

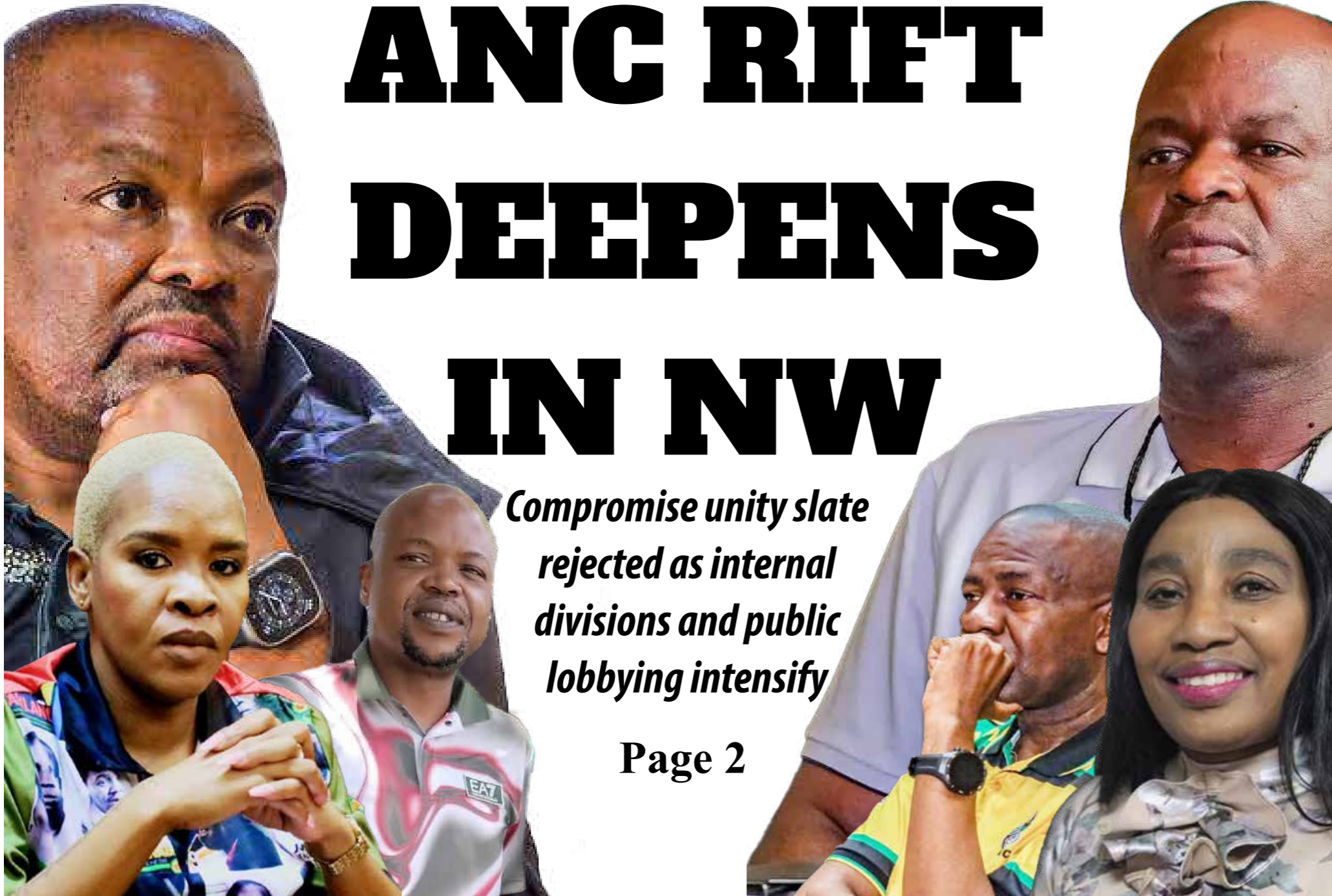
Journal NEWS

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ANC RIET DEEPENS IN NW

Compromise unity slate rejected as internal divisions and public lobbying intensify

Page 2



Champion Runner Dijana Trades Finish Line for Service at NWU



The Vision Behind Winnie's Palace



Tributes Pour In for Anti-Apartheid Stalwart Mosiuoa 'Terror' Lekota

DUKWANA DEMANDS GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

... as he convenes Speakers Forum to advance good governance and accountability through collective resolve

By Mpho Sekharume

The Free State Legislature, spearheaded by Speaker Mxolisi Dukwana, convened its second annual Speaker's Forum at the Golden Gate National Park on Thursday, 5 March 2026, marking a pivotal moment in the province's commitment to administrative excellence. This strategic gathering brought together municipal speakers from across the province under the theme of 'Strengthening Municipal Governance, Legal Capacity, and Digital Transformation' in anticipation of the upcoming elections.

By fostering an environment of collaborative learning and shared responsibility, the forum serves as a progressive platform designed to elevate standards of accountability and enhance public participation through modern technological integration.

In an exclusive interview with Journal News on the sidelines of the event yesterday, Dukwana explained that the Speaker's Forum was a necessary space for leaders to align their efforts for the benefit of all citizens.

"The constitution of the country expects us to collaborate and work together in ensuring that proper services are rendered to our people," Dukwana said.

"So, you can't do that without working together to ensure that accountability, proper and effective public participation happens, we need to share good practices, and we need to share knowledge and advise one another on how we can carry on with our responsibilities without fear or favour. That is why we are here," he added.

The forum, which concludes today, 6 March 2026, is actively seeking to redefine the scope of a Speaker's influence, moving beyond the traditional perception of merely presiding over council meetings.

Dukwana challenged his colleagues to embrace a more robust oversight role, noting that their responsibilities extend far beyond the gavel - particularly regarding financial monitoring and Section 71 reports.

"Over time we have seen that the role of the Speakers, especially in the municipal councils, is only seen as chairing councils and nothing more. But we have a very important role - especially when it comes to Section 71 reports. Their responsibility within the council is not to note only, because the constitution demands of us to have councils that are accountable...and that is what we need to do," he stressed. **Continues on Page 2**

60-DAY

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- Customer will be required to fill in the Declaration of Electricity Meter Tampering / Illegal Connection Form.
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Dukwana Demands Governance Accountability

... as he convenes Speakers Forum to advance good governance and accountability through collective resolve



Free State Legislature Speaker, Mxolisi Dukwana, urged Speakers to hold the municipal executives to account on service delivery shortfalls. Pictures: FS Legislature Facebook

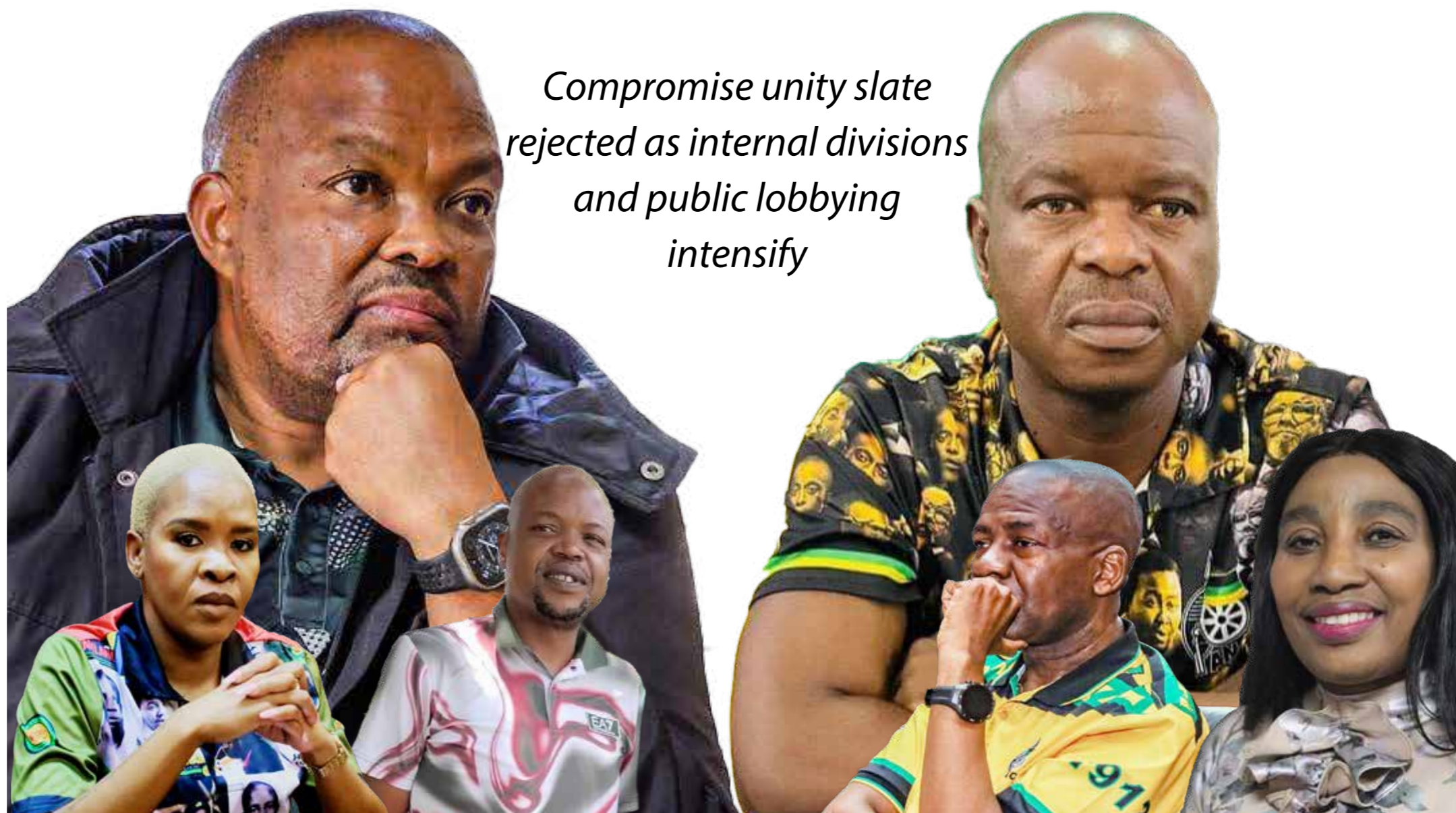
Continues from Page 1

Looking ahead with a sense of urgency, Dukwana framed this assembly as a vital catalyst for reform. He noted that the programme was designed to empower leaders to meet the national mandate for fixing local government through decisive action.

"We also remind ourselves of our responsibilities and come up with a programme that will empower all the speakers to do their work – especially in view of the fact that this is the year that has been declared as the year for decisive action and to fix local government."

Dukwana concluded by urging the Speakers to leverage their committees to scrutinise performance effectively and ensure that consequence management is strictly applied whenever wrongdoing is identified.

ANC Rift Deepens in North West



Compromise unity slate rejected as internal divisions and public lobbying intensify

By JN Reporter

The African National Congress (ANC) in the North West province is facing deepening internal turmoil after a proposed compromise unity slate was rejected, triggering intensified factional divisions and an open scramble for support ahead of the upcoming provincial conference.

The collapse of unity talks has exposed sharp fault lines within the party, with rival camps now openly canvassing branches and lobbying delegates in a bid to consolidate power.

What was initially framed as a last-ditch effort to present a united front has instead unravelled into a public display of mistrust, heightening tensions and raising concerns about further instability in the province.

Tensions escalated last week following the leak of a 90-second audio clip on social media, allegedly capturing a conversation between Deputy Provincial Secretary and Education MEC Viola Motsumi and the MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation. In the clip, Motsumi launches a scathing attack on Premier Lazarus "Lazi" Mokgosi.

In her response to the leaked recording, Motsumi also accused former ANC Provincial Deputy Chairperson and ex-Matlosana Local Municipality mayor, China Thamsanqa Dodovu, of becoming the "biggest wedge driver in contemporary ANC politics".

She warned that should attacks against her continue, she would expose "the details surrounding her resignation as mayor, including the serious issues of other malfeasance and misconduct that accompanied it".

A party member who spoke to Journal News on condition of anonymity said the recent public spat

between the two dominant factions — one led by provincial chairperson Nono Maloyi and the other aligned to his deputy, Mokgosi — is merely "the tip of the iceberg".

"The cracks are too deep now," the source said. "A lot is happening among leaders contesting positions.

willing to be excluded from a unity list," he said.

The disagreement — according to the source — led the PEC to request a two-month postponement of the provincial conference from the party's Secretary-General, Fikile Mbalula. The conference was initially scheduled to take place later this month.

his deputy, Motsumi, is seeking to retain her position, according to both posters.

Notably, Kenetswe Homane appears as a preferred candidate for treasurer on both the Maloyi-aligned slate and on Mokgosi's slate.

The Mokgosi-aligned grouping reportedly lists Sello Lehari as deputy chairperson, Mpho Khunou as secretary, and Tebogo Modise as deputy secretary. The unfolding leadership battle has raised concerns among broader provincial structures, including the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), a key ANC-aligned civic movement.

Provincial SANCO spokesperson Mzukisi Jam accused some ANC members of prioritising personal ambition over the interests of the organisation.

"Sometimes this results in the mobilisation of support for leaders who may lack the necessary competence, but who are elevated through factional victories and subsequently deployed into government," Jam said.

He added that SANCO is "deeply disappointed" by the conduct of certain ANC leaders ahead of what he described as a critical gathering.

"Recent public developments during the State of the Province Address have revealed the extent to which internal factional battles have shaped how members of the same political party speak about one another," he said.

The Tripartite Alliance partner has called on ANC members to prioritise organisational discipline over personal vendettas, warning that internal divisions only serve to weaken the movement.

Attempts to obtain comment from ANC provincial spokesperson Tumelo Maruping were unsuccessful, as calls went unanswered and questions sent to him had not been responded to at the time of publication.



Campaign posters of leadership circulating on social media reflect the growing contestation. Pictures: Facebook

Secret meetings are held daily, and plans are being made to discredit opposing factions.

A compromise unity slate was proposed, but both factions rejected it because members wanted inclusion in the top five.

According to the source, while many members initially supported the idea of unity, disagreements over key positions proved insurmountable.

"Both slates want their preferred candidate to be elected as chairperson, and other contenders are un-

"That request has not yet been responded to, as far as I can tell," a source said on Wednesday.

Campaign posters circulating on social media reflect the growing contestation.

In one version of the Maloyi-aligned slate, Maloyi is positioned for chairperson, with Maine tipped for secretary, while another poster places Maine as provincial treasurer.

Current provincial secretary Louis Diremelo is contesting for deputy chairperson under Maloyi, while

Contact US

No 09 Henri Van Rooijen Street
New East End
Bloemfontein
9301

Tel:
051 430 0129

Email:
info@journalnews.co.za

Advertising:
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Postal Address:
No 09 Henri Van Rooijen Street
New East End
Bloemfontein
9301

Editor-in-Chief
Refilwe Mochoari
E-mail: editor@journalnews.co.za
Cell: 083 943 9879

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WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026 NORMAL AUCTION (EMS FLEET)

VIEW DATE FOR BOTH AUCTIONS MONDAY, 09 MARCH 2026 FROM 09:00 TO 14:00

AUCTION VENUE:
CNR OF HARVEY ROAD & RHODES AVE, ORANJESIG, BLOEMFONTEIN

GOVERNMENT GARAGE
ENTRANCE GATE: OR TAMBO ROAD

CONDITIONS OF SALE:
Right of admission is reserved.
Reserve prices are strictly confidential.
Items to be sold can be added or withdrawn without prior notice.
NB: ALL PRODUCTS ARE SOLD "AS IS". YOU ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR PURCHASE AND NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED.
NB: AUCTION IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC AND FMTE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE FORBIDDEN TO BID!!!
NB: Successful buyers will be announced on the same day at the venue @ 15h00.
Results will be displayed on the notice board.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON REGISTRATION FOR FOR FICA PURPOSES

NB: Business registration documentations/Copy of ID/Valid Passport (Foreign National) & Proof of Residence not older than 3 Months

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Residents Confront Leaders as Service Delivery Failures Boil Over



By Lerato Mutlanyane

Frustration over failing services boiled to the surface as residents confronted local leadership over poor infrastructure, sanitation problems, and long-standing municipal neglect.

Speaker of the Sol Plaatjie Local Municipality, Dipuo Peters, conducted an oversight visit to engage directly with community members and address mounting grievances.

Residents raised a range of concerns, including deteriorating infrastructure, persistent sewer spillages, poor sanitation, and neglected basic services. Community members pointed out the source of recurring sewer leaks, highlighting a problematic sewer pump spill believed to be responsible for the ongoing spillages in the area.

