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Happy New Year to all our readers,

advertisers and stakeholders.

As we welcome 2026, we do so with deep gratitude, renewed purpose, and an unshakable belief in the power of community journalism to inform, protect, and uplift. For more than a decade, Orange Farm News has been your trusted voice, telling your stories, amplifying your concerns and celebrating your resilience. The year behind us was one of growth and recognition. In 2025, our newsroom was humbled to receive national (Nat Nakasa Award for Community Journalism) and sector recognition (AIP certificate of publishing for more than a decade) for our work in community journalism, affirming that grassroots reporting matters and that stories from Orange Farm and surroundings deserve to be seen, heard and respected. These awards belong not

just to our team, but to every resident who trusted us with their story. As we step into 2026, we are entering a new chapter of transformation. With support through the Digital News Transformation Fund (DNTF), our newsroom is accelerating its journey toward a stronger, more resilient digital-first future. This investment allows us to modernise our systems, strengthen service journalism, and reach you faster on print, mobile, WhatsApp, social media and beyond. We are also proud to continue learning, growing, and collaborating through Amplify South Africa, whose mentorship and ecosystem support have helped sharpen our strategy, sustainability, and leadership. These partnerships are not about change for the sake of change they are about ensuring that Orange Farm News remains independent, credible and rooted in the community it serves.

Our editorial focus for 2026 is clear: solutions-driven reporting, service

journalism, youth and education support, health and wellbeing, accountable local governance, and stories that restore dignity and hope. This year, we will continue to publish journalism that not only highlights challenges, but also explores responses, progress, and practical ways forward especially during critical moments such as matric results, back-to-school season, local government elections, and community health campaigns.

To our readers, advertisers, partners, community leaders and contributors: thank you for walking this journey with us. Your trust fuels our work. Your voices shape our pages.

As we begin this new year, we recommit ourselves to being present, ethical, courageous and community-first, every story, every platform, every day. Here's to a safe, hopeful, and empowering 2026.

Happy New Year from all of us at Orange Farm News.

Orange Farm NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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Orange Farm NEWS

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Renewing your mindset for the New Year



Vusi Cebekhulu

As 2025 gave way to 2026, celebrations marked the transition, but once the fireworks faded, many were left facing familiar anxieties.

The New Year often brings mixed emotions - hope for positive change alongside uncertainty about what lies ahead. While some people set resolutions and goals, others approach the year cautiously, shaped by past disappointments. The year 2025 was challenging for many South Africans. Economic pressures, international political tensions, rising crime, and unresolved social issues tested the nation. Yet, despite these hardships, South Africans continued to celebrate the year's end, demonstrating resilience reminiscent of the strength shown during the COVID-19 lockdowns. This ability to push forward, even in difficult times, remains one of the country's greatest assets. However, real change in a new year begins internally. Many people speak about cutting off toxic relationships or hoping for a better year ahead, but few confront the bad habits that hold them back. Removing negative people is not enough if destructive behaviours remain. Ignoring personal flaws while blaming

others is like hiding dirt under a carpet - it does not make it disappear. True growth starts with self-reflection, admitting weaknesses, and addressing the root causes rather than the symptoms. Bad habits often attract negative influences, and without personal change, the same patterns repeat. Strengthening character allows one to withstand negativity and even influence others positively. Growth may be uncomfortable, but it is necessary. The New Year should also be about action, not just words. A lesson learned from a security guard in Sierra Leone - who continued studying despite limited opportunities - highlights the importance of preparing for a better future beyond present challenges. Like every year, 2026 has the same 12 months. Success will depend on planning, discipline, and execution. The time for dreaming has passed; the time to act is now - where strategy must meet action.

Article written by Vusi Cebekhulu Managing Director of Amalinda Consultancy and In Conversation with Amalinda Podcast
Vusi@amalindaconsultancy.co.za
www.amalindaconsultancy.co.za



Bishop Bafana Mollo
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Batho bohle batshwarelane dibe

DEUTERONOMA 15 Selema sa teselo; mafutsana, makgoba.

1. Selemong sa bosupa se seng le se seng o tla etsa teselo. 2. Mokgwa wa ho etsa teselo ke wona: E mong le e mong ya nametsweng, a leselle wa habo seo a mo nametseng ka sona; a se ke a kgathatsa wa habo, kapa ngwanabo, hobane ho boletswe teselo ya Jehova. 3. O ka kgathatsa moditjhaba, empa haele ngwaneno, o tele ditokelo tsa hao hodima se sa hao se ho yena. 4. Ho ke ke ha eba bafumanehi ha eno, (hobane Jehova o

tla o hlohonolofatsa haholo lefatsheng leo Jehova, Modimo wa hao, a o neang lona hore e be lefa le ruwang ke wena) 5. ha o ka mpa wa utlwa lentswe la Jehova, Modimo wa hao, mme wa itiisa ho boloka ditaelo tsohle tseo ke o laelang tsona kajeno. 6. Hobane Jehova, Modimo wa hao, o tla o hlohonolofatsa jwalokaha a o boleletse; ditjhaba tse ngata di tla nama ho wena; empa wena ha o ka ke wa di namela; o tla busa ditjhaba tse ngata, empa ha di ka ke tsa o busa. Leqale selemo letshepile modimo.



