

WW1 demise of 616 men relived

By Zolani Mahope

If artefacts could speak, the SS Mendi Bell would tell us exactly what happened on that fateful day over 100 years ago when 616 black South African men perished at sea.

On February 21 1917, the SS Mendi collided with a cargo ship in the English Channel and sunk. The passengers were from Cape Town to England, and were on their way to France to fight in World War I on the side of the British.

But for author Fred Khumalo, the return of the bell from UK to SA on Monday marked a vital milestone in preserving the memory of the deceased.

On Tuesday, British Prime Minister Theresa May handed over the bell to President Cyril Ramaphosa during a ceremony in Cape Town.

The story of the Mendi reflects the unrelenting bravery of hundreds of black men who left their home country and families to go and fight in a war that was in fact not even theirs to fight. The ship was carrying more than 800 men.

Reflecting on the bell's return, Khumalo, whose novel *Dancing the Death Drill* is based on the tragedy, said the handover was significant. "At a very symbolic point, this will



Britain Prime Minister Theresa May and President Cyril Ramaphosa take part in the ceremony to hand over the bell of the SS Mendi in Cape Town on Tuesday. / MIKE HUTCHINGS / POOL / AFP

Mendi bell back home

bring closure to a very sad chapter of our history."

He said this was also an opportunity for South Africans to learn about the important history behind the shipwreck.

Khumalo said despite this being one of the worst naval disasters in SA history, most people were not aware of it because it was poorly documented. "At a practical level the return of the bell is an excuse for us to speak about the history."

Khumalo said as a young

boy, tales about the SS Mendi were circulated through word of mouth but that most people thought it was a legend.

He said seeing their graves in France while visiting the country some years back helped him realise that SS Mendi was not fiction.

He said the story of Mendi was also significant in conveying the hidden history of more than 24 000 black men who participated in the WWI.

Khumalo's book is not the on-

ly way in which this part of SA history is remembered. The nation's highest presidential order of courage also bears the name Mendi. Lara Foot's play *Uhutshona ho Mendi... Did We Dance?* was also released in 2012.

The bell had been lying beneath the sea for decades after the Mendi sank and was discovered by divers recently. Khumalo said the relic was later delivered to the BBC and research confirmed that it was indeed the SS Mendi bell.

Brexit no worry for SA-UK ties

May promises investment boost

By Thabo Mokoena

British Prime Minister Theresa May has assured SA that her government's looming exit from the European Union will not affect trade relations between the two countries.

May has also committed to lobbying British companies to help President Cyril Ramaphosa achieve his \$100-billion (R1.4-trillion) target for foreign direct investment.

May made these announcements at a joint press briefing with Ramaphosa at the presidential office of Tuynhuys in Cape Town as part of her first working visit to SA.

The British prime minister added that her government was determined to make the UK the number one investor on the African continent among the G7 – the seven most industrialised economies.

As of last year, the UK was SA's sixth largest global trading partner with total trade at R79.5bn.

With the UK set to exit the EU trade bloc by March 2019, May's government signed an agreement on Tuesday with countries in the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) to ensure trade relations with the UK are not affected once "Brexit" happens.

"We've agreed that as the UK prepares to leave the EU, we must think about how to grow that trade in the future."


"So, today, as you've just witnessed, we've signed the joint statement with SA, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) to enjoy the provisions of the region's current trade deal with the EU continue after this agreement no longer applied to the UK."

"This important step will provide the strong foundations on which we can build a closer trade and investment partnership in the future that brings even greater benefit for both sides. My ambition is for the UK to be the number one G7 investor in Africa by 2022."

Ramaphosa said he welcomed the UK's commitment to help achieve his \$100-bn investment campaign, which was due to be discussed with British companies travelling with May at an investment round table in Cape Town later on Tuesday.

The investments are targeted at sectors such as manufacturing, mining, energy and tourism.