Following the engagement, sanitation teams were deployed to begin cleaning and repairing stormwater channels and to fix a leaking pipe identified during the visit.

Residents also pledged their support for an awareness campaign aimed at educating communi-

ties about the dangers of discarding foreign objects into sewage manholes — a practice believed to contribute to blockages and sewer overflows.

During the visit, Peters was also briefed on the paving of two roads in the Club 2000 area, a project expected to improve local infrastructure.

However, some residents remained sceptical about the timing of the visit.

Community member Melanie O'Brien expressed frustration over what she described as repeated promises that never materialise.

"They all talk a lot to get you to vote and then nothing happens," she said. "We have had 31 years of these false promises."

Another resident, Gopolang Solomon, suggested the visit may be politically motivated.

"It's because we are nearing voting season," he said. Solomon also urged municipal leaders to expand their oversight to other struggling areas.

"Let them also visit Homevale to see the leakages and roads. They are not even tar roads anymore but gravel roads because potholes and leakages are not being fixed," he added.

Army Steps In as Illegal Mining Violence Escalates In NC

Year-long military deployment aims to curb illegal mining syndicates and restore stability in crime-hit communities

By Bernell Simons

The Northern Cape is no stranger to crime, but the growing threat of illegal mining and organised criminal activity has raised alarm among lawmakers, community leaders and residents.

In response, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) will embark on a year-long deployment to support the South African Police Service (SAPS) in stabilising crime hotspots across the province.

The move follows President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address in February, in which he announced that SANDF personnel would be deployed in the Dr Ruth Mompati District and the Goldfields region of North West, including towns such as Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stiffontein and Hartbeesfontein.

Ramaphosa said these areas have long been plagued by illegal mining operations, which have escalated into violent and often deadly clashes between rival syndicates and vulnerable workers.

For many residents, illegal mining has become more than just a crime issue — it is a social and economic crisis. With limited employment opportunities, young men and women are increasingly drawn into illicit mining operations, risking injury, exploitation and even death.

Political leaders warn that criminal networks are not only endangering lives but also siphoning off economic opportunities that could benefit entire communities.

Economic Freedom Fighters MP Leigh-Anne Mathys said the situation is deeply concerning.

"It's heart-breaking to see our youth drawn into illegal mining. We are not just talking about crime statistics — this is about young people's futures being stolen. Communities are living in fear, and families are watching their children enter dangerous work with little oversight."

Residents in the Goldfields region echo these concerns, describing a climate of lawlessness where criminal syndicates control informal mining areas and



South African National Defence Force (SANDF) will embark on a year-long deployment to support the SAPS. Picture: Facebook

enforce their own rules through intimidation and violence.

However, the deployment has drawn criticism from some Members of Parliament, who argue that the involvement of the SANDF highlights failures by police to effectively combat organised crime.

DA MP Dianne Barnard described the decision as "personally shameful", saying South Africa should not have to deploy the army within its own borders.

"Northern Cape communities have watched criminal syndicates grow unchecked while SAPS struggles to respond. Despite large budgets and personnel, the police are outmanned, outgunned and, in some cases, outsmarted by these syndicates," she said.

Kenneth Meshoe of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) said transparency and accountability would be crucial to ensure the success of the operation.

"We must understand where SAPS has fallen short. The army cannot repeat the same mistakes. The Northern Cape cannot serve as a testing ground for ineffective policing strategies."

National Police Commissioner Fannie Masemola emphasised that the SANDF will not replace police officers but will play a complementary role.

"They are here to assist us and strengthen our presence in high-risk areas. Arrests and any confiscated materials will be handed over to SAPS," he said.

According to SANDF project coordinator for the deployment, Major-General Mark Hankel, personnel be-

gan training on 1 March ahead of operations expected to run until the end of the month.

He said the deployment will be limited in scope, with the army focusing on stabilising areas affected by illegal mining and organised crime while police strengthen intelligence gathering and enforcement capacity.

Acting Police Minister Firoz Cachalia stressed that the deployment is a stabilisation measure rather than a permanent solution.

"This is not a magic bullet. It is intended to create space for the implementation of a comprehensive organised crime strategy that SAPS and local authorities can sustain in the long term," he said.

National crime statistics show some positive trends, with murder decreasing by 8.7% and sexual offences by 2.8% in the third quarter of 2025. However, attempted murders and commercial crimes have increased.

In the Northern Cape, the challenge remains acute, particularly as illegal mining-related crime continues to rise despite improvements in national figures.

"This is about creating a safer environment for communities and youth," said Mathys.

"If we can stabilise these areas and provide real alternatives to criminal activity, we can protect our young people and strengthen the province's economy."

Hankel said the SANDF deployment will be closely monitored by Parliament's defence committee, which is scheduled to meet later this week to assess readiness and strategy.

Morolong Pushes Stronger Government Communication



North West Premier Lazarus Mokgosi and Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Kenny Morolong. Picture: Baagedi Sethora

By Refilwe Mochoari

Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Kenny Morolong, has urged the North West Provincial Government to adopt the national government communication policy aimed at strengthening how the state communicates with citizens.

Morolong made the call on Wednesday during a meeting with members of the provincial executive council at the Mmabatho Palms Hotel in Mahikeng. The meeting also brought together representatives from the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), and Brand South Africa.

As the minister responsible for GCIS, Morolong stressed the importance of effective and coordinated communication between government and the public.

He noted that Cabinet has recently resolved to review the government communication policy, which serves as a strategic framework to ensure coherent, transparent and consistent messaging across all spheres of government.

The GCIS provides strategic communication leadership and support to government institutions and is responsible for submitting a National Communication Strategy to Cabinet.

"I am here to familiarise the provincial govern-

ment executives with the government communication policy," Morolong said.

He explained that GCIS works closely with the MDDA and Brand South Africa to fulfil its mandate. The MDDA focuses on promoting media development and diversity by creating an environment that enables public discourse reflecting the needs and aspirations of all South Africans.

Brand South Africa, meanwhile, serves as the country's official marketing agency, tasked with promoting South Africa's global reputation and ensuring the nation remains competitive and respected internationally.

Following a closed session with Morolong, North West Premier Lazarus Mokgosi said discussions also focused on positioning communication effectively across the three spheres of government, with a strong emphasis on keeping the public informed.

Mokgosi also highlighted the need for stronger government support for community media.

"Our responsibility as government is to inform people about what the government is doing. Departments must provide reports on their progress in supporting local media. As a province, it is our duty to support local media," Mokgosi said.

Morolong was accompanied during the visit by senior officials from GCIS, the MDDA and Brand South Africa.



FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

Vaccinated animals act as a shield to prevent the disease from spreading to other farms. Outbreaks of FMD can occur if carrier buffalo or infected animals or contaminated vehicles/ equipment and people from the quarantine area are moved into other parts of South Africa where animals are not being vaccinated against FMD. People in the areas surrounding an outbreak may suffer for a period while quarantine measures are in place because they cannot move or sell their animals or animal products.

During outbreaks, farmers may experience movement restrictions and may not be able to sell animals or animal products for extended periods.

Vaccination Helps Control FMD

- Vaccination reduces the amount of virus infected animals shed
- Vaccination reduces the severity of clinical disease
- Vaccination helps slow the spread of disease between farms
- Vaccinated animals help protect surrounding farms

Vaccination does NOT provide 100% protection, but it does help to contain the disease. For this reason, vaccination must always be combined with biosecurity and movement control.

Biosecurity is the Best Protection

- Control access to the farm
- Avoid unnecessary visitors
- Disinfect vehicles and equipment
- Do not share equipment with other farms
- Only buy animals from trusted sources
- Isolate newly purchased animals
- Report suspicious cases immediately

Vaccination reduces the impact of FMD, but biosecurity prevents infection.

Why FMD Matters

- Economic Impact
 - o Outbreaks disrupt livestock production, leading to major financial losses for farmers and agribusinesses.
 - o Export bans are often imposed by trading partners, cutting off access to lucrative international markets.
- Food Security
 - o Reduced meat and dairy production affect availability and affordability of food.
 - o Consumers face higher prices, as seen in South Africa's recent outbreaks where beef prices rose significantly.
- Compliance & Reputation
 - o Countries strive to maintain FMD-free status recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Losing this status damages credibility and limits trade opportunities.
- Operational Challenges
 - o Control measures (movement restrictions, vaccination campaigns) disrupt farming operations.
 - o Farmers and rural communities bear the brunt of these interventions.
- Biosecurity Risks
 - o FMD spreads rapidly among cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, buffalo).
 - o Outbreaks undermine disease control systems and highlight weaknesses in veterinary infrastructure.



LEFU LA TLHAKO LE MOLOMO (LTM)

Diphoofole tse entilweng di sebetsa e le sesireletsi ho thibela lefu lena ho namela mapolasing a mang. Ho qhoma ha lefu la LTM ho ka etsahala haeba dinare kapa diphoofole tse nang le tshwaetso kapa dipalangwang/ disebediswa tse silafetseng le batho ba tswang sebakeng sa pehlothoko, ba fallisetswa dibakeng tse ding tsa Afrika Borwa, moo diphoofole di sa entelweng LTM. Batho ba dibakeng tse potapotieng sebaka sa sewa sena ba ka ameha nakwana ha mehato ya ho behelwa thoko e ntse e le teng, hobane ba ke se kgone ho falla kapa ho rekisa diphoofole kapa dihlahiswa tsa bona tsa diphoofole.

Nakong ya ho qhoma ha mafu, borapolasi ba ka ba le dithibelo tsa motsamao mme ba ke se kgone ho rekisa diphoofole kapa dihlahiswa tsa diphoofole ka nako e telele.

Ente e Thusa ho Laola LTM

- Ente e fokotsa bongata ba diphoofole tse tshwaeditsweng ke kokwanahloko
- Ente e fokotsa ho tota ha lefu le iponahatsang ka matshwao
- Ente e thusa ho diehisa ho nama/ata ha mafu dipakeng tsa mapolasi
- Diphoofole tse entilweng di thusa ho sireletsa mapolasi a haufi

Ente HA E fane ka tshireletso e felletseng ya 100%, empa e thusa ho thibela lefu lena ho nama/ata. Ka lebaka lena, ente e tlameha ho dula e tsamaiswa mmoho le taolo ya thibelo ya dikokwanahloko le taolo ya motsamao.

Taolo ya thibelo ya dikokwanahloko ke Tshireletso e Molemo ka ho fetisisa

- E laola ho kena polasing
- E qoba baeti ba sa hlokeheng
- E bolaya dikokwanahloko dikololing le ho disebediswa
- O seke wa arolelana disebediswa le mapolasi a mang
- Reka diphoofole mehloding e tshaphalalang feela
- Kgetholla diphoofole tse sa tswa rekwa ho tse ding
- Tlaleha maemo a belatsang hanghang

Ente e fokotsa tshusumetso ya LTM, empa taolo ya thibelo ya dikokwanahloko e thibela tshwaetso.

Ke Hobaneng ha LTM e le Bohlokwa?

- **Tshusumetso ya Moruo**
 - o Ho qhoma ha mafu ho sitisa tlhahiso ya mehlape, e lebisang tahlehelong e kgolo ya ditjhelete ho borapolasi le dikgwebo tsa temo.
 - o Dithibelo tsa ho rekisa kantele ho naha hangata di behwa ke bahwebisani, ho fokotsa phihiello ya mebaraka ya matjhaba e fanang ka tjelele e ngata.
- **Tshireletso ya Dijo**
 - o Phokotseho ya tlhahiso ya nama le lebeso e ama phumaneho le bokgoni ba ho reka dijo.
 - o Bareki ba tobane le ditheko tse hodimo, jwalo ka ha ho bonahetse nakong ya ho qhoma ha mafu ha morao tjena Afrika Borwa moo ditheko tsa nama ya kgomo di ileng tsa nyoloha haholo.
- **Boikamahanyo le Setumo**
 - o Dinaha di leka ka matla ho boloka boemo ba bosiyi ba LTM, bo amohelang ke Mokgatlo wa Lefatshe wa Bophelo ba Diphoofole (WOAH). Ho lahlehelwa ke boemo bona ho senya botshepehi le ho fokotsa menyella ya kgwebo.
- **Diphepetso tsa Tshebetso**
 - o Mehato ya taolo (dithibelo tsa motsamao, matsholo a diente) e sitisa tshebetso ya temo.
 - o Borapolasi le baahi ba mahaeng ba anga haholo ke mehato ena ya tokiso.
- **Dikotsi tsa Taolo ya thibelo ya mafu**
 - o LTM e nama ka potlako hara diphoofole tse nang le dithako tse arohaneng (dikgomo, difariki, dinku, dipodi, dinare).
 - o Ho qhoma ha mafu ho nyenyefatsa tsamaiso ya taolo ya mafu le ho tobatsa bokodi ba meralo ya motheo ya tshebetso ya bongaka ba diphoofole.

Pain and Uncertainty as Ekapa Families Await Answers



Mineworkers in front of the Ekapa Mine in Kimberley. Picture: Charné Kemp

By Bernell Simons

Families of five men trapped underground at the Ekapa Minerals Mine say they are increasingly frustrated by a lack of direct communication from the company, which is currently under provisional liquidation.

The men were trapped after a devastating mud rush at the Kimberley mine, and efforts to recover their bodies have been slow and hazardous. Ekapa Minerals says it is providing updates through the subcontractor that employs the trapped workers, citing safety and the need to verify information.

"The company has acknowledged the trauma of the situation while defending its communication strategy, which coordinates updates through the contractor to ensure verified information is provided," the mine said in a statement.

But family representatives say the arrangement has left them feeling excluded and uncertain about the fate of their loved ones. One representative, speaking on condition of anonymity, accused the company of using the liquidation process to avoid accountability.

"There has been no support from Ekapa. All the updates and assistance we have received have come from the contractors and the teams working underground," the representative said. "Being placed under provisional liquidation feels like an easy way out for the mine. They don't want to take responsibility for these families, and now other workers may not receive their salaries. It's not fair."

Ekapa Minerals Mine was placed under provisional liquidation until March 17, pending further proceedings in the Northern Cape High Court. The decision came just over a week after the mud rush that trapped the five men and has left about 1,200 employees uncertain about their jobs and income.

The company says recovery efforts are continuing but must be guided by safety considerations. More than 32,000 cubic metres of water and debris have already been cleared from the site. Ekapa has also

denied reports of a second mud rush, though a former worker claims another incident occurred during rescue efforts.

Electrical engineer and former Ekapa employee Hannes Burger described the tense conditions underground after the initial disaster. Shortly after completing his shift at Joint Shaft, Burger was called back to assist with pumping water and clearing debris in an effort to reach the trapped workers.

"It was bad when we were working underground, and the next mud rush came, and we had to run," Burger said. "It takes a toll on you. Now you see your workplace very differently, especially when you work underground."

Despite the danger, Burger said many workers continued with the recovery effort out of loyalty to their colleagues.

"It motivated us to do whatever we could to reach people we know personally, with the hope that we could get them out," he said.

The announcement of the mine's provisional liquidation added further uncertainty for employees involved in the rescue operation. Burger said many workers are now searching for new jobs while waiting for the outcome of court proceedings.

"At the moment everything is uncertain. We don't know what will happen or whether we will be paid," he said.

Recovery teams have now entered a second phase of the operation, which involves moving large boulders and additional mud to safely access the underground area where the men are believed to be trapped.

Ekapa says it cannot provide a timeline for the recovery of the bodies because the process is safety-driven.

The Northern Cape High Court is expected to hear further proceedings on March 17 to determine whether the provisional liquidation will continue.

Until then, both workers and families remain in limbo, hoping for answers and closure after the tragedy.

Potchefstroom College Produces 68 New Agriculture Graduates



Milestone Moment as 68 Students Graduate from Potchefstroom College of Agriculture. Picture: Supplied

By Lerato Mutlanyane

Years ago they walked into lecture halls as hopeful students eager to learn about plant science.

Today, they leave as the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Last Friday, the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture celebrated the graduation of 68 students during a vibrant ceremony, formally welcoming them into its growing network of alumni.

The milestone was hailed as an important investment in the future of food security and rural development in the North West Province.

According to North West MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Madoda Sambatha, the achievement represents the culmination of years of hard work and dedication by the graduates.

"These graduates leave here equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to confront

the challenges of modern farming and contribute meaningfully to their communities," Sambatha said.

During the ceremony, graduates were commended for their resilience and determination, with their achievements symbolising both personal success and collective progress for the agricultural sector.

Loatile Makhetha stood out as the overall top performer from the Class of 2025. Reflecting on his academic journey, Makhetha credited discipline and collaborative study as key factors behind his success.

He said these habits helped him better understand complex concepts while encouraging teamwork and intellectual exchange among students.

