



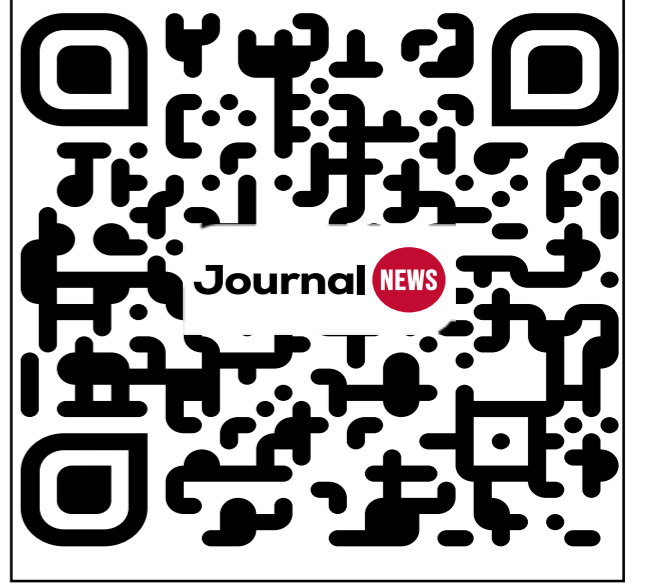
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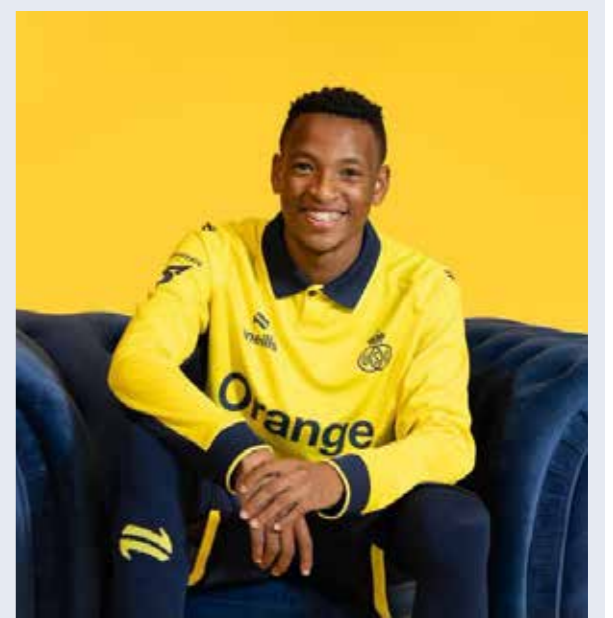
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TITI-ODILI FACES POLITICAL ONSLAUGHT

*Guesthouse raid and Nigerian husband
arrest scandal leaves Mangaung
Deputy Mayor politically
exposed as rivals seek
to capitalise on her
vulnerability*

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AG Sounds Alarm Over Free State Municipal Failures

Maluleke says every Free State municipality audited failed to comply with legislation, with several councils battling severe financial distress, crippling debt and repeated audit failures.

By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

The Free State's municipalities are facing mounting financial and governance challenges, with Auditor-General Tsakani Maluleke warning that local government in the province remains in a worrying state marked by financial distress, legislative non-compliance and persistent

accountability failures.

Tabling the 2024/25 Local Government General Report in Parliament on Tuesday, Maluleke said the sixth administration had made only limited progress in addressing municipal challenges, despite years of repeated warnings from her office.

The report paints a bleak picture across several provinces, with the Free State and North West

identified as among the hardest hit by financial distress, while municipalities in the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape continue to struggle with recurring audit and governance failures.

In the Free State, every municipality audited received material findings for failing to comply with legislation. The province is also home to some of the country's worst-performing municipalities, with three among only seven nationwide trapped in repeated disclaimed audit opinions for periods ranging between three and 10 years – the worst

possible audit outcome.

The province's financial management came under particularly sharp criticism. The Auditor-General identified the Free State as one of only three provinces with the highest number of municipalities in financial distress. Audits at Nala Local Municipality and Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality were delayed because financial statements were either submitted late or not submitted at all.

Dihlabeng Local Municipality was singled out as one of the country's 62 **Continues on Page 6**

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State Scraps Public Servants Union



By Mpho Sekharume

The Registrar of Labour Relations, Lehlohonolo Molefe, has announced his intention to cancel the legal registration of the Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA).

This drastic regulatory action threatens the future operations of one of the country's most prominent public sector labour organisations.

In a government gazette notice, Molefe cited severe non-compliance with statutory legislative frameworks as the primary driver behind this sudden intervention.

The decision follows an administrative assessment regarding how the association manages its legal obligations under national frameworks.

"The organisation is not a genuine trade union as envisaged in the LRA," Molefe states in the gazette.

This declaration by Molefe forms the baseline of the department's case against the State employee representative body.

The State maintains that the entity failed to satisfy foundational regulatory hurdles over an extended reporting period, specifically failing to comply with financial auditing and record-keeping provisions.

All interested parties and union leadership have now been invited to organise and submit urgent written representations to save the entity from complete de-registration.

These critical submissions must be delivered directly to the departmental offices located within Pretoria to avoid an automatic termination of status.

Stakeholders have exactly 60 days from the official date of publication to properly formulate and finalise their defence arguments.

Should the association fail to overturn the department's findings within this statutory window, its official recognition will be permanently deleted from the State register.

Titi-Odili Faces Political Onslaught

Nigerian husband's arrest scandal leaves Mangaung Deputy Mayor politically exposed as rivals seek to capitalise on her vulnerability

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

The political career of Mangaung Deputy Mayor, Lulama Titi-Odili, officially hangs in the balance following the arrest of her 56-year-old Nigerian husband, Lyndon Adentuji Odili, for allegedly harbouring undocumented foreign nationals.

This scandal has provided a strategic opening for rival political factions to capitalise on her sudden vulnerability. The arrest ironically took place on 30 June 2026 - the very deadline set by anti-illegal immigrant protesters for foreign nationals to leave South Africa.

Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathe, who is supposedly part of a rival faction within the African National Congress (ANC) in the province, has openly utilised the raid to expose Titi-Odili's alleged links to criminal activity.

According to Letsoha-Mathe, who spoke openly on television news broadcasts, investigations suggest Titi-Odili is the actual owner of the guesthouse where the raid took place.

Furthermore, authorities reportedly discovered an identity document belonging to a deceased individual on the premises, thus sparking speculation that further criminal charges may follow suit.

Should investigations implicate Titi-Odili in these activities, she may be forced to step aside from her party duties and vacate her roles as Deputy Mayor and MMC for Finance. Such a development would represent a dramatic fall for the deputy regional secretary, who recently contested the region's deputy chairperson position during a conference that collapsed in April.

Titi-Odili has previously courted controversy during her time as Municipal Public Accounts Committee chairperson, including a Hawks investigation into payments for services never rendered. While she



has long enjoyed significant support within regional structures, this latest scandal severely threatens her standing.

Her husband, Odili, appeared before the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court on Wednesday. He was released on R10 000 bail after facing 18 counts of harbouring and enabling undocumented foreign nationals to remain in the country.

Free State police spokesperson, Sergeant Mahlomola Karel, confirmed that a total of 18 undocumented individuals from countries including Ethiopia and Nigeria were found inside the guesthouse.

"SAPS members on an operation, received a tip-off

regarding several undocumented individuals spotted at a guesthouse along Raymond Mhlaba Street in Bloemfontein. The information suggested that the individuals were allegedly being hidden at the premises in reaction to the multidisciplinary operation targeting anti-foreigner sentiments during a planned national shutdown on the same day.

"The owner of the guesthouse was subsequently summoned to the scene. Following a consultation, he was arrested under Section 40(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977. Separate dockets have also been opened against the 18 undocumented individuals for contraventions against the Immigration Act, illegal

entry, and stay within the Republic of South Africa," Karel stated.

Bail conditions require Odili to report to his nearest police station twice a week and to the investigating officer if he leaves the Mangaung Metro area. His passport has been surrendered to the State, and the matter has been postponed to 31 July 2026 for further investigation.

The Mangaung Metro could not be reached for comment regarding the implications of the ongoing investigations. Authorities continue to work to establish the full circumstances surrounding the alleged offences.

PGCE Teachers Face Exclusion



By Bernell Simons

Alleged systemic exclusion within the Free State Department of Education is leaving scores of Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Foundation Phase graduates stranded without employment.

Despite holding nationally recognised qualifications and years of classroom experience, these educators report being systematically blocked from registering on the provincial database required for public school appointments.

The crisis surfaced after the educator - who previously held a permanent post within the system - was denied registration on the unemployed database.

