



17 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Plettenberg Bay Community Stands Together Against Gender-Based Violence
Written by SHIELD GBV Response & Safeguarding Consultancy NPC Plettenberg Bay – 8 September 2026 A message of unity, compassion and community responsibility was shared outside the Plett Magistrate Court this week as residents and local organisations gathered to stand in support of the family of the late Somikazi Gijana. The community gathering formed part of a peaceful show of support as the matter involving the accused, Bongani Latile, continues through the legal process. The purpose of the gathering was not to interfere with the role of the court, but to demonstrate that families affected by Gender-Based Violence are not forgotten and that communities can come together to offer support, dignity and compassion. The initiative brought together various community organisations, including SHIELD GBV Response & Safeguarding Consultancy NPC, Green Hearts, KwaNokuthula Crime Prevention, Bitou Men's Forum, Bitou Women's Forum, ANC Women's League, and concerned members

of the Plettenberg Bay community. The support followed a request for assistance from Lungiswa Menze, the sister of the deceased, who reached out seeking support during this difficult time. Community members participated in a petition process, allowing individuals and organisations to express their concerns and stand alongside the affected family. SHIELD Founder Victoria Rowe said that Gender-Based Violence remains a serious crisis affecting communities throughout South Africa. "When families experience trauma and loss, they need to know that they are not alone. Creating safer communities requires awareness, compassion, collaboration and a commitment from all of us to support one another," Rowe said. The organisations involved highlighted that meaningful change requires communities to work together — not only responding when harm occurs, but also focusing on prevention, education and building stronger support systems. The matter involving the accused is scheduled to return to court on 22 Sept 2026 for a further bail application. As the legal process continues, SHIELD encourages community members to remain respectful of the court process while continuing to support affected families and promote awareness around Gender-Based Violence. Community. Compassion. Justice. Change. Written by: SHIELD GBV Response & Safeguarding Consultancy NPC

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Azasanga Ngqakavu

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Web ref: RLS1008132 | 4 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | 1 garage. **Connie Peet 083 353 5971** | **Carol Zoutendyk 083 300 1121**

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Web ref: RLS1007648 | 5 bedrooms | 3½ bathrooms | 2 garages. **Susan Duncan 072 968 0779**

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Web ref: RLS1002954 | Size: 736m². **Daniel van Renen 082 883 6271**

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"Two Sisters — One Story": New Awareness Talk Highlights What Children Experience Inside Domestic Violence. A new awareness talk titled "Two Sisters — One Story" is set to bring an important and often overlooked perspective to the conversation around gender-based violence (GBV): the child's experience. Presented by sisters Victoria and Sarah through SHIELD GBV Response & Safeguarding Consultancy, the talk focuses on what children truly experience inside homes affected by domestic violence — not only the visible incidents, but the atmosphere, the fear, the silence, and the long-term impact that shapes their understanding of love, safety, and self-worth. While public conversations around GBV often focus on adult relationships, "Two Sisters" shifts the lens to the child who watches, listens, and learns from what happens behind closed doors. "Children may not always understand the words," Victoria explains, "but they understand the feeling. They feel tension. They feel fear. And those feelings



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shape their identity long before they have language for what is happening." The awareness talk explores how repeated exposure to violence can normalise unhealthy patterns, sometimes carrying into adulthood. It addresses themes such as trauma bonding, the cycle of abuse, community silence, and the difficult realities surrounding leaving abusive environments. Importantly, the talk does not aim to blame or sensationalise. Instead, it encourages reflection and responsibility. The sisters share how children often attempt to become protectors in violent homes — stepping into adult roles far too early. They also highlight how communities sometimes see warning signs but remain silent out of fear, uncertainty, or the belief that domestic violence is a "private matter." "Silence protects perpetrators more than it protects victims," Sarah says. "Awareness creates choice. And choice creates change." Through storytelling combined with educational insight, "Two Sisters" encourages audiences to recognise that