Makhetha also acknowledged the role played by the college's lecturers in preparing them for the professional world.

"I want to thank the academic staff of the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture. They have prepared us for the world out there," he said.

In his address, Sambatha also thanked the academic staff, management, and members of the farming community who offered students valuable practical training.

"I want to express my gratitude for the hard work of the academic staff and management in ensuring that graduates leave here well-trained with the skills to better themselves and their communities," he said.

"I also appreciate all the farmers who generously opened their farms for practical training. Practical exposure is the backbone of agricultural education. When theory meets practice, we produce competent, confident, and industry-ready graduates.

"Government cannot do it alone. Partnerships with farmers, unions, industry bodies and communities are essential to building a North West Province that works for all."

Applications for the college's 2027 intake will open on April 1 and close at the end of October.

Tributes Pour In for Anti-Apartheid Stalwart Mosiuoa 'Terror' Lekota

Tributes highlight his courage, leadership and lasting impact on South Africa's constitutional order

By Bernell Simons



The late Anti-Apartheid stalwart, Mosiuoa Lekota. Picture: UDM

Messages of condolence are pouring in from across South Africa's political spectrum following the death of veteran anti-apartheid campaigner and Congress of the People (COPE) founder Mosiuoa "Terror" Lekota. Lekota died at a Johannesburg hospital on Wednesday after a long illness. He was 77.

Lekota, a co-founder and President of COPE, was widely respected for his decades-long contribution to the struggle against apartheid and his role in South Africa's democratic Parliament.

Democratic Alliance (DA) leader John Steenhuisen described Lekota as a principled leader who dedicated his life to serving the country.

"He contributed immensely in our democratic Parliament and remained a steadfast advocate for constitutionalism, accountability and the rule of law. This cost him more than many realise," Steenhuisen said.

"He could have been a lifelong cadre and beneficiary of patronage. All he had to do was keep quiet. But he chose a different, more difficult path. He showed courage and inspired many, including myself and many of my DA colleagues."

The African National Congress (ANC), where Lekota played a significant role during the struggle before later leaving the party, described him as a leader who helped shape the country's history.

ANC spokesperson Mahlengi Bhengu said Lekota's passing coincides with significant milestones in South Africa's democratic calendar.

"As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Constitution and Human Rights Month, we state unequivocally that Lekota has an indelible footprint in these milestones," Bhengu said.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) also paid tribute to the veteran politician, acknowledging the role he played in both the liberation struggle and in shaping democratic opposition politics.

"His political life reflected both the unity forged in the struggle against apartheid and the divisions that later emerged over the direction of the country," said EFF spokesperson Sinawo Thambo.

Who is Lekota
Mosiuoa Patrick "Terror" Lekota was born in Kroonstad and became politically active at a young age. His activism earned him the nickname "Terror".

He was imprisoned on Robben Island for eight years for his role in the struggle against apartheid and later emerged as a prominent political leader.

Lekota was associated with the Black Consciousness

movement and served as a leader of the South African Students' Organisation (SASO).

He later became a senior figure in the United Democratic Front (UDF) and was among the accused in the historic Delmas Treason Trial following the Vaal uprising in 1984.

After the advent of democracy in 1994, Lekota served as the first Premier of the Free State from 1994 to 1996.

He later chaired the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) and served as Minister of Defence between 1999 and 2008 under former president Thabo Mbeki.

In 2008, he left the ANC and co-founded the Congress of the People (COPE), where he served as party president. Lekota will be laid to rest in Bloemfontein. His family is yet to announce the details of his funeral.

Metsimaholo Scoops Top Honour at SALGA Communicators Awards



Metsimaholo communications team crowned most proactive and responsive in South Africa. Picture: Supplied

By JN Reporter

Metsimaholo Local Municipality has emerged as a national leader in public communication after its Communications Team was named Most Proactive and Responsive Team (Local Municipality) at the prestigious SALGA National Communicators Awards.

The award was presented during the 9th National Communicators Forum, hosted at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 25 to 27 February 2026. The event brought together metropolitan, district and local municipalities from across the country to celebrate excellence in government communication.

This marks the first time that Metsimaholo Local Municipality entered the national awards, and the result was nothing short of historic.

Dr Gino Alberts, Communication Manager, described the recognition as deeply meaningful. "For us, this award is more than a trophy; it is an affirmation of our commitment to transparency, accountability and ethical public communication," said Dr Alberts.

"This was the very first time that Metsimaholo Local Municipality entered the SALGA National Communicators Awards, and to emerge as winners is both humbling and inspiring. It confirms that consistent, professional and responsive communication at local government level truly matters.

We do not take this recognition lightly. It reflects the long hours, strategic planning and unwavering dedication of a team that understands that communication is not an afterthought, it is a constitutional responsibility.

Dr Alberts emphasised that residents are at the centre of the municipality's communication strategy.

"As a municipality, we firmly believe that residents have the right to know what is happening in their municipality. They are not bystanders; they are stakeholders. They contribute through rates and service payments, and they deserve timely, accurate and accessible information about service delivery,

governance matters and development initiatives.

Transparent communication strengthens trust, builds public confidence and enhances participatory democracy."

Being recognized as the most proactive and responsive team affirms the municipality's approach to sharing information timeously, responding to media enquiries with professionalism, and engaging communities openly, even during challenging circumstances.

"Credibility is built not only when things go well, but especially when institutions communicate honestly during difficulties," Alberts added.

Executive Mayor, Cllr Jack Malindi, congratulated the Communications Team, commending their professionalism and dedication. He noted that the award reflects the municipality's broader commitment to accountable governance and community-centred service delivery.

Municipal Manager, Mr Basi Motloung, echoed the mayor's sentiments, expressing pride in the team's hard work and unwavering dedication to ensuring residents remain informed about municipal programmes, governance matters and service delivery developments.

The municipality emphasized that the award belongs not only to the Communications Unit, but to the entire institution.

Effective communication, the leadership noted, requires cooperation across departments, leadership that values transparency, and an organizational culture rooted in public accountability.

"This recognition strengthens our resolve," concluded Dr Alberts.

"It challenges us to raise the bar even higher. We remain committed to improving our communication platforms, expanding community engagement, and ensuring that no residents feel excluded from the flow of municipal information.

For us, this achievement is not a destination, it is motivation. We will continue to work diligently, professionally and ethically to serve the people of Metsimaholo with integrity."

Sol Plaatje Launches R14.5m Pipeline to End Sewer Spillages

By Lerato Mutlanyane

In a major step toward improving sanitation infrastructure, Sol Plaatje Municipality Executive Mayor Martha Bartlett has launched a R14.5 million sewer pipeline project aimed at eliminating persistent sewer spillages and supporting future housing developments in parts of Kimberley.

The project, which will benefit residents of Old Greenpoint, Beaconsfield, and Diamond Park, was officially launched at the Beaconsfield Wastewater Treatment Plant on Wednesday.

Funded through a municipal grant, the pipeline stretches over two kilometres from the treatment plant to Cape Town Road.

The new infrastructure replaces an ageing and collapsed cement asbestos sewer pipeline that had contributed to repeated sewer spillages in the affected communities.

Bartlett said the municipality had installed a 700-millimetre diameter PVC pipeline, designed to im-



prove durability and ensure reliable sanitation services for residents.

"The municipality is committed to providing reliable sanitation services that uphold human dignity," Bartlett said.

She also urged residents to help safeguard the project to ensure it is completed on time and within budget.

"Any delays could have dire consequences. We could face lost human capital and wasted funds as we

approach the end of the financial year," she said.

"Please allow the project to be completed within the specified timeframe and approved budget. The government deserves value for money from the contractor, and you deserve a life free from sewerage spillages."

According to the municipality, the new pipeline project responds directly to long-standing concerns raised by residents and is expected to significantly improve sanitation services in the affected areas.

Motsumi Slams Alleged School Arson as 'Unacceptable'

By Bernell Simons

North West MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, has condemned the alleged arson attack at Kgamanyane Secondary School as a devastating blow to the school community, warning that the destruction of education infrastructure will not be tolerated.

An administration block at Kgamanyane Secondary School in Moruleng village, North West, caught fire in the early hours of Sunday, leaving offices, equipment and critical school records destroyed.

According to the Department of Education, a substantial portion of the building was damaged, including the staff room, food storage area, staff kitchen, male and female ablution facilities, administration offices, sick bay and strongroom.

Describing the incident as a serious setback, Motsumi said such acts undermine the province's efforts to provide a safe and stable learning environment.

"This is a serious setback to the school community, and these acts undermine education infrastructure in



the province and cannot be tolerated," she said.

She assured parents and learners that the department would move swiftly to limit disruption.

"We will provide the necessary support to ensure that teaching and learning continues without interruption," she added.

It is alleged that a School Governing Body (SGB) member living nearby spotted the fire in the early hours of the morning and alerted the school principal, who immediately contacted emergency services and police.

By the time firefighters arrived, the administration

block had already sustained extensive damage. The department warned that the loss of equipment and records is expected to have far-reaching consequences beyond the structural destruction.

Photocopiers, refrigerators, desks, cupboards, learner books and vital administrative files were de-

stroyed in the blaze.

Education officials said the loss of school records could complicate reporting processes, learner documentation and financial administration in the short term.

While investigations are under way to determine the cause of the fire, the incident has once again highlighted ongoing challenges related to school safety, security and infrastructure protection — particularly in rural areas.

Many schools lack 24-hour security, surveillance systems and perimeter monitoring, making them vulnerable to vandalism, theft and arson.

Despite the scale of the damage, contingency plans are being implemented to ensure classes continue while temporary administrative arrangements are put in place. Authorities are expected to assess the cost of rebuilding and determine whether emergency funds will be allocated to fast-track repairs.

Law enforcement agencies have been urged to conduct a thorough investigation, and community members with information are being called upon to assist.

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Public Notice

INTENTION TO INTERRUPT/REDUCE THE BULK ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) hereby gives notice to all parties that are likely to be materially and adversely affected by its intention to interrupt bulk supply to Masilonyana Local Municipality (the Municipality) with effect from 08 May 2026. The Municipality has failed, neglected, or refused to settle its electricity account with Eskom on the due date, despite several interventions, including dispute resolution under the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (IRFA). The Municipality is currently indebted to Eskom in the amount of R305 307 342.31 (Three hundred five million, three hundred seven thousand, three hundred forty two rand and thirty one cents) ("the electricity debt").

In March 2023, the National Treasury introduced the Debt Relief Programme through Circular 124, in accordance with section 34(1) of the MFMA and the IRFA. The Circular provides that Eskom is to write off the municipal debt over three years, subject to, among other conditions, the municipality paying its current account henceforth.

On 01 December 2023, the Municipality was admitted to the Debt Relief Programme. The Municipality has failed to meet the conditions of the Debt Relief Programme, among others is a persistent failure to pay invoices in full for the bulk supply within 30 days. Compliance with this requirement would have prevented further growth in the debt and a subsequent write-off of what the Municipality owes Eskom. On the contrary, the overdue debt has increased by a staggering R169 839 656.52 since the Municipality was admitted to the Debt Relief Programme.

On 22 February 2026, the National Treasury issued the Municipality with a letter notifying that its participation in the Debt Relief Programme will be terminated by 01 April 2026, unless the council of the Municipality resolves to conclude the Distribution Agency Agreement (the DAA) with Eskom by 27 March 2026. The DAA is one of the IRFA-oriented interventions which allows Eskom to assist municipalities with services such as technical skills development, maintenance and operations of the municipality network, energy loss management, pricing and tariff structuring, billing function, and revenue management and collection. With this letter being issued by the National Treasury, the dispute resolution process in terms of IRFA is deemed concluded, and Eskom has the right to exercise its statutory powers to interrupt/reduce bulk electricity to the Municipality.

Under the circumstances, it is appropriate for Eskom to explore further remedies to stop the debt from spiralling out of control. The only option available to Eskom is reduction, disconnection and/or termination of the supply as empowered by the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006, unless:

- The Municipality informs National Treasury on or before 27 March 2026 of the council resolution to enter a DAA with Eskom, or
- Eskom converts the Municipality's electricity supply to prepayment, where Eskom supplies only the electricity that the Municipality can afford, or
- There is an agreement between the Municipality and Eskom for the customers of the Municipality to make direct payments to Eskom for the electricity they consume on the Eskom tariff.

Eskom hereby invites all affected parties to submit written representations, comments and/or submissions indicating why Eskom should or should not proceed to reduce, and/or terminate the bulk electricity supply points in the table below.

The following points of supply might be affected:

#	Points of supply/Area
1	Brandfort
2	Theunissen
3	Verkeerdevlei
4	Winburg

Public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information should be submitted to:

Senior Advisor, Key Sales and Customer Services

Physical address: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

E-mail address: FSMasilonyana@eskom.co.za

The closing date for public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information is 13 April 2026.

Please note that comments received after the closing date will not be considered.

Eskom will consider such public representations, submissions, and comments and communicate the final decision on or before **24 April 2026.**

Reference Number: **MLM 03/2026**

Issued in terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000.

Tsebisiso

MAIKEMISETSA A HO SITISA/FOKOTSA PHEPELO E KGOLO YA MOTLAKASE HO MASEPALA WA LEHAE WA MASILONYANA

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) e fana ka tsebisiso ho bohle ba ka amehang hampe morerong wa yona wa ho sitisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase ho Masepala wa Lehae wa Masilonyana (Masepala) ho tloha ka la 8 Motsheanong 2026. Masepala o hlolehile/sitilwe kapa o hanne ho lefa akhaonte ya yona ya motlakase ho Eskom ka letsatsi la tefo leha ho bile le teko tse mmalwa tse entsweng, tse kenyeletsang tharollo ya kgang ka Molao wa Moralo wa Maqhama a Makala a Mmuso 2005 (IRFA). Hajwale Masepala o kolota Eskom tjehelete e kalo ka R305 307 342.31 (diranta tse dimilione tse makgolo a mararo le metso e mehlano, dikete tse makgolo a mararo le metso e supileng, makgolo a mararo mashome a mane le metso e mmedi le disente tse mashome a mararo le motso o le mong) (“sekoloto sa motlakase”).

Ka Hlakubele 2023, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha le tsebisitse Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto ka Lesedinyana la 124, e tsamaellanang le karolo ya 34(1) ya MFMA le IRFA. Lesedinyana lena le hlalosa hore Eskom e lokela ho hlakola sekoloto sa Masepala nakong ya dilemo tse tharo, hafeela, hara diphelelo tse ding, Masepala a lefa akhaonte ya hae ya hajwale ho tloha ka nako eo.

Ka la 1 Tshitswe 2023, Masepala o ile wa amohelwa Lenaneong la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto. Masepala o hlolehile ho kgotsofatsa diphelelo tsa Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto, mme hara tse ding, o dula o hloleha ho lefa di-invoese ka botlalo bakeng sa phepele e kgolo nakong ya matsatsi a 30. Ha pehelo ena e ne e latetswe, sekoloto se kabe se sa hola mme sekoloto seo Masepala a se kolotang Eskom, se kabe se hlakotswe. Empa, sekoloto se so lefuwe se se se phahame ka tjehelete e kalo ka R169 839 656.52 ho tloha ka mohla oo Masepala o neng o amohelwa ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto.

Ka la 22 Hlakola 2026, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha e file Masepala lengolo le o tsebisang hore bonkakarolo ba ona ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto bo tlo fediswa ka la 1 Mmesa 2026, ntle le ha khansele ya Masepala e ka dumela ho phethela Tumellano ya Ejensi ya Kabo (Distribution Agency Agreement (DAA)) le Eskom pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026. DAA ke e nngwe ya disebediswa tsa IRFA tse dumellang Eskom ho thusa boMasepala ka ditshebeletso tse jwalo ka ntshetsopele ya ditsebo tsa setekgeniki, tlhokomelo le ditshebetso tsa neteweke ya Masepala, taolo ya tahlehelo ya motlakase, sebopeho sa ditefiso le ditharifi, tshebetso ya tefiso, le taolo ya ditjehelete le pokello ya tsona. Ha lengolo lena le se le fanwe le Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha, tshebetso ya tharollo ya kgang ho latela IRFA e nkuwa e phethetswe, mme Eskom e na le tokelo ya ho sebedisa matla a semolao ho sitisa/fokotsa motlakase o rekiswang ka bongata o yang ho Masepala.