Late Mpilo Philani Makhanya

Help trace deceased's family

Members of the public are urged to assist in locating the family of a deceased male believed to be Mpilo Philani Makhanya.

According to available information, Mpilo Philani Makhanya, was reportedly working as a bouncer in Middelburg at the time of his passing. It is further rumoured that he may have originated from Sharpeville, Tshepiso Phase 3, while unconfirmed reports suggest that some of his family members could be residing in Orange Farm. Authorities have so far been unable to locate or confirm details of his immediate family or next of kin. **His body is currently at the Middelburg Provincial Hospital which can be contacted on 013 249 3874.**



Stretford MOU welcomes New Year baby

The New Year began on a heartwarming note at Stretford Midwife Obstetric Unit (MOU), where a baby girl was born on 1 January 2026.

Her arrival brought excitement to both her family and healthcare staff, marking the start of the year with new life.

This birth was part of a province-wide surge in New Year's Day deliveries at public health facilities across Gauteng. Nationally, the Department of Health reports that 1,669 babies were safely delivered on 1 January, up from 1,448 last year.

The Department of Health congratulated all new mothers and urged caregivers to protect infants from childhood diseases and injuries through timely immunisation and careful supervision at home. While the New Year celebrations brought joy, authorities expressed concern over a rise in teenage pregnancies. Over 160 teen mothers welcomed babies this year, nearly double the number recorded in 2025, highlighting an ongoing need for education and support for young parents.

Orange Farm NEWS

W e l c o m e s

2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR BAHLALI



GAUTENG PROVINCE
HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NOTICE: PAUPERS BURIAL

Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital is calling on families to visit Mortuary and identify deceased patients not collected.

Name & Surname	Date of Birth	Address Provided
1. Unknown African male Date of Death: 03/11/2025	01/01/1984	Unknown address, Diepkloof
2. Njabulo Dlamini Date of Death: 25/01/2025	14/07/1993	No address
3. Babatsane Mafure Date of Death: 09/09/2025	01/01/1980	5743 Protea South
4. Sphiwe Zungu Date of Death: 24/07/2025	03/03/1984	Room 12 Nancefield Hostel, pimville
5. Thulani Dlamini Date of death: 09/07/2025	28/07/1992	3359 Mkehelele Street, Evaton west 7266 Phiri Street Orlando
6. John Mandlazi Date of Death: 23/10/2025	16/01/1962	1720 Meriting, Lenasia South
7. Petrus Radebe Date of Death: 02/11/2025	10/01/1947	Unknown Address, Lenasia Park
8. Mpho Hlatswayo Date of Death: 09/10/2025	03/07/2002	609 Jabavu, Pimville
9. Thulani Khanyile Date of Death: 11/11/2025	13/10/1978	696 Khoza Street, Zola Ext 3 Kwa-Xuma
10. Johannes Phiri Date of Death: 30/09/2025	06/06/1965	Unknown Address, Dobsonville Unknown Address, Mafikeng
11. Unknown Jabu Date of Death: 05/10/2025	05/11/1984	Unknown Adress, Orlando West
12. Unknown African Male Date of death: 15/11/2025	09/10/1987	Unknown Address, Dobsonville
13. Siphesihle Mnguni Date of Death: 21/04/2025	27/12/2004	3050 Letsa Street, Roodepoort
14. Thomas Mgadayi Date of Death: 05/07/2025	25/07/1965	283 Ext 8, Ennerdale
15. Jovis Tshabalala Date of Death: 14/10/2025	07/10/1986	Unknown Address, Kliptown

For more Information contact: Ms.S.C. Mudzili
Tel. number: (011) 933-0302
Email: shandukani.mudzili@gauteng.gov.za

Matric results to be published on Tuesday 13 January



The Department of Basic Education has confirmed that the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) matric results will be released on 13 January.

As in previous years, the results will be published in accredited newspapers using examination numbers only, with no names or identity numbers included, in line with a standing court order. The department said this method ensures that learners and parents can access results quickly and easily while protecting candidates' personal information. It maintains that publishing results in this format strikes a balance between public access and the constitutional right to privacy. Learners are encouraged to use official platforms to access their results and to

seek guidance and support as they prepare for the next steps in their academic or career journeys.