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violence is not only physical. Emotional control, isolation, intimidation, and constant criticism can all create environments of fear — environments that children absorb deeply. The talk concludes with a powerful reminder: while the past cannot be changed, awareness gives communities the opportunity to respond differently for the next generation. SHIELD GBV Response & Safeguarding Consultancy offers awareness talks, workshops, and community education programmes aimed at strengthening early response and prevention. Organisations, schools, workplaces, and community groups interested in hosting the "Two Sisters — One Story" awareness talk can contact: Support Line: +27 78 252 8046 shieldgbv.consultancy@gmail.com

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BITOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

LAND USE MANAGEMENT NOTICE

The Municipality in accordance with Section 45(3) has instructed the applicant to attend to the publication of the land development application received in terms of Section 15(2) of the Bitou Municipality Land Use Planning Bylaw of 2015.

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 45 of the Bitou Municipality Land Use Planning By-Law of 2015 that the applicant has submitted a land use application to Bitou Municipality. The details of the application are as follows:

Property description: Erf 1559, Plettenberg Bay.	Applicant: ValGIS Technologies.
Type of application: The application is lodged in terms of Sections 15(2)(b) and (f) of the Bitou Municipality Land Use Planning By-law, 2015, for: 1. The permanent departure from the development parameters of a dwelling house relating to vehicular access points to allow a 6,10 m wide access point serving two vehicles simultaneously. 2. The removal of the following restrictive conditions contained in Title Deed T60295/2024: (a) Condition 4(b), which limits the use of the property to one dwelling house together with such outbuildings as are ordinarily required to be used therewith; and (b) Condition 4(d), which imposes building lines.	

A copy of the application and full supporting documentation including the annexures referred to above is available for viewing on the Municipal website. Enquiries regarding the application may also be directed to the Municipal Land Use Management official Olwethu Yonke at 044 501 3317 or at townplanning@plett.gov.za.

Any comments or objections to the application, with reasons therefore, must be lodged in writing to the abovementioned official by means of email (townplanning@plett.gov.za) or hand-delivery within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, and must include the name & contact details of the person concerned. Comments / objections received after 30 days may be disregarded. A person who cannot write may visit the Town Planning Office, where a staff member will assist to transcribe their comments.

The personal information of anyone who submits comment / objection might be made available as part of processing the application.

PROPOSED REZONING, DEPARTURE, REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIVE TITLE DEED CONDITIONS AND SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL ON ERVEN 1420 AND 1421, PLETTENBERG BAY, BITOU MUNICIPALITY

Applicant: Planning Space PTY LTD

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 45 (3) that Bitou Municipality has received an application submitted in terms of Section 15 (2) of the Bitou Municipal By-Law on Land Use Planning 2015 (as amended). The application includes the following:

- i. Section 15 (2) (a): Application for the rezoning of Erven 1420 and 1421 from "Single Residential Zone I" to "Community Zone III" to facilitate the continued operation of a Rehabilitation Centre on the subject properties.
- ii. Section 15 (2) (f): Application for the Removal of Restrictive Title Deed Condition E (4) (b) contained in Title Deeds T000000948/2020 and T012452/09, which relates to the permitted land use on Erven 1420 and 1421.
- iii. Section 15 (2) (b): Application for a Departure from the provisions of the Bitou Zoning Scheme By-Law to relax the prescribed building lines on Erf 1420 as follows:
 - (a) Northern lateral boundary: relaxation from 5m to 3.1m.
 - (b) Southern lateral boundary: relaxation from 5m to 1.8m.
- iv. Section 15 (2) (b): Application for a Departure from the provisions of the Bitou Zoning Scheme By-Law to relax the prescribed building lines on Erf 1421 as follows:
 - (a) Northern lateral boundary: relaxation from 5m to 1.57m.
 - (b) Southern lateral boundary: relaxation from 5m to 2.7m.
 - (c) Rear boundary: relaxation from 5m to 2m.
- v. Section 15 (2) (g): Application for Site Development Plan Approval.