"We also confirmed our wish that the negotiations on the UK's exit from the European Union are concluded in a manner that restores stability to economic and financial markets," Ramaphosa said.



TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

NGWATHE Local Municipality

Suitable service providers are hereby invited to submit proposals on the following:

BID REF. NO	DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT FEE	EVALUATION CRITERIA	COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION	CLOSING DATE	CIDB GRADING (if applicable)	CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES: TECHNICAL	CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES: SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
ILM/01/ ELEC/ 2018/19	Request for proposals from individual companies, joint ventures or consortia of consulting engineering firms for the design, coordination, supervision, installation through to commissioning for 50m 11KV overhead bulk lines in Tumbahole	R950.00	80/20	YES 06 September 2018 in Municipal Offices inside 8th Forum Building at 10:00am	20 September 2018 (Thursday), Parys Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	4CP	Mr. H.B. Thebe Tel: 056 817 7611 Fax: 056 811 4848 E-mail: nbt@ngwathe.co.za	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 056 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 056 817 7131 E-mail: m.xulu@ngwathe.co.za
ILM/01/ ME/ 2018/2019	Bid for the Appointment of a contractor for the Completion of Kwakwasi Sports Complex	R350.00	80/20	YES 05 September 2018 in Parys Municipal Offices inside the Chamber Building at 10:00am	20 September 2018 (Thursday), Parys Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	3CE	Mr. H.B. Thebe Tel: 056 817 7611 Fax: 056 811 4848 E-mail: nbt@ngwathe.co.za	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 056 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 056 817 7131 E-mail: m.xulu@ngwathe.co.za
ILM/01/ ME/ 2018/2019	Appointment of mechanical support services companies for mechanical, electrical and instrumentation work which is required on an as and when needed basis in maintaining pump stations in the area of Ngwathe Local Municipality for a period of thirty six (36) months	R1000.00	80/20	YES 05 September 2018 in Parys Municipal Offices inside the Forum Building at 11:00am	20 September 2018 (Thursday), Parys Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	SME or higher	Mr. H.B. Thebe Tel: 056 817 7611 Fax: 056 811 4848 E-mail: nbt@ngwathe.co.za	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 056 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 056 817 7131 E-mail: m.xulu@ngwathe.co.za
ILM/01/ ELEC/ 2018/2019	Suitable service providers are invited to submit proposals for the supply, delivery and installation of electrical equipment on an as and when required basis for a period of 3 years	R550.00	80/20	YES 06 September 2018 in Parys Municipal Offices inside the Forum Building at 10:00am	20 September 2018 (Thursday), Parys Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	4CP	Mr. H.B. Thebe Tel: 056 817 7611 Fax: 056 811 4848 E-mail: nbt@ngwathe.co.za	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 056 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 056 817 7131 E-mail: m.xulu@ngwathe.co.za
ILM/01/ INSURE/ 09-2018	Provision of Short-Term Insurance portfolio for a contract period of 3 years ending 30 June 2021	R1000.00	80/20	YES 04 September 2018 in Parys Municipal Offices (Forum Building) at 12:00pm	19 September 2018 (Friday), Parys Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	1/A	Mr. H. Lebus Tel: 056 817 2797 Fax: 056 811 4848 E-mail: hlebus@ngwathe.co.za	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 056 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 056 817 7131 E-mail: m.xulu@ngwathe.co.za

Copies of the above bids are available at a non-refundable amount, payable by cash made out in favour of the employer at the discretion of the tender documents. The physical address for collection of information documents is: Ngwathe Local Municipality, Parys, Free State, 6135. Contact: Mr. M. Xulu, 056 816 2700, 056 817 7131.

Documents may be collected during working hours 08:30 to 16:30 on day, from Wednesday, 29 August 2018 and during weekdays thereafter.

The closing time for receipt of the above-mentioned bids is 12:00 noon on Wednesday, the 19th September 2018 for the Financial Services department tender and Thursday, the 20th September 2018 for the Technical department tender respectively, upon the payment of non-refundable document fee as specified above. Telephone, telephone, fax, facsimile, electronic and late tenders will not be accepted.

