



Sedibeng

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

TOURISM OVERVIEW



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1. SHARPEVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS PRECINCT



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1. SHARPEVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS PRECINCT

Background of the Site

- The Sharpeville Memorial and Exhibition was officially opened on 21 March 2002. The site serves to honour the memory of 69 people who were killed and many others who were injured when police fired on an anti-apartheid pretest against the use of pass laws which controlled the movements of black Africans. The memorial included 69 symbolic stones representing fatalities. These sites are part of the Human Rights Precinct that includes the Old Police Station, a site of shooting on 21 March 1960, Goerge Thabe Stadium a site where the RSA Constitution was signed into law on the 10 December 1996, and the Phalandaba cemetery, the final resting place for the 69 victims of the shooting.
- In 2011 the Old Police Station, Garden of Remembrance and the Burial site at Phelandaba were declared as Provincial Heritage sites and in 2016 the sites were elevated to a National Status through the South African Heritage Resources Agency. In 2024 these sites were inscribed as World heritage Sites by UNESCO as part of Human Rights Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites



CHALLENGES

- Decaying Infrastructure
- Poor Content and Exhibition
- Roles and Responsibilities between SDM and ELM on maintenance and upkeeping of sites
- Insufficient Security
- Cleaning and Maintenance staff

✓ Success Stories

The Sharpeville Human Rights sites were inscribed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 2024.

On the 24th September 2025 United Nations Office of the Higher Commissioner for Human Rights honoured the survivors of Sharpeville Massacre for their Dramatized Play of the events of 21 march 1960.

REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS

- Funding for Infrastructure Development
- Partnership with Institutions of Higher Learning- Research and Content Development
- Strengthen Stakeholder Management and Public Education
- Develop a Community Oriented Socio-Economic Benefits
- Capacity Building in the Tourism and Heritage Sectors
- Develop a Site Management Plan with clear roles and responsibilities for all spheres of government with emphasis on SDM and ELM.

On the 18 September SRAC&H Directorate has revived the Multi- Sectoral Committee that will develop programs, action plan and serves as an advisor to the Management Authority of the sites



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ICOMOS Serial Nomination Site Evaluation

Background of the Site

- This serial nomination demonstrates the events, ideas and belief systems that were at the core of the liberation struggle in South Africa.
- Sharpeville Memorial Precinct, is regarded as one of the focal points for intangible heritage in which memories, and meaning are intertwined to produce rich symbolism that speak to the past, present and the future of our country.
- This presentation thus; seeks to give a historic synopsis of the events of the 21st March 1960 with key focus being on the following 3 sites:
 - Sharpeville Old Police Station
 - Sharpeville Memorial Garden
 - Phelindaba Cemetery - Grave Site A (63 Graves) & Grave Site B (06 Graves)



