campuses. SSS Unit Supervisor, Ms Hlobelihle Ntombela, expressed appreciation to all stakeholders for their contributions and services.



Student Support Services

Student Voices, Shared Vision: ETVET SRC Maps the Year Ahead



On 27 February 2026, Elangeni TVET College hosted the 2026 Student Representative Council (SRC) Strategic Planning Session at the Premier Hotel Splendid Inn. The session brought together SRC members and Student Parliament leadership to align plans for the academic year ahead. Assistant Director Student Support Services Mr E. Mbhele, highlighted the significance of proactive planning. ***“It was important for the new SRC to have its strategic plan in place before the academic year commenced. This session created an opportunity for student leaders to share the plans and projects they wished to accomplish during 2026”*** he said. He further stressed the need for structure, accountability and sustainable impact in student leadership. The SRC’s roadmap for 2026 focused on student wellness, academic support, talent development and operational efficiency. Key priorities included partnerships with Higher Health to strengthen physical and mental wellbeing, tutoring programmes for struggling students, enhanced support for students with disabilities, and creating platforms for students to showcase their sporting and creative talents. SRC President Ms Londiwe Mathe welcomed the initiative and expressed appreciation to the College. ***“As the SRC, we were grateful to the College for giving us the opportunity to meet as student leadership, share our ideas, and discuss how we would lead and serve students during the 2026 academic year”*** she said. The successful strategic planning session reflected Elangeni TVET College’s commitment to empowering student leadership and fostering a dynamic, student-centred campus environment.



Student Support Services

“Success in sport is not only measured by medals, but by the character athletes display track.”



Elangeni TVET College participated in the 2026 CoSACSA Sakhawo Zuma Track and Field Championships 2026 following a successful athletics development pathway that began with internal selections and progressed through provincial competition to the national stage. ETVET hosted the internal track and field selection event on 11 March 2026 at Kings Park Athletics Stadium. Athletes competed in a variety of disciplines including sprints, middle- and long-distance races, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put, Discus and Javelin. According to Sports Officer Ms. N Tembe, ***“The competition formed part of the selection process to identify athletes capable of representing the College at provincial level, with the opportunity to progress to the national championships”*** she said. Following the internal trials, selected athletes advanced to the KZN Senior Masters and TVET Colleges Championship held on 21 March 2026 as the final qualifying platform to represent Team KZN also at Kings Park Athletics Stadium. Team KZN went on to compete in the 3 day National Championships at Green Point Athletics Stadium from 19 - 21 April 2026. ETVET was proudly represented by 19 students as part of Team KZN with commendable performances in their respective categories: Ms. Siphesihle Nogavula (2 Gold Medals), Mr. Nombenhle Sigwebela (2 Gold Medals), Ms. Anelisiwe Gwala (Gold Medal), Mr. Musawenkosi Zungu (Silver & Bronze Medals), Ms. Sbahle Ndokweni (Silver & Bronze Medals), Ms. Ntsoaki Ntlanako (Silver Medal) and Ms. Phumuzi Magwaza (Bronze medal). At the conclusion of the championships, Western Cape claimed overall honours, followed by Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. The College's progression from internal trials to national medal success highlighted the strength of its student sport programme and its continued commitment to holistic student development through sport, opportunity and excellence.



*“Some people **want** it to happen,
some **wish** it would happen,
and others **make it happen.**”*

- Michael Jordan

Campus Safety Promotion Programmes Drive at ETVET College Campuses



On 24 - 25 March 2026, Elangeni TVET College's Ntuzuma & KwaMashu Campus hosted the Campus safety promotion programme attended by students along with various stakeholders such as Edu SCF (Edu School Communicator Foundation) and the KZN Community Safety and liaison Department. The day began with campus walkabout lead by the CMT, emphasising the importance of a secure space for students to thrive. Delivering the purpose and objectives of the programmes was KZN Community Safety and Liaison Department official Ms. Zingisa Mlata ***“Our responsibility is to ensure that students can learn without fear. We inspect fences, gates, and workshops to ensure safety regulations are met. We also respond to concerns raised by students about their safety, including issues like gender-based violence, drug abuse, and other risks.”*** The department also raised a serious issue of student prostitution, issues of gender-based violence, issues of suicide cases. Addressing the growing concern of drug abuse among students, officers from Ntuzuma Police station spoke about the dangers of substance misuse. They urged students to make safer choices and reported that they are committed to supporting efforts to combat drug-related problems on campus. In addition, Mr. S. Shezi introduced the Eyes App, a safety tool designed to monitor conversations, capture images, and connect users directly to security services. As the programmes continue across campuses, students were encouraged to stay alert, report suspicious activities, and support each other in fostering a safe educational environment.