Tenders, completed in black ink as prescribed, shall be sealed in an envelope marked with the bidder's address, Tender No. and Description and be deposited in the TENDER BOX at Ngwathe Local Municipality at above mentioned address (The tender box is outside the building, ground floor and is accessible 24/7 a week). Bidders must take note of the following: • Bids must only be submitted on the bid documentation provided by the Ngwathe Local Municipality official form – and it be a non-refundable deposit. • Persons in the service of the state are not allowed to bid. • Late, unsigned, or incomplete bids will be disqualified. • Bids are requested to be submitted in triplicate (three copies) and a copy thereof. • Bidders must ensure that the company name is "In Business" with the Company and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC). • Bidders are requested to read and take note of the "Information to Bidders" attached on the bid document. • Bidders are requested to submit original or certified copies of B-BBEE Status Level Verification Certificate together with BIR 199 to substantiate their B-BBEE rating claims, and/or sworn affidavits. • A final, consistent or joint bid must submit a consolidated B-BBEE Status Level Verification. • Bidders should attach an Original Valid Tax Clearance Certificate or Tax Compliance Status letter and along with a Pin Number and an up to date address Account / Statement. Failure to attach these documents will result to a tender being regarded as non-responsive. • Ngwathe Local Municipality fully reserves the right not to accept the lowest tender or accept the whole or part of any tender or not to consider any tender submitted.

Mr. B. V. KANNHEIMER
Municipal Manager

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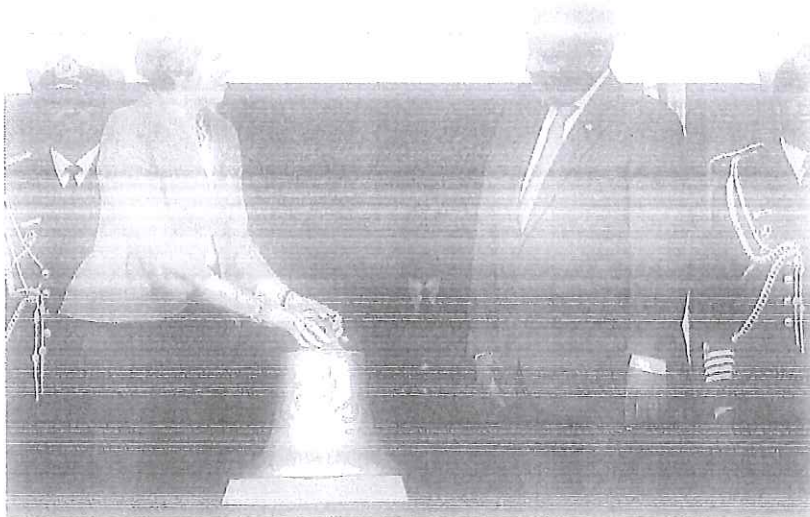
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By Thando Wolcott

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"The investments in transport, mining, energy and tourism."

"We also confirmed our wish that the negotiations on the UK's exit from the European Union are concluded in a manner that restores stability to economic and financial markets," Ramaphosa said.



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NGWATHE Local Municipality

SUITABLE SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON THE FOLLOWING:

