

Newsletter

Department of Public Management and Governance



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Public Management and Governance (PMG), within the Faculty of Management and Public Administration Sciences, commenced the academic year with a strategic Operational Planning session. This session laid the foundation for the activities outlined in this Newsletter for the first term. By aligning its initiatives with clearly defined operational objectives, the Department has fostered renewed energy and commitment among both lecturers and students.

Central to this approach is the introduction of management by objectives, which has guided the Department's priorities and strengthened its academic direction. The first-term objectives, highlighted herein, serve as a cornerstone for subsequent activities throughout the year, ensuring continuity and focus.

Equally significant is students' active participation, which the Department values as integral to its mission. By engaging students in meaningful academic and developmental activities, PMG continues to nurture and empower future leaders who are attuned to the nation's socio-economic challenges and opportunities.

OPERATIONAL PLANNING



Vision 2030

The Department of Public Management and Governance (PMG) commenced the 2026 academic year with a strategic planning session held from 13 to 14 January at Komani Campus. The session provided an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past two years (2024 and 2025), with particular attention given to objectives that had not been fully realised. At the same time, the Department celebrated the successful attainment of several goals, which now serve as a foundation for the objectives and activities planned for 2026.

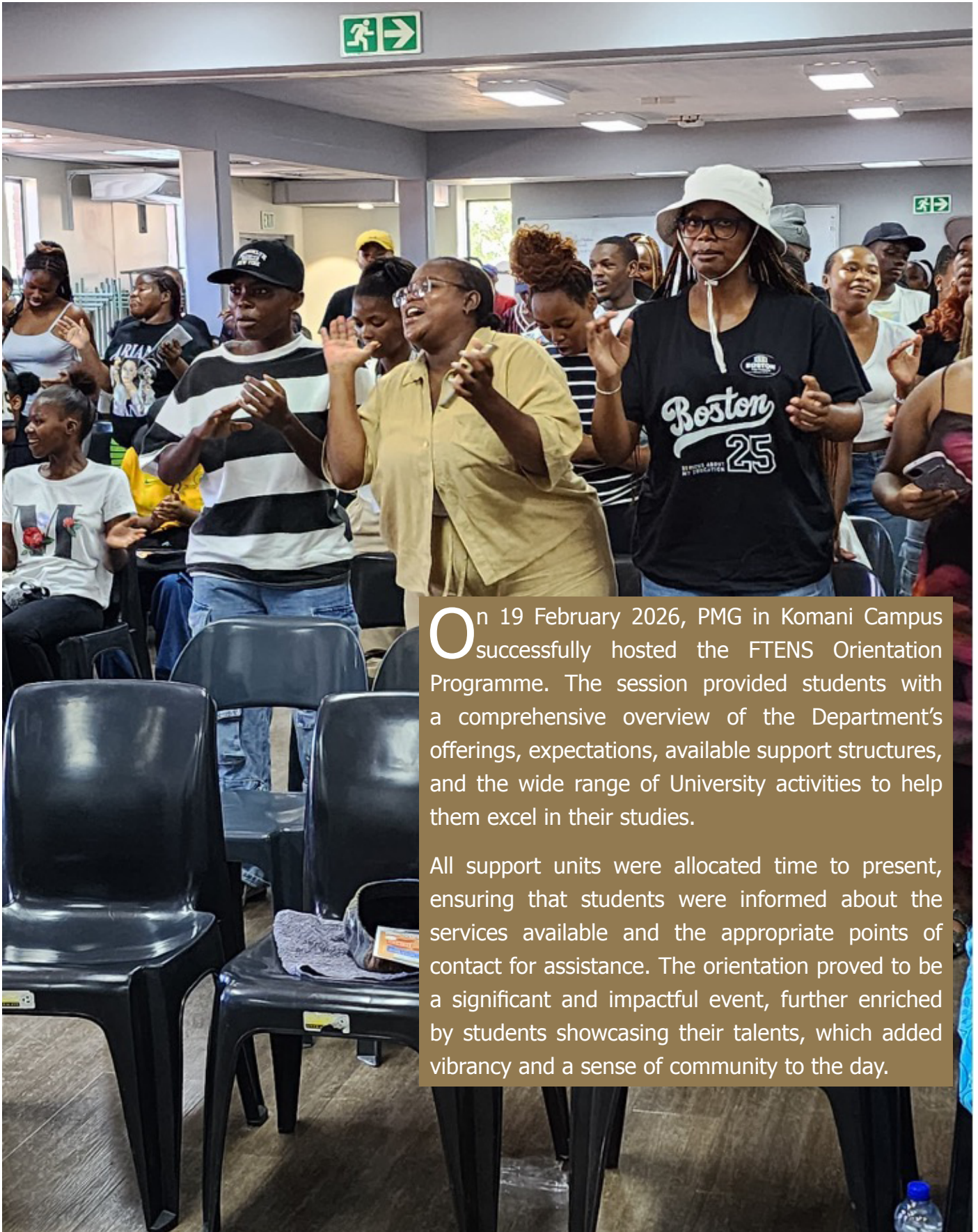
A central theme of the planning exercise was the pursuit of quality across all objectives, aligned with the institution's overarching strategic framework, Vision 2020–2030. The