ICOMOS Serial Nomination Site Evaluation

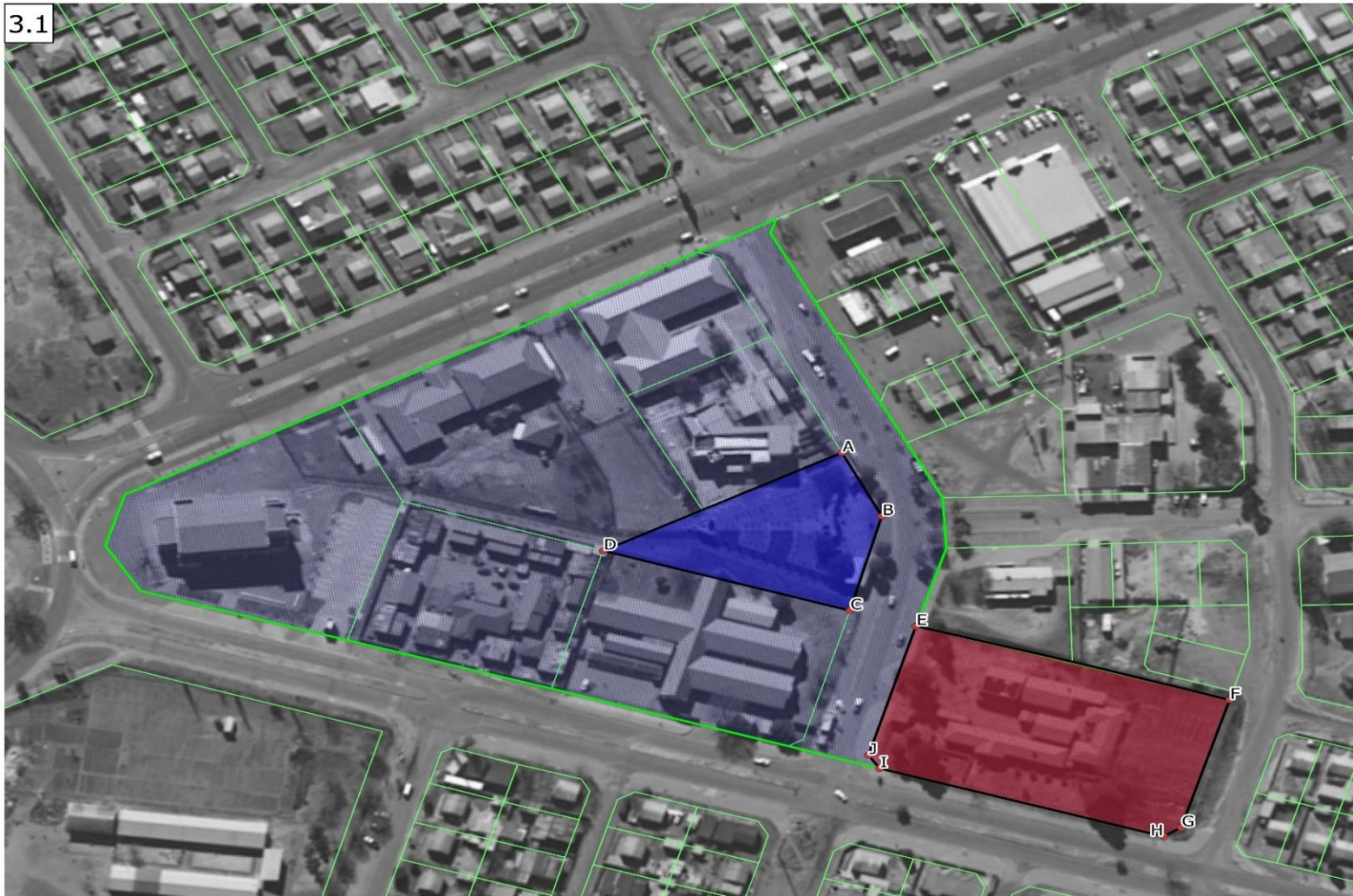
Background of the Site

- Sedibeng District Council consists of a two-tier system of Local Government consisting of both type B and C Municipalities, with explicit powers and functions that separate their roles and responsibilities.
- Under these provisions, Sedibeng District Municipality plays the role of a Regional Heritage Authority, as per the National Heritage Resource Act 25 of 1999.
- The Sedibeng region became exposed to brutal expressions and extreme atrocities that shaped significant “Turning Points” in the early 19th and 20th Centuries; hence its reference and labelled the “Cradle of Human Rights”.
- Emanating from the events of the 21st March 1960, the three significant sites were declared as National Heritage Sites by the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA), as per the Government Gazette: No. 40526, Vol. 618 of 30th December 2016.



DEMARCATION OF THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE SITES

3.1



40 0 40 80 120 160 m

13 September 2018

Sharpeville Massacre Site



Features

- Police Station Property
- Memorial Garden Property
- Sharpeville Massacre Buffer

Basemaps

- Land Parcels
- South Africa CD:NGI Aerial

Name	Longitude	Latitude
A	27°52'16.99"	-26°41'14.54"
B	27°52'17.45"	-26°41'15.36"
C	27°52'17.08"	-26°41'16.58"
D	27°52'14.22"	-26°41'15.81"
E	27°52'17.85"	-26°41'16.78"
F	27°52'21.48"	-26°41'17.74"
G	27°52'20.92"	-26°41'19.39"
H	27°52'20.72"	-26°41'19.51"
I	27°52'17.43"	-26°41'18.62"
J	27°52'17.30"	-26°41'18.45"

