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ELANGENI

NEWS



ETVET Gives Voice to the Skills Revolution:
A New Era in Digital Storytelling

Editorial



A skills revolution is not measured only by the number of students who enter a college.

It is measured by what happens when knowledge becomes capability, when capability becomes opportunity, and when opportunity begins to change lives.

In our cover story, “**ETVET Gives Voice to the Skills Revolution**,” we feature the launch of the College’s institutional podcast, *TVET Talks with Elangeni*. The platform represents more than a new communication channel; it gives the College an opportunity to tell its own stories, amplify the voices shaping TVET, and bring conversations about skills, careers, innovation and opportunity directly to its audiences. This edition of **Elangeni**

NEWS carries that conversation forward. At its heart is the **world of work**—and

the people whose experiences demonstrate the transformative power of skills.

Slindile Mncube’s perseverance from a gap-year sacrifice to graduation success and Siphso Mpanza’s transition from hospitality experience to entrepreneurship show that success can take different forms, but often begins with determination, resilience and the willingness to seize an opportunity. The launch of ETVET’s **Aircraft Maintenance Mechanics Academy** and **Artisan and Skills Development Centre** further reflects an investment in specialised, industry-relevant skills, while initiatives supporting women connect students with possibilities beyond the classroom. But education is about more than employability. Coverage in **SSS** captures the culture and spirit of the ETVET student experience. The new SRC, its portfolios and engagement with **SATVETSA** demonstrate the importance of developing young people equipped not only with technical skills, but with leadership, responsibility, and a voice. **ETVET’s 3rd Annual Academic Winter Camp**, entrepreneurial success, *Youth Matters* and the celebration of the **Class of 2025** reflect a culture of perseverance and excellence. Behind these achievements is an institution continuously evolving. ETVET’s **Annual Strategic Planning Conference**, **Change Management** initiatives and profiles of **newly appointed officials** speak to an organisation preparing itself and its people for an ever-changing environment. This edition also recognises the importance of wellness, inclusion and safe spaces, alongside investment in **excellence, research, fundraising and partnerships**, including the **4th Annual Golf Day Fundraiser**. Through career expos, commemorative campaigns, media engagements, radio interviews and TVET Talks with Elangeni, **Marketing & Communications** continues to connect the College’s work with the audiences it serves, ensuring that the people, achievements and milestones shaping ETVET are given a voice beyond the classroom. And yet, in an age where stories travel instantly through social media, podcasts, websites and digital platforms, there remains something powerful about seeing an institution’s story brought together in print. Elangeni NEWS does more than record what happened; it creates a lasting reflection of **who we are, what we value and where we are going**. These pages preserve the voices, achievements, milestones and moments that can so easily become fleeting in the digital space. They offer a record that can be revisited, shared and remembered—a snapshot of ETVET in motion. **The skills revolution is happening now. This is our story. This is our voice. This is Elangeni TVET College - An Institution of Choice.**

Shavika Reddy
Editor

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ON THE COVER

A new chapter in **digital storytelling** has begun at Elangeni TVET College! Turn to **Pages 6–7** for the full story behind the launch of the studio and the vision driving this exciting new platform.

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From the Rector's Desk



As the College Rector, I am often reminded that the true measure of an institution is not only what it achieves, but the difference those achievements make in the lives of the people we serve.

At Elangeni TVET College, I have seen this difference reflected in our students, our graduates and the growing opportunities being created through our transition towards **Occupational Programmes**. This transition is more than a change in programmes; it is part of our responsibility to ensure that our College remains responsive to the skills South Africa needs and that our students are prepared for meaningful participation in the economy. Our **Class of 2025** gives us much to celebrate. Elangeni TVET College proudly produced **334 graduates**, comprising **70 Occupational Programme graduates, 12 Engineering graduates and 252 Business Studies graduates**.

Significantly, **233 of our graduates were women and 101 were men**.

These figures speak not only to academic achievement, but to the growing participation of women across areas such as Engineering and Occupational Programmes. During Women's Month, I am particularly proud of our young women who have entered fields that have traditionally been viewed as male-dominated. Their achievements remind us that opportunity must never be limited by outdated perceptions. I also recognise that behind every graduate is a support system. To the parents and families who encouraged, sacrificed and stood behind our students throughout their studies, I extend my sincere appreciation. Your support forms part of every success story we celebrate. Our responsibility extends beyond the classroom. Through initiatives such as **ETVET's Inaugural PSET Research Conference**, we have created space for meaningful dialogue on the future of post-school education and training and the changing skills landscape. I believe strongly that institutions such as ours must not simply respond to change—we must participate in shaping it. This commitment also extends to strengthening our College through partnerships and fundraising. Our **4th Annual Golf Day Fundraiser** brought stakeholders together around a shared investment in ETVET's future, while our **4th Annual Fundraising Gala Dinner**, scheduled for 20 November 2026, provides another opportunity to mobilise support for institutional development and infrastructure. I remain equally committed to contributing beyond the boundaries of the College. Through engagement with stakeholders and organisations within our communities, I continue to advocate for the advancement of TVET and the successful implementation of Occupational Programmes. The transformation of the TVET sector requires collaboration, informed leadership and a willingness to engage constructively. As we move forward, my commitment is clear: to **build an Elangeni TVET College that is responsive, future-focused and courageous enough to embrace change**. Our graduates show us what is possible. Our partnerships strengthen what we can achieve. And our continued commitment to Occupational Programmes positions us to play our part in building the skilled workforce South Africa needs. **The work continues—and so does our commitment to building a future through skills.**

Mrs T.J Kula
Rector

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 OCTOBER 2026



ETVET Gives Voice To The Skills Revolution



Elangeni TVET College concluded Youth Month on 30 June 2026 with the official launch of its Podcast Studio, marking a significant milestone in the College's digital transformation journey and introducing a new platform to amplify the voices, achievements and opportunities within the TVET sector.

The purpose-built Podcast Studio at the College's Central Office in Pinetown represents more than a new communication channel. It reflects Elangeni TVET College's commitment to innovation, stakeholder engagement and using digital platforms to tell the TVET story in an authentic, accessible and relevant way. The launch brought together distinguished guests and stakeholders, including representatives from DHET, MICT SETA, industry partners, College Council, Management, the Student Representative Council (SRC), staff and other valued stakeholders. Expertly directed by Deputy Principal: Corporate Services, Mr S.S.D. Shezi, the programme included the Purpose of the Day by Acting Assistant Director: Marketing and Communications, Mrs S. Reddy, followed by messages of support from Acting Regional Manager: DHET, Mr N. Mchunu, and SRC President, Ms Londiwe Mathe. Their messages reinforced the importance of creating platforms that connect the College with its stakeholders while giving students and the wider TVET community an opportunity to participate in conversations that shape their futures.



More than a recording space

Delivering the keynote address, College Principal, Mrs T.J. Kula, described the Podcast Studio as ***“more than a recording space—it is a platform for education, engagement, and influence.”*** Against this backdrop, Principal Kula officially unveiled the College's new podcast, TVET Talks with Elangeni, under the theme: Power Through Skills – Amandla to the Skills Revolution! The theme reflects the College's role in advancing skills development and positioning TVET education as a pathway towards employment, entrepreneurship, innovation and economic participation.

Cover Story

Principal Kula also announced the official podcast hosts, Ms Nokulunga Mkhize and Mr Sizwe Sibisi, both seasoned lecturers at Elangeni TVET College. They will lead authentic and engaging conversations with students, industry leaders, government officials, lecturers, alumni and strategic partners on issues affecting students, the TVET sector and the future of skills development.