The department also urged the parents to support matriculants as matric results season commences, parents and caregivers are encouraged to provide calm and consistent support.

Creating a safe space for open conversations, monitoring emotional wellbeing, and avoiding added pressure helps learners manage stress.

If you or someone you know needs support, here are helpful contacts:
Suicide Crisis Line - 0800 567 567
Cipla Mental Health - 0800 456 789 / SMS 31393 / WhatsApp 076 882 2775
SADAG (South African Depression and Anxiety Group) - 011 234-4837

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PnP White Sugar 2.5kg 56⁹⁹	PnP Livewell Super Maize Meal 10kg 84⁹⁹	Tusk Super Maize Meal 10kg 74⁹⁹	Sasko Cake Wheat Flour 10kg 119⁹⁹	Spekko Long Grain Parboiled Rice 10kg 139⁹⁹	Tastic Long Grain Parboiled Rice 2kg 29⁹⁹	PnP Sunflower Oil 2 Litre 69⁹⁹	

COMBO DEAL

ALL 5 R800

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49⁹⁹

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34⁹⁹

Parmalat or Melrose Processed Cheese Slices Assorted 200g Each

69⁹⁹

I & J Original Fish Fingers 600g

HEALTH & BEAUTY

16⁹⁹
SWIPE IT

Aquafresh Toothpaste Assorted 100ml Each

19⁹⁹
SWIPE IT

Shield Roll-On Assorted 50ml Each

13⁹⁹
SWIPE IT

Lux or Lifebuoy Hygiene Soap Assorted 175g Each

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69⁹⁹

Maq Regular or Auto Washing Powder Flexi Bag 2kg Each

57⁹⁹
SWIPE IT

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22⁹⁹
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ANY 2 R25
SWIPE IT

PnP A4 100 Page Exam Pad

4⁹⁹

PnP Polyroll Light Duty 1.8Mx480Mm Paper 500s

Rapiano King, Malume Sexture, drops new track this month



Image: Supplied

Malume Sexture

Orange Farm-born artist and producer Malume Sexture (real name Sibusiso Elezia Mpofo) has announced the release of his upcoming album, *The Rebirth of the Rapiano King 2*, set to be dropped on 3 April.

The 30-track project will be preceded by the lead single and title track, "Rapiano King 2," dropping on 16 January.

Known for his unique fusion of rap and amapiano, Malume Sexture earned the "Rapiano King" title following the success of his 2024 debut album, *The Rapiano King*. The new release builds on that signature sound while showcasing artistic growth and evolution.

The album features collaborations with artists such as 808MusiQ Rsa, Priddy Sboja, Soulful P, Jozi Vocals, Abutti Shorts, Sky Dad, Lindiwe, Sgush and Mr Yano, and is supported by Mkhukhu Academy. Notably, Malume Sexture handled both the production and mastering himself, highlighting his creative independence. Reflecting on the project, he said: "Music heals and brings us together. I'm grateful to my family, friends and fans for the support." With his music already available on all major digital streaming platforms, *The Rebirth of the Rapiano King 2* is expected to further cement Malume Sexture's presence in South Africa's evolving amapiano and hip-hop scene.



Intouch Youth Development and Community Justice, in partnership with Royal Link Academy, recently held a Caregiving Course graduation ceremony for 75 students from Orange Farm and founders of Home-Based Care Organisations.

Graduates came from several regions that include Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Free State, and Eswatini. The course equipped learners with practical caregiving skills, ethical values and entrepreneurial knowledge to support the

75 capped by inTouch



Image: Intouch

Newly qualified caregivers celebrate their journey of learning, resilience and service at a graduation ceremony held in Orange Farm Ext 1

elderly, people with disabilities and vulnerable individuals. Offered under a "Study Now, Pay After" model, the programme ensures accessible education without financial barriers. A new Online Caregiving Course will begin on 12 January 2026, providing flexible, ongoing training. Intouch Youth Development and Royal Link Academy congratulates all graduates for their dedication to caregiving. For enquiries, call Ronald Kapaso on 076 808 1214 or visit Old Multipurpose Centre in Orange Farm Ext 1.

BEWARE!

of bogus colleges

Government has warned prospective students who want to register at institutions of higher learning to be vigilant and verify Department of Higher Education and Training [DHET] accreditation. If you enrol at any bogus institution, your qualifications will not be recognised, they are regarded as "fake". The DHET urged applicants to always verify any institution of higher learning before applying; look for the certificate of registration from the Department on the premises of the college or visit the DHET website to confirm. Parents and students are urged to check registered colleges on the DHET website <https://www.dhet.gov.za/> or contact toll-free number on 0800 872 222.