Student Support Services

Cloud Therapist Launches Digital Mental Health & GBVF Support Programme



Elangeni TVET College hosted a powerful GBVF and Mental Health Awareness Programme on 21 April 2026, delivered through a strategic partnership with Cloud Therapist, commissioned by SAPCO in collaboration with SASSETA. The session marked a significant step in advancing integrated mental health support within the TVET sector. Programme director, Ms. Thandeka Qwabe, set an engaging and inclusive tone for the day followed by a welcome address by College Principal Mrs. TJ Kula, who reinforced the college's commitment to student wellbeing, safety,

and strengthened support systems across campuses. Her remarks positioned mental health and GBVF response as central to the college's student success agenda. Mental Health Professional from Cloud Therapist, Mr. Siya Nzimande, delivered an in-depth presentation on GBVF and mental health within higher education, emphasising the importance of early intervention and integrated care systems. A central feature of the programme was the introduction of the CLOUD CARE digital application, designed to improve accessibility to mental health services. Students were guided through the platform, including data input, pre-screening assessments, and the process of booking therapy sessions—positioning the app as a practical and time-efficient support tool.

Further engagement was strengthened by Cloud Therapist CEO, Mr. Sabelo Gumede, who encouraged participation through interactive incentives, including giveaway items recognising student engagement. Student leadership also played a key role, with SRC Deputy President Mr. Zazi Dlamuka highlighting lived student experiences, mental health pressures, and the importance of peer support structures. Deputy Principal Mr. TE Sibiya provided an overview of available campus support services, while Mr. Melusi Buthelezi contextualised national GBVF programmes, interventions, and partnership frameworks. Mr. Sibusiso Shembe delivered a brief safety-focused message representing campus safety structures. A high-impact panel dialogue followed, featuring Ms. Thandeka Qwabe, Mrs. TJ Kula, Mr. Sabelo Gumede, and Mr. Zazi Dlamuka. The session created an open platform for honest student engagement, lived experiences, and direct institutional responses. Adding a cultural and advocacy dimension, Maskandi artist Bahubhe energised the audience while reinforcing messages of help-seeking behaviour and GBVF awareness through cultural expression. The programme concluded with appreciation and closing remarks by HOD Ms. S. Ngcobo, who reaffirmed that Elangeni TVET College remains committed to creating safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments for all students. The overarching themes of the day centred on accessibility, awareness, collaboration, and collective responsibility.



NSFAS Laptop Handover Strengthens Digital Access for IT Students



On 27 February 2026, Elangeni TVET College's hosted the official NSFAS laptop handover ceremony at the Pinetown Campus Hall, marking a significant milestone in enhancing digital access for students.

The initiative saw 250 laptops distributed to deserving students, with a particular focus on IT Level 3 and Level 4 students from KwaMashu and Pinetown campuses. The handover forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen teaching and learning through improved access to digital tools and resources. Speaking at the event, Assistant Director Registration, Mr Siphelele Duma, emphasised the importance of responsible use of the devices. ***"Today we are handing over 250 laptops that were donated by NSFAS to our students. We are encouraging students who will receive them to make good use of these laptops, which will assist them in their academic journey, especially when completing assessments and assignments,"*** said Mr Duma. College Principal, Mrs TJ Kula, highlighted the strategic focus behind the distribution, noting that the laptops were prioritised for IT students due to the nature of their academic requirements. ***"This is an important event for us as we are handing over laptops to IT Level 3 and Level 4 students from KwaMashu and Pinetown Campus. We have prioritised IT students because they are the ones who need them most. We are confident about the positive change these laptops will bring, as students can also use them at home for assignments and studying,"*** she said. Mrs Kula further encouraged students to take responsibility for the equipment and to ensure it is used for its intended academic purpose. She also expressed appreciation to the Registration Unit, as well as the Deputy Principal: Registrar, Mr T.E. Sibiya, for their coordination and support in making the initiative a success. The handover reflects the College's continued commitment to improving student success through targeted interventions that support digital inclusion and academic readiness.

Artisan & Digital Experts in Practice at WSZA 2026



Elangeni TVET College continues to strengthen its reputation for technical and vocational excellence through the participation of its experts at the 2026 WorldSkills South Africa (WSZA) National Competition, where college lecturers played key roles in two vastly different but equally critical programmes: Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and IT Network Systems Administration. The involvement of Mr Mzamo Mbatha and Mr Mbuso Makhanya at the national event demonstrated the broad spectrum of occupational expertise cultivated at ETVET — from hands-on engineering trades that sustain physical infrastructure, to advanced digital systems that power the modern economy.