From ribbon cutting to the first conversation

Following the official ribbon cutting, guests witnessed the recording of the inaugural episode, hosted by Ms Mkhize and Mr Sibisi. The live demonstration provided an exciting preview of the conversations that will shape the podcast. Representatives from DHET, MICT SETA and industry partners experienced the College's new digital communication hub first-hand, reinforcing the collaborative nature of the initiative and its potential to strengthen engagement across the TVET ecosystem. During her interview for the inaugural episode, Principal Kula emphasised that the success of the Podcast Studio



would not simply be measured by the number of episodes or views generated, but by ***“the stories it tells, the knowledge it shares, the partnerships it strengthens and the opportunities it creates for students and the wider TVET community.”*** This places people at the centre of the College's digital storytelling journey. Students, lecturers, graduates and industry partners each have stories, knowledge and experiences that can inspire and inform others.

Strengthening partnerships and amplifying student voices



The podcast will also provide another avenue for Elangeni TVET College to strengthen its relationships with industry and strategic partners. Conversations can explore emerging skills requirements, employability, entrepreneurship, workplace opportunities, innovation and collaboration, helping students understand not only what they can study, but where their skills can take them. Importantly, the platform will amplify student voices and provide opportunities for students and alumni to share their journeys, achievements,

aspirations and experiences. The launch programme concluded with stakeholder questions and reflections, followed by a vote of thanks from Deputy Chairperson of Council, Mrs Qhobhosheane, and an interactive studio experience for guests. As Youth Month drew to a close, Elangeni TVET College launched more than a podcast—it launched a platform dedicated to giving voice to the skills revolution. Through TVET Talks with Elangeni, the College will continue to tell stories that inform, conversations that inspire and experiences that demonstrate the transformative power of skills.

Gap Year Sacrifice Turned into Graduation Glory



For Slindile Mncube (33) from Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal, dreams may have been delayed, but they were never denied. Despite financial challenges and the responsibilities of motherhood, Slindile remained determined to pursue her education, build a career and create a better future for herself.

After completing her matric in 2012, she took a gap year to raise funds for her studies. During this period, she secured employment at an internet café where she gained valuable customer service and computer skills. In 2016, she took time away from work to care for her first-born son. Motherhood brought new responsibilities, but it did not stop her educational ambitions. In 2018, she enrolled at Elangeni TVET College's KwaMashu Campus to study Human Resource Management. Her journey continued when she secured an 18-month Human Resources internship at Life Entabeni Hospital. After completing the in-service training in 2021, she remained committed to her professional development. She obtained her National Diploma, and it opened the door to employment in 2022, she secured a position with eThekweni Municipality. For her Human Resource Management is

more than a career; it is a field she is passionate about. ***"I enjoy working with people and helping organisations manage their most important asset, which is their employees,"*** she says. She also enjoys administrative work, problem-solving and contributing to a positive and productive workplace. Balancing family responsibilities, education and career development has been one of her greatest challenges. However, the experience strengthened her resilience, discipline and time-management skills. ***"By remaining focused on my goals, I was able to complete my studies. These experiences have made me stronger and more determined to continue growing professionally,"*** she shares. At work, Slindile manages pressure by staying calm, organised and focused. She breaks large tasks into manageable steps and prioritises urgent responsibilities. Looking ahead, she hopes to grow professionally and personally, provide her children with quality education and a stable future, and eventually become her own boss. Her advice to ETJET College students is simple: ***"Believe in yourself and never give up on your dreams."*** Slindile's journey is a powerful reminder that setbacks do not have to define the future. Through perseverance, hard work and determination, delayed dreams can still become successful realities.



Serving Success: Mpanza Turns Hospitality Experience into Entrepreneurship



Sipho Mpanza's journey is nothing short of inspirational. His story demonstrates that one's future can never be defined by their background and that it is never too late to pursue your dreams. Sipho, who started his career as a bartender, developed a strong interest in the hospitality industry through his work experience. Today, at the age of 42, he is not only a Hospitality graduate from Elangeni TVET College, but also a successful entrepreneur and the founder of Enzonation Mobile Bar, based in KwaMashu, KwaZulu-Natal. His experience in the industry, combined with his kindness and passion for caring for people, inspired him to pursue a career in hospitality. For him, hospitality is more than simply serving customers, it is about creating positive experiences and helping others succeed. ***"I chose hospitality because I love people. My heart is to see others grow and succeed,"*** he said. One of Mpanza's greatest strengths is

his commitment to professional and peaceful service. He places people at the heart of his work and continuously strives to be creative in the services he provides. However, he admits that his dedication can sometimes become a weakness. Like many entrepreneurs in the hospitality industry, he has faced challenges, including dealing with difficult clients. Despite these obstacles, he remains proud of what he has achieved through entrepreneurship. His business has also allowed him to contribute to the fight against unemployment by creating employment opportunities for people from different families. ***"I am proud because through my entrepreneurship, I am able to fight unemployment by hiring staff from different families and helping to fight poverty,"*** he added. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to his former ETVET lecturer Mis Ngidi from KwaMashu campus who taught him Generic and Hospitality Services modules. She played an influential role in helping him secure his first employment opportunity. Mpanza remains grateful for the support and guidance he received from the institution and hopes to give back by assisting current students. As part of his commitment to ETVET, he hopes to train students, provide them with in-service training and share his knowledge and experience with those who are preparing to enter the hospitality industry. Mpanza encourages students at ETVET who wish to follow a similar path never to give up on their dreams. ***"Never ever give up on your dream. Take it easy, one day at a time. Make sure that you grab opportunities with both hands. Nowadays there are insufficient jobs, so make sure you keep your head up,"*** he advised. Looking ahead, Mpanza dreams of expanding Enzonation Mobile Bar beyond KwaZulu-Natal, with branches across South Africa and eventually internationally. He also hopes to establish an academy focused on hospitality and beverages, where he can help produce more skilled and professional people in the industry.



From Inanda to the Skies: Aircraft Maintenance Mechanics Academy Launch



Elangeni TVET College proudly marked a historic milestone with the official launch of its Aircraft Maintenance Mechanics Academy at Inanda Campus on 5 June 2026, led by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube.

The launch represented a bold step forward in the College's strategic direction towards expanding occupational programmes that are directly aligned to industry demand and national skills priorities. It reaffirmed Elangeni TVET College's commitment to positioning itself as a leading institution in occupational training, with a deliberate focus on practical skills, workplace readiness and economic participation. The programme brought together stakeholders from DHET, WSZA, Starlite Aviation, sister TVET colleges, industry partners, staff and students, demonstrating the strength of collaboration in building a responsive skills development ecosystem. The event commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and walkabout of the newly established Aircraft Maintenance Mechanics Academy facilities, showcasing a modern, industry-aligned training environment designed to equip students with specialised aviation maintenance skills. Elangeni TVET College Principal, Mrs TJ Kula, expressed pride in the milestone, stating: ***"This initiative demonstrates the power of collaboration between education, government and industry in addressing skills shortages and creating pathways into priority economic sectors."***

She emphasised that the College remains committed to expanding access to occupational programmes that open real career pathways for young people. The student voice was represented by WSZA competitor, Mr Siphelele Dlamini, who shared his journey and highlighted the life-changing impact of technical education in creating opportunities within specialised industries.