Basemaps sourced from Chief Directorate: National Geo-spatial Information, Land Parcels sourced from the Chief Surveyor General of the Republic of South Africa



EPSG:3857 WGS84

Scale: 1 : 1500



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DEMARCATION OF THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE SITES



Sharpeville Grave Site



Features

- Sharpeville Graves Property
- Sharpeville Grave Buffer

Basemaps

- Land Parcels (Erven)
- South Africa CD:NGI Aerial

Name	Longitude	Latitude
A	27°53'15.23"	-26°40'17.62"
B	27°53'15.39"	-26°40'17.70"
C	27°53'14.10"	-26°40'20.37"
D	27°53'13.96"	-26°40'20.30"
E	27°53'13.31"	-26°40'19.68"
F	27°53'13.20"	-26°40'19.94"
G	27°53'13.06"	-26°40'19.90"
H	27°53'13.16"	-26°40'19.63"

Basemaps sourced from Chief Directorate: National Geo-spatial Information, Land Parcels sourced from the Chief Surveyor General of the Republic of South Africa



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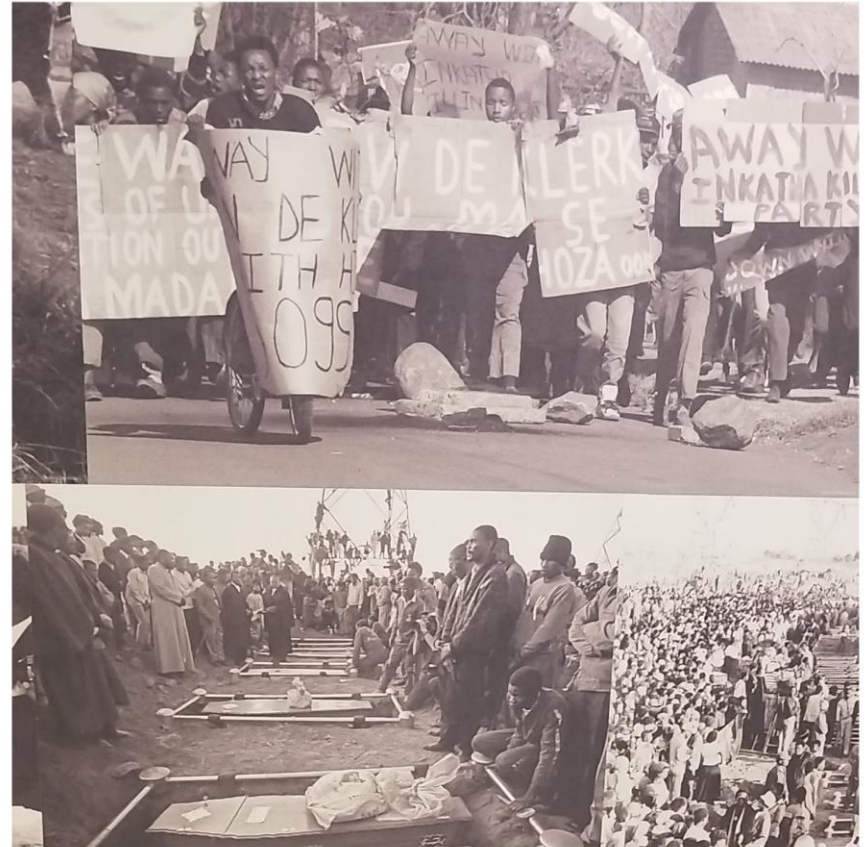
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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE

Background of the Site

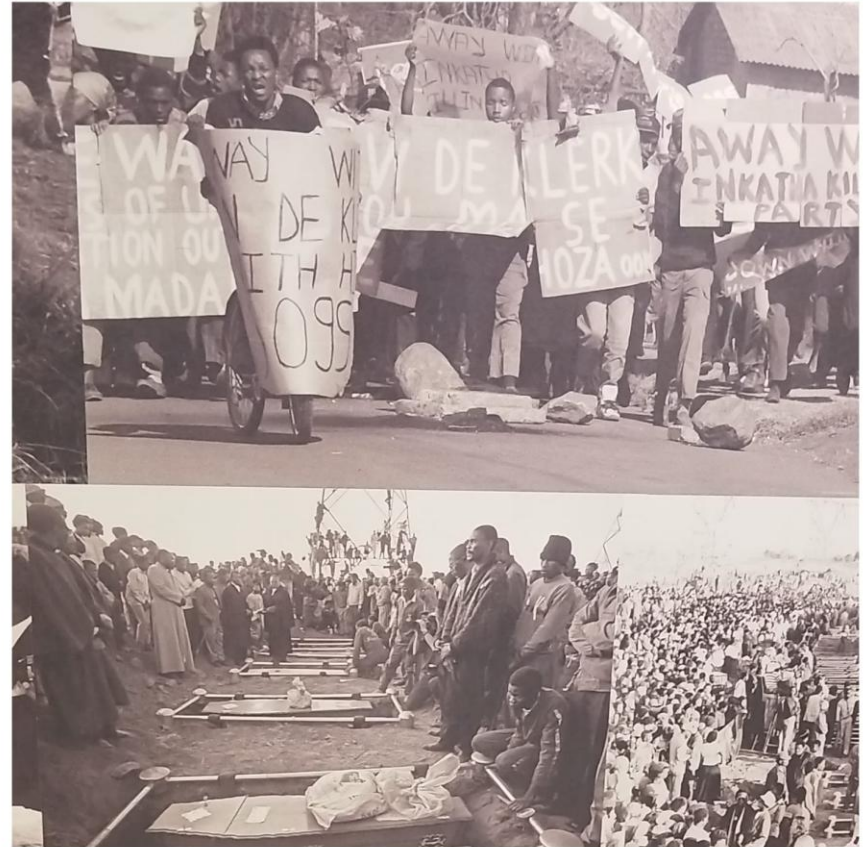
- In **1935**, the Authorities took a decision to establish the Sharpeville Native Township, and to **relocate the Black African communities of Top Location** to this new township.
- In **1941**, this community consisted of 16 000 people, and this agitated the ruling regime, whereby **the first houses were built during 1943** and the new settlement was named after the then Mayor, John Lillie Sharpe from Glasgow, Scotland.
- The situation brought extreme tensions and delays that eventually led to forced removals of those who resisted the process that heightened after the 1950s' periods of segregation policies.
- The political period gave effect to numerous oppressive legalities which gave birth to resistance ideologies that spawned a **political "Turning Point" on the 21st March 1960**.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE

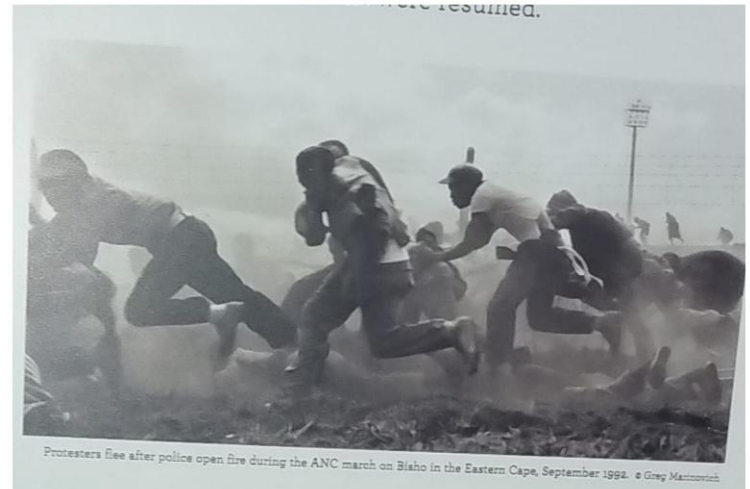
Background of the Site

- This **political turning point** emanated from the **peaceful march** led by the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), which resulted in the massacre of the Black African People by the Apartheid regime.
- This immediately received global attention, and on the **1st April 1960, 10 days later, the United Nations Security Council at its meeting 856, passed a resolution (Resolution 134) condemning the massacre/killings and called on the RSA Government to abandon its Apartheid policies.**
- A month later in **May 1960, the UN General Assembly declared Apartheid, a violation of the UN Charter.**
- On the **16th December 1966 (6 years later), the General Assembly of the United Nations declared Apartheid a “Crime against Humanity” (Resolution 2202.A (XXI)).**