Traditional Trades Meet Digital Innovation

Serving as Provincial Expert in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Mbatha was tasked with judging competitors in a category that demands precision, technical competence and adherence to international installation and maintenance standards. He noted that the competition task in Refrigeration was set at an international benchmark, exposing students to the expectations of global industry. In contrast, Makhanya served as National Expert for IT Network Systems Administration, overseeing a category centred on digital connectivity, cybersecurity, cloud systems, automation and network troubleshooting. His responsibilities included preparing the Test Project, developing judging criteria, setting up the competition environment and ensuring fair assessment processes. Together, the two categories reflected how TVET education spans both legacy artisan trades and future-focused technology careers.





Different Challenges, Same Commitment to Excellence

Mbatha explained that the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning category faced logistical challenges, including delays in the arrival of tools, equipment and consumables, as well as lower-than-expected competitor participation. ***“We were supposed to have nine competitors, as there are nine provinces. Instead, we had two competitors. The equipment, tools and consumables arrived two days later than the original schedule,”*** he said. By comparison, Makhanya highlighted how the IT category benefitted from strengthened quality assurance systems and improved competitor readiness. ***“The quality assurance systems implemented in Durban ensured a fair competition. The 2026 competition reflected improved training levels by the various provinces and noticeably stronger participant performance and preparation,”*** he said. These differing experiences illustrate the realities of vocational competitions across sectors — where some trades may face resource constraints, while others rapidly evolve with technological investment and growing participation.



What Makes a Strong Competitor?

Both experts agreed that success at the WSZA Competition requires more than technical knowledge. ***“Competitors must work hard, have a passion in the chosen field of study, be inquisitive, and have love of our country,”*** said Mbatha whilst Makhanya identified qualities such as problem-solving ability, time management, resilience under pressure and attention to detail as essential for excelling in IT competitions. Their views demonstrate that while disciplines differ, core professional values such as discipline, adaptability and commitment remain universal.

Advice for Future Competitors

For students considering future participation, both experts urged early preparation and dedication and advised students to understand age restrictions, competition rules and to register on the WorldSkills platform from an early stage. According to Makhanya, participants must be encouraged to master technical fundamentals, train under timed conditions and seek mentorship from former competitors and industry professionals. He also emphasised that future competitions, including the 2028 cycle in Japan, are likely to place greater emphasis on Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, automation and programmable systems.



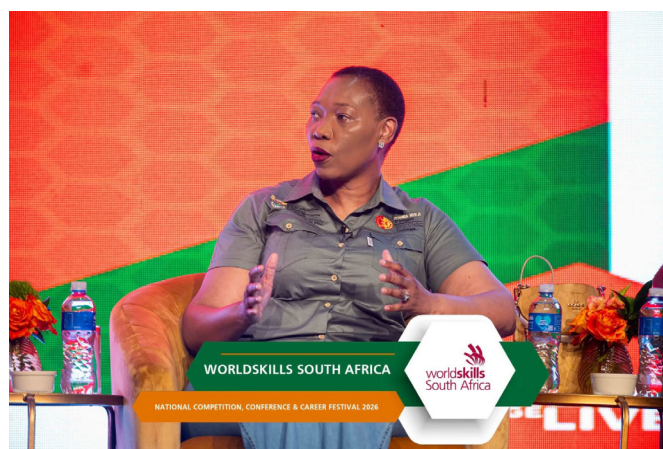
ETVET Leads with Excellence at WorldSkills ZA 2026



Elangeni TVET College delivered an impressive and wide-ranging showcase at the WorldSkills ZA National Competition, Conference and Career Expo 2026 at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC in Durban from the 8 – 12 March 2026 demonstrating the College's growing strength in occupational training, innovation, leadership and student development. Representing the College in the demanding IT Networking and Systems Administration category were competitors Mr. Sanele Sibisi and Ms. Ayanda Zulu. Both competitors tested their technical knowledge, troubleshooting abilities and practical competencies in a high-pressure national environment. Their participation provided valuable exposure to emerging industry standards while allowing them to benchmark their capabilities against some of the country's leading young IT professionals. The competition floor also featured strong representation from the College's academic staff. Expert lecturers Mr M. Makhanya, Mr S. Sasti and Mr. EB Ngcobo played meaningful roles in supporting competitors and contributing technical expertise throughout the programme.