Despite being shortlisted for a vacancy at Lückhoff Primary School, her appointment was halted because officials claimed her qualification was no longer adequate for Foundation Phase teaching.

"I went to the department with all my documents and was informed that I cannot be put on the database because of my qualification and because the matter of appointing Foundation Phase teachers with PGCE qualifications is still to be discussed," said one affected Bloemfontein teacher who has been unable to secure employment despite her years of service.

"We were good enough then, why not now," the teacher told Journal News Network.

This experience mirrors a broader trend, as universities have phased out the one-year PGCE Foundation Phase programme in favour of the four-year Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree.

While the State and the South African Council for Educators (SACE) maintain that the PGCE remains a legally valid professional qualification, departmental officials are allegedly informing applicants that it is insufficient for foundation-level instruction.

"The qualification remains a nationally recognised professional teaching qualification and continues to be accepted for both registration on the unem-

ployed educator's database and appointment into public schools," said Free State Education department spokesperson, Howard Ndaba, who strongly insists that there is no policy that exists to exclude PGCE graduates.

According to departmental statistics, while 1 135 PGCE or B.Ed. holders have been appointed to various positions, only 115 PGCE Foundation Phase graduates are currently registered on the provincial database suggesting a significant disconnect between official policy and on-the-ground administrative practice.

"We cannot even look at a CV without a database number," one school principal revealed.

Other school principals also confirmed, albeit anonymously, that the lack of a database number creates an insurmountable administrative barrier.

They all confirmed that schools attempting to recruit these PGCE teachers - derogatorily referred to as 'microwave' teachers - face excessive red tape, including requirements for formal motivation letters, which leads to avoiding hiring them entirely.

"The understanding over the years has been that the qualification cannot and will not be used in Foundation Phase appointments, so schools simply avoid those appointments because of the administrative difficulties," another principal added.

While the department insists the qualification is valid, the reality for many experienced teachers is a career dead-end within the public sector.

Research by Dr Clare Verbeek of the University of Cape Town indicates there is no evidence that PGCE graduates are less effective than their four-year degree counterparts, yet these educators continue to face systemic rejection.

"How can I have a PERSAL number and years of experience in the system but still not qualify for a database number," the teacher asked.

As the impasse continues, thousands of educators remain in limbo, with many now looking toward private education or international opportunities.

CRIME REPORTS

A 29-Year-Old Found With Explosives

A multidisciplinary, intelligence-driven operation, led by the Rustenburg Tactical Response Team (TRT), resulted in the arrest of a 29-year-old suspect who was found in possession of explosives in Meriting on Monday. The police received a tip about an individual allegedly in possession of explosives who was attempting to secure a buyer.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect is employed at a local mining operation. The information was operationalised, leading to the suspect being intercepted and found in possession of three explosive gel cartridges. The suspect was unable to provide a lawful explanation for possessing the explosives and was immediately arrested and

charged with contravening Section 28(1) of the Explosives Act, 1986 (Act No. 26 of 1986).

The Acting District Commissioner of Bojanala Platinum Sub-District 2, Brigadier Mamotsamai Ntoagae, said the illegal possession of explosives poses a serious threat to public safety and critical economic infrastructure.

She added that the police will remain committed to disrupting criminal activities through intelligence-led operations and strong partnerships with all stakeholders. Ntoagae also reiterated that the arrest demonstrates the police's determination to prevent explosives from falling into the wrong hands and being used to facilitate criminal activities.

Lesotho National Receives 30-Year Prison Sentence for Rape

The Tlhabane Regional Court sentenced 29-year-old Thabang Lestholo, a Lesotho national, to an effective 30 years' direct imprisonment for two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, one count of rape, and two counts of kidnapping. This comes after he approached a young couple on the street at Freedom Park in November 2023, asked for directions to a nearby tavern, but produced a firearm and pointed it at the couple before forcing them into nearby bushes. He robbed them of their belongings and raped the young woman. After the ordeal, the victim managed to escape and run for help; she sustained injuries and cuts. During the trial, Lestholo pleaded not guilty and claimed to have had a relationship with the complainant. However, the State successfully proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt. The prosecution further submitted a

Victim Impact Statement, facilitated by Court Preparation Officer Kenosi Pako, detailing the significant physical and psychological trauma suffered by the victim, including ongoing fear, emotional distress, and lasting effects on her wellbeing. In delivering the sentence, the court ordered that Counts 1 and 4 be taken together for purposes of sentence and that Counts 2 and 5 likewise be treated as one for sentencing purposes. The court imposed the following sentences: 15 years' imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances (Count 1), 15 years' imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances (Count 2), and 15 years' imprisonment for rape (Count 3). The sentences were ordered to run concurrently, resulting in an effective sentence of 30 years' direct imprisonment. The accused was further declared unfit to possess a firearm.

Police Investigate Case of Murder and Inquest

Goedemoed police are investigating a case of murder and inquest after an incident where a boyfriend was found with a stab wound, while foaming was observed from his girlfriend's mouth. Police confirmed that on 27 June, at about nightfall, they received a report from a neighbour who witnessed an altercation between the deceased and his girlfriend because she wanted to go home and sleep.

The witness alleges that he stood between them and tried to stop the fight, but the suspect went around him and stabbed the deceased. "The deceased allegedly went outside, and the suspect followed him. The witness further reported that he

went outside to look for the two inside their house but did not find them. He then walked around the farmyard with his children before they shouted that the person they were looking for was lying in the grass a distance from their house," police stated.

Upon police arrival at Strydpoort farm, the deceased's girlfriend was lying a distance from his body, still breathing.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) was summoned. Upon their arrival, EMS examined the woman and informed the police that the examination indicated she could possibly have taken a toxic substance. A case of murder and an inquest are being investigated.

AFU in NW Secures Court Order to Forfeit Seven Trucks

The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in the North West secured a court order to forfeit seven trucks used in an illegal chrome mining operation in Marulakop Village. The forfeiture order, granted on 25 June 2026 under Section 48 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA), follows an investigation that found the vehicles were instrumental in illegal mining activities.

According to the NPA, the order stems from an illegal chrome mining operation that has caused significant environmental, social, and economic harm. Illegal mining contributes to land degradation, water and soil contamination, and the formation of sinkholes, threatening ecosystems and nearby communities.

The NPA said such operations are also linked to serious crimes, including murder, rape, human trafficking, and other human rights violations, while placing additional strain on public health systems. Economically, illegal mining reduces government tax revenue, increases costs for legitimate mining companies, and discourages investment in the sector.

The court heard that on 13 July 2025, members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Nietverdiend responded to a complaint from a Marulakop resident about trucks allegedly involved in illegal mining on grazing land. Officers found seven trucks loaded with chrome ore. Seven suspects were arrested, while others fled the scene. The suspects allegedly failed to produce documentation authorising them to mine, transport, or possess the chrome ore.

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Free State Launches Surgical Blitz to Slash Backlogs



Dr. Viola Morolo, Founder and Director of African Synergy Health, and the Head of the Free State Department of Health participate in a symbolic candle-lighting ceremony marking the launch of the Mandela Surgical Marathon, a collaborative initiative aimed at reducing surgical waiting lists in the province. Picture: Supplied

By Bernell Simons

The Free State Department of Health has launched an aggressive surgical recovery plan aimed at reducing long waiting lists affecting thousands of patients, rolling out surgical marathons, public-private partnerships, equipment upgrades and the reopening of long-idle operating theatres across the province.

The launch of the Mandela Surgical Marathon marks a significant step in tackling one of the province's most pressing healthcare challenges. The initiative is a partnership between the Free State Department of Health, African Synergy Health (ASH), the University of the Free State and various private healthcare providers.

According to Department of Health spokesperson Mondli Mvambi, the province's surgical backlog includes about 4 300 orthopaedic patients, 3 400 urology patients and 8 300 eye care patients.

While acknowledging that surgical waiting lists remain a serious challenge nationwide, Mvambi said measurable progress is already being made.

Speaking on the department's plans for the 2026/27 financial year, he said the province has adopted realistic strategic priorities focused on improving patient care while reducing medico-legal claims.

"The Department acknowledges that it has not fully addressed the increasing number of

patients awaiting surgeries, which has been a nationwide challenge," he said.

Mvambi said practical interventions are being implemented to reduce waiting times, particularly for procedures that have historically placed immense pressure on public hospital theatres.

One of the department's early successes has been the introduction of surgical marathons – intensive, multi-day surgery campaigns designed to rapidly reduce waiting lists.

