



## Malwandla wins gold at the SAIMSA games



**J**oel Malwandla brought back home a gold medal from the 2018 Southern Africa Inter-Municipal Sports Association (SAIMSA) games hosted in Swaziland.

Malwandla was part of the 76 participants who represented the Mopani District Municipality in various sporting codes at the annual games. The sporting codes comprised of volleyball, netball, football and road running. Malwandla participated in a half marathon (road running) where he won the race. "This is the second time I had participated in the SAIMSA games. The first time was in 2010 in Tzaneen, where I got position two in a race eventually won by a runner from Botswana," he said.

Malwandla has won many accolades in a road running career spanning just over three decades, including 19 years of participating in the Comrades Marathon – the Ultimate Human Race. "Next year I will be running my twentieth Comrades Marathon. I have completed all the nineteen races which I have participated in before. My best finish time in the Comrades Marathon is 6h53 minutes," he said.

In 2016, he won a gold medal at a 21km race in Malelane at a time of 1h28 minutes in the Masters Category. He holds silver medals in both the Comrades and the Two Oceans Marathons. He has won many awards in other races hosted in the province.

Malwandla says running teaches discipline. "Running for me started as routine jogging to keep fit in 1987. In 1989 I was approached by a member of local club that I should join their club. Initially I was reluctant but after I was informed that travelling and accommodation was free of charge I acceded to the call. Running is a deterrent to ailments related to cardiovascular diseases and hypertension. It teaches a person to be discipline."





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## Ten questions with Joel Malwandla



1. Where were you born and what do you remember about your childhood?

**I was born at Nkuzana village about 50km from Makhado along the Giyani/Elim road.**

2. How would you describe yourself?

**I don't like hurting other people, I am honest, I am committed to the chosen cause and I am a quality oriented individual.**

3. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

**I am too loving and kind to people and I believe people use that to my disadvantage. If I could, I would add a cruelty element.**

4. Which people inspire you the most in life

**Myles Munroe in his book: "The Power of Vision". You will not be able to achieve your vision unless you take an initiative. Most people in life are extremely busy and sweating like when a child is riding a rocking horse but they are not making any movement. On your steps towards realising your vision there would always be opposition but that should not discourage you.**

5. What motivates you the most about your work, and what do u like most about Mopani?

**I know my duty as a servant of the people. In Business Management there is an adage that "a customer is king". In public service officials are referred to as public servants. These two concepts go a long way towards portraying our reason for existence as civil servants. I gain pride to earn a salary which I deserve – to put**



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ahead the interests and aspirations of the employer ahead my own interests. To remain positive. Everybody in life does meditate particularly when seated alone. Meditation is either negative (illness, failures, fears, etc.) or positive (success, good health, overcomer, etc.). Don't let negative thoughts occupy your imaginations. When negative thoughts come, press a delete button. My last sick leave was signed off in 2011. Since then I never went on a sick leave to date.

6. What advise do you have for young people who have just joined the Mopani District Municipality?

There are thousands of other people out there who can perform better than you do. What should always ring in your mind is the psychological contract which you entered with Mopani District Municipality when the Municipality breaks out the good news about your employment. What was running in your mind at the time was to deliver the best service possible, to be loyal to your employer, to observe time, taking initiatives, advising, making positive impact, remaining honest, etc. This psychological contract should remain in your mind for as long as you are a servant/employee. During your spare time you would rather pass time by doing something that is beneficial to yourself and the community. Maybe to be direct, when you don't have anything to do, don't opt to go to the pub for three or four sips and to meet friends there. I am not saying people should not drink. In my early days before I was involved in running I used to drink as well but I quitted drinking because it was a deterrent to my vision. If drinking becomes routine/habitual it overshadows or defeats our purpose on earth. If it is an addiction rather be addicted to sports, reading, studying, going to church and community building projects, to say the least. God knew you before you were born and you were born for a purpose. Life is short, so make use of this short time to make an impact in life so that you are remembered of the good legacy you would have left behind.