Leadership Voice in National Skills Development Conference

A key highlight of the week was the WSZA Conference, where College Principal Mrs TJ Kula served as a panellist. She joined leaders from industry, government and the broader skills sector in discussions centred on collaboration, innovation and strategies to strengthen South Africa's skills pipeline. Principal Kula's participation reaffirmed the College's growing influence in shaping national conversations around TVET transformation, employability and workforce readiness.





Showcasing Innovation and Diverse Career Opportunities

The WSZA Career Festival created an exciting platform for school learners to explore careers, engage with experts and discover opportunities in the skills sector. ETVET used this platform to showcase the diversity and relevance of its programmes over three vibrant exhibition days. On the opening day, the College highlighted its engineering programmes through a solar-powered generator designed by Occupational Programme Electrician learners Mr.

Lindokuhle Chiliza and Mr. Khulekhani Ngema under the guidance of lecturer Mr. T Thabethe. The innovation attracted significant attention and demonstrated the College's alignment with sustainable energy and green skills priorities. Day two shifted the spotlight to Hospitality and Culinary programmes, comprising of Ms N Thusi, Ms A Hlongwane, Mr Z Ndlovu who prepared a variety of food and refreshing beverages live at the exhibition stand. Their professionalism, technical ability and customer service skills impressed visitors and reflected the hands-on training offered by the College. On day three, the focus turned to the Bricklayer and Plumber Occupational Programmes, coinciding with *World Plumbing Day*. The showcase was led by the Qadi Campus team of Mr W. Maziya, Ms. A Ximba and Ms. T Khathali, highlighting the importance of artisan trades in infrastructure development and economic growth. Visitors to the ETVET exhibit included DHET Deputy Minister Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube, DG Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, DDG Mr SZ Zungu, CEO NSF Ms. Melissa Erra, DHET RM North West and



Mpumalanga Province: Dr Nick Balkrishen, RM Limpopo Province Mr Frans Ramonyatse and SATVETSA NEC President Ms Kgaogelo Chokoe. Students from the College also served as event marshals, gaining valuable workplace exposure through stakeholder engagement, communication and event coordination responsibilities. Through its strong presence across the WSZA 2026 National Competition, Conference and Career Festival, Elangeni TVET College once again demonstrated its status as ***“An Institution of Choice”***, producing graduates equipped with practical skills, innovation and the confidence to help shape South Africa's future economy.

Navigating Transformation at Elangeni TVET College



Elangeni TVET College is undergoing a significant period of transformation as the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector continues to evolve in response to national priorities, economic demands, and the future of work. Central to this journey is the gradual transition toward Occupational Qualifications, which signals a new era of skills development, relevance, and opportunity for both staff and students.

Change can often feel challenging because it asks people and institutions to move beyond familiar systems and practices. However, change is also the catalyst for growth. For Elangeni TVET College, this transition is not simply about replacing programmes or adjusting processes. It is about ensuring that the College remains responsive, competitive, and aligned to the needs of industry, communities, and government priorities. The move toward Occupational Qualifications is strongly aligned with directives from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), which has called on TVET Colleges to strengthen their role in producing a skilled, work-ready labour force. South Africa's economy requires graduates who are able to contribute immediately in workplaces, adapt to modern technologies, and meet industry standards. As a public institution committed to empowerment through education, Elangeni TVET College must continue positioning itself as a leader in this space. One of the most visible areas of change will be the evolution of the College's Programme Qualification Mix (PQM). Over time, certain legacy programmes are being reviewed and phased into qualifications that place stronger emphasis on occupational competence. This means students will experience learning pathways that combine theory, practical training, simulations, and structured workplace exposure. The objective is clear: to ensure that graduates leave the College with qualifications that are meaningful, credible, and directly linked to employment or entrepreneurial opportunities. This transition also creates new expectations for teaching and learning. The role of the lecturer is becoming increasingly dynamic. In addition to academic instruction, lecturers are now expected to facilitate practical learning, guide simulations, understand workplace trends, and integrate industry-relevant practices into the classroom. Continuous professional development, upskilling, and industry engagement will therefore be essential. Lifelong learning is no longer optional in modern education—it is a professional necessity.