A copy of the application and full supporting documentation can be requested from the Applicant: Planning Space, Lundikazi Khuphiso, lundi@planningspace.co.za. Enquiries regarding the application may also be directed to either the Applicant or the Municipal Land Use Management official, Olwethu Yonke, at 044 501 3317/ townplanning@plett.gov.za.

Any comments or objections to the application, with reasons, must be lodged in writing to the above-mentioned official by means of email or hand-delivery on or before **19 October 2026** and must include the name and contact details of the person concerned. Comments/objections received after the specified date may be disregarded. A person who cannot write may visit the Land Use Management Office, where a staff member will assist in transcribing their comments.

The personal information of anyone who submits a comment/objection might be made available as part of processing the application.

VOORGESTELDE HERSONERING, AFWYKING, OPHEFFING VAN BEPERKENDE TITELAKTEVOORWAARDES EN GOEDKEURING VAN 'N TERREINONTWIKKELINGSPLAN OP ERWE 1420 EN 1421, PLETTENBERGBAAI, BITOU MUNISIPALITEIT

Aansoeker: Planning Space (EDMS) BPK

Hiermee word ingevolge Artikel 45 (3) kennis gegee dat die Bitou Munisipaliteit 'n aansoek ontvang het wat ingevolge Artikel 15 (2) van die Bitou Munisipale Verordening op Grondgebruikbeplanning, 2015 (soos gewysig), ingedien is. Die aansoek sluit die volgende in:

- i. Artikel 15 (2) (a): Aansoek om die hersonering van Erwe 1420 en 1421 vanaf "Enkelresidensiële Sone I" na "Gemeenskapsone III" om die voortgesette bedryf van 'n Rehabilitasiesentrum op die betrokke eiendomme te fasiliteer.
- ii. Artikel 15 (2) (f): Aansoek om die opheffing van Beperkende Titelaktevoorwaarde E(4)(b) vervat in Titelaktes T000000948/2020 en T012452/09, wat betrekking het op die toegelate grondgebruik op Erwe 1420 en 1421.
- iii. Artikel 15 (2) (b): Aansoek om 'n afwyking van die bepalings van die Bitou Soneringskema-verordening ten einde die voorgeskrewe boulyne op Erf 1420 soos volg te verslap:
 - (a) Noordelike sygrens: verslapping van 5m na 3.1m.
 - (b) Suidelike sygrens: verslapping van 5m na 1.8m.
- vi. Artikel 15 (2) (b): Aansoek om 'n afwyking van die bepalings van die Bitou Soneringskema-verordening ten einde die voorgeskrewe boulyne op Erf 1421 soos volg te verslap:
 - (a) Noordelike sygrens: verslapping van 5m na 1.57m.
 - (b) Suidelike sygrens: verslapping van 5m na 2.7m.
 - (c) Agtergrens: verslapping van 5m na 2m.
- v. Artikel 15 (2) (g): Aansoek om goedkeuring van 'n Terreinontwikkelingsplan.

'n Afskrif van die aansoek en volledige ondersteunende dokumentasie kan van die Aansoeker, Planning Space, Lundikazi Khuphiso, aangevra word by lundi@planningspace.co.za. Navrae rakende die aansoek kan ook aan die Aansoeker of aan die Munisipale Grondgebruikbestuursbeampte, Olwethu Yonke, gerig word by 044 501 3317 / townplanning@plett.gov.za.

Enige kommentaar of besware teen die aansoek, met redes, moet skriftelik by die bogenoemde amptenaar ingedien word per e-pos of per handaflewering op of voor **19 Oktober 2026**, en moet die naam en kontakbesonderhede van die betrokke persoon insluit. Kommentaar/besware wat ná die genoemde datum ontvang word, mag moontlik nie in ag geneem word nie. 'n Persoon wat nie kan skryf nie, kan die Kantoor vir Grondgebruikbestuur besoek, waar 'n personeellid sal help om hul kommentaar neer te skryf.

Die persoonlike inligting van enigeen wat kommentaar of beswaar indien, mag beskikbaar gestel word as deel van die verwerking van die aansoek.