At Bongani Regional Hospital in Welkom, more than 100 cataract surgeries were completed during a four-day campaign, while nearly 200 cataract procedures were performed across the province during May and June alone. Similar interventions are expected to continue throughout the financial year.

A key component of the province's recovery strategy is the proposed Surgical Backlog Reduction Project at Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital in Bloemfontein. The initiative will utilise a public-private partnership model, allowing selected low-risk orthopaedic and urology patients to undergo surgery at private hospitals with available theatre capacity.

The department has also launched an ambitious programme to restore and operationalise operating theatres at several hospitals, including Thusanong, Katleho, Embekweni, Mafube, Fezi Ngubentombi, Elizabeth Ross, National District and Dihlabeng Regional hospitals.

Many of these facilities have been underutilised for years due to shortages of specialised healthcare personnel rather than infrastructure limitations.

"The main barrier isn't infrastructure but the shortage of skilled theatre personnel," said Mvambi.

"We are prioritising the recruitment of specialised theatre nurses, medical specialists and registrars while implementing retention strategies to strengthen our workforce."

The department is finalising appointments for 37 medical registrars and is introducing measures to retain healthcare professionals in the province. Mvambi acknowledged that attracting and retaining specialists remains difficult, as provinces such as Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape often offer more attractive opportunities.

In addition to the surgical recovery plan, the department has strengthened clinical governance, procured R70 million worth of hospital linen essential for infection prevention, invested in medical and diagnostic equipment, and reopened district operating theatres that had been closed for several years.

The interventions form part of a broader strategy to improve access to quality healthcare and ensure thousands of Free State residents receive life-changing surgeries without enduring lengthy delays.

North West Road Project Launches



Rural Community Boost ... New major road construction project aims to stimulate economic activity and create sustainable employment. Picture: Supplied

By Bernell Simons

North West Premier, Lazarus Mokgosi, has launched a R600 million road construction project in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, marking a major intervention to tackle rural infrastructure backlogs.

This multi-year development involves building a 33km road network to link villages including Debraak, Dwarsberg, Sesobe and Pitsedisulejang.

"The construction of this road network is not only about improving transport infrastructure, but also about creating opportunities for economic growth and development in our rural communities," Mokgosi said at the launch.

The construction project is expected to improve mobility, strengthen agricultural value chains and support tourism growth near the Madikwe Game Reserve and Pilanesberg National Park, while also testing the provincial government's ability to deliver large-scale infrastructure projects

and restore public confidence.

"I have no doubt that improved mobility and increased movement of people into these areas will have a positive multiplier effect on the local economy," Mokgosi added.

The Premier further pointed out that the project fulfils specific commitments made during his 2026 State of the Province Address (SOPA) to accelerate delivery in historically underserved areas.

This project forms part of a broader drive that includes more than R1 billion committed to strategic road developments in Phelindaba, Makwassie, Verdwaal and Ramokastad. Furthermore, the government has allocated over R700 million for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Swartruggens-Magaliesberg corridor.

The initiative aligns with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy, which seeks to stimulate economic activity and sustainable employment across all four provincial districts.

ANC Lauds Pule's Appointment, Amid Backlash

By JN Reporter

The African National Congress has welcomed the appointment of Dina Pule as the Minister of Social Development, despite widespread backlash from rival political parties and other organisations.

The party has officially acknowledged the latest changes to the Cabinet announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa, viewing this move as a significant step in the government's ongoing effort to support the na-

tion's most marginalised citizens.

"We extend our warm congratulations and wish her strength, wisdom and success as she assumes this important responsibility in the service of the people of South Africa. We are confident that she will discharge her duties with dedication and commitment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our society," the ANC said in a statement.

Opposition parties, including the Democratic Alliance (DA), have strongly rejected the decision and

raised concerns regarding the Minister's previous tenure in office.

They have cited historical findings from the Public Protector and past parliamentary proceedings to challenge the suitability of the appointment for such a critical portfolio.

The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, on the other hand, views the appointment of Pule with absolute dismay.

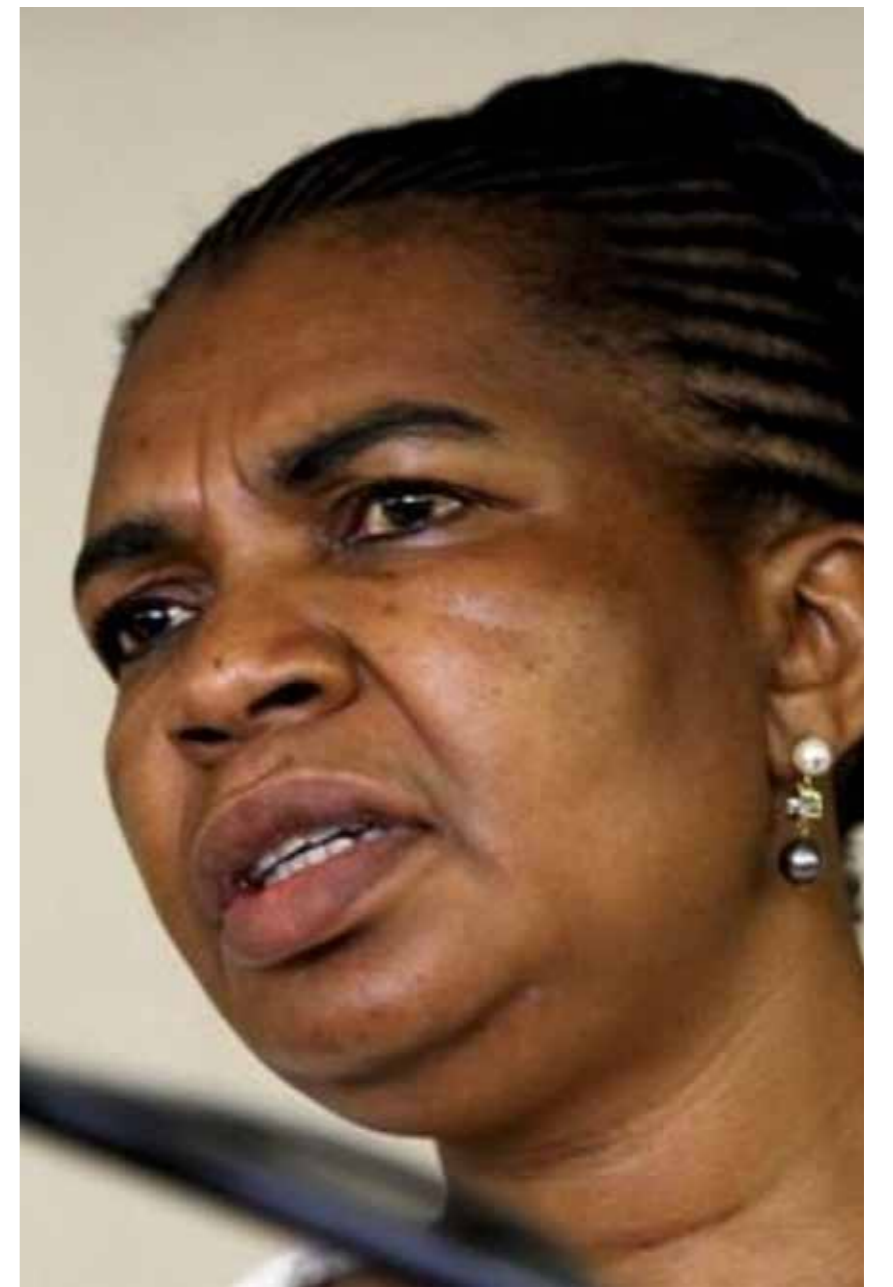
"South Africa cannot build a capable, ethical, and

developmental state by recycling individuals whose public records are severely tarnished by corruption, nepotism, and dishonesty," the foundation stated.

The appointment occurs under the President's constitutional prerogative, as defined in Sections 91

and 93 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The ANC maintains that this executive refresh is essential

The governing party has also extended its well-wishes to all other newly appointed Ministers and Deputy Ministers tasked with serving the public collectively within the Government of National Unity (GNU).



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Premier Intervenes as SASSA Queues Frustrate Botshabelo Residents



By Gomolemo Winkel

Long queues and persistent backlogs at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) office in Botshabelo have prompted intervention from the Free State government, with Premier Maqeen Letsoha-Mathae leading an integrated service delivery programme aimed at bringing essential services closer to residents.

The two-day outreach programme, held at Botshabelo Arena from 2 to 3 July, followed growing complaints from residents who said they had struggled for years to access SASSA services due to overcrowding, limited office space and recurring system failures.