Equally important is the College's relationship with employers and strategic partners. Occupational Qualifications require stronger collaboration between institutions and industry to ensure that training reflects real workplace demands. Partnerships with business, government entities, SETAs, and community stakeholders will become increasingly valuable in creating placement opportunities, experiential learning pathways, and graduate employability. Our commitment to students, staff development, and community upliftment remains steadfast. The culture of collaboration and innovation that has sustained Elangeni TVET College over the years will continue to be one of our greatest strengths. It is natural for change to raise questions. Staff may wonder how programmes will shift, how systems will adapt, or what support will be available. Students may seek clarity on future opportunities. These concerns are valid and expected. Effective change management recognises that communication, consultation, and transparency are essential throughout any transformation process. For this reason, the College remains committed to sharing updates, providing guidance, and ensuring that stakeholders are kept informed at every stage. Successful change does not happen through policy alone—it happens through people.

Change Management



It depends on the willingness of individuals and teams to embrace new ways of thinking, learn new skills, and work together toward shared goals. Every member of the Elangeni TVET College community has a role to play in shaping this future. As we move forward, let us view change not as disruption, but as opportunity. Opportunity to strengthen our institution. Opportunity to improve student outcomes. Opportunity to deepen our relevance in society. Opportunity to build a future-ready College that

continues to transform lives through education and skills development. Together, we can ensure that Elangeni TVET College not only adapts to change, but leads through it.

Mr TM Magcaba is the Change Management Officer at Elangeni TVET College with over 20 years of experience in training, skills development, and human capital management. He brings extensive expertise in organisational transformation and occupational skills development, supporting the College’s shift toward work-integrated, future-ready education.

Employee Health and Wellness

Employee Health Drive Encourages Early Detection and Healthy Living



Elangeni TVET College successfully hosted its Employee Wellness Day initiatives across two campuses, reinforcing its commitment to staff well-being and preventative healthcare. The first session took place on 8 March 2026 at Ntuzuma Campus, followed by a second activation on 6 May 2026 at Pinetown Campus.

According to the College’s Employee Health and Wellness Officer, Ms Mbali Sithole, the primary objective of the initiative was to promote health awareness and encourage early detection of potential health risks among employees. **“The aim of hosting**

these wellness days was to promote health awareness and early detection of health risks. These events included free health screenings conducted by registered health practitioners, as well as short wellness talks,” said Sithole. She further explained that the programme was designed to strengthen employee well-being by providing accessible health services within the workplace environment. The initiative also sought to encourage staff to take proactive steps towards managing their health.

Mbali Sithole is ETJET’s Employee Health and Wellness Practitioner and she holds a Degree in Social Work.

Partnerships

Advancing Maritime Skills Through a New Ship Building Curriculum Initiative



Elangeni TVET College is taking a decisive step toward addressing South Africa's widening skills gap through the development of a Ship Building and Repair Curriculum, in partnership with the eThekweni Maritime Cluster (EMC) and the Senior Expert Service (SES). The initiative is supported by international maritime expert Mr. Knud Kusche, whose visit forms part of a structured collaboration aimed at aligning curriculum development with global industry standards and local economic priorities.

South Africa's economic landscape continues to reflect uneven development, with economists and industrial stakeholders consistently identifying critical skills shortages as a major constraint to growth. Among the most affected areas are high-level artisan trades such as ship building and repair. In response, ETVET is positioning itself strategically to address this gap through the introduction of a targeted occupational programme designed to produce industry-ready graduates for the maritime sector. Working in collaboration with the EMC, the programme incorporates structured campus visits, industry engagement sessions, and curriculum development workshops. This partnership reflects a growing shift toward occupationally driven training, where industry is no longer a passive beneficiary but an active co-designer of curriculum. This approach responds directly to longstanding concerns that the TVET sector has not always produced graduates fully aligned to labour market requirements, and now ensures that employers play a defining role in shaping the skills pipeline.

A series of engagements across ETVET's Artisan & Skills Development Centre, Ntuzuma Campus, and KwaDabeka Campus highlighted the College's workshop capacity and readiness for programme expansion. Mr Kusche commended several facilities, particularly at Ntuzuma Campus, noting the strong foundation already in place for practical training delivery. Upon completion of the SES engagement, a comprehensive report will be developed outlining infrastructure requirements, equipment needs, and alignment with international ship building standards. The programme also includes benchmarking visits to False Bay College and industry engagement with Sandock Austral. These engagements are expected to provide critical insight into best practice models and employer expectations. Reflecting on the strategic intent of the initiative, ETVET's Change Management Officer Mr TM Magcaba emphasised the broader transformation this work represents, stating ***"This initiative represents a fundamental shift in how we design vocational training. By integrating industry from the outset, we are ensuring that our curriculum is not only relevant, but directly responsive to the needs of the maritime economy and the employers who will ultimately absorb our graduates"***.

