

ALOE PEGLERAE

A Kitsong School learner carefully plants an *Aloe peglerae*, helping restore a species under threat.



From left: Emelang Malefo (Kgaswane Nature Reserve manager), Arnold Frisby (curator and lecturer, University of Pretoria), and Tshifiwa Malise (North West Parks Board).

Vanishing from our mountains



Aloe peglerae in the Magaliesberg — a critically endangered species now under threat from illegal removal.

Did you know?

- The *Aloe peglerae* is critically endangered in South Africa.
- SANBI Red List data shows a 43% population decline in just 10 years.
- It could decline by more than 80% in future generations if threats continue.
- The main threat is illegal harvesting for ornamental and private use.



PROTECTING IT HERE MEANS PROTECTING IT GLOBALLY.

Platinum Weekly newspaper | Rustenburg

— A plant found almost nowhere else on Earth is quietly disappearing from the wild — but at the Kgaswane Nature Reserve, efforts are underway to turn the tide. The *Aloe peglerae*, a species found only in the quartzite ridges of the North West and Gauteng, is officially classified as critically endangered. According to South Africa's SANBI Red List, its population has already declined by 43% over the past decade, with projections suggesting losses of over 80% in future generations if current trends continue. One of the biggest drivers of this decline is illegal collection. These striking aloes are often removed from the wild for ornamental gardens or private use — a practice that strips entire populations from the mountainside. Unlike common garden plants, *Aloe peglerae* grows slowly and depends on very specific environmental

conditions. Once removed, it does not easily recover, and the surrounding ecosystem — including insects and other species that rely on it — is also affected. Although it naturally occurs in the Magaliesberg biosphere, including areas around Rustenburg, many local populations have already been severely reduced or completely lost due to this ongoing pressure. In response, learners from Kitsong Schools of the Royal Bafokeng, together with education students from the Akanyang Centre for Teaching (ACT), in February 2026 joined researchers and conservationists in a hands-on restoration initiative at Kgaswane. Working alongside experts — including Dr Cathy Dzerefos — they helped replant *Aloe peglerae* back into its natural habitat. In a region where this species exists naturally — and almost nowhere else in the world — its survival depends on local action.



"The Kgaswane Mountain Reserve is the jewel of the North West Province. Seeing a critically endangered plant restored to its natural habitat gives me hope that wisdom and goodness can prevail."

Dr Cathy Dzerefos, Tshwane University of Technology lecturer and researcher

Budget cuts put Rustenburg's RRT future at risk



An RRT (Yarona) bus operating in Rustenburg's CBD, part of a system currently transporting thousands of commuters daily, despite ongoing infrastructure challenges.

Platinum Weekly newspaper | Rustenburg — The future of the Rustenburg Rapid Transport (RRT) system, once hailed as a transformative step for public transport, now hangs in the balance as proposed national budget cuts threaten to stall or even terminate the project.

The Rustenburg Taxi Negotiations Forum (TNF), representing nine taxi associations involved in the project since 2014, has raised serious concerns following indications that funding from the National Department of Transport may be reduced. According to the TNF, the taxi industry has supported the RRT initiative in good faith for more than a decade, aligning with government's broader vision of integrated public transport systems. Through formal agreements with the Rustenburg Local Municipality, operators restructured routes and even withdrew certain services to accommodate the rollout of the system. Despite ongoing infrastructure challenges, the project has already made a tangible impact. Phases 1A and 1C have been implemented, with Phase 1B currently underway. Yet, Phase 2 remains outstanding — leaving additional operators in limbo as they await their turn to participate.

RRT project phases:

- Phase 1A - Operates Tlhabane Rustenburg CBD corridor
- Phase 1C - Operates Rustenburg CBD and outer CBD area (Waterfall Mall)
- Phase 1B - Operates Boitekong and Meriting to Rustenburg CBD corridor
- Phase 2 - Operates Kanana, Zinniville and part of Phokeng to Rustenburg CBD corridor

Reportedly, the system is already moving an estimated 20,000 passengers daily, even while key infrastructure such as stations remains incomplete. This, the TNF says, proves both the viability of the RRT system and the commitment of the taxi industry to making it work for the benefit of commuters.

The TNF has described the move as a "unilateral approach" that undermines the partnership between government and the taxi industry, and risks destabilising years of progress. Public transport in Rustenburg relies heavily on collaboration between stakeholders, and the taxi industry remains its backbone.

The TNF warns that decisions taken without meaningful engagement could have far-reaching consequences — not only for operators, but also for thousands of daily commuters, including vulnerable and disabled passengers who depend on accessible transport.

INVITATION FOR PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY | 29 April 2026



ERRATUM

BID NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR ERRATUM	CLOSING DATE AND TIME
RLM/DTIS/0120/2025/26 - Appointment of a contractor to perform switchgear and protection testing and maintenance at various substations and electrical network as and when required for a period of 3 years	To extend the date of the briefing session as follows: DATE: 13 May 2026 VENUE: Rustenburg Local Municipality Offices TIME: 09:00	DATE: 08 June 2026 TIME: 08:30
RLM/DTIS/0121/2025/26 - Appointment of a contractor to perform maintenance of power transformers at various substations as and when required for a period of 3 years	To extend the date of the briefing session as follows: DATE: 14 May 2026 VENUE: Rustenburg Local Municipality Offices TIME: 09:00	DATE: 09 June 2026 TIME: 08:30

- Bidders must submit both a hard copy document and an electronic tender document in the form of a clearly marked USB. (Bidders will be disqualified for not submitting a USB with scanned bid documentation)
- Bid documents must be in a sealed packaging clearly marked with the bid number and description, must be placed in the bid box in the foyer of the Municipal offices, Missionary Mpheni House, Beyers Naude Drive, Rustenburg not later than the prescribed closing date, where after the bids will be opened in public at the Municipal offices.
- All bids will be evaluated in accordance with the Supply Chain Policy of the Rustenburg Local Municipality, PPPFA 2022 and other related legislations. Bids will remain valid for 90 days.
- The lowest or any bid will not be necessarily accepted, and the municipality reserves the right to accept the whole or part of any bid. The municipality reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as indicated in the technical specifications. A market analysis conducted will be taken into consideration to ensure right procurement and quality service delivery.
- Tender submission must comply with the instruction note (Tender Completion and Attachment of Mandatory Documents) as well as all other additional tendering condition and requirements stated in the tender document.
- Objections or complaints must be submitted in writing to the Municipal Manager at the address stated, and must contain the following:
 - reasons and/or grounds for the objection or complaint,
 - the way in which the objector or complainant's rights have been affected; and
 - the remedy sought by the objector or complainant
- Any objection or complaint must reach the Municipal Manager with a 14-day period after award has been made. Late objections or complaints will not be entertained.
- Submissions which fail to adhere to all the requirements and instructions stated on this advert, E-tender advert, CIDB Website for CIDB tenders as well as the tender document will lead to disqualification.
- Should there be any contradictions between the information on this advert and the information in the tender document, then the information on this advert will take precedence.
- Rustenburg Local Municipality will not accept late bids.
- The bid price validity is 90 days.
- Rustenburg Local Municipality will not accept documents which are not in envelopes and clearly marked with the bid number and description.

RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
MISSIONARY MPHENI HOUSE, P.O BOX 16, RUSTENBURG, 0300

Adv. A. Khuduge
Municipal Manager