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE

- Resolution 556 of the UN on the 23rd October 1984, and the Convention on Apartheid adopted on the 30th November 1973, all assisted in creating Sharpeville and Langa by extension which came into force on the 18th July 1976.
- During the Vaal Uprising on the 3rd September 1984, a protest march turned violent, which resulted in the Deputy Mayor losing his life, and the “Sharpeville Six” were condemned to death on the 12th December 1985.
- This also drew global attention and the UN passed on “Resolution 610 & 615” based on crimes against humanity.



MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

- Heritage and Museums Unit falls within the Directorate of Sport, Recreation, Arts, Culture & Heritage (SRAC & H).
- Unity of Command vests in the Office of the Director: SRAC & H, supported by the Assistant Manager: Heritage & Museums, and Professional Officers: Museums,
- Director: SRAC & H is responsible for the overall management of the entire directorate
- Assistant Manager: Heritage & Museums is responsible for coordination and support of all museum operations, including identification and preservation of heritage sites
- Professional Officers: Museums, manages day-to-day operations, implement strategies and plans of the museums
- Support structures include General Workers and Security personnel, responsible for the upkeep of the facilities, and protection of facilities, respectively.



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CONSERVATION OF THE SITES

- Operations taking place at these heritage sites are conducted under the observation of SAHRA Guidelines and Protocols.
- SDM is in a process of developing a “Heritage Master Plan” which would also assist in identifying key sources which can be exploited to ensure preservation and sustenance of the heritage sites across the Sedibeng region
- Strategic Partnerships are also key in the preservation and protection of our heritage sites which are often isolated and vulnerable to vandalism and other related criminal elements.
- The new “Heritage Master Plan” would also ensure active participation of the Local Municipalities in the preservation of heritage sites through Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs).
- Overall upkeeping of the sites which include cleaning of the facilities and gardens is provided by SDM General Workers, supported by the EPWP
- SDM through one of its IGR structures (Community Safety Forum), is in discussion with the Department of Correctional Services (Strategic Partnerships) to acquire the services of the parolees on community services programme, for ad-hoc cleaning of our heritage sites (Monuments and Burial Sites of the Victims of Massacres)
- Maintenance and Repairs Services at our heritage sites is done internally by our Facility Management Directorate.
- SDM has recently partnered with Gauteng Tourism Agency (GTA), to conduct comprehensive maintenance and repairs at the 3 Sharpeville Massacre Sites.



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PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SITES

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- Maintenance and Repairs Services at our heritage sites is done internally by our Facility Management Directorate.
- SDM has recently partnered with Gauteng Tourism Agency (GTA), to conduct comprehensive maintenance and repairs at the 3 Sharpeville Massacre Sites.
- SDM has deployed physical security guarding services on a 24/7 basis at the Sharpeville Exhibition Centre.
- The Sharpeville Old Police Station is under protection and security of our partner, Kitso Foundation and Development. However; it should also be noted that SDM has permanent staff deployed at this premises to oversee the operations and ensuring compliance to the SAHRA protocols.
- Security services at the burial site is provided by Emfuleni Local Municipality as the custodian of the cemeteries.
- The medium term goal is to also install electronic security system (Alarm & CCTV) at the Sharpeville Exhibition Centre.



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TOURISM STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT

- Modernisation and the realities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) would require expanding on the methods of developing strategic outcomes that would unlock both the local economy, and also attract Heritage Struggle Liberation Tourism objectives.
- Sedibeng (Vaal) Region is known for its rich history emanating from liberation struggle events which could trigger tourist attraction and investment in the region, thereby; impacting significantly on regional economic development.
- SDM will further be engaging GTA beyond the current scope of partnership to solicit support and sustenance of this arrangement through marketing and promotion of our heritage sites.