Looking ahead, the long-term impact of a fit-for-purpose Ship Building Curriculum extends beyond skills development. It represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen South Africa's maritime economy, enhance employability, and stimulate entrepreneurship.



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Elangeni
Technical and Vocational
Education and Training
College

WHISTLE BLOWERS ETHICS HOTLINE SERVICE AT ELANGENI TVET COLLEGE

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1. The toll-free number to call to report unethical conduct relating to Elangeni TVET College is **0800 381 007**.
2. Send us an SMS to **33490** and an information agent will contact you.
3. Download and use the secure Whistle Blowers App from Google Play or the Apple App Store.
4. Use the online web form on the website at **www.whistleblowing.co.za**
5. Email a report to us at **elangenicollege@whistleblowing.co.za** from your private rather than company email address.
6. Send us a letter to: Freepost KZN665 Musgrave, South Africa, 4062,
7. Fax us toll-free on **0800 212 689**. Use a private or pay to-use fax machine.

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"If you see wrong-doing or evil and say nothing against it, you become its victim"

- African proverb

Events

Research in Action as ETVET Launches 2026 PSET Conference



Elangeni TVET College officially launched its 2026 PSET Research Conference on 11 February 2026 at Pinetown Campus, marking a significant milestone in preparation for the national academic gathering set to take place from 26 - 28 August 2026 at Coastlands Hotel Umhlanga.

The launch drew academics from ETVET, together with stakeholders from across the PSET sector, reinforcing growing momentum behind what is expected to be one of the leading TVET research

conferences on the 2026 calendar. Held under the theme, ***“Future-Ready Occupational Training and Transformative Skills for Entrepreneurship and Employability: Innovations Shaping South Africa’s Workforce of Tomorrow,”*** the conference will provide a platform for robust dialogue, innovation, networking, and practical research outputs aimed at strengthening South Africa’s TVET landscape. Programme Director Dr L Smith welcomed all attendees. Delivering the opening remarks, Deputy Principal Registrar Mr T.E. Sibiya underscored the strategic value of research in institutional growth and national development. ***“Research is no longer optional in the modern TVET environment. It is essential for building responsive institutions, improving graduate employability, and ensuring that our colleges remain relevant in a rapidly changing economy,”*** said Mr Sibiya. A conference overview was presented by Council Member Mr N. Ngubane, who highlighted the conference’s role in amplifying the TVET sector’s voice for transformation, innovation, and inclusive development. Dr N. Tshishonga of the University of KwaZulu-Natal addressed delegates on the importance of research publication and academic dissemination, encouraging scholars to produce impactful research capable of shaping policy and practice.



Industry insights were shared by Mr S. Gxidi of MANTruck, on the role of industry partnerships in Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework transformation. ***“Industry and colleges must work hand in hand to develop skills that meet real workplace demands. When research informs curriculum design and training delivery, we create graduates who are ready to contribute from day one,”*** said Mr Gxidi. KZN SETA Forum Secretary Mr K.A. Mabotha



further addressed the importance of TVET responsiveness in meeting labour market needs and broader economic priorities. Expected research outcomes were presented by Acting Assistant Director Finance Ms S.Z. Ngema and Researcher Ms P Majozi, outlining plans for practical recommendations, collaborative partnerships, and expanded knowledge production within the sector. Assistant Director Risk Dr A. Nundkumar facilitated a Q&A session. Acting Deputy Principal Financial Services Mr M.S. Shabane closed the event with a vote of thanks.

Events



Elangeni TVET College

2026 PSET Research Conference

*Future-Ready Occupational Training and Transformative Skills for Employment:
Innovations Shaping South Africa's Workforce of Tomorrow*

26 - 28 August 2026
Durban, South Africa

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The August conference is expected to attract researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and education practitioners from across South Africa and beyond, further positioning Elangeni TVET College as a leading voice in advancing innovation, employability, and transformative skills development within the PSET landscape. For conference-related enquiries, including registration, partnerships and donations, contact the Conference Secretariat on 031 492 4353 or PSETconference@elangeni.edu.za.