Delivering the keynote address, Deputy Minister Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube emphasised the transformative vision behind the Academy, stating: ***“South Africa needs a skills revolution. Africa needs a skills revolution. And revolutions begin in places exactly like this — where courage, partnership, education and opportunity meet. Let history record that in Inanda we did not merely speak about changing lives. We built a pathway to change them.”***

She further underscored that aviation and technical careers must be accessible to all young people, including those from township communities, noting that the Academy opens meaningful pathways for the students of Inanda to enter high skill occupations such as Aircraft Maintenance Mechanics, engineering and advanced technical fields. The College reaffirmed that this initiative forms part of a broader institutional shift towards strengthening occupational programmes that respond directly to labour market needs. Through partnerships with industry and government, Elangeni TVET College aims to ensure that young people are not only trained but are positioned to participate meaningfully in priority sectors of the economy. ETJET Council Chairperson, Mr LS Gabela, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all partners for their contribution to the success of the initiative and reaffirming the importance of sustained collaboration in advancing the TVET mandate. The programme concluded with a career exhibition and stakeholder engagement session, further reinforcing the College’s commitment to accessible skills development, youth empowerment and inclusive economic participation. The Aircraft Maintenance Mechanics Academy stands as a symbol of Elangeni TVET College’s vision: a future where occupational training unlocks opportunity, transforms communities, and ensures that township youth are firmly placed at the centre of South Africa’s skills and industrial development agenda.



A Skills Revolution Realised: Launch of Artisan and Skills Development Centre



Elangeni TVET College marked a significant milestone in the advancement of technical and vocational education with the official launch of its Artisan and Skills Centre on 19 June 2026. Held under the theme ***“A Skills Revolution Realised – From Skills to Production, From Training to Transformation,”*** the landmark event brought together Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube, government representatives, industry partners, stakeholders, school principals, learners and community representatives.

The programme commenced with a ministerial briefing involving representatives from DHET, ETVET, the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA) and Chinese Culture stakeholders. The engagement reaffirmed a shared commitment to advancing artisan development and strengthening technical and occupational skills training in South Africa. The launch programme also featured a dynamic Career Exhibition, providing learners with direct access to information on programmes offered by ETVET, funding opportunities, learnerships, occupational qualifications and career pathways. The exhibition reinforced the importance of giving young people the knowledge and exposure needed to make informed career choices. The official launch was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, unveiling and guided tour of the new facility. The Deputy Minister also officially opened the Renewable Energy Centre, highlighting the College's commitment to developing skills aligned with emerging industries and South Africa's growing green economy. For College Principal Mrs TJ Kula, the significance of the development extends beyond the infrastructure itself, ***“South Africa's future will be built through skills, partnerships and purposeful investment in the TVET sector. The Artisan and Skills Centre expands opportunities for***





artisan and occupational training and strengthens our ability to prepare young

people for meaningful participation in the economy” she said. The Centre also

reflects the impact of collaboration between government, education, industry and

international partners. A special video message from Jiangsu College of

Engineering & Technology in China showcased the strength of international

cooperation in advancing technical education and knowledge exchange. Adding

a personal perspective to the programme was ETVET student Ms Lindelwa

Mkhulise, who shared her experience of participating in the renewable energy

exchange programme in China. Her journey demonstrated how international exposure

can provide students with valuable technical knowledge, skills and a broader understanding

of opportunities within the global economy.

EWSETA Acting CEO Ms Robyn Vilakazi emphasised the importance of ensuring that

training leads to meaningful opportunities beyond the classroom. **“Students must**

maximise the opportunities provided by these facilities, while employers

must strengthen partnerships with TVET Colleges and play their part in

creating opportunities for graduates to enter the workforce” she said.

Delivering the keynote address, Deputy Minister Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube

reaffirmed the strategic role of TVET Colleges in South Africa’s economic

development. **“TVET Colleges are not marginal institutions; they are central**

pillars of South Africa’s economic reconstruction and development agenda.”

The Deputy Minister emphasised that the Artisan and Skills Centre and Renewable

Energy Centre represent more than infrastructure investments, describing them as platforms for

opportunity, innovation, production and transformation. DM Dr Dube - Ncube called on students to embrace the

opportunities available to them, encouraged industry to strengthen partnerships that support workplace relevance and

graduate absorption, and urged communities to protect and support these important assets for future generations. The

programme concluded with a vote of thanks from Council Chairperson Mr LS Gabela, who expressed confidence that

the Artisan and Skills Centre would become a catalyst for opportunity, innovation and economic participation. The



significance of the launch was further amplified through a media briefing,

ensuring that the story of skills development, innovation and transformation

at ETVET reached audiences beyond the event. The launch of the Artisan

and Skills Centre represents more than the opening of a new facility. It is a

tangible investment in young people, artisan development and the future of

South Africa’s skills economy. For Elangeni TVET College, the Centre

strengthens its commitment to being an Institution of Choice, while

advancing its vision of Power Through Skills—turning skills into production,

training into transformation and opportunity into a pathway towards a more

inclusive and prosperous future.



Empowering Women Through Connection, Career Guidance and Opportunity



As part of its Women's Month campus initiatives, Elangeni TVET College hosted a series of activities focused on empowering women through education, career guidance, mentorship, networking and personal development. On 20 August 2026, Pinetown Campus hosted a Women's Day High Tea, providing a platform to celebrate the achievements of women in society, education and communities while encouraging young women to build meaningful support networks. College Principal Mrs T J Kula emphasised the importance of women

supporting and seeking guidance from other empowered women, particularly in creating strong support systems that enable young women to pursue their goals. Special guest speaker and renowned chef Chef Des Ngema encouraged young women not to limit themselves and highlighted the importance of creating spaces where women uplift, motivate and empower one another. Adding to the message of empowerment, former ETVET SRC President Ms L. Mathe spoke about the value of sisterhood and networking, highlighting how meaningful connections can contribute to strong support structures for young women at the College.

The focus on empowerment continued on 21 August 2026, when KwaDabeka Campus hosted a Women in Engineering event aimed at equipping high school learners with knowledge about careers and opportunities in the engineering sector.

The programme provided learners with guidance on the subjects and academic pathways required to pursue engineering studies at tertiary institutions, while encouraging them to research their options and make informed career choices.

KwaDabeka Campus Manager Ms L. Langa encouraged learners to conduct thorough research when considering career paths and to select fields that align with their interests, strengths and aspirations.

Lecturer Ms N.F. Dlamini highlighted the importance of exploring engineering bursary opportunities offered by organisations such as Transnet, Eskom and Sasol, demonstrating some of the financial support available to aspiring engineering students. ETVET alumni Ms S. Mngonyama also shared insights from her own journey, encouraging learners to build positive relationships with their lecturers and remain committed to their studies. ***“Build a relationship with your lecturers and respect them. I am this far in life because I worked hard and dedicated all my time to studying”*** she said.

Together, the two initiatives highlighted different but complementary aspects of women's empowerment — from sisterhood, mentorship and networking to career guidance, education and access to opportunities.



ETVET Students Shine at Provincial Arts and Culture Festival



Elangeni TVET College showcased its artistic talent and creative excellence at the 2026 KwaZulu-Natal Confederation of South African Schools and CoSACSA Arts and Culture Festival, held at Pinetown Campus Hall from 29 - 31 May 2026. The three-day festival brought together talented students from TVET colleges across the province, providing a platform to celebrate arts and culture while showcasing creativity, cultural heritage and artistic expression. ETVET students made a strong impression, achieving

notable results across Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Choral Music. Their performances reflected talent, discipline, creativity and commitment. Among the highlights were Siso Sibiya from Mpumalanga Campus, who secured 1st position in Male Charcoal Drawing, while Xolile Mzila placed third in Female Charcoal Drawing. In Performing Arts, ETVET secured 3rd position in Gumboot Dance and 4th position in Freestyle Dance. The College also excelled in Choral Music. Lwandile Mkhize from Ndwedwe Campus claimed 1st position in Male Bass Solo, while Mandisa Tshabalala from Mpumalanga Campus achieved 2nd position in Female Soprano Solo. The Chamber Choir secured 2nd position, while the Mixed Choir – Africa category saw ETVET take 1st position. The choir delivered impressive performances of Kyrie and Kwenzenjani Madoda, demonstrating strong musical ability, teamwork and stage presence.