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STRATEGIC SUPPORT AND SUSTENANCE

- The Heritage Master Plan provides a platform for establishment of strategic partnerships for identification and preservation of all our nationally and internationally recognized heritage sites.
- There will be attempts to access available sources of grants at both provincial and national government to compliment internal budgetary cost centres.
- Political leadership to be persuaded to strengthen community relations, and further conduct awareness campaigns which would draw general community participation in heritage programmes
- The support of GTA should be adopted by other provincial and national government departments, as this would strengthen SDM's position to re-position its regional economy and to unlock various aspects of our developmental trajectory moving forward.



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HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORY

- The current thinking is to create a single “Liberation Struggle Activity Route” that encompasses among others; the Wilberforce College, Sharpeville Memorial Precincts, Boipatong Memorial Centre, Signing of the Peace Treaty Site, Ratanda Bus Shooting Site, the Block House (along R59 Road), etc, as a historical turning points in South Africa’s ascension to Democracy.
- Sharpeville and Boipatong are separated by a single road and most victims of the Boipatong community are buried at the Vuka Cemetery in Sharpeville. Hence; activation of the Liberation Struggle Activity Route to observe this significance of the 2 massacres.
- The Heritage Master Plan would further elaborate on a holistic strategic approach to give effect to the full value chain and economic opportunities the heritage sector can offer.



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2. BOIPATONG MONUMENT AND YOUTH CENTER

Background of the Site

- On the 17th June 1992, 46 people were killed in an attack on the sleeping community of Boipatong. The attackers were mainly Zulu dwellers from the Kwa-Madala hostel for migrant workers. The massacre led to the African National Congress walking out of the negotiations, due to the National Party complicity in the attacks. The attacks marked a turning point in the political history of the country in 1992.
- The Gauteng Provincial Government erected the Boipatong Monument and Youth Centre as symbolic reparation of those who were killed and survived the atrocities that night of 17 June 1992. The site was officially opened on the 21st October 2015 by the Premier of Gauteng Provincial Government, Hon David Makhura. In 2018 it was handed over to SDM to operationalise. It serves as a centre of memories of victims and survivors through its well packaged exhibition. The site is a huge attraction for school's tours and programs



2. BOIPATONG MONUMENT AND YOUTH CENTER



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CHALLENGES

- The building has a lot of structural defects- roof and electricals
- Insufficient grant from Province- enough for repairs, security and electrical bill
- Operated by one Staff member

REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS

- Appointment of staff
- Increment of a Provincial Grant
- Partnership with Institutions of Higher Learning- Research and Content Development
- Strengthen Stakeholder Management and Public Education
- Website and signage

✓ Success Stories

- ✓ Stable partnership with DBE
- ✓ Currently rolling out a School Outreach Program where schools are bused in, catered, entertained by local groups and taken through a guided tours in collaboration with the Gauteng Provincial Government
- ✓ A community-based sewing project who were tenants at the site got funded through the Colombian Ambassador and are now independent in their business
- ✓ The event is annually commemorated with the community of Boipatong
- ✓ In honor of the victims of this tragic event, the Sedibeng District Municipality procured and unveiled the tombstones for the victims of the Boipatong Massacre.



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3. ZONE 7 NIGHT VIGIL MASSACRE SITE



3. ZONE 7 NIGHT VIGIL MASSACRE SITE

Background of the Site

- Chris Nangalembe, member of the ANC, as well as the, was a bulwark of his local community. His efforts to eliminate crime in the township, including the local gang '5-Star', ultimately led to his death. Later hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have confirmed that Nangalembe was kidnapped by unknown assailants and brutally murdered by strangulation on the night of the 5th of January, 1991. His body was abandoned and later found at a rubbish dump in the nearby township of Boipatong.
- News of Chris Nangalembe's death sent shock waves throughout Sebokeng. The community responded a week later on the 12th of January 1991 with an all-night vigil. The vigil was held in a tent in Zone 7 Sebokeng, close to the Nagalembe family house where weeping mourners paid final respects to their comrade and community leader.
- Christopher's brother, Mandla Nangalembe had been warned of a possible attack at the Night Vigil and went to the police with the information. He reported that strange cars have been patrolling the streets near their house in Zone 7, Sebokeng. The police promised to send a unit to the Night Vigil.
- Saul Tsotetsi and members of the Vaal Council of Churches also reported the possible attack to the police and requested protection. During the night of 12 January 1991 there was an attack on the mourners as expected. The police were not on the scene at the time. Mourners were attacked by 15 – 20 armed men. They opened fire with AK 47's, handguns and hand grenades. Forty-Two (42) mourners were killed and twenty-six (26) were injured.



