

# Construction mafias demand sex for protection, women tell premier

Ndlovu vows to bring to book those preying on women in the sector

By **Tshwarelo eseng Mogakane**  
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Women in the construction industry unloaded their hearts on Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu this week about construction mafias demanding sexual favours if they don't want their projects disrupted.

The women exposed this chilling underbelly of the industry during their "Building Resilient Economies for All" dialogue with the premier at the Ehlanzeni Disaster Management Centre in Mbombela.

What was intended as a celebratory platform to showcase women's progress in a male-dominated sector quickly turned into a sobering session on the exploitation, extortion and violence women face at the hands of underworld kingpins.

"We are the most targeted business-people in construction because they take advantage of the fact that we are women," said South African Women in Construction and Built Environment national president Thembeke Mnisi.



Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu was told of sobering tales of exploitation of women in the construction environment. / X

Mnisi, elected national president last year after two terms as Mpumalanga chair, told *Sunday World* that the dialogue forced women to speak hard truths in front of the premier.

"Mostly, the premier usually gets reports from the departments, but he saw the need to come and hear our challenges directly. These construction mafia issues were the challenges the premier needed to hear so that he can put them in a report and see how best they could be addressed," she said.

Mnisi detailed the degrading demands

that have become routine.

"We complete projects under the challenge of construction mafias wanting to dictate how we should run [them]. Most women end up being victims of gender-based violence in terms of being sexually assaulted in exchange for protection," she explained.

The predatory tactics, she said, are often masked, and the masterminds behind the exploitation operate as power brokers.

"The most common thing outside of sexual exploitation is money. Others are told to pay money they simply do not have. You end up selling your properties or your house because the project has taken your money and your creditworthiness."

Mnisi noted that women contractors are particularly vulnerable because of the industry's payment

structure. Business loans must often be serviced within 30 days before client payments are released. Extortion by mafias can therefore wipe out project profits, trapping women in cycles of debt.

"Despite the odds, women are here," Mnisi said firmly. "We are project managers, engineers, architects, bricklayers, quantity surveyors and CEOs, shaping skylines and building infrastructure. We are redefining the face of this industry."

She added that the sector is bleeding talent. "I have had my expertise questioned before my work was even seen. And I have seen skilled women leave, not because they lacked passion, but because the barriers were too high. We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair ground to stand on."

Ndlovu, shaken by the testimonies, commended the women for their courage and vowed to take action. "Women, we have heard your voices," he said.

He said the national government had already intervened by deploying senior police officers in every province to specifically deal with construction mafias. Ndlovu stressed that women-owned

companies would be prioritised in the province's procurement processes.

"We shall not be apologetic about this. We have a responsibility to actively and effectively promote gender equality. Our minimum target is that 50% of businesses in Mpumalanga's procurement must be women-owned."



Thembeke Mnisi



CLLR DAVHANA L.T



## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN TERMS OF SECTION 19 OF THE MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT NO.32 OF 2000 THAT VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY WILL

BE HOLDING AN ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

**DATE : 29 AUGUST 2025**  
**VENUE : VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL CHAMBER**  
**TIME : 14h00**

THE SPEAKER CLLR DAVHANA L.T HEREBY INVITES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

CONTACT PERSON: SPEAKER CLLR DAVHANA L.T  
0159602000

MUNICIPAL MANAGER:KUTAMA Z.N

**Vhembe District Municipality**

**@VhembeDM**

**MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
MR KUTAMA Z.N**



## RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

### INVITATION FOR PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

ERRATUM		
BID NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR ERRATUM	CLOSING DATE AND TIME
RLM/RWST/OMM/0101/2024/25: Re-advert: Appointment of a contractor for construction of Bospoort North reservoir and access road	Extension of closing date to allow bidders to submit thorough proposals and the inclusion of addendums as necessitated by the queries received from potential service providers	<b>DATE</b> 22 September 2025 <b>TIME</b> 10:00
RLM/RWST/OMM/0102/2024/24: Re-advert: Appointment of a contractor for construction of Bospoort bulk pipeline	Extension of closing date to allow bidders to submit thorough proposals and the inclusion of addendums as necessitated by the queries received from potential service providers	<b>DATE</b> 23 September 2025 <b>TIME</b> 10:00
RLM/RWST/OMM/0103/2024/25: Re-advert: Appointment of a contractor for the upgrading and extension of Bospoort water treatment works mechanical and electrical works	Extension of closing date to allow bidders to submit thorough proposals and the inclusion of addendums as necessitated by the queries received from potential service providers	<b>DATE</b> 25 September 2025 <b>TIME</b> 10:00

- Bidders must submit both a hard copy document and an electronic tender document in the form of a clearly marked USB. (Bidders will be disqualified for not submitting a USB with scanned bid documentation)
- Bid documents must be in a sealed packaging clearly marked with the bid number and description, must be placed in the bid box in the foyer of the Municipal offices, Missionary Mpheni House, Beyers Naude Drive, Rustenburg not later than the prescribed closing date, where after the bids will be opened in public at the Municipal offices.
- All bids will be evaluated in accordance with the Supply Chain Policy of the Rustenburg Local Municipality, PPPFA 2022 and other related legislations. Bids will remain valid for 90 days.
- The lowest or any bid will not be necessarily accepted, and the municipality reserves the right to accept the whole or part of any bid. The municipality reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as indicated in the technical specifications. A market analysis conducted will be taken into consideration to ensure right procurement and quality service delivery.
- Tender submission must comply with the instruction note (Tender Completion and Attachment of Mandatory Documents) as well as all other additional tendering condition and requirements stated in the tender document.
- Objections or complaints must be submitted in writing to the Municipal Manager at the address stated, and must contain the following:

- reasons and/or grounds for the objection or complaint.
  - the way in which the objector or complainant's rights have been affected; and
  - the remedy sought by the objector or complainant
- Any objection or complaint must reach the Municipal Manager with a 14-day period after award has been made. Late objections or complaints will not be entertained.
  - Submissions which fail to adhere to all the requirements and instructions stated on this advert, E-tender advert, CIDB Website for CIDB tenders as well as the tender document will lead to disqualification.
  - Should there be any contradictions between the information on this advert and the information in the tender document, then the information on this advert will take precedence.
  - Rustenburg Local Municipality will not accept late bids.
  - The bid price validity is 90 days.
  - Rustenburg Local Municipality will not accept documents which are not in envelopes and clearly marked with the bid number and description.

RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MISSIONARY MPHENI HOUSE  
P.O BOX 16, RUSTENBURG, 0300

**Adv. A. Khuduge**  
Municipal Manager