Grade 1 and 8 applications close on 30 January

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has urged parents and guardians who have not yet applied for school placements to make use of the late application window for the 2026 academic year.

In a statement, the department confirmed that late applications for Grade 1 and Grade 8 will remain open until 30 January 2026. The late application period, which opened on 17 December 2025, has already received 11 183 applications. The GDE stated that late applications are intended for parents who missed the main application period or whose submissions were incomplete. During this phase, only schools with available spaces are visible on the online system. Parents are permitted to apply to one school only, and once a placement is confirmed, it is final. No objections or appeals will be considered thereafter. The department said that 4 858 learners across Gauteng remain unplaced in the 2026 Online Admissions process. This figure includes 1 381 Grade 1 learners and 3 477 Grade 8 learners.

According to district - level data, the majority of unplaced learners are located in urban and metropolitan areas, where ongoing population growth and infrastructure constraints continue to exert pressure on school capacity. Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane said the relatively low number of outstanding placements reflects steady progress by the department, particularly in high-demand areas. "We are encouraged by the progress made in placing learners across Gauteng," Chiloane said. "We urge parents and guardians who have not yet applied to act without delay and make use of the online system, as the department continues working to ensure that every Grade 1 and Grade 8 learner is placed for the 2026 academic year."



Government FC wins Pooe Festive Games 2025



GOVERNMENT FC



Image: Supplied

On 30 December, Government FC were crowned champions of the Pooe Festive Games 2025 after defeating Al Ahly FC 1-0 at the Pooe Ground in Evaton.

The hard fought victory saw Government FC take home the first prize of R200 000 and a cow. Al Ahly FC put up a spirited performance throughout the competition and finished as runners-up, earning the second prize of R50 000.

Standout individual performances were celebrated with awards powered by First Battery Sasolburg and presented by Thabo Sehanka and Teboho Mokebe.

Kutlwano Thwala of Al Ahly FC was Man of the Match in the first semi-final and later crowned Player of the tournament for his consistent excellence. Mokhele "26" Motaung of Covid FC was the Man of the Match award in the second semi-final and Daniel Zengele was Best Supporter of the tournament.

Champions, Government FC, received R200k prize money while Mokhele '26' Motaung received R500 for Man of the Match

SPORTS

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Umqhudelwano uhlanganisa i-Orange Farm



Football lovers from Orange Farm and surroundings turned out in their numbers for the Azania Soccer Tournament held between 18 and 30 December

For eight years the Azania Soccer Tournament has been more than just a football competition, it has become a festive meeting point for the Orange Farm community, a space where passion, pride and togetherness take centre stage.

Year after year, the tournament has delivered on its promise and the 2025 edition was no different. The games kicked off on 18 December and built steadily toward the finals on 30 December at Esgodini Park in Orange Farm Ext 1. Throughout the tournament, the venue was

filled with energy as families, supporters and football lovers gathered to cheer on their teams. In the Seniors division, Lakeside Arsenal, coached by Ta Bongs, lifted the 2024/25 championship title after a strong final performance against Mshengu XI managed by Gattuso, who finished as runners-up. The Masters division also delivered exciting football, with Messi Academy crowned champions and Sesifikile Masters securing second place. This year's tournament was deliberately streamlined to ensure quality and competitiveness, featuring top 32 senior

teams and the top 16 masters teams. The reach of the tournament extended beyond Orange Farm, with teams travelling from Finetown, Evaton, Lenasia, Sky City and Majazana to be part of the experience. Senior champions received R30 000, a cow, medals, a trophy and a full kit, while the runners-up took home R15 000, a trophy and medals with the third placed team receiving R5 000 and medals. In the Masters division, the winners were awarded R15 000, a sheep, a trophy and medals, while the runners-up received R5 000 and medals. The organisers of

tournament, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Ward 131, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to every team, supporter, sponsor and community member who contributed to the success of the tournament.

"This tournament continues to remind everyone that Orange Farm is a place of beauty, warmth and talent, where sport plays a powerful role in bringing people together," said Dumisani Dladla. They also reaffirmed their commitment to uplifting the community through initiatives that promote unity, pride and opportunity.



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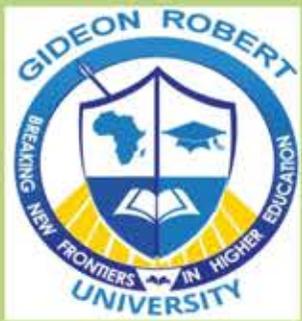
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