7. What drew you into road running?

I was recruited into running because people have seen potential within me. Initially I was doing it for fitness but what motivated me was that running took me to places I never visited before. Winning prizes in running for me was a bonus and this motivated me tremendously. When prizes goes with monetary awards, my family would know that we would have our dinner at Wimpy or Kentucky, etc.

8. What is your daily diet?

My daily diet is no different from the normal diet that everybody takes. Preferred tea is rooibos with honey, sometime with sugar, taken with morning cereals such as pronutro; etc. preferred meat is lamb, pork and beef. I also enjoy white meat such as chicken and fish. Fruit and vegetables is also my preferred dish.

9. What is the one thing you cannot live without?

I am addicted to running and I cannot do without running, some of my colleagues dropped off on the way but I am still in the field.

10. What is your ideal holiday destination?

Cape town is my ideal holiday destination because of the beautiful scenery of Table Mountain, chapman's peak drive, cape point, and the water front.





## MDM HOLD FAREWELL FUNCTION FOR TATANA MATHYE

**T**he Office of the Executive Mayor has held a farewell function for the 65-year-old James Mathye, at a lodge in Giyani. Some of the Mopani District Municipality's employees who attended the farewell party described Mathye, as a diligent person who always took pride of his work. The Executive Mayor Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale has described Mathye as a professional and a dedicated employee who worked tirelessly. "Tatana Mathye, always insisted to open the door for me although I was a bit uncomfortable looking at his age. He is a strong old man who used to drive long distances without complaining, although at times you would see that he's exhausted but he will still concentrate on the road and do his best while behind the steering wheel." Said Rakgoale.

The Executive Mayor also shared some light moments she had with Mathye during their official trips. "Tatana Mathye is somebody who was always in time when we were to travel. He always made sure that he gets to my home almost an hour before departure time and he patiently waited for me while I was preparing myself. Tatana Mathye would normally say "Ani karhali or anitwi nchumu" loosely translated to "I never get tired", as he was driving long distances." Further said the Executive Mayor Rakgoale. She urged all other drivers and young employees in the institution to emulate Mathye and serve the district municipality with pride and dedication at all times.

The -65-year- old Mathye who was flanked by his wife, Mamaila also took to the podium and shared the moments he had during the five years of his stay in the district municipality. The visibly excited Mathye thanked the Mopani District Municipality for affording him an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in the office of the Executive Mayor. "I must say that am delighted that we are all gathered here today, I really appreciate the opportunity that was presented to me by the Executive Mayor. I did not regard her as just an Executive Mayor, but an honourable somebody, I actually referred to her as Muchaviseki because she is holding a very big office. Am happy now that I will be able to spend time and rest with my family as I have been away for a long time" Said Mathye. The Municipal Manager Republic Monakedi took the opportunity to announce that management has resolved to extend Mathye's contract with three months, so as to allow enough time to HR to appoint a new driver.



**James Mathye flanked by his wife, Mamaila during his farewell function held at Mashamba Lodge**



**The Executive Mayor Nkakareng Rakgoale delivering a key note address during her driver's farewell**



**Acting Director in the Office of the Executive Mayor Pat Twala acknowledging guests**





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## MDM EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN A LOCAL MARATHON



Witness Tiva, from Communications, Faith Mukhumbi from the Office of the Executive Mayor, Victor Mabunda from Planning and Development and Nxalati Masonta Supply Chain Management.

Four employees of the Mopani District Municipality joined hundreds of other athletes and participated in the Shikhumba 4 in 1 Marathon held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. The MEC for Health Poppy Ramathuba who also participated in the race has urged communities to start exercising on a daily basis so as to help them live longer. "I am urging you to start exercising as that has its own health benefits, besides reducing your wait, exercising also deal with a risk of chronic illnesses. Our rural clinics today are receiving a lot of people who are going there for chronic medication, some simple because they are not exercising" Ramathuba has thanked the organisers for taking the marathon to Shikhumba as it helps to create an awareness on healthy life style.



Some of the participants for the Shikhumba Marathon



Health MEC Dr Poppy Ramathuba addressing participants just before the start of the Shikhumba Marathon