The initiative brought together several government departments and agencies, including Home Affairs, Employment and Labour, Human Settlements, the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the South African Police Service (SAPS), the South African Revenue Service (SARS), financial institutions and healthcare providers, allowing residents to access multiple services under one roof.

Letsoha-Mathae said the programme was introduced after government listened to concerns raised by Botshabelo residents, particularly about conditions at the town's only SASSA office.

"We heard the outcry that people are forced to

queue from as early as four o'clock in the morning just to access services. Bringing departments together means residents no longer have to travel from one office to another, reducing both transport costs and the burden on vulnerable households," she said.

While many services were successfully delivered, the Premier acknowledged that SASSA experienced technical difficulties after its system went offline during the day, preventing some beneficiaries, including Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant applicants, from receiving assistance.

Residents welcomed government's efforts to bring services closer to the community but said the longstanding problems at SASSA remain unresolved.

Samuel Ramohapi, an elderly resident, said recurring system outages continue to frustrate beneficiaries, especially older people who often spend hours in queues only to be told to return the following day.

"The person who thought of it gave it a good thought. But the service is poor because the system, especially the SASSA system, is always down after every two hours," he said.

"I was there now, and it is offline. When it goes offline around midday, it means we must come back tomorrow. We wait from 08:00 until 13:00 and then the system goes down. That is why there is such a long queue at SASSA."

SASSA Free State spokesperson Motshewa Maleka said Botshabelo has only one SASSA office serving a large population, making integrated outreach programmes critical in expanding access to services.

Maleka said long queues are not caused by demand alone but also by grant reviews that require beneficiaries to update their information.

"We have a process called a review where people must come and update their information with SASSA. They also have to do eLife certification to show that they are still alive and remain eligible to receive the grant," she explained.

"We send SMS notifications to beneficiaries to come and complete the review process. If they do not come forward, we then halt or suspend their grants. That is one of the reasons we see long queues at SASSA offices." Meanwhile, the Department of Employment and Labour used the outreach programme to register job seekers on its employment database, provide Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) services, offer career guidance and interview preparation, and support small businesses.

The integrated service delivery initiative forms part of the provincial government's efforts to improve access to public services and address longstanding frustrations among Botshabelo residents, particularly the challenges facing vulnerable grant beneficiaries.

Municipal Manager Survives Hail of Bullets



By Matshidiso Selebeleng

Madibeng Municipal Manager Quiet Kgathla is recovering in hospital after surviving a brazen shooting in which gunmen fired multiple rounds at his vehicle in an apparent assassination attempt.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) in Brits has launched an attempted murder investigation following the attack, which took place on Wednesday evening on the Zilkaatsnek Road towards Hartbeespoort Dam.

According to police spokesperson Colonel Adele Myburgh, Kgathla was travelling along the road when a charcoal-coloured VW Polo TSI with Gauteng registration plates overtook his vehicle.

"It is alleged that two unidentified male occupants opened fire on the vehicle, discharging multiple rounds before fleeing the scene," said Myburgh.

Despite being struck by two bullets, Kgathla managed to keep control of his vehicle and drive to safety. "The victim sustained two gunshot wounds, one to

his leg and another to his arm. Despite his injuries, he managed to maintain control of his vehicle before coming to a stop near a petrol service station at Zilkaatsnek," she said.

Emergency medical personnel responded to the scene and transported Kgathla to a local hospital, where he remains in a stable condition.

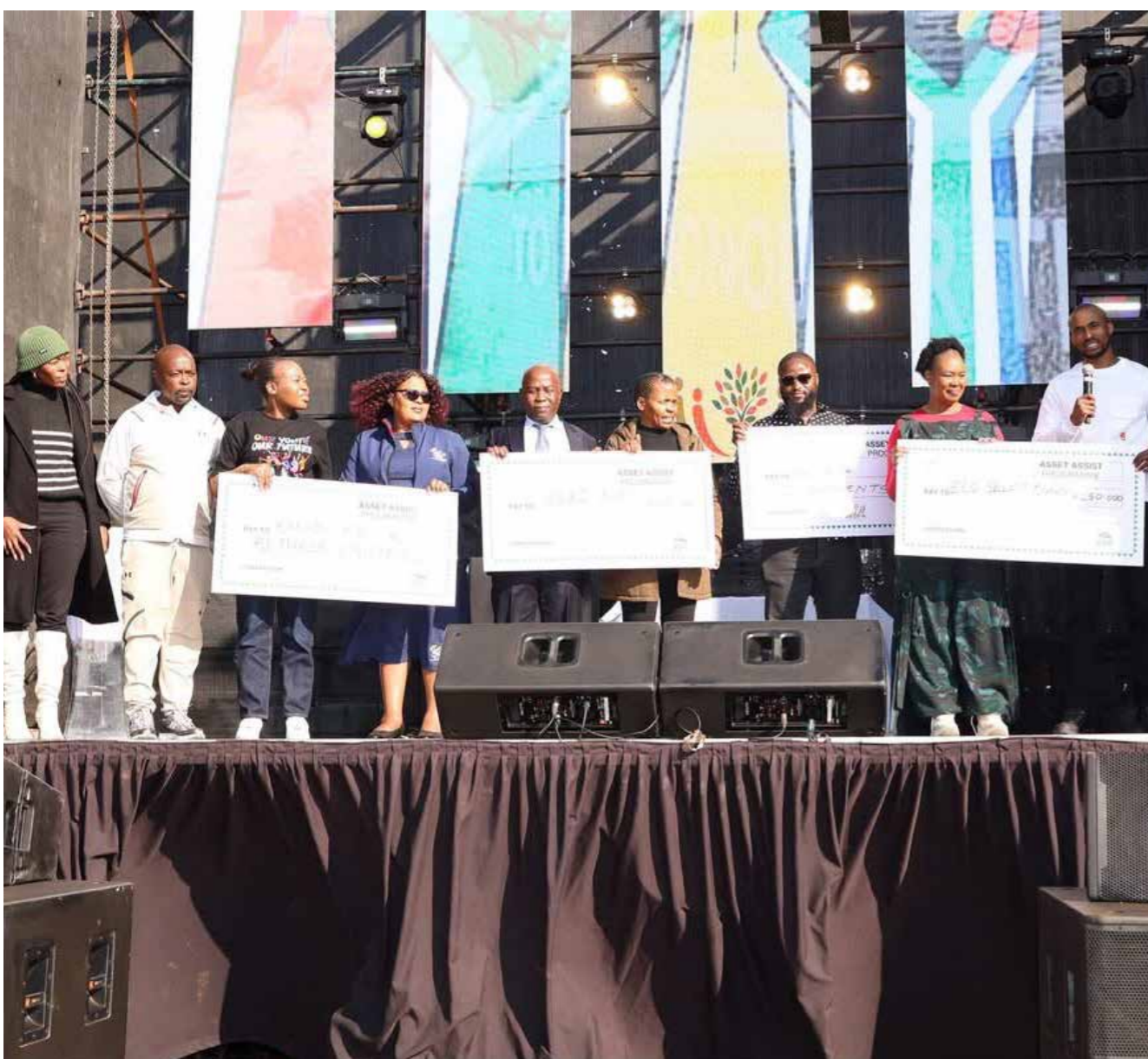
Authorities said the motive for the attack remains unknown and forms part of the ongoing investigation.

Kgathla's shooting comes less than a year after he was suspended over allegations of financial misconduct linked to a housing contract.

However, the High Court later overturned his suspension, ruling that it had expired before any disciplinary action was taken, paving the way for his reinstatement.

Police have appealed to anyone with information that could assist the investigation to come forward as detectives work to determine who was behind the attack and what may have motivated the apparent hit on the municipal manager.

Minister Ndabeni Unveils Peo Pele Youth Fund in QwaQwa



By JN Reporter

Young entrepreneurs received a significant boost last week Saturday where the Minister of Small Business Development, Stella Tembisa Ndabeni, officially launched the Peo Pele Youth Fund during the Youth Day Commemoration that took place at the Phuthaditjhaba Multi-Purpose Centre in QwaQwa, Free State.

Designed and administered by Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDEFA), the revitalised fund aims to expand access to affordable finance, business

development support and market opportunities for youth-owned enterprises across South Africa.

He newly launched Peo Pele Youth Fund is designed to respond to the specific needs of young entrepreneurs struggling to access funding and business support.

It is specifically geared towards addressing barriers that continue to limit meaningful youth participation in the economy.

Speaking at the launch, Ndabeni said the fund is intended to help young entrepreneurs build sustainable businesses, create jobs and contribute

to economic growth.