session emphasised the strategic priorities of:

- Relevant and Impactful Research & Innovation
- Transformative Community Engagement
- Internationalisation and Partnerships
- Empowered Staff
- Enriching Student Experience
- Financial Sustainability

Each priority was carefully examined, with objectives and activities deliberately crafted to ensure meaningful progress and alignment with the institution's long-term vision.

KOMANI CAMPUS FTENS ORIENTATION



On 19 February 2026, PMG in Komani Campus successfully hosted the FTENS Orientation Programme. The session provided students with a comprehensive overview of the Department's offerings, expectations, available support structures, and the wide range of University activities to help them excel in their studies.

All support units were allocated time to present, ensuring that students were informed about the services available and the appropriate points of contact for assistance. The orientation proved to be a significant and impactful event, further enriched by students showcasing their talents, which added vibrancy and a sense of community to the day.

BUTTERWORTH CAMPUS FTENS ORIENTATION

On 24 February 2026, the PMG at the Butterworth Campus hosted its FTENS orientation. The Department provided a comprehensive overview of the programme, outlining key offerings, expectations, and the various support initiatives available through the Faculty of Management and Public Administration Sciences to ensure student success.

The session was dynamic and engaging, filled

with interactive activities that encouraged participation and attentiveness. Students were introduced to the essentials of university life, equipping them with valuable insights to navigate their academic journey.

The day proved to be both successful and rewarding, leaving participants with a strong sense of preparedness and enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead.



FIRST DEPARTMENTAL WEBINAR

WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Management and Public Administration Services
Department of Public Management & Governance

04 March 2026
18:00 – 20:00



Speaker:

Mr Silumko Mahlasela

Municipal Manager from Mquma Local Municipality

Webinar

On 4 March 2026, the Department successfully hosted its inaugural webinar for the year. The event was graced by Mr Silumko Mahlasela, Municipal Manager of Mquma Local Municipality, who served as the Guest Speaker.

The webinar's theme, **"Local Government Elections and Service Delivery: Understanding Administrative and Political Dynamics at the Municipal Level,"** provided a timely and thought-provoking platform for discussion. The session attracted a diverse audience, including students, academics, government officials, and municipal representatives. In addition, the webinar was

open to academics and students from other universities under the auspices of SAAPAM, further broadening its reach and impact.

Mr Mahlasela delivered an insightful presentation, tracing the evolution of local government from the dawn of South Africa's democratic dispensation to its current state. His bold and comprehensive analysis highlighted the critical role of municipalities as the sphere of government closest to the people. The presentation was widely appreciated for its depth and relevance, leaving attendees with a richer understanding of the complex interplay between administrative and political dynamics in local governance.

DEPARTMENTAL PARTICIPATION IN DISABILITY DAY



The Department proudly participated in **Disability Day**, held on 04 March 2026 at the Butterworth Campus. The event was organised by the Transformation and Language Directorate, Inclusivity, Equity, and Diversity.

During the programme, the Department engaged with prospective students, providing detailed information about the academic offerings and the various support structures available to help students excel in their studies. Informational flyers were distributed to further highlight these opportunities.

The day was both enriching and inspiring, as it provided a platform to interact with learners with disabilities. Their participation showcased the diverse ways in which individuals are abled differently, reinforcing the importance of inclusivity and equity in education.

“Their participation showcased the diverse ways in which individuals are abled differently”

POST GRADUATE ORIENTATION



The Department successfully hosted its Postgraduate Orientation on 19 March 2026. The event provided students with comprehensive information about the University's support structures designed to enhance their academic performance.