ETVET Empowers Young Men Through Campus-Wide Men's Conferences

Elangeni TVET College in partnership with Higher Health, continued to strengthen its commitment to the holistic development of students through a series of Men's Conferences held across various campuses during July and August 2026. The conferences focused on important issues including mental health, positive masculinity, peer pressure, social expectations, academic pressure, gender-based violence, bullying, substance and alcohol abuse, crime prevention, communication, conflict management, human rights and personal responsibility.



This programme formed part of ETVET's ongoing efforts to support the holistic development of its students, recognising that academic success is closely linked to students' emotional wellbeing, decision-making and ability to navigate social challenges. According to Assistant Director: Student Support Services, Mr ET Mbhele, the conferences were designed to address challenges affecting young men while encouraging them to become responsible leaders. Campus programmes which began at Inanda then KwaMashu, featured contributions from eThekweni Municipality, Church Organisations, Inanda YCPD and local leadership, including Ward Councillors who encouraged students to take care of themselves and remain focused on their academic goals. The programme was subsequently extended to Qadi and Pinetown campuses, ensuring that students across ETVET had an opportunity to participate in the initiative and access information and support relevant to their wellbeing and personal development.

Student Support Services

A New Chapter of Student Leadership Begins



The 2026/2027 Elangeni TVET College (ETVET) Student Representative Council (SRC) has officially been inaugurated, marking the beginning of a new term of student leadership. The inauguration took place at the Danida Boardroom on 14 September 2026. Held under the theme, *From Representation to Service: Building Accountable and Inclusive Student Leadership*, the induction aimed to familiarise newly elected SRC members with College Management, its operations, what is expected of them, and their responsibilities as student representatives. The inauguration included the Administration of the Oath, the Declaration of the SRC, and the signing of the SRC Code of Conduct. Deputy Principal: Registrar, Mr T.E. Sibiya, briefed the newly elected SRC members on their mandate and outlined the significance and purpose of the inauguration. The newly elected SRC President, Ms Nokwanda Mtembu from Inanda Campus, who is currently studying Level 3 Finance, Economics and Accounting, expressed her gratitude to College Management and students for entrusting her and the new SRC members with the responsibility to lead. College Principal, Mrs TJ Kula, commended the outgoing SRC for their hard work and dedication during their term before congratulating and officially welcoming the new SRC. The Principal assured the incoming leaders of the College's support and guidance as they develop their leadership skills and build a healthy partnership with Management. ***"This is not just a ceremonial event; it is a vital moment in our academic calendar. It marks the official handover of the baton of leadership from one generation to another. The responsibility entrusted to you is challenging; therefore, you need to be ready to serve with dignity,"*** said Principal Kula. The outgoing SRC President, Ms Londiwe Mathe, also encouraged the incoming leaders to support one another as they take over the responsibility of representing the student body. Delivering the vote of thanks, Deputy Principal: Corporate Services, Mr S.S.D. Shezi, emphasised that student leadership is a serious responsibility that must not be taken lightly. He reminded the new SRC that they are now at the forefront of representing students and addressing their concerns, urging them to remain resolute, truthful, and committed to carrying out their responsibilities.

Student Support Services

SRC Portfolio



Nokwanda Mtembu
SRC President



Lwandiso Mzimela
Deputy President



Zandile Makhanya
Secretary General



Nomonde Mpanza
Treasurer General



Akhona Nzuza
Deputy Secretary General



Senzo Mthimkhulu
*Community Development,
Health & Safety Officer*



Sphilile Shange
*Academic & Transformation
Officer*



Andisiwe Sibisi
*Sports, Recreation & Culture
Officer*



Mbuyisa Mqobi
Projects & Campaigns



Xoliswa Angel Zindela
Student Wellness Officer

SATVETSA Strengthens the Next Generation of TVET Leaders



The South African Technical and Vocational Education and Training Student Association (SATVETSA) officially empowered the next generation of student leaders through its four-day National Student Leadership Induction for Student Representative Councils (SRC), held at Elangeni TVET College's Pinetown Campus 15 - 18 September 2026.

The conference brought together SRC members, class representatives from TVET colleges, SATVETSA leadership and key stakeholders from across the higher education sector to strengthen student governance, capacity and collaboration within the TVET sector. The induction also featured the presence of the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Honourable Buti Manamela. The programme executed by Mr C Sonti of DHET focused on strengthening governance and organisational capacity while equipping emerging representatives with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively serve the TVET student community.

On the opening day, Elangeni TVET College Principal, Mrs T.J. Kula, warmly welcomed SRC delegates and acknowledged the key stakeholders and SATVETSA leadership in attendance. She highlighted the importance of the induction in preparing SRC leaders for their responsibilities. ***"You are here as the official voice of the students. You are not only representing yourself, but also the concerns of students,"*** she said. SATVETSA Secretary-General, Mr Wongani Mhlekezi Mgwali, outlined the purpose of the National Student Leadership Induction Programme and provided delegates with an overview of the programme. Throughout the four days, students participated in structured engagements, interactive sessions, question-and-answer discussions and thought-provoking conversations on issues affecting the TVET sector. A range of presentations and messages of support were delivered by prominent stakeholders. NSFAS Chief Financial Officer, Mr Waseem Carrim, addressed delegates on matters relating to student financial aid. SATVETSA President,





Ms Kgaogelo Chokoe, also delivered a comprehensive address on the purpose and significance of the induction programme. She encouraged emerging representatives to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and take an active role in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide. ***“We want to instil an entrepreneurial mindset in the future leadership of our country to ensure that they lead knowing that our country needs more job creators than people looking for jobs. We also want to ensure that our***

SRCs adequately advocate against GBV and femicide, create spaces where students can report cases of GBV, and ensure that they read and understand the policies governing us,” she said. The programme also included a session led by Services SETA on its bursary programme, focusing on its successes and challenges. Deputy Director-General: TVET, Mr Sam Zungu, briefed delegates on the history of higher education, policies, structures, budgets and operations. Academic and administrative matters were also addressed through technical sessions on Examination Compliance, Standardisation of Examination Results and Certification, presented by Acting Chief Director: National Examinations and Assessment, Dr Ramoroka, and Programmes and Qualifications, presented by Acting Chief Director: Programmes and Qualifications, Mr T. Vele. Representatives from organisations including Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA), the South African Union of Students (SAUS), the South African Youth Council (SAYC), Community and Student Associations, the TVET College Governors Council, South African Public Colleges (SAPC), ACEF and Higher Health also contributed to the programme.



The final day was marked by the presence of the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Honourable Buti Manamela, who urged student leaders to lead with diligence as the sector undergoes significant transformation. ***“As leaders, you have the power to influence policy, shape curriculum and lead innovation,”*** he said. The Minister also challenged students to reject the perception that universities are the only destination for success



and that TVET colleges represent settling for less. Another significant moment on the final day was a candlelight vigil by women attending the induction in solidarity against GBV and femicide. Led by the SATVETSA President and ETVET Principal Kula, participants held candles and placards bearing messages calling for an end to violence against women.