ID NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT FEE	EVALUATION CRITERIA	COMPULSORY BIDDING SESSION	CLOSING DATE	MINIMUM BID AMOUNT	CONTACT PERSON FOR QUOTATIONS/ENQUIRIES	CONTACT PERSON FOR REQUESTS/SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
12/M/17/18/19	Request for proposals from industrial companies, joint ventures or consortia of consulting engineering firms for the design, coordination, supervision, installation through to commissioning for 20m 11KV overhead bulk lines in Tumboshe	R300.00	60/20	YES 05 September 2018 in Panga Municipal Offices inside the Forum Building at 11:00am	19 September 2018 (Thursday), Panga Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	40P	Mr. H. B. Thobela Tel: 055 817 7811 Fax: 055 811 4948 E-mail: hhthobela@gmail.com	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 055 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 055 817 7131 E-mail: mxulu@ngwathe.co.za mxulu@ngwathe.co.za
11/M/17/18/19	RfD for the Appointment of a contractor for the Completion of Kwamathu Sports Complex	R350.00	60/20	YES 05 September 2018 in Panga Municipal Offices inside the Customer Building at 10:00am	20 September 2018 (Thursday), Panga Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	3CE	Mr. H. B. Thobela Tel: 055 817 7811 Fax: 055 811 4948 E-mail: hhthobela@gmail.com	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 055 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 055 817 7131 E-mail: mxulu@ngwathe.co.za mxulu@ngwathe.co.za
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12/M/17/18/19	Suitable service providers are invited to submit proposals for the supply, delivery and installation of electrical equipment on an as and when needed basis for a period of 2 years	R550.00	60/20	YES 05 September 2018 in Panga Municipal Offices inside the Forum Building at 11:00am	20 September 2018 (Thursday), Panga Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	40P	Mr. H. B. Thobela Tel: 055 817 7811 Fax: 055 811 4948 E-mail: hhthobela@gmail.com	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 055 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 055 817 7131 E-mail: mxulu@ngwathe.co.za mxulu@ngwathe.co.za
12/M/17/18/19	Provision of Short-Term insurance portfolio for a contract period of 2 years ending 30 June 2021	R1000.00	60/20	YES 04 September 2018 at Panga Municipal Offices (Forum Building) at 12:00pm	19 September 2018 (Friday), Panga Municipal Building (Tender Box) at 12:00 noon	10P	Mr. H. B. Thobela Tel: 055 817 7811 Fax: 055 811 4948 E-mail: hhthobela@gmail.com	Mr. M. Xulu Tel: 055 816 2700 ext 257 Fax: 055 817 7131 E-mail: mxulu@ngwathe.co.za mxulu@ngwathe.co.za

Copy of the above tenders are available at our office, payable by cash or bank transfer in the amount of the tender fee as indicated in the tender documents. It is a condition of access for enquiries of interested parties to pay the tender fee in advance.

Documents may be inspected at our office on any day, from Wednesday, 20 August 2018 and during working hours thereafter.

The closing time for receipt of the above tenders is at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, the 19th September 2018 for the Mechanical Services department tender and Thursday, the 20th September 2018 for the Electrical department tender respectively, upon the receipt of non-refundable documents fee as specified above. It is requested that interested parties should be notified of the receipt of the documents.

Tenders, completed in black ink as prescribed, shall be sealed in an envelope marked with the bidder's address, tender fee, and description and be deposited in the TENDER BOX at Ngwathe Local Municipality at above mentioned address (The tender box is outside the building, ground floor and is accessible 24/7 a week).

Bidders must take note of the following: • Bids must only be submitted on the bid documentation provided by the Ngwathe Local Municipality, which will be available to interested parties at the office of the Municipal Manager, at the address indicated above. • Persons in possession of the tender documents must be aware that they are not to be used for any other purpose. • Late, amended, or incomplete bids will not be considered. • Bidders are required to submit original and certified copies of the Bidder's Statement of Declaration, Certificate of Incorporation, Certificate of Registration, Certificate of Tax Compliance, and for services contracts, a Joint Venture Agreement must be submitted to the Bidder's Statement of Declaration. • Bidders should attach to Original Valid Tax Compliance Declaration or Tax Compliance Status letter and along with a Tax Clearance and a up to date utilities Account / Statement. Failure to attach these documents will result to a tender being regarded as non-responsive. • Ngwathe Local Municipality fully reserves the right not to accept the lowest tender or accept the whole or part of any tender or not to consider any tender submitted.

Mr. B.V. KANNEMEYER
Municipal Manager