Tlase maemo ana, ho loketse hore Eskom e batle ditsela tse ding tsa ho thibela sekoloto sena hore se tswe taolong. Kgetho e teng feela ho Eskom ke phokotso, kgaolo le/kapa phediso ya phepele jwalo ka ha e filwe matla ke Molao wa Bodisa ba Motlakase 2006, ntle le ha:

- Masepala a ka jwetsa Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha ka la, kapa pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026 hore khansele e dumetse ho phethela DAA le Eskom, kapa
- Eskom e fetolela phepele ya motlakase wa Masepala ho o lefuwang pele ho tshebediso kapa pre-paid, moo Eskom e fanang feela ka motlakase o lekanang le oo Masepala a kgonang ho o lefella, kapa
- Ho ba le tumellano pakeng tsa Masepala le Eskom hore ba rekang ho Masepala ba lefe Eskom ka kotloloho bakeng sa motlakase oo ba o sebedisang ka tefiso ya Eskom.

Eskom e mema bohle ba amehang ho fana ka maikutlo a bona, ditshwaelo le/kapa dinehelo tse supang hore na ke hobaneng Eskom e loketse kapa e sa lokela ho tswelapele ho fokotsa le /kapa ho fedisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase dibakeng tse boletsweng ka tlase.

Dibaka tse latelang tsa phepele di ka nna tsa ameha:

#	Dibaka tsa phepele/Sebaka
1	Brandfort
2	Theunissen
3	Verkeerdevlei
4	Winburg

Dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhabiso, maikutlo le/kapa dikopo tsa tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng di lokela ho romelwa ho:

Senior Advisor: Key Sales and Customer Services

Aterese ya sebaka: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

Aterese ya imeile: FSMasilonyana@eskom.co.za

Letsatsi la ho qetela la dinehenalo tsa setjhaba, ditshwaelo, maikutlo le/kapa dikopo tsa tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng ke la 13 Mmesa 2026.

Lemoha ka kopo hore ditshwaelo tse amohelwang kamora letsatsi la ho kwala di ke ke tsa shejwa.

Eskom e tla lekola dinehenalo tsa setjhaba, ditshwaelo le maikutlo mme e tla tsebahatsa qeto ya yona ya ho qetela ka kapa pele ho la **24 Mmesa 2026.**

Nomoro ya Referense: **MLM 03/2026**

E ntshitwe ho latela Molao wa Phahamiso ya Toka ya Tsamaiso wa 3 wa 2000.

Public Notice

INTENTION TO INTERRUPT/REDUCE THE BULK ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) hereby gives notice to all parties that are likely to be materially and adversely affected by its intention to interrupt bulk supply to Nala Local Municipality (the Municipality) with effect from 08 May 2026. The Municipality has failed/neglected, or refused to settle its electricity account with Eskom on the due date, despite several interventions, including dispute resolution under the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (IRFA). The Municipality is currently indebted to Eskom in the amount of R1 206 013 883.02 (one billion, two hundred and six million, thirteen thousand, eight hundred and eighty three rand and two cents) (“the electricity debt”).

In March 2023, the National Treasury introduced the Debt Relief Programme through Circular 124, in accordance with section 34(1) of the MFMA and the IRFA. The Circular provides that Eskom is to write off the municipal debt over three years, subject to, among other conditions, the municipality paying its current account henceforth.

On 01 December 2023, the Municipality was admitted to the Debt Relief Programme. The Municipality has failed to meet the conditions of the Debt Relief Programme, and among others, is persistently failing to pay invoices in full for the bulk supply within 30 days. Compliance with this requirement would have resulted in no further growth of the debt and a subsequent write-off of what the Municipality owes Eskom. On the contrary, the overdue debt has increased by a staggering R553 873 478.15 from the date the Municipality was admitted into the Debt Relief Programme.

On 22 February 2026, the National Treasury issued the Municipality with a letter notifying that its participation in the Debt Relief Programme will be terminated by 01 April 2026, unless the council of the Municipality resolves to conclude the Distribution Agency Agreement (the DAA) with Eskom by 27 March 2026. The DAA is one of the IRFA-oriented interventions which allows Eskom to assist municipalities with services such as technical skills development, maintenance and operations of the municipality network, energy loss management, pricing and tariff structuring, billing function, and revenue management and collection. With this letter being issued by the National Treasury, the dispute resolution process in terms of IRFA is deemed concluded, and Eskom has the right to exercise its statutory powers to interrupt/reduce bulk electricity to the Municipality.

Under the circumstances, it is appropriate for Eskom to explore further remedies to stop the debt from spiralling out of control. The only option available to Eskom is reduction, disconnection and/or termination of the supply as empowered by the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006, unless:

- The Municipality informs the National Treasury on or before 27 March 2026 of the council resolution to enter a DAA with Eskom, or
- Eskom converts the Municipality’s electricity supply to prepayment, where Eskom supplies the only electricity equivalent to what the Municipality can afford, or
- There is an agreement between the Municipality and Eskom for the customers of the Municipality to make direct payments to Eskom for the electricity they consume on the Eskom tariff.

Eskom hereby invites all affected parties to submit written representations, comments and/or submissions indicating why Eskom should or should not proceed to reduce, and/or terminate the bulk electricity supply points in the table below.

The following points of supply might be affected:

#	Points of supply/Area
1	Bothaville
2	Wesselsbron

Public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information should be submitted to:

Senior Advisor: Key Sales and Customer Services

Physical address: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

Email address: FSNala@eskom.co.za

The closing date for public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information is 13 April 2026.

Please note that comments received after the closing date will not be considered.

Eskom will consider such public representations, submissions, and comments and communicate the final decision on or before **24 April 2026.**

Reference Number: **NLM 03/2026**

Issued in terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000.

Tsebisiso

MAIKEMISETSA A HO SITISA/FOKOTSA PHEPELO E KGOLO YA MOTLAKASE HO MASEPALA WA LEHAE WA NALA

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) e fana ka tsebisiso ho bohle ba ka amehang hampe morerong wa yona wa ho sitisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase ho Masepala wa Lehae wa Nala (Masepala) ho tloha ka la 8 Motsheanong 2026. Masepala o hlolehile/sitilwe kapa o hanne ho lefa akhaonte ya yona ya motlakase ho Eskom ka letsatsi la tefo leha ho bile le teko tse mmalwa tse entsweng, tse kenyeletsang tharollo ya kgang ka Molao wa Moralo wa Maqhama a Makala a Mmuso 2005 (IRFA). Hajwale Masepala o kolota Eskom tjehele e kalo ka R1 206 013 883.02 (diranta tse billione e le nngwe, dimilione tse makgolo a mabedi le tshelela, dikete tse leshome le metso e meraro, makgolo a robedi mashome a robedi a metso e meraro le disente tse pedi) (“sekoloto sa motlakase”).

Ka Hlakubele 2023, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha le tsebisitse Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto ka Lesedinyana la 124, e tsamaellanang le karolo ya 34(1) ya MFMA le IRFA. Lesedinyana lena le hlalosa hore Eskom e lokela ho hlakola sekoloto sa Masepala nakong ya dilemo tse tharo, hafeela, hara diphelelo tse ding, Masepala a lefa akhaonte ya hae ya hajwale ho tloha ka nako eo.

Ka la 1 Tshitswe 2023, Masepala o ile wa amohelwa Lenaneong la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto. Masepala o hlolehile ho kgotsofatsa diphelelo tsa Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto, mme hara tse ding, o dula o hloleha ho lefa di-invoese ka botlalo bakeng sa phepele e kgolo nakong ya matsatsi a 30. Ha pehelo ena e ne e latetswe, sekoloto se kabe se sa hola mme sekoloto seo Masepala a se kolotang Eskom, se kabe se hlakotswe. Empa, sekoloto se so lefuwe se se se phahame ka tjehele e kalo ka R553 873 478.15 ho tloha ka mohla oo Masepala o neng o amohelwa ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto.

Ka la 22 Hlakola 2026, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha e file Masepala lengolo le o tsebisang hore bonkakarolo ba ona ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto bo tlo fediswa ka la 1 Mmesa 2026, ntle le ha khansela ya Masepala e ka dumela ho phethela Tumellano ya Ejensi ya Kabo (Distribution Agency Agreement (DAA)) le Eskom pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026. DAA ke e nngwe ya disebediswa tsa IRFA tse dumellang Eskom ho thusa boMasepala ka ditshebetso tse jwalo ka ntshetsopele ya ditsebo tsa setekgeniki, tlhokomelo le ditshebetso tsa neteweke ya Masepala, taolo ya tahlehelo ya motlakase, sebopeho sa ditefiso le ditharifi, tshebetso ya tefiso, le taolo ya ditjehele le pokello ya tsona. Ha lengolo lena le se le fanwe le Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha, tshebetso ya tharollo ya kgang ho latela IRFA e nkwa e phethetswe, mme Eskom e na le tokelo ya ho sebedisa matla a semolao ho sitisa/fokotsa motlakase o rekiswang ka bongata o yang ho Masepala.

Tlase maemo ana, ho loketse hore Eskom e batle ditsela tse ding tsa ho thibela sekoloto sena hore se tswe taolong. Kgetho e teng feela ho Eskom ke phokotso, kgaolo le/kapa phediso ya phepele jwalo ka ha e filwe matla ke Molao wa Bodisa ba Motlakase 2006, ntle le ha:

- Masepala a ka jwetsa Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha ka la kapa pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026 hore khansela e dumetse ho phethela DAA le Eskom, kapa
- Eskom e fetolela phepele ya motlakase wa Masepala ho o lefuwang pele ho tshebediso kapa pre-paid, moo Eskom e fanang feela ka motlakase o lekanang le oo Masepala a kgonang ho o lefella, kapa
- Ho ba le tumellano pakeng tsa Masepala le Eskom hore ba rekang ho Masepala ba lefe Eskom ka kotloloho bakeng sa motlakase oo ba o sebedisang ka tefiso ya Eskom.

Eskom e mema bohle ba amehang ho fana ka maikutlo a bona, ditshwaelo le/kapa dinehelo tse supang hore na ke hobaneng Eskom e loketse kapa e sa lokela ho tswelapele ho fokotsa le/kapa ho fedisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase dibakeng tse theiboleng e ka tlase.

Dibaka tse latelang tsa phepele di ka nna tsa ameha:

#	Dibaka tsa phepele/Sebaka
1	Bothaville
2	Wesselsbron

Dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhaliso, maikutlo le/kapa dikopo tsa tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng di lokela ho romelwa ho:

Senior Advisor: Key Sales and Customer Services

Aterese ya sebaka: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

Aterese ya imeile: FSNala@eskom.co.za

Letsatsi la ho qetela la dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhaliso, maikutlo le/kapa likopo tsa tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng ke la 13 Mmesa 2026.

Lemoha ka kopo hore ditshwaelo tse amohelwang kamora letsatsi la ho kwala di ke ke tsa shejwa.

Eskom e tla lekola dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhaliso le maikutlo mme e tla tsebahatsa qeto ya yona ya ho qetela ka kapa pele ho la **24 Mmesa 2026.**

Nomoro ya Referense: **NLM 03/2026**

E ntshitswe ho latela Molao wa Phahamiso ya Toka ya Tsamaiso wa 3 wa 2000.

Public Notice

INTENTION TO INTERRUPT/REDUCE THE BULK ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO NGWATHE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) hereby gives notice to all parties that are likely to be materially and adversely affected by its intention to interrupt bulk supply to Ngwathe Local Municipality (the Municipality) with effect from 08 May 2026. The Municipality has failed/neglected, or refused to settle its electricity account with Eskom on the due date, despite several interventions, including dispute resolution under the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (IRFA). The Municipality is currently indebted to Eskom in the amount of R2 927 900 635 (Two billion, nine hundred twenty seven million, nine hundred thousand, six hundred thirty five rand and sixty cents) (“the electricity debt”).

In March 2023, the National Treasury introduced the Debt Relief Programme through Circular 124, in accordance with section 34(1) of the MFMA and the IRFA. The Circular provides that Eskom is to write off the municipal debt over three years, subject to, among other conditions, the municipality paying its current account henceforth.

On 01 December 2023, the Municipality was admitted to the Debt Relief Programme. The Municipality has failed to meet the conditions of the Debt Relief Programme, and among others, is persistently failing to pay invoices in full for the bulk supply within 30 days. Compliance with this requirement would have resulted in no further growth of the debt and a subsequent write-off of what the Municipality owes Eskom. On the contrary, the overdue debt has increased by a staggering R1 215 686 657.41 from the date the Municipality was admitted into the Debt Relief Programme.

On 22 February 2026, the National Treasury issued the Municipality with a letter notifying that its participation in the Debt Relief Programme will be terminated by 01 April 2026, unless the council of the Municipality resolves to conclude the Distribution Agency Agreement (the DAA) with Eskom by 27 March 2026. The DAA is one of the IRFA-oriented interventions which allows Eskom to assist municipalities with services such as technical skills development, maintenance and operations of the municipality network, energy loss management, pricing and tariff structuring, billing function, and revenue management and collection. With this letter being issued by the National Treasury, the dispute resolution process in terms of IRFA is deemed concluded, and Eskom has the right to exercise its statutory powers to interrupt/reduce bulk electricity to the Municipality.

Under the circumstances, it is appropriate for Eskom to explore further remedies to stop the debt from spiralling out of control. The only option available to Eskom is reduction, disconnection and/or termination of the supply as empowered by the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006, unless:

- The Municipality informs the National Treasury on or before 27 March 2026 of the council resolution to enter a DAA with Eskom, or
- Eskom converts the Municipality’s electricity supply to prepayment, where Eskom supplies the only electricity equivalent to what the Municipality can afford, or
- There is an agreement between the Municipality and Eskom for the customers of the Municipality to make direct payments to Eskom for the electricity they consume on the Eskom tariff.

Eskom hereby invites all affected parties to submit written representations, comments and/or submissions indicating why Eskom should or should not proceed to reduce, and/or terminate the bulk electricity supply points in the table below.

The following points of supply might be affected:

#	Points of supply/Area
1	Parys
2	Heilbron
3	Phiritona
4	Edenville
5	Vredefort
6	Koppies

Public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information should be submitted to:

Senior Advisor: Key Sales and Customer Services

Physical address: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

Email address: FSNngwathe@eskom.co.za

The closing date for public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information is 13 April 2026.

Please note that comments received after the closing date will not be considered.

Eskom will consider such public representations, submissions, and comments and communicate the final decision on or before **24 April 2026**.

Reference Number: **NGLM 03/2026**

Issued in terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000.



Tsebisiso

MAIKEMISETSA A HO SITISA/FOKOTSA PHEPELO E KGOLO YA MOTLAKASE HO MASEPALA WA LEHAE WA NGWATHE

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) e fana ka tsebisiso ho bohle ba ka amehang hampe morerong wa yona wa ho sitisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase ho Masepala wa Lehae wa Ngwathe (Masepala) ho tloha ka la 8 Motsheanong 2026. Masepala o hlolehile/sitilwe kapa o hanne ho lefa akhaonte ya yona ya motlakase ho Eskom ka letsatsi la tefo leha ho bile le teko tse mmalwa tse entsweng, tse kenyeletsang tharollo ya kgang ka Molao wa Moralo wa Maqhama a Makala a Mmuso 2005 (IRFA). Hajwale Masepala o kolota Eskom tjehele e kalo ka R2 927 900 635 (diranta tse dibilione tse pedi, dimilione tse makgolo a robong mashome a mabedi le metso e supileng, makgolo a tshelela mashome a mararo le metso e mehlano le disente tse mashome a tsheletseng) (“sekoloto sa motlakase”).

Ka Hlakubele 2023, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha le tsebisitse Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto ka Lesedinyana la 124, e tsamaellanang le karolo ya 34(I) ya MFMA le IRFA. Lesedinyana lena le hlalosa hore Eskom e lokela ho hlakola sekoloto sa Masepala nakong ya dilemo tse tharo, hafeela, hara diphelelo tse ding, Masepala a lefa akhaonte ya hae ya hajwale ho tloha ka nako eo.

Ka la 1 Tshitswe 2023, Masepala o ile wa amohelwa Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto. Masepala o hlolehile ho kgotsofatsa diphelelo tsa Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto, mme hara tse ding, o dula o hloleha ho lefa di-invoese ka botlalo bakeng sa phepele e kgolo nakong ya matsatsi a 30. Ha pehelo ena e ne e latetswe, sekoloto se kabe se sa hola mme sekoloto seo Masepala a se kolotang Eskom, se kabe se hlakotswe. Empa, sekoloto se so lefuwe se se se phahame ka tjehele e kalo ka R1 215 686 657.41 ho tloha ka mohla oo Masepala o neng o amohelwa ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto.