The event also celebrated youth achievement through the handover of Asset Assist support to entrepreneurs in sectors including construction and agro-processing, while certificates were awarded to participants who completed training programmes in artificial intelligence, robotics, baking, confectionery, nail technology and wig-making.

The launch marks an important step towards empowering a new generation of entrepreneurs and advancing inclusive economic growth.

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Three JTG officials arrested for fraud



By Bernell Simons

A major corruption investigation that has sent shockwaves through South Africa's local government sector is unfolding in the Northern Cape after the Hawks arrested three officials from the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, including its serving Municipal Manager, over allegations that they manipulated the outcome of a competency assessment to favour an allegedly unqualified candidate for a senior municipal position.

The accused, Municipal Manager Kagisho Klaas Teise, Motshabi Wilberforce Molusi, and Lerato Agreeeth Morris appeared before the Kuruman Magistrate's Court following their arrest by the Hawks' Serious Corruption Investigation unit based in Kathu.

They face allegations of corruption, fraud, cyber fraud, cyber forgery, uttering, and contraventions of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act. Teise and Molusi were granted bail of R10,000 each, while Morris was released on R5,000 bail. The matter has been postponed to 31 August 2026 for transfer to the Serious Commercial Crimes Court. At the centre of the investigation is the recruitment process for the position of Director of Community Services at the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, which was advertised on 16 October 2022. According to the Hawks, an independently conducted competency assessment found that the candidate had achieved only a "basic" competency rating, indicating that the applicant had failed to meet the minimum competency requirements for the strategic municipal position.

However, investigators allege that the assessment outcome was subsequently altered to reflect a rating of "competent", effectively allowing the candidate to proceed in the appointment process despite not

meeting the prescribed standards.

Confirming the arrests, Northern Cape Hawks spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Tebogo Thebe said the operation was the culmination of an extensive investigation conducted by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation.

"The arrest is a culmination of an investigation undertaken after allegations of corruption, fraud, cyber fraud, cyber forgery, uttering as well as contravention of the Municipal Finance Management Act were levelled against the suspects," Thebe said.

According to Thebe, investigators established that the accused allegedly "worked in tandem to change the competency results of the outcome of a competency assessment, which was undertaken by an external party at the request of the municipality in line with applicable legislation".

"The competency assessment results were changed to favour an undeserving candidate as his results came back basic, but were changed to competent," Thebe said. The involvement of a serving municipal manager has elevated the matter into one of the most significant municipal corruption investigations to emerge from the Northern Cape in recent years. Under South Africa's local government legislative framework, municipal managers serve as accounting officers responsible for ensuring sound governance, financial accountability and administrative integrity within municipalities. The inclusion of cyber fraud and cyber forgery charges has further heightened interest in the case, suggesting investigators are examining whether electronic records, digital systems or computer-generated documentation were manipulated as part of the alleged scheme.

These allegations have also reignited concerns about the integrity of municipal recruitment processes across South Africa. Competency assessments were introduced nationally as part of efforts

to professionalise local government administration and prevent political patronage, favouritism and the appointment of unqualified individuals to senior management positions. The assessments are intended to ensure that candidates possess the technical, financial, and leadership competencies required to manage public institutions effectively.

Yet successive reports by the Auditor-General of South Africa have repeatedly identified irregular appointments, weak internal controls, inadequate consequence management and skills shortages as among the primary causes of governance failures and deteriorating service delivery within municipalities. These findings have reinforced concerns that political interference and administrative manipulation continue to undermine efforts to professionalise local government.

The Hawks have in recent years intensified investigations into corruption within municipalities, pursuing cases involving procurement irregularities, financial misconduct, fraud and maladministration. Northern Cape Hawks Provincial Head Major General Stephen Mabuela has previously reaffirmed the Directorate's commitment to pursuing corruption within public institutions, warning that municipal corruption remains a significant threat to effective governance and public confidence.

However Thebe has confirmed that the investigation remains ongoing and that further arrests have not been ruled out, but for residents of the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, and for communities across South Africa grappling with service delivery failures and declining trust in public institutions, the allegations strike at the heart of local government accountability. The case raises troubling questions about whether systems designed to protect merit and competence in public administration can themselves be manipulated.

Northern Cape Is Rebuilding Public Trust One Road at a Time



By Bernell Simons

The launch of a R98 million fleet Yellow Fleet for road maintenance machines in Kimberley last week might have looked like a routine government event, but for Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul, the unveiling of the province's new Yellow Fleet and the official launch of Operation Vala Zonke represented a far more ambitious initiative.

It was a public declaration that service delivery, infrastructure investment, and government accountability are at the heart of his administration's agenda.

Joined by Northern Cape MEC for Roads and Public Works Fufe Makatong, Frances Baard District Executive Mayor Wende Marekwa, and Sol Plaatje Executive Mayor Martha Bartlett, Saul announced an intervention aimed at repairing roads, restoring municipal functionality, and rebuilding public confidence through visible action rather than mere political rhetoric.

The newly acquired Yellow Fleet, which includes motor graders, asphalt pavers, tipper trucks, water tankers, front-end loaders, and specialised road maintenance equipment, will lead an intensive three-month program to patch potholes and rehabilitate roads across all wards of Sol Plaatje Municipality.

This initiative will also include ongoing cleaning and beautification campaigns under the province's broader Operation Vala Zonke and Rooting Out the Dust programs. "This intervention represents a deci-

sive step towards transforming Sol Plaatje Municipality into a modern, clean, functional, and economically vibrant city," Saul stated during the launch.

In addition to municipal infrastructure, the province has invested heavily in essential services.

Since 2016, Northern Cape government expenditure on water and sanitation infrastructure has exceeded R4.29 billion, which includes R3.77 billion allocated to water projects and R524 million directed toward sanitation services. Provincial authorities report that over 95% of households now have access to potable water and sanitation services, highlighting significant improvements in service delivery outcomes.

Road infrastructure has become one of the most visible aspects of the province's investment strategy. The provincial government has committed approximately R4.3 billion toward maintaining and upgrading nearly 20,000 kilometers of secondary road networks for the medium term. Additionally, the acquisition of the R98 million Yellow Fleet aims to reduce reliance on external contractors and enhance the internal operational capacity of the Department of Roads and Public Works.

Operation Vala Zonke is designed to achieve multiple objectives simultaneously.

Beyond repairing potholes and rehabilitating roads, the program incorporates urban cleaning initiatives, public space restoration, and employment creation opportunities.

Miss SA Finalist advocates for young women empowerment

By Nonkululeko Ngubane

Content creator, entrepreneur, and media personality, Unami Mthethwa is leveraging her status as a Miss South Africa Top 24 finalist to empower young women.

Originally from Ulundi in KwaZulu-Natal, Mthethwa sees this competition as an opportunity to amplify the voices of young women and promote practical solutions to youth unemployment.

Based in Johannesburg, she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing, Communications, and Media from the University of Johannesburg.

When she entered the job market, she expected her qualifications to help her secure a position, but instead, she faced the same challenges that many young graduates encounter.

Rather than allowing these setbacks to define her, Mthethwa founded Unami Marketing and Media Solutions, a creative agency that offers branding, marketing strategies, social media management, content creation, and communication support to businesses.

"Being in the Top 24 is incredibly humbling. It reminds me that my story matters and that I now have a platform not just for myself, but for every young woman who is still trying to find her voice and place in the world."

"Starting my business shifted my mind set completely. It taught me that entrepreneurship is not just about business ownership, it's about problem-solving, value creation, and taking control of your own narrative."

"Our mission at the agency is to help brands tell their stories more effectively while building confidence among clients as their businesses grow in visibility and impact, she said."

Mthethwa's entrepreneurial journey has also shaped the advocacy platform she hopes to expand through her Miss South Africa experience.

Through the Empowerment of Young Adults (EYA) initiative, all Miss SA finalists are encouraged to develop sustainable initiatives that are focused on key pillars that help shape the future of young people in South Africa. These include access to education, mental health and wellness, healthcare access, and Pan-African collaborations.

"My advocacy is rooted in my personal experience. After graduating, I realised that many young people are not lacking talent or ambition, they are lacking access, mentorship, and practical skills."

"Motivation alone is insufficient without tangible opportunities. Through EYA, young women gain practical tools such as personal branding, communication skills, business awareness, and access to mentorship opportunities that they can apply in real life, she said."

Mthethwa added that growing up in Gauteng while holding onto her KwaZulu-Natal roots has given her a grounded sense of identity.

"It has shaped me into someone who values both community and ambition," she stated.

Although she never envisioned herself competing in the Miss SA pageant, her mother encouraged her to apply. "My mom played a huge role in inspiring me to enter. What truly convinced me was the opportunity to align with purpose and impact," she shared.