ETVET Strengthens Student Success Through 3rd Annual Academic Winter Camp



Elangeni TVET College continued its commitment to improving student success with the successful hosting of its Third Annual Academic Winter Camp, held from 1 - 15 June 2026 at its Pinetown Campus. The academic intervention was specifically designed for NCV Level 4 students, providing learners with additional academic support, focused learning opportunities and a collaborative environment aimed at strengthening their readiness for examinations and completion of their qualifications. The Winter Camp forms part of

Elangeni TVET's broader commitment to academic excellence, improved student outcomes and enhanced throughput rates. By providing structured academic support beyond the traditional classroom environment, the initiative gives students an opportunity to consolidate their knowledge, address areas of difficulty and develop effective study habits. Beyond academic support, the Winter Camp adopted a holistic approach by incorporating study-skills development, motivational sessions and team-building activities. Guest speaker Mr Richman Mahlangu facilitated an engaging motivation and ice-breaker session, encouraging students to take ownership of their studies and make meaningful use of the opportunity provided to them. ***"It is very important to take your studies seriously. Having such a platform where you can study as a team, share ideas and assist each other is very important. Please make sure that you use this study camp wisely and actively,"*** said Mr Mahlangu.

Human Resources

Farewell Interview with Mr. Andrew Duthie - Senior Lecturer (Pinetown Campus)

How many years have you been with the College?

I have been with the college 17 years in total.

Describe your most memorable moment at the College?

Representing Elangeni TVET College and World Skills KZN Committee at World Skills International Competition in Kazan Russia in August 2019.

Up to now, what has been the proudest moment in your career?

Every time students seek me out to tell me they are using what they were taught by me in previous years to be successful in subsequent years; that makes me proud.

What matters to you most in life?

Family First and Foremost, Honesty, Work Ethics and Friendship

Any advice or motivational message to your former colleagues at Elangeni TVET College?

Follow you own dreams, develop them from dreams to goals to objectives and then into reality.



Get to Know Newly Appointed Officials

Ms. Samkelisiwe Mthembu: Project Manager – Infrastructure and CIEG Grant



How would you describe yourself? *I would describe myself as an outgoing, innovative and open-minded person who is always willing to embrace new ideas. I enjoy thinking outside the box and approaching challenges from different perspectives.*

What motivates you at work? *I enjoy being involved in a project from its inception through to construction and, ultimately, seeing the finished product come to life.*

What goals do you hope to achieve at Elangeni TVET College through your role as Project Manager CIEG? *Through my role as Project Manager for Infrastructure and CIEG Grants, my goal is to contribute to the upgrading and improvement of the College's infrastructure and facilities. I want to help create an environment where teaching and learning can take place seamlessly, with minimal interruptions.*

What's the greatest piece of professional advice you have received? *The greatest professional advice I have received is simple: work hard and always strive to improve yourself. Set clear goals for your profession and continuously invest in your own development. It is important to stay informed about what is happening in your industry, build a strong professional network and learn from the people around you.*

What's the best thing that has happened to you this week? *The best thing that has happened to me this week is seeing progress in the work that I am involved in and knowing that the projects we are working on are contributing to the improvement of the College environment.*

Mrs. Celiwe Chemane-Nyathi - Assistant Director: Partnerships and Linkages

How would you describe yourself? *I would describe myself as a purpose-driven, passionate and people-centred professional who believes strongly in the power of partnerships and opportunities to transform people's lives.*

What motivates you at work? *When there is a gap, I ask myself, "What can we do differently? Who can we partner with? And how can we turn this challenge into an opportunity?" That mindset keeps me energised and committed to my work.*

What goals do you hope to achieve at Elangeni TVET College through your role as Assistant Director: Partnerships and Linkages? *My goal is to help build a strong, sustainable and impactful Partnerships and Linkages Unit that becomes a bridge between the College, industry, government, communities and other strategic stakeholders.*

What's the greatest piece of professional advice you have received? *"Never become so successful that you forget where you came from, and never become so powerful that you forget the people who helped you along the way." That advice has stayed with me because leadership is not only about the position you occupy; it is about the impact you make and the people you take with you on the journey.*

What's the best thing that has happened to you this week? *The best thing that has happened to me this week has been seeing the work we are doing in Partnerships and Linkages translate into real opportunities for our students.*



Beyond “Indoda Ayikhali”: ETVET Creates Space for Men to Speak, Heal and Thrive



From mental health and addiction to financial pressure and Gender-Based Violence, ETVET’s second annual Isibaya Samadoda held at the New Germany Civic Hall on 21 August 2026, confronted the issues affecting men – and challenged the expectation that they should face them in silence. The message was clear: men need spaces where they can speak, seek support and confront difficult issues without fear of judgement. Rather than treating men’s wellbeing as a single issue, the programme explored the interconnected challenges that can affect men’s personal lives, families, workplaces and communities. The programme, directed by KwaDabeka Campus HOD Mr Marvin Majola, began with a moment of silence in remembrance of male colleagues within the organisation who had passed away. Assistant Director HRM, Mr NE Mkhize, said the initiative was intended to provide men with a platform to engage meaningfully on issues affecting their wellbeing and everyday lives. **“The aim of hosting such an event is to provide a platform for men to engage on matters affecting their wellbeing, relationships, finances and their role in society,”** said Mkhize. A key message throughout the programme was the need to challenge the belief that expressing emotion is a sign of weakness. Deputy Principal: Corporate Services, Mr SSD Shezi, addressed the familiar saying **“Indoda Ayikhali”**, encouraging men to reconsider the expectation that they should remain silent about their emotions and struggles. The event also turned attention to the role men can play in building healthier relationships and safer communities. Speaking on Gender-Based Violence, Mr Bhukumuzi Dube highlighted the responsibility of men to promote respectful and healthy relationships and to reject behaviours that contribute to violence and abuse. The conversation placed emphasis on accountability, communication and mutual respect, encouraging men to consider how their actions can influence their families, colleagues and wider communities. Financial wellbeing formed another important part of the programme. Mr Sihle Makhaza from Kunene Makopo Risk Solutions encouraged men to take greater control of their finances through responsible salary management, saving and financial planning. Guest speaker Dr Bhukumuzi Luthuli challenged attendees to reflect on their purpose, personal development and responsibilities as men. The second annual Isibaya Samadoda ultimately provided more than a one-day wellness intervention and was well received by attendees, who commended the College for creating a dedicated platform for men to have meaningful conversations and access information and support on issues affecting their lives.

Partnerships

Turning Technical Skills into Business Success: Chamane Takes 2nd Place



Elangeni TVET College student and entrepreneur Mr Akwande Chamane secured a commendable second-place finish in the Allan Gray Makers KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Entrepreneurship Competition, bringing recognition to the College and highlighting the entrepreneurial potential of its students on 21 August 2026 at Pinetown Campus. For Chamane, the competition provided an opportunity to showcase not only his pitching ability, but also his experience as a young entrepreneur building his own business. A student at KwaDabeka Campus, Chamane developed an interest in technical support after completing his training and gaining practical experience as a junior technician at Empire Solutions and Domain. This experience inspired him to establish ACE-X Tech, a cellphone repair venture that enabled him to turn his technical knowledge into

an entrepreneurial opportunity. Competing in the Tech Business category, Chamane presented his business to the judges and ultimately secured second place in the provincial competition. His achievement marked a proud milestone for ETVET and demonstrated what could be achieved when students combined technical skills with creativity, determination and an entrepreneurial mindset. The achievement also provided an opportunity for the College to encourage more students to participate in entrepreneurship initiatives and develop their ideas into viable businesses.