Ka la 22 Hlakola 2026, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha e file Masepala lengolo le o tsebisang hore bonkakarolo ba ona ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto bo tlo fediswa ka la 1 Mmesa 2026, ntle le ha khansela ya Masepala e ka dumela ho phethela Tumellano ya Ejensi ya Kabo (Distribution Agency Agreement (DAA)) le Eskom pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026. DAA ke e nngwe ya disebediswa tsa IRFA tse dumellang Eskom ho thusa boMasepala ka ditshebetso tse jwalo ka ntshetsopele ya ditsebo tsa setekgeniki, tlhokomelo le ditshebetso tsa neteweke ya Masepala, taolo ya tahlehelo ya motlakase, sebopeho sa ditefiso le ditharifi, tshebetso ya tefiso, le taolo ya ditjehele le pokello ya tsona. Ha lengolo lena le se le fanwe le Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha, tshebetso ya tharollo ya kgang ho latela IRFA e nkwa e phethetswe, mme Eskom e na le tokelo ya ho sebedisa matla a semolao ho sitisa/fokotsa motlakase o rekiswang ka bongata o yang ho Masepala.

Tlase maemo ana, ho loketse hore Eskom e batle ditsela tse ding tsa ho thibela sekoloto sena hore se tswe taolong. Kgetho e teng feela ho Eskom ke phokotso, kgaolo le/kapa phediso ya phepele jwalo ka ha e filwe matla ke Molao wa Bodisa ba Motlakase 2006, ntle le ha:

- Masepala a ka jwetsa Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha ka la kapa pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026 hore khansela e dumetse ho phethela DAA le Eskom, kapa
- Eskom e fetolela phepele ya motlakase wa Masepala ho o lefuwang pele ho tshebediso kapa pre-paid, moo Eskom e fanang feela ka motlakase o lekanang le oo Masepala a kgonang ho o lefella, kapa
- Ho ba le tumellano pakeng tsa Masepala le Eskom hore ba rekang ho Masepala ba lefe Eskom ka kotloloho bakeng sa motlakase oo ba o sebedisang ka tefiso ya Eskom.

Eskom e mema bohle ba amehang ho fana ka maikutlo a bona, ditshwaelo le/kapa dinehelo tse supang hore na ke hobaneng Eskom e loketse kapa e sa lokela ho tswelapele ho fokotsa le/kapa ho ho fedisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase dibakeng tse boletsweng ka tlase.

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6	Koppies

Dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhaliso, maikutlo le/kapa dikopo tsa tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng di lokela ho romelwa ho:

Senior Advisor: Key Sales and Customer Services

Aterese ya sebaka: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

Aterese ya imeile: FSNgwathe@eskom.co.za

Letsatsi la ho qetela la dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhaliso, maikutlo le/kapa likopo tsa tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng ke la 13 Mmesa 2026.

Lemoha ka kopo hore ditshwaelo tse amohelwang kamora letsatsi la ho kwala di ke ke tsa shejwa.

Eskom e tla lekola dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhaliso le maikutlo mme e tla tsebahatsa qeto ya yona ya ho qetela ka kapa pele ho la **24 Mmesa 2026.**

Nomoro ya Referense: **NLM 03/2026**

E ntshitswe ho latela Molao wa Phahamiso ya Toka ya Tsamaiso wa 3 wa 2000.

Public Notice

INTENTION TO INTERRUPT/REDUCE THE BULK ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO NKETOANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) hereby gives notice to all parties that are likely to be materially and adversely affected by its intention to interrupt bulk supply to Nketoana Local Municipality (the Municipality) with effect from 08 May 2026. The Municipality has failed/neglected, or refused to settle its electricity account with Eskom on the due date, despite several interventions, including dispute resolution under the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (IRFA). The Municipality is currently indebted to Eskom in the amount of R1 025 578 098.13 (one billion, twenty five million, five hundred seventy eight thousand, ninety eight rand and thirteen cents) (“the electricity debt”).

In March 2023, the National Treasury introduced the Debt Relief Programme through Circular 124, in accordance with section 34(1) of the MFMA and the IRFA. The Circular provides that Eskom is to write off the municipal debt over three years, subject to, among other conditions, the municipality paying its current account henceforth.

On 01 August 2023, the Municipality was admitted to the Debt Relief Programme. The Municipality has failed to meet the conditions of the Debt Relief Programme, and among others, is persistently failing to pay invoices in full for the bulk supply within 30 days. Compliance with this requirement would have resulted in no further growth of the debt and a subsequent write-off of what the Municipality owes Eskom. On the contrary, the overdue debt has increased by a staggering R405 566 677.89 from the date the Municipality was admitted into the Debt Relief Programme.

On 22 February 2026, the National Treasury issued the Municipality with a letter notifying that its participation in the Debt Relief Programme will be terminated by 01 April 2026, unless the council of the Municipality resolves to conclude the Distribution Agency Agreement (the DAA) with Eskom by 27 March 2026. The DAA is one of the IRFA-oriented interventions which allows Eskom to assist municipalities with services such as technical skills development, maintenance and operations of the municipality network, energy loss management, pricing and tariff structuring, billing function, and revenue management and collection. With this letter being issued by the National Treasury, the dispute resolution process in terms of IRFA is deemed concluded, and Eskom has the right to exercise its statutory powers to interrupt/reduce bulk electricity to the Municipality.

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- The Municipality informs National Treasury on or before 27 March 2026 of the council resolution to enter a DAA with Eskom, or
- Eskom converts the Municipality's electricity supply to prepayment, where Eskom supplies the only electricity equivalent to what the Municipality can afford, or
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Eskom hereby invites all affected parties to submit written representations, comments and/or submissions indicating why Eskom should or should not proceed to reduce, and/or terminate the bulk electricity supply points in the table below.

The following points of supply might be affected:

#	Points of supply/Area
1	Lindley
2	Petrus Steyn
3	Reitz

Public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information should be submitted to:

Senior Advisor: Key Sales and Customer Services

Physical address: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

Email address: FSNketoana@eskom.co.za

The closing date for public representations, submissions, comments and/or requests for further information is 13 April 2026.

Please note that comments received after the closing date will not be considered.

Eskom will consider such public representations, submissions, and comments and communicate the final decision on or before **24 April 2026.**

Reference Number: **NKLM 03/2026**

Issued in terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000.

Tsebiso

MAIKEMISITSO A HO SITISA/FOKOTSA PHEPELO E KGOLO YA MOTLAKASE HO MASEPALA WA LEHAE WA NKETOANA

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) e fana ka tsebiso ho bohle ba ka amehang hampe morerong wa yona wa ho sitisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase ho Masepala wa Lehae wa Nketoana (Masepala) ho tloha ka la 8 Motsheanong 2026. Masepala o hlolehile/sitilwe kapa o hanne ho lefa akhaonte ya yona ya motlakase ho Eskom ka letsatsi la tefo leha ho bile le teko tse mmalwa tse entsweng, tse kenyeletsang tharollo ya kgang ka Molao wa Moralo wa Maqhama a Makala a Mmuso 2005 (IRFA). Hajwale Masepala o kolota Eskom tjehelete e kalo ka RI 025 578 098.13 (diranta tse milione, mashome a mabedi a metso e mehlano, dikete tse hlano, mashome a supileng a metso e robedi le mashome a robong le metso e robedi a diranta le disente tse leshome le metso e meraro) (“sekoloto sa motlakase”).

Ka Hlakubele 2023, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha le tsebisitse Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto ka Lesedinyana la 124, e tsamaelanang le karolo ya 34(I) ya MFMA le IRFA. Lesedinyana lena le hlalosa hore Eskom e lokela ho hlakola sekoloto sa Masepala nakong ya dilemo tse tharo, hafeela, hara dipehelo tse ding, Masepala a lefa akhaonte ya hae ya hajwale ho tloha ka nako eo.

Ka la 1 Tshitswe 2023, Masepala o ile wa amohelwa Lenaneong la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto. Masepala o hlolehile ho kgotsofatsa dipehelo tsa Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto, mme hara tse ding, o dula o hloleha ho lefa di-invoese ka botlalo bakeng sa phepele e kgolo nakong ya matsatsi a 30. Ha pehelo ena e ne e latetswe, sekoloto se kabe se sa hola mme sekoloto seo Masepala a se kolotang Eskom, se kabe se hlakotswe. Empa, sekoloto se so lefuwe se se se phahame ka tjehelete e kalo ka R405 566 677.89 ho tloha ka mohla oo Masepala o neng o amohelwa ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto.

Ka la 22 Hlakola 2026, Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha e file Masepala lengolo le o tsebisang hore bonkakarolo ba ona ho Lenaneo la Phokoletso ya Dikoloto bo tlo fediswa ka la 1 Mmesa 2026, ntle le ha khansela ya Masepala e ka dumela ho phethela Tumellano ya Ejensi ya Kabo (Distribution Agency Agreement (DAA)) le Eskom pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026. DAA ke e nngwe ya disebediswa tsa IRFA tse dumellang Eskom ho thusa boMasepala ka ditshebetso tse jwalo ka ntshetsopele ya ditsebo tsa setekgeniki, tlhokomelo le ditshebetso tsa neteweke ya Masepala, taolo ya tahlehelo ya motlakase, sebopeho sa ditefiso le ditharifi, tshebetso ya tefiso, le taolo ya ditjehelete le pokello ya tsona. Ha lengolo lena le se le fanwe le Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha, tshebetso ya tharollo ya kgang ho latela IRFA e nkuwa e phethetswe, mme Eskom e na le tokelo ya ho sebedisa matla a semolao ho sitisa/fokotsa motlakase o rekiswang ka bongata o yang ho Masepala.

Tlase maemo ana, ho loketse hore Eskom e batle ditsela tse ding tsa ho thibela sekoloto sena hore se tswe taolong. Kgetho e teng feela ho Eskom ke phokotso, kgaolo le/kapa phediso ya phepele jwalo ka ha e filwe matla ke Molao wa Bodisa ba Motlakase 2006, ntle le ha:

- Masepala a ka jwetsa Lekala la Matlotlo la Naha ka la, kapa pele ho la 27 Hlakubele 2026 hore khansela e dumetse ho phethela DAA le Eskom, kapa
- Eskom e fetolela phepele ya motlakase wa Masepala ho o lefuwang pele ho tshebediso kapa pre-paid, moo Eskom e fanang feela ka motlakase o lekanang le oo Masepala a kgonang ho o lefella, kapa
- Ho ba le tumellano pakeng tsa Masepala le Eskom hore ba rekang ho Masepala ba lefe Eskom ka kotloloho bakeng sa motlakase oo ba o sebedisang ka tefiso ya Eskom.

Eskom e mema bohle ba amehang ho fana ka maikutlo a bona, ditshwaelo le/kapa dinehelo tse supang hore na ke hobaneng Eskom e loketse kapa e sa lokela ho tswelapele ho fokotsa le /kapa ho fedisa phepele e kgolo ya motlakase dibakeng tse boletsweng ka tlase.

Dibaka tse latelang tsa phepele di ka nna tsa ameha:

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Dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhahiso, maikutlo le/kapa dikopo tsa tlhahisoleseding e eketsehileng di lokela ho romelwa ho:

Senior Advisor: Key Sales and Customer Services

Aterese ya sebaka: 120 Henry Street, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9300

Aterese ya imeile: FSNketoana@eskom.co.za

Letsatsi la ho qetela la dinehelano tsa setjhaba, ditlhahiso, maikutlo le/kapa likopo tsa tlhahisoleseling e eketsehileng ke la 13 Mmesa 2026.

Lemoha ka kopo hore ditshwaelo tse amohelwang kamora letsatsi la ho kwala di ke ke tsa shejwa.

Eskom e tla lekola dinehenalo tsa setjhaba, ditlhahiso le maikutlo mme e tla tsebahatsa qeto ya yona ya ho qetela ka kapa pele ho la **24 Mmesa 2026.**

Nomoro ya Referense: **NKLM 03/2026**

E ntshitswe ho latela Molao wa Phahamiso ya Toka ya Tsamaiso wa 3 wa 2000.

Opinion

Dr Eugene Msizi Buthelezi

NGAP Lecture, Department of Economic Finance, University of the Free State



The 2026 Budget: A win for Treasury, a wait for everyone else

When Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana stood up to deliver the 2026 Budget Speech, he spoke with the quiet confidence of someone who believes South Africa has finally turned a corner. And on the surface, the numbers back him up.

For the first time in 17 years, government debt is expected to stabilise and then actually start falling. The budget deficit is shrinking. The amount we spend just paying interest on what we owe is coming down. We've been taken off the FATF grey list, and we've even picked up a credit rating upgrade. On paper, these are real wins. Hard-fought victories that restore a bit of credibility after years of decline.

But if you scratch beneath the surface, things get more complicated. This budget has real achievements but it also has real gaps. Some of its assumptions are fragile. And the structural problems that have held us back for years? They're still very much there.

The fiscal picture is better, but still on shaky ground

Let's start with the good news. Debt is projected to peak at around 78.9% of GDP before gradually dropping to 76.5% by 2028. The primary surplus, which reflect what's left after we pay for basic services is expected to climb from 0.9% to 2.3%. These numbers didn't happen by accident. They're the result of years of tough choices and slow, grinding reforms. But here's the thing: that debt peak is actually higher than we thought it would be last year. Why? Partly because growth hasn't been as strong as we'd hoped, and partly because we've had to borrow more than planned. That should give us pause. If the economy stays stuck below 2% growth and right now, that's the forecast those debt numbers could start moving in the wrong direction again. Fast. And yes, debt-service costs are coming down. But they're still historically high. That matters because every rand we spend on interest is a rand we don't spend on fixing potholes, hiring nurses, or keeping the lights on. Fiscal credibility is a means to an end, not the end itself. The point of getting our books in order is supposed to be creating space to actually do things.

Growth that has limitation in changing lives

The growth forecasts are modest: 1.6% this year, creeping up to 2% by 2028. That's cautiously optimistic. It's also nowhere near enough to make a dent in unemployment, which is sitting at 32%. For the people who've been out of work for years, a 2% growth rate doesn't feel like a recovery. It feels like more of the same. The structural reforms everyone talks about energy, logistics, water are moving, but at the speed of government, not the speed of crisis. In energy, private investment is finally flowing, which is good. But we're still stuck on transmission. You can generate all the power you want, but if you can't move it across the grid, it doesn't help. In logistics, Transnet is slowly reforming, but rail and port performance is still patchy. The new credit vehicle for transmission infrastructure sounds promising, but it's not up and running yet. And then there's the rest of the world. Global uncertainty, trade tensions, supply chain disruptions, geopolitical shifts, could throw a wrench in our plans. The budget acknowledges these risks, but it doesn't really price them in.

Taxes have little relief, but the pressure's still on

On the tax front, there are some genuine bright spots. The decision to drop that R20 billion provisional tax hike was the right one. Doubling the VAT registration threshold gives small businesses a bit more room to breathe. And raising the limits on tax-free savings and retirement deductions is a smart way to encourage households to save. But these moves also reveal something less comfortable: the initial plan to raise R20 billion in taxes felt reactive, not strategic. It looked like Treasury scrambling, not planning. And the underlying problem hasn't gone away. Our tax base is still too narrow. The recent improvements in revenue collection are mostly about better compliance chasing down what's already owed not about a growing economy generating more to tax. Sin taxes and fuel levies went up too, even if modestly. For households already stretched thin, that's another small weight to carry.

Infrastructure have big numbers, then we have bigger questions

R1 trillion over the medium term. That's the headline for infrastructure spending. It sounds ambitious. It is ambitious. But ambition and delivery

are two different things. The real question is whether we can actually spend that money effectively. State-owned companies are struggling. Municipalities, 63% of them, by Treasury's own admission are in financial distress. You can throw money at them, but if the systems are broken, the money won't fix much. Performance-linked grants and reforms to the Municipal Infrastructure Grant are steps in the right direction. But they rely on something that's been in short supply: political will to enforce consequences. We've had the tools to hold municipalities accountable for years. We just haven't used them consistently. The Budget Facility for Infrastructure is backing projects that were already in the pipeline, which raises a fair question: where are the new, transformative projects? And the public-private partnership pipeline, while long on paper, is slow to reach financial close. Approval bottlenecks are real, and they're costly.

Local government; we know the problem. Fixing it is another story.

Minister Godongwana didn't shy away from naming the problem at local level. Revenue gets misallocated. Maintenance gets neglected. The diagnosis is spot-on. The proposed fixes tying grants to performance, ring-fencing revenue from utilities make sense on paper. But they've been proposed before. The difference this time will come down to whether officials are actually willing to enforce the rules. That's been the missing ingredient for years. If nothing changes on that front, these reforms will be another good idea that never quite lands.