The orientation was highly engaging, with students actively participating in discussions, particularly around the policy governing the relationship between supervisors and supervisees. The importance of fostering a constructive and respectful relationship between supervisors and students was strongly emphasised as a key factor in academic success.

In addition, students were reminded of the importance of commitment and of completing their studies on time. It was highlighted that delays in completing postgraduate programmes not only hinder individual progress but also have a broader negative impact on the University.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PARTICIPATION



On 20 March 2026, the Department participated in Human Rights Day, an event organised by the Eastern Cape Human Rights and Missing Persons. The initiative, titled **Wheel on Service and Career Expo**, was hosted at Duncan Village Post Office in Guqompo City.

The event proved to be both exciting and impactful, providing learners with valuable insights into the Department's academic programmes, their objectives, and the competencies students acquire upon completing departmental qualifications.

Learners engaged enthusiastically and expressed strong interest in pursuing further studies at the University after matriculation, demonstrating the event's success in inspiring future academic pathways.



MEETING WITH THE HOD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY – EASTERN CAPE

On 23 March 2026, the Department held a meeting with the Head of Department (HOD) for Community Safety in the Eastern Cape and his team. The purpose of the engagement was to discuss the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University and the Department of Community Safety.

The discussions were highly constructive, with

the first draft of the MOU tabled for review. Both parties expressed strong interest in collaborating and identified key areas of mutual concern that warrant joint efforts. It was agreed that the MOU will be finalised at a later stage, following further refinement and alignment of priorities

TRU FM INTERVIEW – MR NXAFANI



As part of the Department's community outreach initiatives, Mr Nxafani, Lecturer and Programme Coordinator for Policing, continues to share his expertise on policing matters through radio platforms. On 30 March 2026, he was interviewed by Tru FM, where he provided valuable insights on policing issues.

Mr Nxafani's contributions ensure that his knowledge extends beyond the classroom, empowering communities with practical understanding and fostering stronger public awareness of policing practices.

"Knowledge extends beyond the classroom"

PUBLISHED BOOK

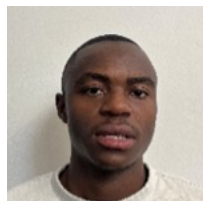
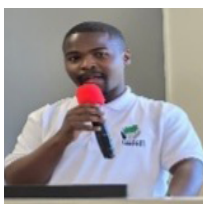


Prof. S. Ngcamu (Unisa) and Dr B. Yekani, in the picture, (Iyunivesithi Water Sisulu) have co-authored a groundbreaking book titled **Food Security Governance and Small-Scale Farmers in South Africa**, published on 9 March 2026.

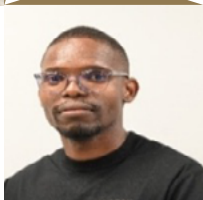
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003736721>

This work provides a critical examination of how policies and political dynamics shape food security governance at the local government level. It offers fresh insights into the complexities of governance, highlighting how inconsistencies, fragmentation, and disintegration in policy and decision-making often arise when stakeholders operate in silos. By unravelling these previously unexplored dimensions, the book contributes significantly to the discourse on sustainable food systems and inclusive governance in South Africa.

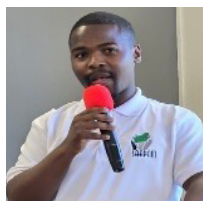
ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2026



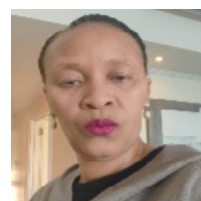
Yamkela Ntando, Talente Ncama, & Maxhobandile Ndamase. 2026. Reconfiguring Student Governance in Institutions of Higher Learning: A Case of a Tertiary Institution in the Eastern Cape. *International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research*, 25(2): 797-826.



Kutu Sam Ramolobe. 2026. A multi-faceted analysis of disability and poverty in the Polokwane Local Municipality: A narrative review. *African Journal*



Maxhobandile Ndamase, Yamkela Ntando, Talente Ncama. 2026. Importance of Moral Public Service Delivery in the Age of Artificial Intelligence. *Insights into Regional Development*, 8(1): 91-103.



N. Dimaza (Master's student), & Dr Z. Roboji (Senior lecturer). 2026. Digitalisation of SPLUMA to Enhance Smart Township Policies at Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality: Literature Paper. *Open Access Library Journal*, 13: 1-16.