Marketing and Communications

ETVET Marks National Holidays Through Multimedia Storytelling

At Elangeni TVET College, public holidays are viewed as more than just day breaks; they are used as intentional moments for reflection, learning, and as a driver of social transformation through the power of education. During the first half of 2025, the Marketing and Communications Unit activated campaigns for Human Rights Day (21 March), Freedom Day (27 April), and Workers' Day (1 May). These campaigns were delivered across print, digital, and social media platforms, combining written messages, visual storytelling, and short video content as contributions from College leadership, staff and students—whether a quote, reflection, or short video—collectively shaped a unified institutional narrative that honours South Africa's history while promoting a future grounded in dignity, equality, and education. Classroom discussions, vocational training contexts, and digital storytelling initiatives are used to contextualise themes such as human rights, freedom, and the dignity of labour within everyday teaching and learning. By embedding national commemorations into its communication and academic ecosystem, Elangeni TVET College reinforces its role not only as a provider of vocational education, but also as a custodian of democratic values.



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27 April 2026
Freedom Day

What does Freedom Day mean to you?
"When we mark Freedom Day, we are remembering the promise of 27 April 1994—that no South African would be denied dignity because of their birth. I speak as a student and daughter of this nation whose life exists because of that freedom. My grandmother lived under restrictions, and my mother voted in 1994 with hope for us. Today I can study, choose my path, and build my future. Yet freedom is not complete; challenges like unemployment, GBV, and poverty remain. As Elangeni students, we must remember and act—turning education into tools that create real freedom for others."

Ms. Nokwazi Madhlala
NCV Electrical Infrastructure and Construction Level 4 Student

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Inside TVET Leadership: A Real Conversation with ETVET Principal, Mrs TJ Kula



Elangeni TVET College Principal, Mrs TJ Kula, featured in a compelling Vibe FM 94.7 YoMphakathi podcast conversation hosted by Mr. Thomas Mazibuko, which aired on 4 February 2026 at 3PM. The episode, which has since grown to 466 views on its YouTube platform, reflected the College's deliberate move towards modern communication platforms that place leadership voice at the centre of public engagement. From a marketing and communications perspective, the conversation positioned Principal Kula as the primary and most trusted spokesperson of Elangeni TVET College, directly shaping public understanding of occupational education, skills development, and the future of work. The podcast format allowed for direct institutional messaging that was unfiltered yet intentional, strengthening brand credibility and public trust. During the conversation, Principal Kula clearly articulated the College's strategic direction, stating that occupational programmes were not a future consideration but an irreversible shift in the TVET landscape. She emphasised that TVET was ***"not a second option—it is a fast track to opportunity,"*** positioning the sector as a direct pathway to employment and entrepreneurship. She responded to key questions on what occupational skills meant for young people, highlighting that competence had become the defining measure of success. She noted that students needed to demonstrate what they could do in real workplace environments, not only what they had studied in theory. Principal Kula also addressed industry alignment, workplace learning, lecturer reskilling, and digital expansion - all of which forms part of ETVET's broader transformation agenda. She further spoke to access across campuses, ensuring that skills development reached both urban and rural communities. From a communications standpoint, the podcast interview marked a significant shift in how the College told its story—placing leadership voice at the forefront of narrative-building, reputation management, and stakeholder engagement. Ultimately, the conversation affirmed the power of Principal Kula's voice as the central communicator of institutional vision. It was a voice grounded in leadership, strengthened through education, and carried forward with clarity and intent—unshakeable in its purpose to position Elangeni TVET College as a future-fit institution leading the TVET sector forward.

Frontline Excellence Strengthens Service Delivery at Elangeni TVET College



On 20 February 2026, the Marketing and Communications Unit of Elangeni TVET College hosted a Frontline Service Excellence and Batho Pele Workshop for receptionists at Central Office, bringing renewed focus to the role of first impressions in shaping institutional reputation and stakeholder experience. Opening the programme, Deputy Principal Corporate Services Mr SSD. Shezi emphasised the strategic importance of reception staff as key ambassadors of the College, reinforcing their role in delivering professionalism and service excellence at every point of contact. Acting Assistant Director Marketing and Communications Mrs S. Reddy led an engaging session on frontline professionalism, conduct, and the importance of consistent communication standards in strengthening the College's brand identity and public image. A key highlight of the workshop was the Batho Pele Principles session delivered by Ms Zimbili Mazibuko of eThekweni Municipality, which reinforced a culture of people-centred service, accountability, and respectful engagement. This was complemented by a practical demonstration by Mr S. K. Dlamini of Marketing & Communications, focusing on correct branding setup and the care of institutional marketing materials. The workshop further benefited from a message of support delivered by Mr T. Mathebula of DHET KZN who reaffirmed the importance of strong frontline service within the broader TVET sector. The programme concluded with an interactive reflection and feedback session, where participants shared insights and practical experiences. The workshop concluded with reflection and dialogue, reaffirming the vital role of ETVET receptionists in delivering people-centred service, strengthening institutional reputation, and ensuring a consistent, professional first point of contact.