Social spending is holding the line, not changing lives

Most of the non-interest budget still goes to social spending. Old age pensions and child support grants got modest increases. That matters. It keeps people from falling through the cracks. But modest increases in a high-inflation environment don't go far. These grants protect they don't transform. Education spending is focused on maintenance, not fundamental improvement. Early childhood development programmes vary wildly in quality. And the savings from catching fraud in the grant system? They're welcome, but they also highlight inefficiencies that should have been dealt with years ago.

Reforms coherent on paper, uneven on the ground

The structural reform agenda is still the right one: energy, logistics, water, spatial planning, skills. But the gap between announcement and impact is wide. Private investment in energy is being held back by transmission constraints. Transnet's rail performance is still below where it needs to be. Water infrastructure has been neglected for decades you can't fix that in one budget cycle. And artisan training through SETAs is still in the experimental phase. The thinking is sound. The execution is not keeping pace with the need.

The real constraint isn't technical, it's political

Here's the thing this budget makes clear: our biggest problems aren't fiscal or technical. They're political. Municipalities fail, and there are no consequences. State-owned companies underperform, and leadership stays in place. Reforms stall, and no one is held to account. Entrenched interests, weak governance, and a culture of non-performance have become structural features of the system. The FATF exit and the credit rating upgrade are real wins. They matter for international confidence. But for ordinary South Africans, trust isn't built by ratings. It's built by electricity that stays on, trains that run, water that comes out of the tap, and jobs that pay. On those fronts, progress is still uneven.

Final thought; the stage is set, now comes the hard part.

So where does that leave us? The 2026 Budget is disciplined. It's credible. It's responsible. It stabilises debt, protects the vulnerable, invests in infrastructure, and keeps reforms moving. By the standards of fiscal management, it gets a lot right. But by the standards of what South Africa actually needs rapid growth, mass employment, real transformation it falls short. Fiscal discipline gives us a platform. It doesn't build the house. Minister Enoch Godongwana has set the stage. Now the rest of the state has to deliver. The budget says we're ready to build. But the construction has only just begun.

The views presented here are mine, they don't represent the views and policy position of the institution I am affiliated with. I do this for community outreach as a person in academics only.



Pastor
Motsamai
Kareli

Empowerment Ministries International

Ten Lessons I Learned from Peter Drucker

Part four

8. Prepare better meetings

The oft-repeated quip, "I'm sorry to write you a long letter, as I did not have time to write a short one" could be applied to meetings:

"I'm sorry to imprison you in this long meeting, as I did not have time to prepare a short one." Effective people develop a recipe for how to make the most of meetings, and they employ their recipes with consistent discipline.

And while there are many varieties of good meeting recipes, just as there are many recipes for baking tasty cookies, Drucker highlights two common ingredients: preparation with a clear purpose in mind ("why are we having this meeting?") and disciplined follow-up.

Those who make the most of meetings frequently spend substantially more time preparing for the meeting than in the meeting itself.

To abuse other people's time by failing to prepare shorter, better meetings amounts to stealing a portion of their lives.

And while we must all lead or join meetings, they should be limited to those that do the most useful work; if meetings come to dominate your time, then your life is likely being ill-spent.

9. Don't make a hundred decisions when one will do

We're continually hit by a blizzard of situations, opportunities, problems, incidents—all of which seem to demand decisions. Yes. No. Go. No-go. Buy. Sell. Attack. Retreat. Accept. Reject. Reply. Ignore.

Invest. Harvest. Hire. It can feel like chaos, but the most effective people find the patterns within the chaos. In Drucker's view, we rarely face truly unique, one-off decisions. And there is an overhead cost to any good decision:

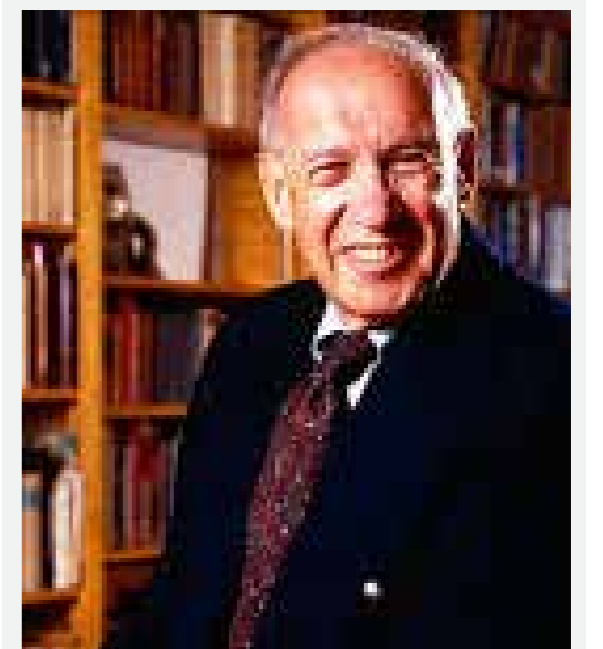
It requires argument and debate, time for reflection and concentration, and energy expended to ensure superb execution.

So, given this overhead cost, it's far better to Zoom Out and make a few big generic decisions that can apply to a large number of specific situations, to find a pattern within—in short, to go from chaos to concept.

Think of it as akin to Warren Buffett making investment decisions. Buffett learned to ignore the vast majority of possibilities almost as background noise.

Instead, he made a few big decisions—such as the decision to shift from buying mediocre companies at very cheap prices to buying great earnings machines at good prices—and then replicated that generic decision over and over again.

For Drucker, those who grasp Buffett's point that "inactivity can be very intelligent behavior" are much more effective than those who make hundreds of decisions with no coherent concept.



10. Be useful

Peter Drucker had dedicated himself to one huge question: How can we make society both more productive and more humane?

In his conversation with one of his mentees, "Mr. Brown, asked Peter which of his twenty-six books he was most proud of, to which Drucker, then 86 year old, replied: "The next one!" He wrote ten more.

At the end of the conversation, Peter hit Mr Brown with a challenge. "It seems to me you spend a lot of time worrying how you will survive," said Peter.

Mr Brown agreed and told him that he will like to survive and succeed in his new career.

"You will probably survive said Peter" He continued, "And you seem to spend a lot of energy on the question of how to be successful. But that is the wrong question." He paused, then like the Zen master thwacking the table with a bamboo stick: "The question is: how to be useful!"

We are all given only one short life, composed of the same 168 hours a week as everyone else.

What will it add up to? How will other people's lives be changed? What difference will it make?

Peter Drucker—one man with no organization, a modest house, and a wicker chair—models how much one highly-effective person can contribute, and that we should never confuse scale of impact with scale of organization.

He was, in the end, the highest level of what a teacher can be: a role model of the very ideas he taught, a walking testament to his teachings in the tremendous lasting effect of his own life.

Letter to the Editor

The editor reserves the right to edit and reject letters and all correspondence must include your full names, address and phone numbers. Write to: editor@journalnews.co.za

A Second Chance or A Second Betrayal? The Agony of Reintegration In The Public Service



By Thabang Mokoka

There is a classical movie *Con Air*. The first take starts with an old plane flying over Nevada, full of really bad guys from prison. Cameron Poe is one of them, but he's different. He's got a picture of his daughter, whom he never even met. He killed a guy years ago, but it was to protect his pregnant wife from some drunk in a bar. The court said manslaughter anyway, and he did his time. Inside, he took care of his cellmate Baby-O, who had diabetes, through all those boring years. He wrote letters home that his family got, even if distance made it hard.

Then the hijacking happens. Cyrus Grissom, they call him *The Virus*, takes over with his crew. Guards die, blood everywhere on the plane. Poe ends up trying to stop the chaos, even though he's still a convict. Down on the ground, guys like Vince Larkin watch it all go wrong, knowing not everyone on that plane is pure evil. Poe is more like the good guy stuck in the middle.

It makes you think about how prison transports mix everyone together. Like Billy Bedlam, who killed without caring, and Poe, who was just defending his family. They sit next to each other, wear the same clothes, breathe the same air. When they get out, society does the same thing. We look at the record and assume they are all the same. No second chances, just exile forever.

Just imagine, as life generally has no formula, getting released after ten years. You walk out with a

houses.

But hold on, that's not the whole story. The other side makes sense too, even if it's uncomfortable. For purposes of illustration, picture a woman, a member of the "Purple Gang" attacked badly in the most gruesome Gender-Based Violence and Femicide way by some guy. She has suffers with both emotional and visible scars. The perpetrator is found guilty and locked up in jail for years. During his incarceration, he does rehabilitation programmes, is well-behaved and finally released.

He now integrates into society, knocks on various doors or fills necessary documentation for a job opportunity, to which he qualifies and is given an offer. Here is the catch! He declared his crime, and records were sourced from the correctional department, including his parole officer giving a thumbs-up. Salt-and-pepper he is! Clean-shaven, a faint whisper of cologne trailing his path as a man reformed, polished, presentable with a phantom of polished presence. As the manager, he interacts with his staff, an almost exclusively female team, with an impeccable, almost fragile respect. Does the right to work, to rehabilitation, trump the right of those women to a safe and secure working environment? Do we not owe a duty of care to the living, breathing employees who must sit in meetings with him, who must take instructions from him, who must endure the psychological terror of his proximity? In the movie, there is Johnny 23, the rapist with all those victims. When he gets loose in Vegas, around women and kids, no one wants him reformed. It's just dread. Some people can't be trusted near the weak ones. The government putting him in charge would be helping the next crime happen.

This ties into real laws, like the Public Service Act. It talks about balancing rights on one's person's dignity, and a job shouldn't destroy another safety. The rules say employees need integrity and high ethics. But how good is a workplace full of scared people wasting time on fear instead of work?

Not all crimes are the same. Fraud is money stuff, not violence however mixing them up is equally completely wrong. Some crimes change you forever for certain jobs. The fraud guy might be good at admin, the violent one claims he's changed; however, the system is a tough animal.

Section 14 of the Public Service Act, in the interest of the public, deals with conditions of employment, but the spirit of the law, and indeed the entire constitutional edifice, is built on a balance of rights. One person's right to dignity and work cannot automatically annihilate another's right to freedom from harm, from fear, and o a workplace free of psychological violence.

The vetting processes within the public service are possibly inconsistent and equally dynamic, requiring adopted governance processes and frame-

work that will not be exposed wide open.

Poe in the movie fights the bad inmates and eventually kills one to save order in the plane; however, when authorities found Bedford's body, one of the most dangerous men on the plane, their first instinct was to suspect him first. But then Baby-O took the bullet meant for Poe when he sacrificed himself for his friend, to which the system had no category for that kind of love. It only had handcuffs, warrants and the assumption of guilt.

So, where does this leave us? There are many questions to ask ourselves, both ethically and morally. Should we build a society on the lie of redemption if we block every door on the way back in? On the other hand, should we build a professional public service on the blind hope that everyone who claims to be reformed is?

The answer is definitely not one blanket approach, but to be brutally honest and robust, a reflection of implementing the adopted assessment systems that are risk-based, inclusive, but not limited to credit checks, lifestyle audits, and independent verification of employment history. This should not be just a tick-box exercise by a compromised HR official. In fact, my view is that it should be processed right through an executive structure for approval upon satisfying themselves of the candidate as per risk exposure standards adopted.

For roles involving vulnerable groups, the scrutiny must be exponentially higher, inclusive of continuous psychological evaluations and, crucially, we need to involve the very people who will be managed by these individuals. This is where ethics becomes tangible. It is not just a document in a regulation; it is the mechanism of control we put in place to protect the vulnerable.

Poe eventually gets home, holds his kid, the system lets him be normal, but on that plane, he looked like the rest and was part of the rest at that moment. That's the scary part of letting out, you don't know if it's a person or a monster till later.

As a reminder of the wisdom as echoed by Mangope, we must be wary of the naked man offering us a shirt, and equally, we ought to be wary of the man who burned down a house, demanding we trust him with matches. A catch twenty-two!

The question isn't whether to forgive or not, but how to manage the second chance so it doesn't become a second betrayal. Because at the end of the movie, the bad guys get caught... but Garland Greene, the killer, slips away laughing in a casino. The system immediately failed, letting him vanish into the neon. It makes you ponder, with every new hire, who just walked in the door and if their laugh is the last thing you will hear.

***Thabang Mokoka writes in his personal capacity ** The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of this publication (Journal News).**

Business

Markets and Indicators

Rand/Dollar	16.69	-1.19%	▼
Rand/Pound	22.26	-1.01%	▼
Rand/Euro	19.34	-0.92%	▼
Platinum	2 102.42	-2.70%	▼
Brent Crude	85.84	4.07%	▲
Gold	5 063.35	-1.51%	▼
Ethereum	2 078.65	-3.29%	▼
Bitcoin	71 067.2	-3.09%	▼

Steenhuisen Leads Aggressive FMD Vaccine Drive in Free State

By Lerato Mutlanyane

South Africa's fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is intensifying, with Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen closely overseeing the arrival and rollout of vaccines across the country as part of government's strategy to contain the outbreak.

The campaign has focused heavily on the hardest-hit provinces, particularly KwaZulu-Natal's Mooi River region and parts of the Free State. Government efforts include the delivery of large vaccine consignments, a nationwide vaccination programme, and the strict enforcement of disease-control measures.

On Monday, 2 March 2026, Steenhuisen visited a farm just outside Bloemfontein alongside Free State MEC for Agriculture Elzabe Rockman, where he monitored the vaccination rollout and engaged with veterinary teams working on the ground.

The minister said government is maintaining tight control over vaccine distribution to ensure the programme's success and to help South Africa maintain its FMD-free status. Authorities have set an ambitious target to vaccinate 80% of the national herd and reduce FMD cases by 70% by December 2026.

"I am deeply impressed by the response here in the Free State, as well as the professionalism and dedication of the veterinary services," Steenhuisen said.

"Last year we adopted a new strategy that moves away from chasing outbreaks across the country to a proactive approach of vaccinating the entire national herd."

Meanwhile, Rockman said the Free State Department of Agriculture has intensified awareness campaigns to educate farmers and communities about the



Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen alongside Free State MEC for Agriculture Elzabe Rockman. Picture: Thabo Ketele

disease and the importance of biosecurity measures. The province now releases weekly updates on infection rates, suspected cases and affected areas, while also hosting community engagements and information sessions focused on prevention.

"FMD has become the central topic of awareness and education in our engagements," Rockman said.

"The more people understand the symptoms and the strict biosecurity measures required, the better our chances of containing the disease."

She added that collaboration between government, farmers, and communities remains essential to protecting the agricultural sector.

"By working together we can gain control over the

FMD outbreak and move agriculture towards a more prosperous, economically viable and sustainable future for all farmers in the Free State — commercial, communal and small-scale alike," Rockman said.

Steenhuisen stressed that defeating the disease will require a collective national effort.

"It can't just be the Department of Agriculture or the farming sector alone. It requires all of us, including active citizens who act as the eyes and ears in their communities," he said.

"It is only through maximum compliance with the law and biosecurity measures that we will ultimately beat Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South Africa."

Despite progress in the vaccination drive, authorities acknowledge that the battle against FMD is far from over. However, officials remain confident that sustained collaboration and strict control measures will eventually bring the outbreak under control.

April fuel prices set to rocket

Middle East tensions could drive a sharp fuel price increase in South Africa next month, while supply pressures remain possible depending on shipping routes and global trade flows



South African motorists could face a sharp increase in fuel prices as tensions in the Middle East disrupt global oil markets, while supply pressures remain a possibility if geopolitical tensions worsen.

An economist says the impact may not be immediate, but a significant rise in fuel prices could arrive by next month.

Oil imports leave South Africa exposed

Professor Peter Baur, an associate professor at the University of Johannesburg's School of Economics, said South Africa relies heavily on imported crude oil and refined fuels.

He said the country sources most of its crude oil from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Angola.

In addition to crude oil imports, South Africa also buys refined fuel products from countries with major refining capacity, including Oman, India and the United Arab Emirates.

Baur explained that diesel accounts for the largest share of refined fuel imports at about 66%, while petrol makes up roughly 25%.

Limited local refining capacity
South Africa still has some refining capability, but it remains limited.

"We do have some refining ability available within the economy... but it's very limited," Baur said.

He added that because local refining capacity is restricted, South Africa remains heavily dependent on a consistent flow of fuel imports to meet domestic demand.

Stockpile concerns
Fuel storage capacity is another concern.

According to Baur, earlier policy documents refer to stockpiles of about three months, but these reserves can fluctuate depending on factors such as seasonal demand and the timing of imports.

"Private companies will obviously have their stockpiles," he said, adding that availability can shift depending on when shipments are loaded and offloaded.

Could South Africa run out of fuel?

Baur said fuel shortages are possible, though they are more likely to be linked to distribution disruptions rather than a complete lack of supply.

"Yes, there are possibilities of fuel shortages," he said.