Mthethwa emphasises that being in the Top 24 is about more than personal achievement.

"It reminds me that my story matters, and I now have a platform for every young woman who is still trying to find her voice and place in the world, she said."

Drawing on her background in marketing and communications, she believes storytelling can drive social change.

"Marketing and communications have taught me that storytelling shapes perception and drives change."

"My advocacy is built on clarity, authenticity, and connection because people respond best to messages that feel real and relatable, Mthethwa said."

When asked about how she uses social media to propel her career forward, she noted that it has become one of the most powerful tools for visibility, branding, and opportunity creation.

She advises young entrepreneurs to focus on creating long-term value instead of chasing short-term attention.

"It requires structure and a strong sense of purpose. All my roles are connected through communication, creativity, and leadership," she said.

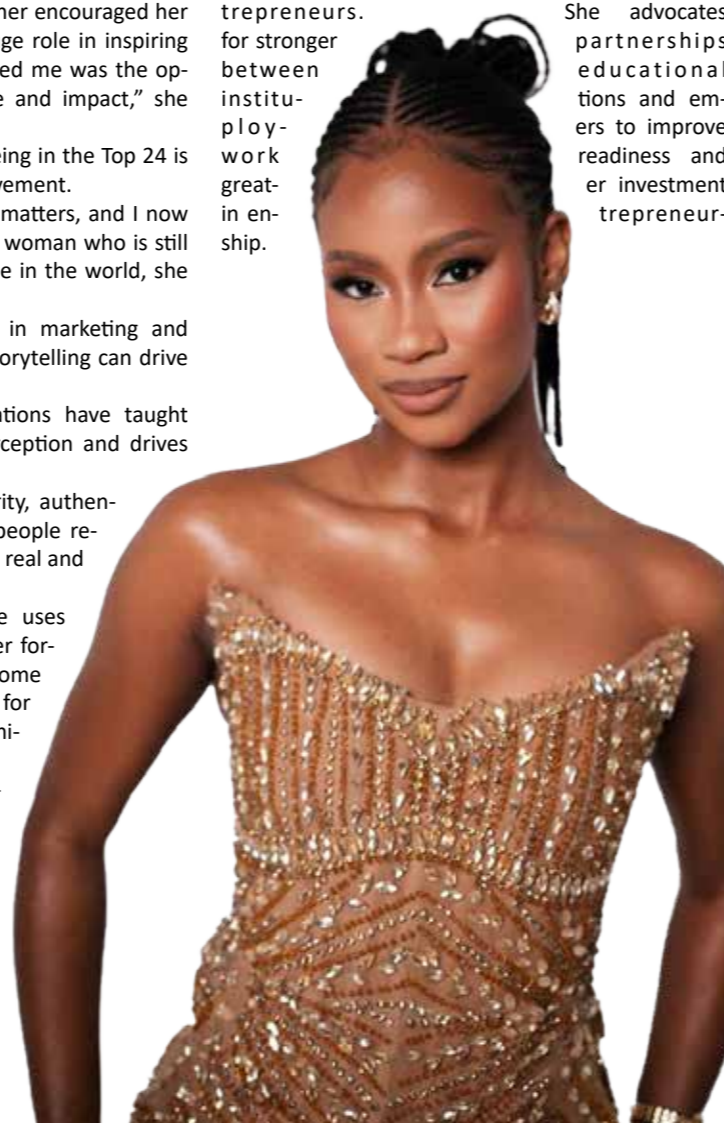
She says the Miss SA journey has challenged her to rethink her views on leadership.

"This journey has taught me that leadership is not about having all the answers, but it's about being willing to learn, grow, and serve others authentically." Given the opportunity to wear the crown, Mthethwa hopes to leave behind what she describes as a legacy of practical empowerment.

"I want young women to be equipped with skills, mentorship, and real opportunities that allow them to build sustainable futures," she added.

Looking ahead, she believes addressing South Africa's unemployment crisis requires collaboration among government, businesses, and entrepreneurs.

She advocates for stronger partnerships between educational institutions and employers to improve readiness and investment in entrepreneurship.



UFS Among Top 200 Worldwide for SDG 10 in Sustainability Impact Rankings

The University of the Free State (UFS) has achieved a notable advancement in the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, demonstrating its strongest global performance in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.

SDG is a collection of 17 universal targets adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

They are designed as a shared blueprint to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure global prosperity by 2030 as a dressing interconnected social, economic and environmental issues.

The UFS is ranked in the band between 101 and 200 in the category of Reduced Inequalities which has placed the university among the top institutions worldwide.

UFS Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof. Hester Klopper says this ranking highlights the institution as one of a select group of universities recognized for translating the promise of fairness into measurable progress, broadening access, and creating pathways for participation across higher education systems.

UFS's participation in the 2026 cycle covers seven SDGs, including Zero Hunger (SDG 2 – ranked between 201–300), Quality Education (SDG 4 – ranked between 301–400), Gender Equality (SDG 5 – ranked between 201–300), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6 – ranked between 301–400) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10 – ranked between 101–200), amongst others.

Kloppers says this progress reflects the steady institutional advancements and underscores the University's growing contribution to global sustainability efforts, driven by determined work in teaching, research, engagement, and institutional practices.

Kloppers stated that the results reflect the University's ongoing commitment to societal impact as part of its core mission.

"The University of the Free State's progress in the rankings demonstrates our commitment to responsible societal futures," she said.

"These results illustrate the intentional work being carried out across the institution to ensure that access, inclusion, and social impact are embedded in how we teach, research, and engage with society, said Klopper.

Adopted by the United Nations, the SDGs represent a global call for urgent and coordinated action on poverty, inequality, education, health, climate change, and environmental sustainability.

Within this framework, universities are increasing-



ly recognized as key players in generating knowledge, innovation, and partnerships that propel progress toward these goals.

Kloppers said at UFS, this commitment is reflected in daily academic and institutional activities.

"Efforts related to Quality Education and Gender Equality can be seen in initiatives aimed at broadening access, enhancing participation, and improving outcomes for individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those entering higher education for the first time and those historically excluded from these opportunities, she said."

She also said that this commitment is evident in ongoing efforts to enhance inclusion for staff and students with disabilities, as well as in institutional initiatives aimed at addressing discrimination and fostering environments where participation is more equitable and supported across all areas of university life.

AG Exposes 15-Year Accountability Failure at Renosterberg

By Bernell Simons

The revelation that Renosterberg Local Municipality in Petrusville submitted a municipal performance report for audit for the first time in 15 years has exposed deep failures in accountability, oversight and governance, raising serious questions about the effectiveness of South Africa's local government monitoring systems.

The startling disclosure was made by Auditor-General Tsakani Maluleke during the presentation of the 2024/25 Local Government General Report in Parliament, where she revealed that the municipality only prepared and submitted its performance report after the Auditor-General's office issued a Material Irregularity notification in April 2024.

The revelation has sparked a troubling question: How was a municipality able to operate for more than a decade without submitting one of the most basic accountability documents used to measure service delivery performance, and why did decisive intervention only occur after direct action by the Auditor-General?

A municipal performance report is a cornerstone of local government accountability. It enables councillors, oversight bodies, provincial authorities and communities to assess whether municipalities are delivering on commitments outlined in their Integrated Development Plans, meeting performance targets and using public funds effectively.

Yet, despite finally submitting the report, the Auditor-General found that the quality of the information remained deeply inadequate.

"The municipality prepared and submitted a performance report for auditing for the first time. However, the quality of the performance reports continued to be poor," Maluleke told Parliament.

The disclosure has placed renewed scrutiny on oversight structures that allowed such a fundamental governance failure to persist unchecked for 15 years. Questions are now being asked about the role of municipal councils, executive leadership, provincial oversight authorities and national monitoring mechanisms that failed to identify or address the non-compliance.

The Renosterberg case forms part of a broader pattern of governance failures identified by the Auditor-General across South Africa's local government sector.

Speaking to Journal News Network following the release of the audit outcomes, Maluleke expressed concern over the prolonged breakdown of accountability mechanisms.

"It is shocking that so many years have gone by without any intervention or red flags being raised. The

rot in our municipalities needs to be exposed and people working with the rot should be held accountable. We are failing our people," she said.

Her comments underscore growing concerns about the effectiveness of accountability systems within local government and raise difficult questions about how such a significant governance failure was allowed to continue for more than a decade.