Youth Matters

From Dedication to Distinction: Mandla Mkhize's Cum Laude Success



At 29, Mandla Mkhize graduated Cum Laude with a National Diploma in Public Management from Elangeni TVET College on 29 August 2026, turning perseverance and determination into academic distinction. Hailing from Mpangisa near Pietermaritzburg, Mkhize was inspired by public service challenges in his rural community to pursue Public Management. Despite financial difficulties, he remained committed to his studies. He credits his success to his lecturers, Mr K. Mbelu and Mr G.N. Mthethwa, his family,

and the Department of Education in Pietermaritzburg, where he completed his in-service training. The experience provided practical exposure to public administration and office management, supported by the College's Work Integrated Learning Unit. Mkhize hopes to pursue further studies and progress into management, where he can mentor young people. His journey proves that circumstances need not define destiny. ***"Never give up. Your background does not determine your future,"*** he says.

Senior Management

ETVET’s Annual Strategic Planning Conference: Turning Strategy into Transformation



Elangeni TVET College’s annual strategic planning conference placed transformation, industry alignment and future-ready skills at the centre of its agenda, as College leadership, Council, management, organised labour, industry experts and key stakeholders gathered at Premier Resort Cutty Sark from 15 – 17 July 2026.

Held under the theme **“Influence Through Training: From Transition to Transformation,”** the 2026/27 conference provided a platform for the College to take stock of its 2025/26 performance while looking ahead to the priorities that will shape its next phase of growth. More importantly, it came at a significant point in ETVET’s evolution as the College continued its transition towards occupational programmes designed to respond more directly to labour-market and

industry needs. Opening the conference, College Council Chairperson, Mr LS Gabela, highlighted the importance of turning strategic decisions into measurable institutional outcomes. **“Our collective responsibility is not only to develop a strategy, but to ensure that we remain accountable for its implementation and the impact it has on our students and communities,”** he said. College Principal, Mrs TJ Kula, challenged delegates to view transformation as an opportunity to rethink how the College delivers on its mandate. she said.



A notable feature of the conference was the inclusion of industry representatives in the strategic planning process. Their participation brought direct insight into changing workplace requirements, emerging occupations, skills shortages and the competencies expected from graduates. This was particularly relevant as ETVET expanded its focus on occupational programmes, strengthening the link between training, workplace exposure, employability and economic opportunity.



Senior Management



The conference also examined institutional performance across academic governance, student leadership, partnerships, infrastructure, ICT, human resources, registration, risk management and change management. Contributions from senior management provided delegates with a comprehensive view of the College’s progress and the challenges requiring strategic intervention. Day Two shifted from reflection to action, with discussions on financial sustainability and the 2027 Elangeni TVET Strategy. Acting Deputy Principal: Financial Services, Mr M. Shabane, focused on funding diversification and strengthening alternative revenue streams, while Deputy Principal: Academic Services, Mrs F.B. Ngema, outlined strategic priorities centred on student success, programme responsiveness, digital transformation, social inclusion and institutional sustainability.

The conference’s break-away commissions further moved strategy from the boardroom into practical solutions. HOD Ndwedwe Campus, Mr K. Mbelu, addressed **“Alternative Funding Revenues: Governance, Compliance and Financial Sustainability.”** Acting Assistant Director: Marketing and Communications, Mrs S. Reddy, led **“Graduate Outcomes: Student Employability, Industry Partnerships, Entrepreneurship and Articulation.”** Campus Manager: KwaDabeka Campus, Miss L. Langa, explored **“Responsive PQM: Environmental Scanning, Academic Excellence and Future Skills,”** while HOD: Mpumalanga Campus, Miss S. Ngcobo, addressed **“Scenario Development: Upscaling Operational Solutions, Brand Repositioning and Competitive Advantage.”**

The three-day programme culminated in the adoption of strategic resolutions by College Council, presented by Deputy Council Chairperson, Mrs N. Qhobhosheane, providing a formal basis for implementation and accountability. Closing the conference, Mrs Kula reinforced the collaborative foundation of the process: **“The strength of our strategic planning process lies in our ability to listen, collaborate and move forward with a shared purpose.”** With industry voices now forming an important part of its strategic conversations, ETVET’s annual planning process demonstrated a clear focus on ensuring that its strategy translates into relevant programmes, stronger partnerships, improved graduate outcomes and meaningful transformation.



Change Management

Employer Expectations in the Workplace: Becoming Proactive in an Ever-Changing Environment



As we approach the latter part of the year, our attention naturally shifts towards the finish line - reflecting on achievements, outstanding priorities and the prospect of a well-deserved break. Yet, this period also presents an opportunity to reflect on how we show up in the workplace and the value we continue to contribute.

Today's workplace is evolving rapidly, requiring employees to move beyond simply waiting for instructions. Employers increasingly need people who demonstrate initiative, adaptability, accountability and a commitment to continuous improvement. At its core, this means maintaining a **positive and professional attitude**, presenting oneself appropriately and demonstrating **punctuality and dependability**. It also means recognising that organisational success is

collective: **supporting colleagues, collaborating effectively and contributing beyond one's immediate responsibilities** are important attributes of a productive workforce. Equally important is the **desire to grow**. Employees must remain open to learning, developing new competencies and adapting to changing workplace demands. This is complemented by **effective communication** - the ability to articulate ideas, needs and solutions clearly and constructively. Professional accountability also means **meeting deadlines**, taking ownership of responsibilities and being **self-motivated** rather than relying solely on supervision.

Finally, employees should be prepared to **learn from mistakes**, using challenges as opportunities for reflection, improvement and growth. As the year draws to a close,

these expectations serve as a reminder that professionalism should not lose momentum. A future-ready workforce is one that takes responsibility, embraces change and actively contributes to organisational success.



The Workplace We Build

As we approach the end of the year, the question is not only what we have accomplished, but what we are prepared to contribute next. Change will continue, and organisations will continue to evolve. The employees who will add the greatest value are those who do not wait for change to happen around them, but recognise their role in shaping a responsive, accountable and future-ready workplace. Being proactive is more than doing what is expected. It is about taking ownership, creating solutions, supporting others and remaining committed to growth. Every employee has a role in building a workplace that is ready not only for today's demands, but for tomorrow's opportunities. Change begins **with responsibility - and responsibility begins with each of us**.

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

Staff Motivation

Investing in Excellence: Nompumelelo's MBA Journey and Vision for Impact



With more than a decade of service at Elangeni TVET College, Ms Nompumelo Jali began her career at the College in 2012 as an Administration Clerk. Through dedication, continuous professional development and a commitment to excellence, she progressed through the ranks to her current role as Senior TVETMIS Officer. In her current capacity, Jali is responsible for analysing institutional statistics, managing TVETMIS-related information and supporting data-driven decision-making. Elangeni NEWS chatted to Jali about her journey, her recent academic achievement and the value of lifelong learning.

What motivated you to pursue a Master of Business

Administration (MBA)? *I chose to pursue an MBA because I wanted to strengthen my leadership, strategic management and business decision-making skills. My experience at Elangeni TVET College has highlighted the importance of effective administration, data analysis and informed decision-making in achieving institutional goals. The MBA is providing me with advanced*

knowledge and practical skills that I can apply to organisational development, leadership and innovative problem-solving.

How have you managed to balance full-time employment, part-time studies and family responsibilities?