KZN TVET Sector Charts Forward Strategy at Revived Forum



The DHET KZN Marketing and Communication Forum was held from 26–27 March 2026 at Elangeni TVET College's Central Office, bringing together Assistant Directors: Marketing and Communications from across the TVET sector for a two-day strategic engagement aimed at strengthening collaboration, reflection, and alignment to enhance the visibility and impact of the sector. The forum was officially opened by ETVET Deputy Principal Corporate Services, Mr SSD Shezi, who underscored the importance of collaborative and strategic marketing and communication in strengthening

the positioning and impact of the TVET sector. Mr T. Mathebula from DHET Regional Corporate Communications further outlined the purpose of revitalising the forum, highlighting its role in strengthening coordination and sector-wide engagement. Day 1 focused on key thematic areas, including the role of DHET Marketing and Outreach in supporting TVET Colleges. Valuable input was provided by GCIS KwaZulu-Natal through Dr Vasanthi Govender and Ms Lihle



Nxumalo on revised communication principles and strategic alignment. The programme also included a comprehensive reflection on sector performance, resources, achievements, and challenges, enriched by contributions from DHET Director: External Communication and Media, Mr Fanie Mngoma, and Deputy Director: TVET Colleges' Marketing and Outreach, Mr Tshepho Mokono. Day 2 built on this foundation through a recap of key discussions, with particular emphasis on the advocacy of occupational programmes. The session also featured presentations from participating colleges, where each institution outlined its marketing deliverables, followed by a forward-looking engagement on the KZN TVET Marketing Forum's plan to host the 2026 TVET Month Launch. Seven KZN

TVET Colleges were represented by their Marketing Managers—Coastal KZN TVET College, Elangeni TVET College, Esayidi TVET College, Majuba TVET College, Mthashana TVET College, Thekwini TVET College, and uMgungundlovu TVET College—alongside KwaZulu-Natal Community Education and Training College.

This collective participation underscored a unified commitment to strengthening collaboration and advancing the strategic positioning of the TVET sector. The forum concluded as a productive and impactful engagement, laying a strong foundation for continued collaboration and coordinated marketing efforts across the sector going forward.



ETVET Extends its TVET Footprint through Outreach Programmes



In the first quarter of 2026, Elangeni TVET College strengthened its outreach through active participation in a series of career expos and learner engagement platforms across KwaZulu-Natal. These activations formed a core component of the College's student recruitment and brand visibility strategy, designed to position TVET education as a relevant, accessible, and future-focused post-school pathway. The College extended its engagement footprint across multiple schools, municipal spaces, faith-based organisations, and community structures. These included Isibani Sezwe Community Development Centre at Pinetown Catholic Church, eThekweni Municipality at Newlands East Hall, Nilgiri Secondary School, the Department of Employment and Labour initiative at Ngcongangcongga High School, Civic Education at Sankontshe Community Hall in Molweni, Ferndale Secondary School, Mhlathuzane Deanery Youth at St Mary and Anne Parish in Mariannridge, the Molweni Circuit Career Expo at Kwadinabakubo Community Hall, Glenhaven High School, the eThekweni Municipality Libraries and Heritage Department at Inchanga Hall, and the Durban City Full Gospel Church (FGC Emachobeni in Inanda). These career expos and outreach platforms serve a critical strategic purpose in advancing awareness of occupational programmes, artisanal pathways, and vocational qualifications. They provide a direct interface between the College and prospective students, enabling real-time dissemination of programme information, entry requirements, funding options, and career pathways aligned to labour market needs.





Keep in Touch with ETVET Campuses

Inanda

131 Of Street 108812, Inanda
Tel: 031 492 4385

Ndwedwe

P 100 Main Road, Ndwedwe
Tel: 031 492 4395

KwaDabeka

140 Khululeka Road, Clermont
Tel: 031 492 4393

Ntuzuma

G 384 Ithendele Drive, Ntuzuma
Tel: 031 492 4397

KwaMashu

F5 Malandela Road, KwaMashu
Tel: 031 492 4396

Pinetown

38 Bamboo Lane, Pinetown
Tel: 031 492 4381

Mpumalanga

280 Shezi Main Road, Hammarsdale
Tel: 031 492 4389

Qadi

Zulu Reserve Road, Bothas Hill
Tel: 031 492 4390

Business Unit

15 Portsmouth Road, Pinetown
Tel: 031 492 4353

Artisan & Skills Development Centre

103 Old Main Road, Inchanga
Tel: 031 492 4354

Central Office

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