3. ZONE 7 NIGHT VIGIL MASSACRE SITE

Background of the Site cont.

- A memorial stone was erected by member of the ANC Youth formation through business support. Later the site was relocated to a bigger site in order to include other memorial stone for massacres in Evaton/ Sebokeng. On the 12 January 2023 the Vaal 21 Foundation donated and erected a memorial stone that was unveiled during the commemoration in collaboration with SDM and the Gauteng Provincial Government
- In honor of the victims of this tragic event, the Sedibeng District Municipality procured and unveiled the tombstones for the victims of the Zone 7 Night Vigil Massacre in terms of the South African Heritage Resource Act No 25 of 1999, which states that that: “the management of heritage resource of or national estate is the responsibility of the national, provincial and local government, and cemeteries where the victims of liberation conflict are buried form part of this estate” The act further states that: “graves are a tangible and symbolic reminder of individuals, family, community histories of bereavement”. The victims are all buried in Evaton cemetery



CHALLENGES

- No symbolic structure like in Sharpeville and Boipatong
- The event is commemorated in a low key
- The stories are not properly documented
- Poor stakeholder management
- Some tombstones of victims were vandalized

REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS

- Sourcing of funds for a new museum
- Partnership with Institutions of Higher Learning-Research and Content Development
- Strengthen Stakeholder Management and Public Education

✓ Success Stories

- ✓ In honour of the victims of this tragic event, the Sedibeng District Municipality procured and unveiled the tombstones for the victims of the Zone 7 Night Vigil Massacre.
- ✓ Revitalisation of the Evaton Golf Course as an infrastructure project



3. ZONE 7 NIGHT VIGIL MASSACRE SITE



CLICK ON THE LINK TO VIEW THE VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/seoYDOFM3G8>



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EMFULENI
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LESEDI
Local Municipality



MIDVAAL
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



DDM
DISTRICT
DEVELOPMENT MODEL

4. PARTNERSHIPS

Background

- Sedibeng has prioritised collaboration with a range of institutions and stakeholders to strengthen the tourism sector. Formal partnerships have been established with institutions of higher learning, including North-West University and Vaal University of Technology (VUT), to assist in compiling a new regional tourism strategy. At a local level, the District continues to work closely with the Vaal United Business Chamber and community-based tourism associations to ensure broad participation and inclusive growth.
- Given the absence of a dedicated district budget for tourism, financial support is being sought through the Gauteng Tourism Authority (GTA) and the Department of Tourism and Economic Development (DTE). These partnerships are essential for leveraging resources and ensuring that tourism programmes can be implemented effectively in line with IDP priorities.