Balancing full-time employment, part-time studies and family responsibilities has been challenging, but incredibly rewarding. Pursuing my MBA while working has required discipline, effective time management, commitment and sacrifice. My family has been my greatest source of strength and encouragement. Their patience and support have helped me through demanding periods. This journey has taught me that determination, proper planning and a strong support system can make your goals achievable.

Tell us about your research dissertation and how it could benefit or impact the College *My dissertation, “Funding Challenges Experienced by First-Year Vocational Students at TVET Colleges in KwaZulu-Natal,” examines the financial barriers that affect students’ access, participation and academic success. The research provides insights that could assist the College in identifying funding gaps, strengthening student support systems and improving retention. It also emphasises the importance of timely financial assistance and informed strategies to promote student success, inclusivity and improved completion rates.*

What advice would you give to staff and students who are considering furthering their studies? *My advice is not to allow financial challenges to stand in the way of your dreams. Opportunities such as NSFAS and bursaries can provide valuable financial support. Do your research, apply early and remain persistent. Most importantly, believe in yourself, work hard and stay committed to your goals. Furthering your education is an investment that can create opportunities and positively impact your life, your family and your community.*

ETVET Golf Day Tees Off in Celebration of Partnership and Skills Development



The 4th Annual Elangeni TVET College Golf Day brought together golfers, sponsors, industry leaders, partners and stakeholders for a memorable day of sport, networking and a shared commitment to education and skills development. Held at the picturesque Cotswold Downs Golf Estate, the annual event provided an opportunity for stakeholders to connect beyond the traditional institutional environment while supporting Elangeni TVET College's vision of creating opportunities that transform lives through education and skills. From the first tee-off to the final putt, the Golf Day showcased the power of collaboration. Every swing, conversation and interaction on the course contributed to strengthening relationships between the College and its stakeholders, reinforcing the important role that partnerships play in supporting student success. More than a sporting occasion, the Golf Day served as a platform for meaningful engagement with industry and partners whose support contributes to advancing the College's skills development mandate.

Celebrating Excellence on the Course

The day concluded on a high note with a Prize Giving Ceremony, where outstanding performances were recognised and golfers were congratulated for their skill, determination and sportsmanship. Mr N Mathonsi was crowned the ETVET Golfing Champion, taking first place overall. The Best 4-Ball Winning Team went to Nhlinhlelo, Ambu, Sabelo and Mdu, who delivered an impressive team performance. Individual honours were also awarded, with Mr Eric Mhlongo claiming the Longest Drive on Hole 13, while Mr Ambu "Chef" Madilonga won Nearest to the Pin on Hole 5.



Events

Partners Making a Difference



Longest Drive on Hole 13, while Mr Ambu “Chef” Madilonga won Nearest to the Pin on Hole 5. The excitement continued with two lucky draw prizes, awarded to Mr N Avuyile and Mr Khaya Mbonyana. The College congratulated all the winners and acknowledged every golfer who participated in making the event a celebration of excellence, camaraderie and sportsmanship. The success of the Golf Day was strengthened by the support of its sponsors and partners. Elangeni TVET College extended special appreciation to Qiniso Protection Services, the event’s Gold Sponsor, whose generous contribution played a significant role in the success of the Golf Day. The sponsorship reflected a shared commitment to education, skills development and community upliftment. The College also recognised INCO Creative, its Silver Sponsor, for its valued contribution and continued support.

Their involvement demonstrated a shared commitment to education, innovation and skills development. The College further expressed its appreciation to all participating sponsors, golfers, prize sponsors, partners, service providers and members of the organising committee whose collective efforts helped bring the event to life.

Driving the Future Through Partnerships

The 4th Annual Elangeni TVET College Golf Day reaffirmed that meaningful partnerships are essential to strengthening the TVET sector and creating opportunities for future generations. As Elangeni TVET College continues to position itself as an Institution of Choice,



events such as the Golf Day provide an important platform to build relationships, celebrate excellence and encourage greater investment in education and skills development. The College looks forward to building on the success of this year’s event and welcoming its partners, supporters and golfers back for another day of collaboration, competition and purpose.



Class of 2025 Celebrated as ETVET Marks a Milestone of Achievement



The Olive Convention Centre in Durban was filled with pride, excitement and celebration on Saturday, 29 August 2026, as Elangeni TVET College hosted its 2026 Graduation Ceremony, honouring the achievements of the Class of 2025. Graduates, families, College leadership, staff, stakeholders and guests gathered to celebrate a significant milestone for 334 young men and women who had worked hard to acquire knowledge and practical skills in preparation for their future careers and contribution to the economy. The ceremony commenced with the Introduction to the Graduation Ceremony by Acting AD: Marketing & Communications, Mrs S Reddy, followed by the academic procession led by ETVET Principal Mrs TJ Kula. The proceedings were officially opened by ETVET Council Chairperson Mr LS Gabela, followed by a musical performance by the ETVET Choir. The programme then turned to the student voice, with SRC President Ms Londiwe Mathe addressing her fellow graduates. Reflecting on the experiences behind every graduation gown, Mathe delivered a heartfelt message: ***“Class of 2025, look at where you are sitting. Four days ago we were counting down, today we are counting our blessings. This gown you are wearing is not just fabric. It’s stitched with your late nights, your NSFAS worries, your assignments, your friendships, your prayers.”*** Her words captured the personal sacrifices and perseverance that had brought the graduates to the ceremony. Principal Kula’s address placed families and College staff at the centre of the graduates’ achievements. She began by asking graduates to rise and look towards their parents and families who had supported them through a journey that had not always





been easy. She also encouraged them to acknowledge the academic and support staff who had guided and assisted them throughout their studies. ***“In total, we are celebrating 334 graduates today – young men and women who have worked hard, acquired knowledge and practical skills, and prepared themselves to participate meaningfully in the economy,”*** said Mrs Kula. As the graduation coincided with Women’s Month, she paid special tribute to the College’s 233 female graduates. ***“You are a powerful demonstration that women belong in every classroom, every workshop, every laboratory, every boardroom and every workplace,”*** she said. The ETVET Choir, led by Principal Kula, added a special musical dimension to the celebration. Another highlight was the introduction of keynote speaker Dr S Nzimande by Deputy Principal Registrar Mr TE Sibiya. Dr Nzimande challenged graduates to embrace growth and refuse to be limited by their circumstances. ***“Keep growing,” he urged. He encouraged graduates to “outgrow the version of yourself that was created only to survive”, reminding them: “Because you are no longer only surviving. You are becoming.”*** Quoting Dr Martin Luther King Jr., Dr Nzimande reinforced his message with the words: ***“If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”*** His closing message was simple and powerful: ***“Keep growing. Keep becoming. Keep building. Keep moving.***



And whatever you do... KEEP MOVING FORWARD.”

The ceremony also recognised the College’s Occupational Programme and National Diploma recipients, celebrating the dedication behind every qualification. Among the outstanding graduates was Mr Mandla Mkhize, a Public Management student and Cum Laude graduate, whose achievement reflected a high level of academic excellence. The ceremony concluded with closing proceedings led by ETVET Deputy Council Chairperson Mrs Qhobhosheane, followed by the academic procession exiting the venue. The symbolic tossing of the mortarboards provided a fitting finale, as graduates celebrated the completion of their studies before gathering for the official group photograph. For the Class of 2025, graduation marked more than the completion of a qualification. It represented resilience, opportunity and readiness for the next chapter. As they stepped beyond the College, the message remained clear: keep growing, keep becoming, keep building and keep moving forward.