He explained that much of the global oil trade moves through key shipping routes, and disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions could affect deliveries.

However, Baur said South Africa has alternative suppliers.

"There are alternative markets for South Africa again... importing from the US and other regions, [with] greater reliance on India, for example."

Global uncertainty could push prices higher
Even if alternative supplies are secured, Baur warned that prices will likely rise.

He pointed to the example of Europe's response to gas supply disruptions during the Ukraine crisis, where alternative sources were found within months.

However, he said the shift to new suppliers often comes at a higher cost.

"How that's going to translate to the consumer is going to be rather questionable because then the price now suddenly becomes a significant question mark." With global markets uncertain and no clear timeline for easing tensions, Baur said the duration and intensity of the crisis will determine how severely South Africa's fuel prices and supplies are affected. **EWN**

JOHN TAOLO GAETSEWE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), and Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, 2006 (Act 53 of 2006) on the following documents:

Description	Enquiries
Adjustment Budget for the 25/26 financial year	Ms. C. Sibanyoni (Chief Financial Officer)
Reviewed SDBIP for the 25/26 financial year	Ms. L.Gaetsewe (Director LED)

The above documents are open for inspection and may be viewed at the Municipal Offices in Kuruman and/or on the Municipal Website at www.taologaetsewe.gov.za.

All enquiries may be directed to the respective managers mentioned on the above table at 053 712 8700, during normal office hours.

MR. K. TEISE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER
JOHN TAOLO GAETSEWE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
P.O BOX 1480
4 FEDERALE MYNBOU STREET
KURUMAN
8460
Tel 0537128700

BY SERVING WE GOVERN

JOHN TAOLO GAETSEWE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY | 4 Federalemynbou Street | P.O. Box 1480 KURUMAN 8460 | TEL 053 712 8700 | FAX 053 712 2502

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PUBLIC NOTICE

UNALLOCATED PAYMENTS BY RESIDENTS OR BUSINESS PAID INTO MUNICIPAL BANK ACCOUNT WITHOUT INDICATING PROPER CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS.

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality would like to appeal to its customers who paid their municipal accounts via internet or have made payments at the bank without writing their proper municipal account numbers starting with 100...as reference, and inactive/closed municipal accounts with credit balances older than three (3) years, to come forward and claim these deposits and credits.

Proof of such payments and credits must be provided so that the municipality can do the correct allocation. Should these payments and credits not be allocated to correct customer or business accounts by 30 June 2026, these payments will be transferred to the general revenue account of the municipality as per municipal financial regulations and will be utilized for other purposes.

In order to make such correct allocations sufficient proof must be provided. Any further enquiries regarding this matter can be directed to our Finance Department at the following contact numbers:

NAME	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE NO.
Yvonne Lefakane	Yvonne.Lefakane@mangaung.co.za	(051) 405 8223
Vuyiswa Jwill	Vuyiswa.Jwill@mangaung.co.za	(051) 405 8661
Sentia Moloi	Sentia.Moloi@mangaung.co.za	(051) 405 8788
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GET TO KNOW YOUR DJ Cultivated Music Vibes with DJ SECH



By Lerato Mutlanyane

Dust off your dancing shoes and prepare for a masterclass in mixing. DJ Sech does not just play records, he transforms entire rooms.

If your weekend needs a soundtrack of pulsing house rhythms and seamless nostalgic mixes, look no further.

Let's get to know Setjhaba Matsoso, better known as Sech (36), a local favorite from Botshabelo in the Free State renowned for his versatile house sets and mixes, including deep and Afro house styles.

For the past 20 years, Matsoso has been rising through the ranks with his ethereal, melodic house sounds.

His impressive performance history includes sharing stages with top DJs in the music scene.

Among his notable contributions is the 'Bots Town Picnic', an event he has been hosting for ten years now.

As he makes a name for himself, Matsoso has always been focused on his goals.

"I cannot say I have a mentor because I have pushed myself to get to where I am today.

"However, there are people who taught me how to play, such as the legendary Pablo Khumalo and Zico Nambane," he said.

With aspirations of becoming a thriving event organizer in his hometown and collaborating with prominent names in the music scene, he is relentless in his pursuit to turn his dreams into reality.

He continues to captivate crowds with his dynamic house sets.

"I live for good music, great vibes, and unforgettable nights.

"Whether I am behind the decks or planning the whole experience, my goal is simple.

I want to create moments people talk about long after the lights go down," he said.

Catch Sech from Friday to Sunday at Rio Cocktail Lounge in Bloemfontein.

From TikTok to the Red Carpet: Moghelingz Just Stole the Spotlight at the 'Peaky Blinders' World Premiere

By Lerato Mutlanyane

South African social media star Moghelingz, real name Banele Ndaba, captured attention at the world premiere of "Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man" in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

This appearance follows his rise to fame, which spans from popular TikTok skits to the high-stakes drama of the Shelby clan's world.

As the highly anticipated Netflix film prepares for its global release on March 20, this unexpected cultural collision marks a major milestone for South African creators on the international stage.

Ndaba's red carpet look was nothing short of a masterpiece.

Designed by the rising star Sihle Masango, the outfit brilliantly fused the gritty "Peaky Blinders" aesthetic with modern African craftsmanship.

The pinstripe suit paid homage to the Shelby family's iconic style yet was reimagined with a contemporary twist.

Its intricate beadwork detailing intricate beadwork adorned the suit, incorporating patterns inspired by traditional South African designs.

The embellishments symbolised a fusion of cultures, proudly showcasing African craftsmanship on an international platform.

Completing his look was a toothpick that echoed the Shelby clan's rugged coolness and a pair of polished leather brogues that perfectly tied the ensemble together.

This moment also marked Masango's international red carpet debut, positioning South African fashion at the forefront of global conversations about style and identity.

This appearance was a big moment for the 25-year-old from Standerton, Mpumalanga. As a queer, black South African, Moghelingz's presence was meaningful, connecting local creativity with global recognition.

His ongoing work with the streaming platform has helped bring South African talent to the world stage.



"Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man" is set to release in select theatres on March 6, followed by a global Netflix streaming premiere on March 20.

Continuing the story of Tommy Shelby and the Shelby clan, the film explores themes of legacy, resilience, and ambition, fitting themes for Moghelingz's meteoric rise.

Held at Birmingham's iconic Symphony Hall, the premiere saw a gathering of the film's celebrated stars, including Cillian Murphy, Rebecca Ferguson, and Barry Keoghan.

However, it was Moghelingz, radiating confidence in a custom creation, who turned heads and sparked conversations that transcended the film's 1920s-inspired theme, becoming a symbol of cultural pride and crossover success.

Invited by Netflix, Ndaba represented more than his comedic genius.

In this setting, he became a vibrant beacon of African luxury, queer pride, and youthful creativity at one of the most anticipated premieres of the year.

This journey is remarkable considering that just a few years ago, Ndaba was creating comedic skits in Standerton, Mpumalanga.

Moghelingz, known for his witty and relatable TikTok comedy skits that vividly portray life in Mzansi, has garnered a following of over 2.5 million, establishing himself as one of the nation's most influential digital creators.

Today, that relatability has translated into serious influence.

As a Clout Africa Awards 2022 Content Creator of the Year, Moghelingz represents a generation of creators turning authenticity into opportunity. *IOL News*

South African social media star Moghelingz, real name Banele Ndaba, captured attention at the world premiere of "Peaky Blinders" Picture: Supplied

Chills guaranteed! Abdullah Ibrahim to grace the CTIJF 2026 stage for historic performance



Few musicians have shaped the sound and soul of South African jazz quite like Abdullah Ibrahim.

This March, the 91-year-old pianist and composer will return to the stage at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival (CTIJF), performing on March 27 to 28, as part of the festival's highly anticipated 2026 edition.

For audiences, his appearance is a rare opportunity to witness one of the great living architects of modern jazz, an artist whose music has travelled across continents while remaining deeply rooted in the rhythms and stories of home.

The Mother City's very own Ibrahim was born in District Six on October 9, 1934

Over six decades, he would transform those early influences into a musical language that blends Cape jazz traditions, gospel undertones, African musical idioms and the improvisational spirit of global jazz.

In 1958, he formed the Dollar Brand Trio and, a year later, co-founded The Jazz Epistles alongside fellow luminaries including Hugh Masekela, Kippie Moeketsi and Jonas Gwangwa. Their recording would become the first jazz album by South African musicians.

That same year also marked the beginning of Ibrahim's lifelong partnership with vocalist Sathima Bea Benjamin, whose introduction would later change the course of his international career.

Following the Sharpeville Massacre and the intensifying repression of the apartheid era, Ibrahim went into exile. While living in Zurich, Benjamin introduced him to the legendary Duke Ellington, and it was this meeting that opened the door to international recordings and performances across Europe and the United States.

The renowned musician then went on to build a global reputation as one of the world's most distinctive pianists and composers, and his music has earned him worldwide acclaim for the way in which it carries a quiet intensity which is meditative, spiritual and emotionally resonant.

One of his most powerful projects was "Mannenberg (Is Where It's Happening)", a piece that became an enduring anthem of resistance and hope during the anti-apartheid struggle.

When Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990, Ibrahim returned to South Africa after decades in exile. Four years later, he performed at Mandela's presidential inauguration in a moment which was widely seen as both a personal and national homecoming.

Now, as the CTIJF prepares for its 23rd edition, Ibrahim's return to the stage in Cape Town carries its own quiet symbolism.

His performance on the Rosies stage is expected to be one of the most anticipated moments of the festival, where it is set to be a meeting of generations, histories and sounds.

Rosies is an intimate venue with very limited capacity. Details on how to secure your spot at Rosies will be released closer to the time. While space is limited for this set, the festival programme features a wealth of exceptional performances across multiple stages at the same time.

This is as the 2026 festival continues its legacy of bringing together leading local and international artists for a weekend widely regarded as one of the continent's premier live music gatherings.

Ibrahim will be joined at the grand event by Grammy-winning Jacob Collier, the legendary Yellowjackets and UK saxophonist Jasmine Myra.

The local acts who will also perform include Siphosiphiso "Hotstix" Mabuse, pianist Nduduzo Makhathini, Rorisoang Sechele and Jazzworld & Thukuthela.

*Tickets are available via Ticketmaster, with Buy Now Pay Later options through Loot.

Bye bye Showmax : What we know of MultiChoice's decision to scrap Showmax

MultiChoice, part of the global media conglomerate CANAL+ SA, has announced the impending discontinuation of its streaming service Showmax.

Why

This decision, reached by the Showmax Board of Directors, comes after a thorough review of the company's streaming activities and highlights the evolving dynamics of the fiercely competitive streaming market.

Amid increasing pressures and substantial annual losses that have rendered the Showmax business model unsustainable, MultiChoice is prioritising financial discipline and optimising investments to secure its long-term competitiveness.

"The decision to phase out Showmax reflects our focus on building a sustainable, competitive business for the long term," the company stated.



No retrenchments

Importantly, MultiChoice has confirmed that the discontinuation of the Showmax service will not

lead to any employee retrenchments.

The Group is committed to engaging with staff and supporting them through various transition options, ensuring that personnel are considered during this period of change.

The company has also pledged to continue investing in premium content for its subscribers, alongside technological innovations and strategic partnerships, reinforcing its leadership position in the African entertainment market.

Reaction

Sales Director at Reach Africa, Leslie Adams, said the streaming industry globally is moving out of its 'growth at all costs' phase, which saw it prioritise subscriber count, and into a period where sustainable economics and scale matter far more.

Adams said content costs continue to rise, from premium series to sports rights, which makes it increasingly difficult for platforms to compete without significant scale.

"As a result, consolidation across the sector is inevitable, and we're likely to see more moves like these. At the same time, we're also seeing more bundling, aggregation, and advertising-supported models emerge as platforms search for new revenue streams.

"For viewers, this likely means fewer standalone services, but stronger platforms, more bundled offerings and a growing mix of subscription and ad-supported viewing options," Adams said. *IOL News*

NW Theatre Week Transforms the Stage



By Lerato Mutlanyane

Performing arts enthusiasts in the North West province came out in large numbers to witness beautiful stage performances at the weeklong Mmabana Mahikeng Theatre Week that took place this week from 2-5 March.

In celebration of art, storytelling, and dance, theatre and raw talent, the North West Department of Arts, Culture, Sports, and Recreation partnered with the Mmabana Arts, Culture, and Sport Foundation for this annual event, which saw artist from across the province gather in one location for a show-stopping action week.

This year's theatre week showcased exceptional

local talent, and featured plays such as "SOBER" which was written and directed by Stanley Letebele.

The play inspired youth who have experienced substance abuse through insightful and educational storytelling.

Plays such as "This is for Keeps" by Diamond Mokoape, addressed domestic violence, mental health, and societal expectations that keep women in toxic relationships.

Nomhle Pambane's "Selelo" raised awareness about gender-based violence, while "Unbreakable Spirits," directed and choreographed by Vukike Rakgotla from the Ethnocentric Community Project, delivered powerful storytelling through live performance.

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NDOU ATTORNEYS
WESTDENES, UNIT 3
WESTDENE
BLOEMFONTEIN, 9301
E-MAIL: ramolula@ndouattorneys.co.za
CONTACT: (+27) 51 023 0121

Head Office
No. 107 Kallner Street
Unit 03 Westdene
Westdene
Bloemfontein
9301

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SIGNED at BLOEMFONTEIN on this 04th DAY OF MARCH 2026.

GIG Guide

Friday 06 March 2026
Badass Friday
Scene Lounge
Bloemfontein

Friday 06 March 2026
Fabulous Friday
Ekhayeni
Bloemfontein

Friday 06 March 2026
First Glass Fridays
Rio Cocktail Lounge
Bloemfontein

Saturday 07 March 2026
Vibe
IZA
Bloemfontein

Threads of UBUNTU
SCHOOL SHOES
DONATE New/Old/Used School Shoes

Journal NEWS The Gauteng Times

Threads of UBUNTU
BLANKETS
DONATE Blankets

Journal NEWS The Gauteng Times

The Visionary Behind Winnie's Palace

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

What began as a passion for meaningful gifting has blossomed into a thriving luxury brand for Bloemfontein-based entrepreneur Winnie Lebone. Through her business, Winnie's Palace, Lebone is redefining how people celebrate special moments by creating premium, customised bouquets and balloon arrangements designed to capture emotions that words sometimes cannot.

A mother, entrepreneur and creative at heart, Lebone has built Winnie's Palace into a brand focused on delivering elevated gifting experiences across Bloemfontein and surrounding areas.

Winnie's Palace specialises in luxurious customised bouquets and balloon designs, focusing on premium, tailor-made floral and balloon arrangements crafted around each client's occasion, personality and message.

Lebone said she started the business after realising that the creativity behind beautifully arranged bouquets or balloons could convey powerful emotions.

"I started Winnie's Palace in 2019 after realising that flowers and balloons are powerful expressions of emotion," she said.

"Whether it's love, celebration, appreciation, apology or comfort, a beautifully designed bouquet or customised balloon arrangement can communicate what words sometimes cannot." She added that her focus on luxurious customised bouquets was inspired by a desire to offer something beyond ordinary floral gifting.

Lebone's background in marketing management played a significant role in shaping the brand, helping her understand the importance of branding,

presentation and customer experience — key elements that helped Winnie's Palace get off the ground.

Like many businesses built with a long-term vision, Winnie's Palace has set both short- and long-term goals for growth.

"Our short-term goal is to strengthen our position as a leading luxury bouquet brand in Bloemfontein, while expanding the business by manufacturing some of the items we use," she said.

"We also want to grow our digital presence and increase the number of returning clients."

In the long term, Lebone hopes to open a luxury floral studio showroom in Bloemfontein and launch signature bouquet collections under the Winnie's Palace brand.

She believes these ambitions are within reach, thanks to the company's strong focus on luxury, customisation and presentation.

"Each bouquet is uniquely designed and personalised. We use premium wrapping materials with elegant finishing touches, and our balloons are customised," she said.

Lebone noted that the industry demands more than creativity alone.

"It requires resilience, discipline and strong customer service skills. It can also be physically demanding and time-sensitive, especially during peak seasons," she said.



Thaba Nchu Book Festival Turns the Page on Year Three

Festival celebrates mother-tongue literacy and local storytelling while expanding its reach to young readers

By Lerato Mutlanyane

What began as a hopeful gathering of book lovers two years ago has blossomed into a growing literary tradition. This March, the Thaba Nchu Book Festival returns for its third year, promising bigger names, stronger partnerships, and even more stories to share.

The community-driven initiative started without funding but has continued to thrive through the support of local residents and schools.