Presenting the national audit outcomes, Maluleke painted a troubling picture of municipalities battling financial instability, poor leadership, weak administrative capacity and persistent governance failures. She described progress in improving municipal governance as "limited", warning that many municipalities remain trapped in financial distress due to unreliable financial information, ineffective financial management and inadequate oversight.

The scale of the crisis was further highlighted by the finding that five municipalities in the Free State, Northern Cape and North West failed to submit their annual financial statements within the prescribed legal deadline. According to the Auditor-General, these failures stemmed from capacity constraints and systemic weaknesses that were not adequately addressed by accounting officers, mayors or municipal councils.

Performance reporting emerged as one of the most concerning areas nationally. The Auditor-General revealed that 73% of municipal performance reports submitted for audit contained material findings before corrections were made. Without opportunities to amend those errors during the audit process, only 27% of performance reports would have been considered reliable enough to support effective oversight and public accountability.

For residents of Renosterberg, the disclosure is likely to intensify demands for answers over how such a fundamental governance failure was allowed to continue for 15 years.

More broadly, the case reinforces the Auditor-General's warning that persistent failures of leadership, oversight and consequence management continue to undermine service delivery and erode public trust in local government institutions.

Ultimately, the cost of poor governance is borne not by officials or political office bearers, but by the communities who depend on municipalities for basic services, infrastructure and development. The Renosterberg case therefore poses an uncomfortable but necessary question: If a municipality can fail to submit a basic accountability document for 15 years without meaningful intervention, what does that say about the true state of accountability in South Africa's local government system?

AG Sounds Alarm Over Free State Municipal Failures



Continues from Page 1

municipalities facing severe financial distress. The municipality is burdened by mounting debt and faces significant uncertainty about its ability to continue operating. Its liabilities exceed available assets by nearly R471 million, while debts of more than R1.1 billion are owed to Eskom. Persistent cash flow challenges have also left the municipality unable to pay creditors on time.

The North West continues to face similar difficulties with delayed financial statements. Although the province reduced municipalities with disclaimed audit opinions from nine to one over the past four years, every municipality still received material findings for non-compliance with legislation and many remain under severe financial pressure.

In the Northern Cape, governance concerns persist despite some signs of improvement. One municipality failed to submit financial statements on time, while Renosterberg Local Municipality produced a performance report for the first time in 15 years following intervention by the Auditor-General. However, the quality of reporting remains poor.

The Eastern Cape also continues to struggle, with two municipalities remaining among the country's long-term repeat disclaimer cases, highlighting ongoing institutional weaknesses and poor accountability.

Nationally, only 39 municipalities – representing 15% of South Africa's 257 municipalities – achieved clean audits and account for just 8% of local government expenditure.

Maluleke warned that millions of South Africans continue to pay the price for municipal failures through unreliable basic services, deteriorating infrastructure and worsening financial instability.

The report reveals that only 35% of municipalities are financially healthy, while 40% have concerning financial statements containing serious errors.

The audit further found that municipalities incurred billions of rands in financial losses, driven by weak procurement controls, poor contract management and ineffective consequence management.

Infrastructure shortcomings also remain widespread, with nearly eight out of every 10 projects audited showing significant deficiencies. Many projects were delayed by more than two years, while failing wastewater treatment plants and poorly managed landfill sites continue to pose serious environmental and public health risks.

Despite some positive developments, including fewer disclaimed audit opinions nationally and improved submission of financial statements, Maluleke said these gains were largely the result of stronger oversight by national and provincial government rather than sustainable improvements within municipalities.

"The root causes of continued poor audit outcomes and municipal failures can be traced to persistent accountability failures at multiple levels," she said.

She called on mayors, councillors, municipal managers and political leaders to urgently strengthen governance, professionalise local administration, enforce accountability and appoint capable leaders who can restore public confidence and improve service delivery.

With South Africa preparing for a new local government administration, Maluleke warned that the quality of future leadership will determine whether municipalities can reverse years of decline or continue failing the communities they are meant to serve.

SA Pushes to End Raw Mineral Exports



By Bernell Simons

South Africa is intensifying calls to end its dependence on exporting raw minerals, with government leaders arguing that the country must shift from being a supplier of "rock and dust" to becoming a global manufacturing hub that creates jobs and adds value to its vast mineral wealth.

The renewed push comes as South Africa's mining industry continues to play a pivotal role in the economy. In 2025, the sector generated R861 billion in sales and R816 billion in exports, contributed R477 billion to the country's GDP and directly employed more than 470 000 people. Nearly two million South Africans depend on mining for their livelihoods.

Despite producing some of the world's most valuable minerals, much of South Africa's mineral wealth leaves its shores in raw form, allowing other countries to manufacture products, create jobs and generate significantly higher profits from resources extracted in Africa.

The issue was thrust into the spotlight by Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni during recent BRICS engagements, where she challenged member states to support Africa's industrialisation ambitions.

Her message was clear: Africa must stop being merely a supplier of raw materials and become a producer of finished goods needed for the rapidly expanding green and digital economies.

South Africa remains one of the world's richest mineral economies, boasting globally significant reserves of platinum group metals, chrome, manga-

nese, vanadium, iron ore and rare earth minerals. These resources are essential for electric vehicles, battery storage systems, renewable energy infrastructure, advanced manufacturing and digital technologies.

However, while South Africa extracts many of the minerals powering the modern world, much of the manufacturing value chain exists elsewhere.

Raw chrome ore exported from South Africa is processed into ferrochrome and stainless steel abroad. Platinum concentrates are transformed into catalytic converters and hydrogen fuel cells in foreign factories, while manganese ore is converted into battery-grade materials and energy storage technologies overseas.

By the time these finished products enter global markets, they are worth several times more than the raw materials that left African shores.

According to Ntshavheni, this imbalance lies at the heart of South Africa's renewed drive for beneficiation—the strategy of processing and manufacturing mineral products locally instead of exporting them in raw or semi-processed form.

Supporters of beneficiation argue that by exporting raw minerals, South Africa is effectively exporting jobs, industrial capacity and economic opportunities.

South Africa controls approximately 80% of the world's chrome reserves and exported a record 20.5 million tonnes of chrome concentrate in 2024, generating around R85 billion in revenue. However, much of that ore was shipped to China, where lower electricity costs, state support and robust industrial infrastructure have enabled Chinese producers to

dominate global ferrochrome production.

Research into mining economies across Southern Africa consistently shows that countries derive greater long-term benefits when mining is linked to manufacturing, technology development and domestic industrial supply chains.

Instead of exporting raw minerals and importing expensive finished goods, South Africa could potentially manufacture battery components, green hydrogen technologies, industrial metals, fuel cells, renewable energy equipment and advanced industrial products locally.

The potential benefits extend beyond national economic growth figures.

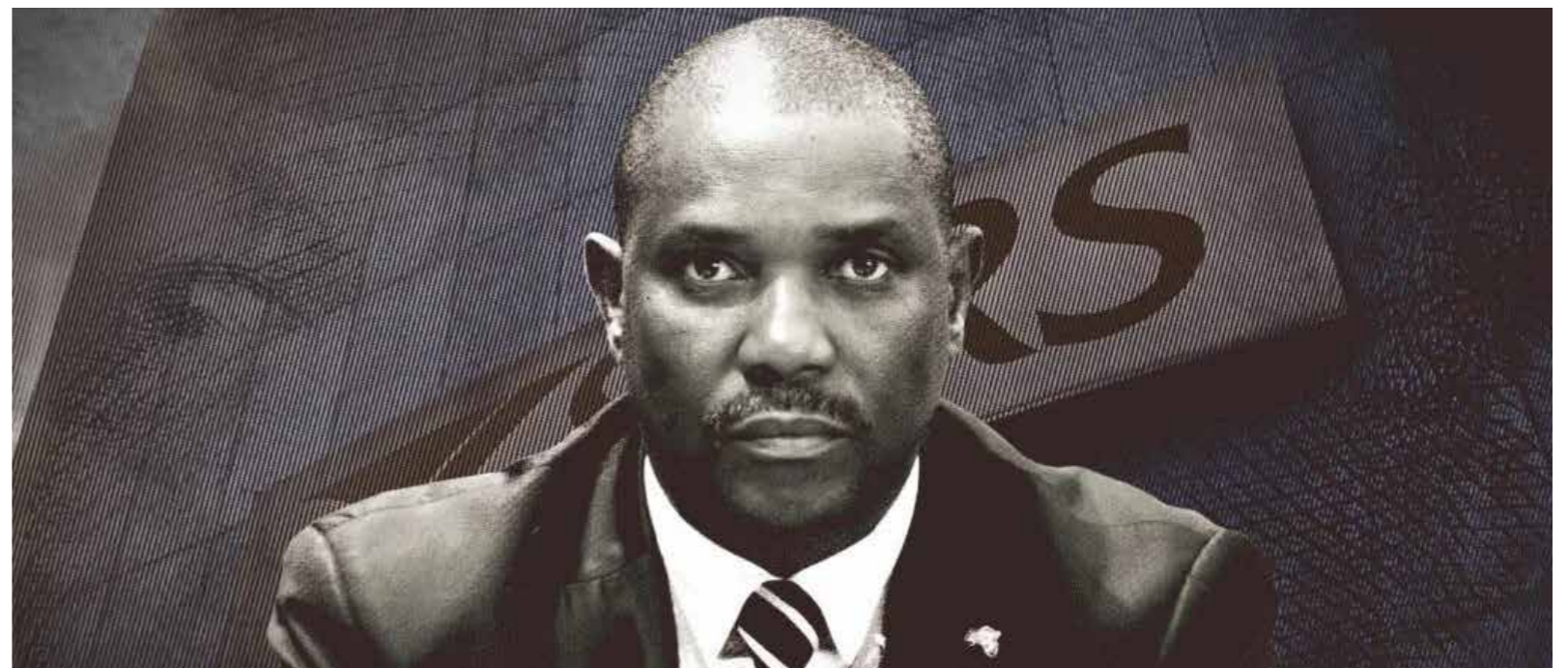
In the Northern Cape, home to vast deposits of manganese, iron ore, zinc and copper, beneficiation could support green steel manufacturing, battery production and renewable energy industries.