Events

Inaugural PSET Research Conference Drives Dialogue on Future-Ready Skills



Elangeni TVET College hosted its inaugural PSET Research Conference from 26 - 28 August 2026 at the Coastlands Hotel and Convention Centre, Umhlanga, bringing together researchers, academics, government representatives and industry stakeholders to examine how South Africa's post-school education and training system could better prepare for the future world of work. Held under the theme, ***“Future-Ready Occupational Training and Transformative Skills for Entrepreneurship and Employability: Innovations Shaping South Africa’s Workforce of Tomorrow,”*** the 3-day conference provided a platform for critical discussions on occupational training, industry responsiveness, entrepreneurship, employability, research and innovation. The conference was sponsored by W&RSETA and Future Managers, in partnership with JOVACET. The formal proceedings were directed by Programme Director Mr C.J. Ndlela (Day 1) and Mr C Gwala (Day 2 & 3), with the conference opening with a welcome address by Council Chairperson Mr L.S. Gabela, followed by the screening of the College’s corporate video. In her address, College Principal Mrs T.J. Kula highlighted the importance of creating platforms where research, collaboration and innovation could contribute to strengthening the PSET sector and ensuring that TVET institutions remained responsive to the changing needs of society and the economy. The official opening and keynote address were delivered by DHET TVET Branch Deputy Director-General Mr S.Z. Zungu, introduced by DHET KZN



Regional Manager Mr N.E. Mchunu. DDG Zungu acknowledged the important role of women in institutions and communities recognising their contribution to shaping the future of South Africa. The first panel discussion focused on Industry Responsiveness and was moderated by Dr Kunjal. Discussions explored the transition from legacy to occupational qualifications, responsiveness to the world of work provincial skills development priorities and the role of funding in developing future skills.



A second panel, moderated by Mr M. Siko, examined TVET Equity and Transformation. The discussion considered the supply and demand for occupational skills, TVET completer pathways, the South African artisan crisis and the role of TVET in improving the life chances of graduates. The first day concluded with parallel research presentations, allowing delegates to engage with a range of research perspectives and emerging issues within the PSET landscape. Day Two shifted the focus towards the changing skills requirements of the African economy, with Vhembe TVET College Principal Ms B. Hlekane reflecting on the discussions from Day One. A keynote address by Prof. N. Marwa, Rector of the Tanzania Institute of Project Management, examined **“Skills Mismatch in Africa’s Digital Transformation Era: Insights from the SADC Region.”** The programme then moved into a series of industry roundtables designed to strengthen engagement between education and training providers and the sectors they serve. The afternoon programme continued with a presentation by Associate Professor S.U. Ngcwangu of the University of Johannesburg on **“Methodologies for Identifying Scarce Skills/Occupations.”** The final day brought the conference’s key themes together through a strong focus on research, policy, entrepreneurship and the future of skills development, with Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube, delivering the keynote address. Speaking on the role of research in transforming the post-school education and training sector, Dr Dube-Ncube called for research that went beyond identifying challenges and instead contributed to meaningful change. **“We need research that doesn’t simply count challenges. We need research that interrogates causes, surfaces diagnoses, and bridges the chasm between data and dignity, between publications and the lived realities of our communities”** she said. Dr Dube-Ncube drew particular attention to the conference theme’s emphasis on entrepreneurship, challenging stakeholders to broaden how success was understood beyond graduate employment. **“Our system has too frequently assessed success solely by graduate employment rather than by the more ambitious goal of graduate enterprise — TVET and university alumni who create jobs rather than merely secure them”** she said.



Her remarks reinforced the importance of positioning TVET as a catalyst for both employability and entrepreneurship, while ensuring that research and innovation translated into practical interventions responsive to South Africa’s economy and communities. Hosting a conference of this nature was a bold step for the College, expanding its role as a platform for knowledge exchange and sector engagement. The three-day programme reflected ETNET’s growing contribution to the national skills agenda and its commitment to preparing students for a changing world of work.

Marketing and Communications

Connecting Young Minds to Skills and Opportunity



Elangeni TVET College strengthened its commitment to youth career development through an extensive programme of career exhibitions, school visits and community outreach initiatives between May and September 2026. During this period, ETVET participated in more than 14 career-focused engagements across KwaZulu-Natal, reaching prospective students, parents, educators and community members. These included engagements with eThekweni Municipality, Ohlange High School, KwaXimba, Esidumbini Community Centre, Phezulu High School, KwaKristo Umsindisi Catholic Church, Claremont High School, Umtapho High School and Ziphembeleni High School, among others. Lecturers, support staff and the Marketing & Communications Unit provided prospective students

with information on programmes, admission requirements and career pathways. Particular emphasis was placed on Occupational Programmes and artisan-focused training, including welding and electrical programmes, highlighting practical pathways into employment, entrepreneurship and further learning. The College also strengthened its TVET Month advocacy, with Principal Mrs TJ Kula engaging faith-based organisations on the value of TVET education and the transition towards Occupational Programmes.



One College, Many Voices: When Commemoration Becomes Communication

For Elangeni TVET College, national commemorative days provide opportunities for reflection, education and meaningful engagement with the College community. During the second half of 2026, the Marketing & Communications Unit developed multimedia campaigns around Youth Month, Mandela Day, TVET Month and Women's Month. The campaigns featuring Principal Mrs TJ Kula, staff members and students connected national themes such as youth empowerment, leadership, equality, dignity and service to the College's mandate of education and skills development. Staff and student contributions helped create a collective institutional voice while providing opportunities to highlight the role of education in social transformation. Through these campaigns, the Marketing & Communications Unit continues to use strategic storytelling to reinforce ETVET's institutional identity and values, while ensuring that national commemorative occasions remained relevant to the College community and its broader public.



Taking the TVET Conversation to the Airwaves

Elangeni TVET College strengthened its public advocacy during TVET Month 2026 through national radio interviews that placed the College's mandate and contribution to skills development in the public conversation. College Principal Mrs TJ Kula and Acting Assistant Director: Marketing & Communications Mrs Shavika Reddy participated in interviews on Ukhozi FM and Lotus FM through the Khetha Programme, presented by DHET in collaboration with SABC Education. The discussion explored the theme TVET Colleges as Institutions of Choice focusing on industry-relevant training, employment, entrepreneurship and further learning. The engagements extended ETVET's reach beyond its campuses and digital platforms, strengthening public understanding of TVET education and skills development.



Beyond the Titles: Conversations Shaping the Future of TVET

ETVET continued to expand its digital storytelling through *TVET Talks with Elangeni*, with a special episode recorded on the sidelines of the SATVETSA Annual Leadership Induction Programme. Hosted by Acting Assistant Director: Marketing & Communications Mrs Shavika Reddy, the episode featured SATVETSA President Ms Kgaogelo Chokoe and SATVETSA Limpopo PEC Member Ms Lehlogonolo Makhafola. The engagement brought together sector leadership and communications, with Deputy Director: TVET Colleges' Marketing and Outreach, Mr Tshepho Mokono, also part of the engagement. Titled ***“From Student Voice to Student Leadership: Building a Stronger TVET Ecosystem,”*** the conversation explored the personal journeys behind the leadership roles, accountability, inclusion, collaboration and the future of TVET. From a Marketing & Communications perspective, TVET Talks with Elangeni provides a platform to showcase the people and conversations shaping the sector. The podcast forms part of the College's growing investment in digital storytelling, creating relevant content that strengthens ETVET's institutional voice and extends its reach across multiple digital platforms.





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

Phone: 031 492 4363
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