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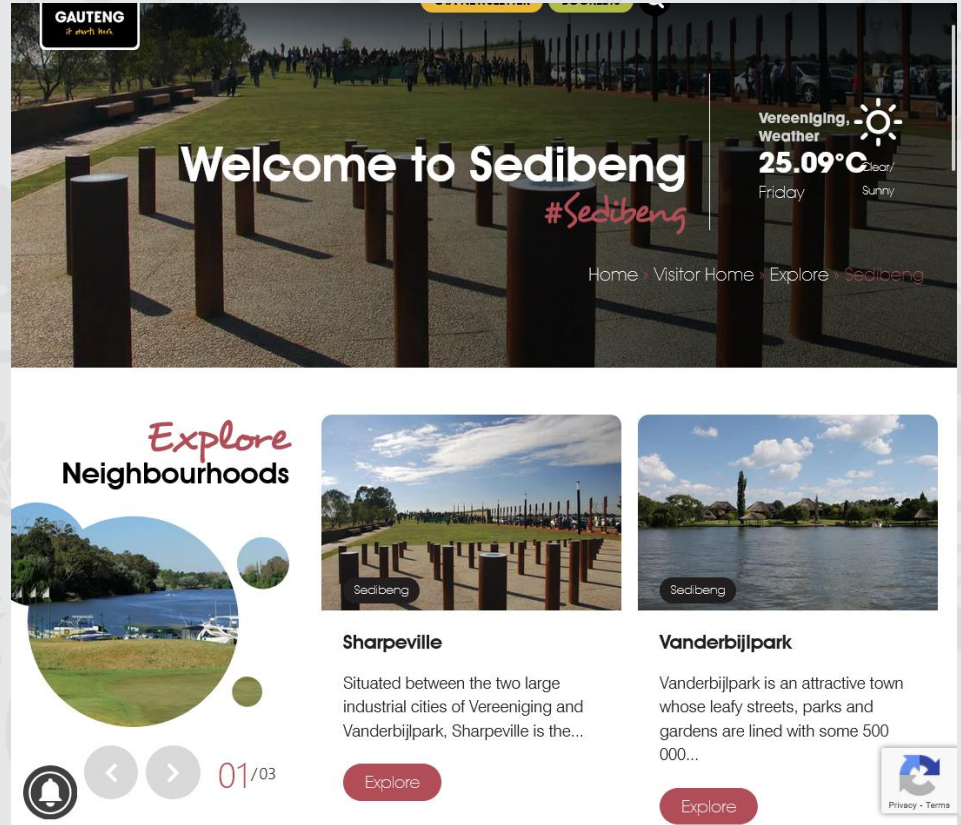
4. CHALLENGES

A key institutional gap is the absence of regional offices of the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) in Sedibeng. This presents a barrier for local tourism entrepreneurs, who struggle to access business development services, financial support, and mentorship opportunities. The lack of dedicated facilities limits the growth of small and emerging tourism enterprises, which are critical to job creation and local economic development.



4. SUCCESS STORIES

- Despite resource constraints, significant progress has been made in aligning tourism development with the IDP's strategic objectives. A large portion of tourism establishments in the District are now formally graded, which enhances credibility and marketability. Tourism entrepreneurs continue to benefit from consistent training in tourism-related skills, ensuring that service delivery standards are improved and maintained.
- Marketing initiatives have also shown tangible results. Through collaboration with the GTA, Sedibeng's tourism products are featured on provincial platforms and promotional campaigns, giving local businesses increased visibility within the broader tourism value chain.



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5. EMFULENI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Purpose of the VIC

- Emfuleni Tourism Visitors information centre's purpose is to act as a central, physical point for visitors to access information, services, and advice about a destination, enhancing their overall experience, supporting local businesses, and contributing to sustainable tourism development. These centers provide essential services like maps, local advice, and booking assistance for tours and attractions, often serving as a crucial first contact for tourists and helping them discover local culture and less-known regions.



5. EMFULENI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Key Functions

- **Information Dissemination:** Visitors can obtain accurate, up-to-date information on attractions, events, transport, and local services.
- **Personalized Guidance:** Offer tailored advice, helping tourists make informed decisions and navigate their trip effectively.
- **Service Provision:** Center provide value-adding services such as providing brochures and maps, making tour reservations and selling local merchandise
- **Promotion of the Destination:** Information centre actively promote a region's tourism opportunities, acting as a vital contact point to draw attention to the area.
- **Support for Local Businesses:** By providing information on local hotels, restaurants, and shops, centers help local businesses attract customers.
- **Facilitating Visitor Experience:** They help create a welcoming environment and contribute to memorable experiences for tourists, encouraging repeat visits.



CHALLENGES

- Ablution facilities
- Dilapidated and rundown building
- Mold growth
- Outdated methods of promotion and marketing
- Budget Constrains

REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS

- Reconstruction of the building
- New equipment installation

☑ Success Stories

- ✓ Hosting of quarterly pop up markets

REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS

- Evolution of Tourist Information Centres:
- From Traditional to Digital: While still providing traditional resources like maps and brochures, modern centres also integrate digital information, mobile applications, and electronic services.