Over time, the festival has expanded its programme to include puppetry shows and children's productions, particularly aimed at young audiences in Thaba Nchu. Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and primary schools are encouraged to register and take part in these enriching activities.

"Reaching three years is a powerful confirmation that the festival is deeply needed in Thaba Nchu. The festival celebrates and promotes mother-tongue literacy, particularly Setswana, while showcasing the beauty, heritage, and people of Thaba Nchu," said festival organiser Charmza Kolwane Mrwebi.

The initiative has grown into an important cultural platform dedicated to local storytelling and literary development, and has already successfully published two authors from Thaba Nchu.

One of the festival's core goals is to publish

more work by local Setswana authors and to create opportunities for emerging writers.

Young local creatives, poets, actors, and committed community members also play a vital role in organising the festival, promoting it to schools, and participating as performers and authors.

Children remain at the heart of the festival.

"The excitement, engagement, and smiles witnessed during reading sessions and performances are unforgettable, and the stories shared remain with children long after the festival ends. This lasting impact is what sustains the festival year after year," Mrwebi said.

The festival has also secured key partnerships with Nal'ibali, the National Museum, and Childline, helping

strengthen its mission to promote reading, writing, and storytelling.

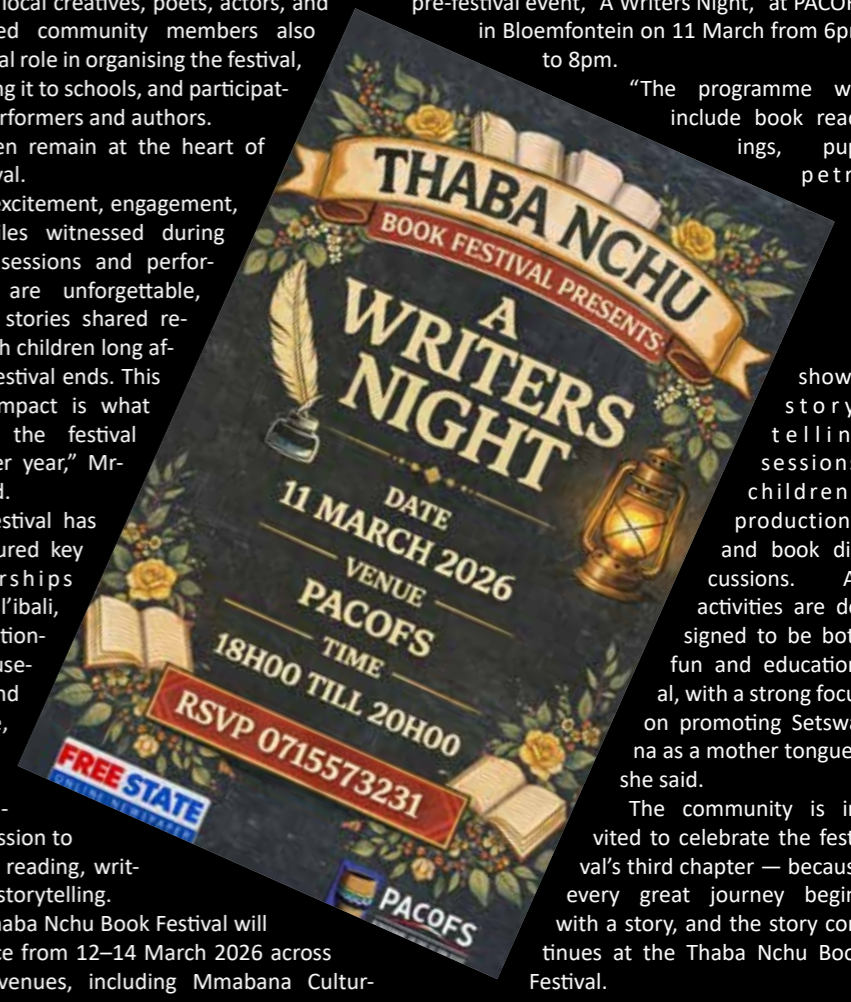
The Thaba Nchu Book Festival will take place from 12-14 March 2026 across several venues, including Mmabana Cultur-

al Centre, Selosesho Library, and Lekgotla la Barolong. The event will kick off with a special pre-festival event, "A Writers Night," at PACOFS in Bloemfontein on 11 March from 6pm to 8pm.

"The programme will include book readings, puppetry

shows, storytelling sessions, children's productions, and book discussions. All activities are designed to be both fun and educational, with a strong focus on promoting Setswana as a mother tongue," she said.

The community is invited to celebrate the festival's third chapter — because every great journey begins with a story, and the story continues at the Thaba Nchu Book Festival.



HEALTH

Home remedies to combat flu symptoms



With the season change and flu cases rising, taking precautions is paramount. Staying informed, getting vaccinated, and using time-tested natural remedies can all help make the flu season smoother.

Symptoms

- Sudden onset of fever
- Muscle pains and body aches
- Dry cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Extreme fatigue
- Headaches

Besides vaccinations, several home remedies can help relieve flu symptoms.

Home remedies

- Chicken Soup: A comforting classic,

chicken soup can ease congestion and prevent dehydration.

- Ginger: Renowned for its anti-inflammatory properties, ginger can alleviate muscle pain and soothe a sore throat. A simple ginger tea made from simmered slices can provide significant relief.

- Honey: With its antibacterial properties, honey mixed in warm tea with lemon can soothe a sore throat; however, it should not be given to infants under one year.

- Garlic: Adding garlic to meals may diminish the severity of cold symptoms and potentially prevent illness.

- Vitamin C: This antioxidant-rich vitamin can boost the immune system, available from sources such as citrus fruits, leafy greens, and bell peppers. **!ol**



Food

Recipes

Cremora Snowball Sheet Cake

Who remembers those pink snowballs? Now imagine them in sheet cake form... and yes, it's just as soft, fluffy, and has that sweet pink coconut topping. Tea time just got seriously nostalgic, shoh!



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C on fan-assist and line the base of a 20cm x 30cm rectangular baking tray with baking paper. Add a generous coating of non-stick spray to the sides of the tray.
2. In a large mixing bowl, sieve the self-raising flour, sugar, and ¼ cup of Cremora Original and mix until well combined.
3. Add the vegetable oil and 2 cups of water and whisk until a smooth batter has formed. Transfer the batter to the prepared baking tray, ensuring it's spread evenly. *Chef's Tip: Avoid over-whisking to ensure the cake is tender after baking.
4. Bake for 25-30 minutes until cooked through. Transfer the cake to a wire rack to cool and room temperature, or cool in the baking tray for easy serving. *Chef's Tip: Insert a toothpick in the centre of the cake, if it comes out clean, the cake is cooked.
5. In a large mixing bowl, add the remaining 1 cup Cremora Original and ¼ cup water in a large mixing bowl and whisk with an electric beater until fully combined. Add the condensed milk and whisk for about 3-5 minutes until fully combined and airy. While continuously whisking, slowly add ¼ cup of lemon juice. This will take around 5 minutes and the mixture will slowly start to thicken. Whisk in the food colouring to achieve a pastel pink colour. *Chef Tip: Add the lemon juice slowly to ensure the mixture has maximum volume.
6. Spread the Cremora icing generously over the cooled cake and sprinkle the desiccated coconut on top.
7. Slice into squares, serve and ENJOY!

Ingredients:

- 3½ cups self-raising flour
- 1½ cups white sugar
- 1½ cups Cremora Original
- ¼ cups vegetable oil
- ½ tin (192g) condensed milk
- ¼ cup fresh lemon juice
- ½ tsp pink food colouring

FASHION

Turning Passion into Fashion

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

Armed with passion, persistence and a sharp eye for style, Daniel Oageng turned a simple idea into a growing online fashion brand. Today, Danny Elegance Boutique is helping men dress with confidence — one tailored look at a time.

In 2016, Oageng launched an online men's boutique, Danny Elegance Boutique, armed with little more than a deep love for fashion, natural talent and a background in business development.

Over the years, experience, resilience and a clear vision have helped him grow the brand and navigate the demands of entrepreneurship.

"My journey with Danny Elegance Boutique has shaped me into a stronger businessman who understands that success is built through consistency, learning and perseverance," said Oageng.

Although the business is now thriving, he started small — selling men's accessories such as ties, pocket squares and colourful socks.

As an online store, Danny Elegance Boutique serves customers across different regions, offering convenient access to quality men's fashion without the limitations of a physical storefront. Despite operating digitally, the brand prides itself on maintaining personalised customer service, with ambitions to expand both nationally and internationally.

Now 49, Oageng says his inspiration came from recognising a gap in the market. He realised that many men wanted to dress well but lacked access to stylish, affordable and convenient options.

"I noticed that men often struggled to find outfits that truly reflected confidence, class and modern elegance. I wanted to create a brand that would help men feel empowered through what they wear, because fashion is not just about clothing — it is about

identity, presence and self-expression," he said.

Starting out was not easy. With limited stock and minimal resources, Oageng handled every aspect of the business himself — from marketing and sales to packaging and customer communication.

What sets Danny Elegance Boutique apart, he believes, is its commitment to elegance, personal service and attention to detail.

"We don't just sell clothing — we help men build confidence, whether it's a formal suit, a smart-casual outfit or stylish accessories," he explained.

The ultimate goal, he says, is to ensure every customer feels distinguished and self-assured.

Like many in the fashion industry, Oageng faces constant challenges. Trends shift rapidly, prices fluctuate and competition from established brands can be fierce. Economic pressures and limited capital also pose risks for small businesses trying to establish themselves.

"To overcome these challenges, I focus on continuous learning and adaptability. I stay updated with fashion trends, listen carefully to customer feedback and constantly improve service delivery," said Oageng.

He added that building trust through reliable communication, honest marketing and quality products remains one of the brand's top priorities.



Sport



Champion Runner Dijana Joins NWU

By Bernell Simons

Three-time Comrades Marathon champion Tete Dijana will soon swap the gruelling ultramarathon route for campus walkways after North-West University (NWU) confirmed his appointment as a protection officer at its Mahikeng Campus. The celebrated long-distance runner is set to begin his new role on 1 April 2026, in a move the university says reflects both his humility and commitment to service.

The announcement, made on Thursday, has been widely welcomed as an inspiring example of dedication from one of South Africa's most admired athletes.

Dijana has become a household name in the country's road-running community after securing three victories in the prestigious Comrades Marathon, one of the world's most demanding ultramarathons. His achievements have earned him international recognition and cemented his status among the nation's elite distance runners.

Despite his global success, the university said Dijana's appointment reflects values that extend far beyond the athletics track.

NWU principal and vice-chancellor Mzubanzi Bismark Tyobeka said the institution was honoured to welcome Dijana to its staff complement, describing the athlete as someone who embodies resilience, discipline and humility.

"We are deeply honoured to welcome Tete to the NWU family," Tyobeka said. "His presence at our Mahikeng Campus will inspire both staff and students, reminding us that greatness and humility can walk hand in hand."

According to the university, Dijana's appointment reflects its commitment to recognising individuals who embody its core values of responsibility, integrity, accountability and perseverance.

While his athletic achievements have brought him global acclaim, NWU said the new role highlights the dignity of work and the importance of every employee who contributes to maintaining a safe and supportive academic environment. Protection officers play a vital role in campus operations, often serving as the first point of contact for students, staff and visitors.

Their responsibilities include maintaining safety, monitoring campus activity and ensuring that university spaces remain secure and welcoming. Tyobeka said having someone of Dijana's stature join this important function sends a powerful message about service and community.

"To have an individual of his stature join this vital function is both a privilege and a powerful statement about service and community," he said. The vice-chancellor also drew parallels between the endurance required in long-distance running and the determination needed to succeed in higher education.

"Universities, much like marathon runners, operate in the realm of endurance," Tyobeka said. "Academic success requires sustained focus, intellectual stamina and resilience in the face of complexity. Tete's journey mirrors the discipline and perseverance that define scholarly achievement."

Dijana's career on the road has inspired many aspiring runners across South Africa. His victories in the gruelling Comrades Marathon — an ultramarathon stretching nearly 90 kilometres between Durban and Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal — have made him a symbol of perseverance and determination.

Often referred to as the "Ultimate Human Race," the Comrades Marathon attracts thousands of athletes from around the world each year. Winning it even once is considered a career-defining achievement, making Dijana's three titles particularly remarkable.

Yet those who know the athlete often highlight his modesty and grounded personality as qualities that set him apart.

NWU said it believes Dijana's presence on campus will serve as a source of motivation for students and staff alike, particularly young people pursuing both academic and sporting ambitions.

Although his primary responsibility will be to serve as a protection officer, the university has indicated that it hopes to draw on Dijana's expertise in athletics to support the development of student athletes.

NWU runs several high-performance sports programmes aimed at nurturing talent across a variety of disciplines, and Dijana's experience at the highest levels of competition could provide valuable guidance to aspiring runners. The institution said his journey — from humble beginnings to international sporting success — reflects the spirit of perseverance that universities seek to instil in their students.

His appointment also sends a broader message about the dignity of work and the importance of community contribution, regardless of one's achievements or public profile. As he prepares to begin his new role at the Mahikeng Campus, the university said it looks forward to formally welcoming the champion runner into its community. For students and staff who will soon encounter him not on a marathon route but on campus walkways, Dijana's presence may serve as a daily reminder that discipline, humility and perseverance remain powerful tools — whether on the road to victory or in the service of others.



Faf Finalising Cheetahs Deal

The little giant slayer is supposedly set to swop Japan for Bloemfontein



Coming to Bloem ... Springbok stalwart, Faf de Klerk is reportedly set to join the Toyota Cheetahs. Picture: RugbyP

By Mpho Sekharume

The romantic allure of a Bloemfontein return appears to have outweighed the lure of the pound and euro as Springbok legend Faf de Klerk prepares for a sentimental homecoming.

According to a report by SA Rugby Magazine, the back-to-back World Cup-winning scrumhalf is on the verge of finalising a two-year deal with the Toyota Cheetahs, a move that would see him spurn lucrative interest from overseas giants.

While official confirmation from the franchise remains pending — with the Cheetahs' recent communications focusing on contract extensions for players like Marko Janse van Rensburg and Matome Manyama — the Bloemfontein-based outfit is reportedly closing in on the signature of the 34-year-old veteran whose contract with the Yokohama Canon Eagles in Japan reaches its conclusion this June.

The shift in scenery is deeply personal, driven by a desire for De Klerk to be closer to their family roots in the Northern Cape and Free State regions.

Negotiations with several high-profile suitors, including a potential return to Sale Sharks in England and interest from French Top 14 side Perpignan, reportedly stalled as the scrumhalf set his sights on a South African return.

Despite the massive pay cuts involved in choosing a domestic move over European or Japanese contracts, the Cheetahs have emerged as the frontrunners thanks to the recent financial backing of a local business consortium.

This fiscal stability has allowed Director of Rugby, Frans Steyn, to pursue marquee talent, viewing De Klerk as a vital asset to mentor rising stars in the squad.

The move marks a significant full-circle moment for the iconic number nine, who has spent the last four seasons in Japan after a storied stint in the English Premiership.

As his international career enters its twilight years, the prospect of playing in the orange jersey provides a boost to the Free State faithful and adds a legendary spark to the local rugby landscape.

While fans await the final handshake from the Toyota Stadium offices, all indications suggest that the 'Giant Slayer' is ready to swop the neon lights of Yokohama for the familiar horizons of the Free State.

PSL 2025/2026			
CLUBS	P	W	PTS
1 Mamelodi Sundowns	17	11	38
2 Orlando Pirates	17	12	38
3 Sekhukhune United	18	9	32
4 Kaizer Chiefs	16	8	30
5 AmaZulu FC	18	9	30
6 Durban City	18	8	28
7 Polokwane City	17	6	25
8 TS Galaxy	18	7	24
9 Golden Arrows	17	6	20
10 Richards Bay	17	4	19
11 Stellenbosch FC	17	5	19
12 Siwelele FC	18	4	18
13 Chippa United	16	4	18
14 Marumo Gallants	18	3	15
15 Orbit College FC	18	4	14
16 Magesi FC	17	2	12

Premier League 2025/2026			
TEAMS	P	W	PTS
1 Arsenal	30	20	67
2 Man City	29	18	60
3 Man Utd	29	14	51
4 Aston Villa	29	15	51
5 Chelsea	29	13	48
6 Liverpool	29	14	48
7 Brentford	29	13	44
8 Everton	29	12	43
9 Bournemouth	29	9	40
10 Fulham	29	12	40
11 Sunderland	29	10	40
12 Newcastle	29	11	39
13 Brighton	29	9	37
14 C Palace	28	9	35
15 Leeds	29	7	31
16 Tottenham	28	7	29

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