North West, which contains some of the world's largest platinum and chrome reserves, could emerge as a centre for hydrogen fuel technologies, catalytic converter manufacturing and advanced metals processing.

The Free State could position itself as a strategic hub for engineering services, logistics, industrial parks and downstream manufacturing linked to regional mineral value chains.

Government leaders believe that keeping more of South Africa's mineral wealth at home could unlock new industries, create thousands of jobs and transform mining provinces into centres of industrial development, ensuring the country's natural resources generate greater value for future generations.

SARS is coming after these taxpayers in South Africa hard in 2026



The South African Revenue Service (SARS) has published its Draft Guide to the Taxation of Crypto Assets, outlining how the taxman intends to treat crypto activity.

According to tax experts at Tax Consulting SA, the guide largely focuses on the position of South African tax-resident taxpayers and how they should treat and disclose proceeds from crypto trading.

The revenue service previously made it abundantly clear that the 6 million or so taxpayers involved in crypto trading would be under scrutiny.

The guide covers, among other things, the legal and tax nature of crypto assets, their various uses and the associated income tax consequences, including donations.

It also provides guidance on compliance, record-keeping, provisional tax, income tax returns and disclosure obligations.

SARS noted that the principles contained in the guide are designed to be foundational rather than overly specific.

The specific characteristics of each crypto asset and transaction must therefore be considered, as these may fundamentally affect the applicable income tax and capital gains tax consequences.

"Although the guide is not a binding document, it signals enhanced regularisation and monitoring aligned with SARS strategic initiative of promoting voluntary compliance," Tax Consulting said.

To strengthen its oversight of the digital economy, SARS established a dedicated Crypto Revenue Augmentation Unit.

This is in addition to other segment units launched in recent years, which have helped the revenue service track and audit specific markets, with digital asset transactions now in focus.

Public comment on the guide, must be submitted by 31 August 2026.

Uncertainty of how to properly declare crypto transactions and especially the fruits of those transactions, leads to significant historic non-compliance among crypto traders," it said.

It added that taxpayers who want to regularise their tax affairs must do so through the SARS Voluntary Disclosure Programme, which now permits further relief to taxpayers in the form of a separate request for remission of interest.

Failure to do so may lead to tax consequences.

The guide addresses the uses of crypto assets and associated income tax consequences, stating that the crypto asset market is dynamic and subject to constant change and innovation.

Some of the key considerations in the draft guide include income tax consequences associated with:

- Selling of crypto assets for fiat currency (including how it is viewed from a deduction perspective, inherited crypto assets, etc.);
- Selling or swapping a crypto asset for a different crypto asset;
- Paying for goods or services using crypto assets / "receiving" crypto assets for the payment of goods or services;
- Services rendered by an employee in exchange for crypto assets and crypto assets granted

as a benefit or advantage in respect of employment

- Crypto arbitrage (a trading strategy that takes advantage of price differences for the same crypto asset across different exchanges);
- Earning crypto assets through mining;
- Crypto mining partnerships; and
- Initial coin offerings, air drops and hard forks.

The guide also includes 'practical examples' related to crypto trades and the obligations attached.

"The publication of the draft guide clearly demonstrates that South Africa's crypto regulatory framework is rapidly maturing and becoming increasingly integrated," Tax Consulting said.

The publication of the draft guide follows South Africa's implementation of the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) from 1 March 2026, which aligns the country with international standards on the reporting and exchange of crypto asset information.

Following suit was the subsequent publication of the National Treasury's Draft Capital Flow Management Regulations, 2026, on 17 April 2026.

These draft regulations signal significant regulatory tightening of the use and movement of crypto assets in South Africa, with a focus on managing capital flows through a risk-based approach.

"Taxpayers involved in crypto transactions should expect increased scrutiny and enhanced information sharing between tax authorities, making accurate reporting and compliance more important than ever," Tax Consulting said.

ARTISAN GRADUATION CEREMONY

FREE STATE PRODUCES 45 NEW ARTISANS IN JOBS DRIVE



MEC Dibolelo Mance

In a significant boost for skills development and youth employment, the Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has celebrated the graduation of 45 newly qualified artisans, the first cohort to complete trade tests through its Artisan Development Programme aimed at tackling unemployment and addressing the province's technical skills shortage.

The graduates were honoured during an Artisan Graduation Ceremony held at the Kroonstad Civic Centre Theatre on Thursday, 02 July. The event brought together MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure Dibolelo Mance, government officials, municipal leaders, industry partners and the graduates' families.

The graduates successfully completed their trade tests through the department's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Artisan Development Programme, an initiative designed to develop technical skills while creating employment pathways for young people.

Addressing the graduates, Mance described the occasion as more than a ceremony celebrating qualifications.

"This is a celebration of determination, resilience, skills development and the transformative power of opportunity," she said.

Mance emphasised that infrastructure development is not only about constructing and maintaining public assets but also about empowering communities through skills development and job creation.

"We believe infrastructure development is also about creating opportunities, restoring dignity and equipping young people with the skills needed to drive economic growth," she said.

The Artisan Development Programme was launched in October 2024 to strengthen the department's technical capacity while addressing the growing demand for skilled artisans. Through partnerships with municipali-

ties across the Free State, the department recruited 255 artisan trainees in various trades and provided them with accredited training and practical workplace experience on infrastructure projects.

According to Mance, the graduation of the first 45 participants demonstrates the value of sustained investment in skills development and collaboration between government, educational institutions and industry.

She said the programme forms part of the province's broader strategy to combat unemployment, reduce poverty and address the country's shortage of critical technical skills.

The programme has also made strides in advancing youth and women's empowerment.

Of the 255 trainees recruited, 130 are women and 201 are young people, representing nearly 79 percent of all participants.

Mance said these figures reflect government's commitment to transforming the construction and built environment sectors by creating opportunities for groups that have historically been under-represented.

Several graduates have already secured employment in both the public and private sectors, while others have gained valuable workplace experience through maintenance projects at schools, hospitals, government offices, municipal facilities and other public infrastructure sites across the province.

"These successes demonstrate that the programme is not only producing qualified artisans but also creating sustainable livelihoods while improving the quality of public infrastructure for communities," Mance said.

Moqhaka Local Municipality Executive Mayor Ramasimong Tau described the graduation as a celebration of opportunity and progress.

"Today is more than an award ceremony; it is a celebration of employment from the government to the youth," he said.

Representatives from Harmony Gold Mine encouraged learners interested in engineering careers to focus on Mathematics and Physical Science and to explore bursaries, learnerships and internship opportunities available in the mining sector.

The department has committed to expanding the Artisan Development Programme in partnership with municipalities, TVET colleges, SETAs and industry stakeholders to create more opportunities for young people to enter skilled trades and contribute to the Free State's economic growth and infrastructure development.



Tshele Moloi (Carpentry), Dipuo Setan Kakana (Carpentry), Sibongile Khumalo (Plumbing), Mosela Tabitha Tshabalala (Plumbing), Sello John Mahlonjo (Bricklaying), Tlou Paballo Abiel Thabana (Bricklaying), Ntai Moleko (Welding), Belleme Elliott Mashini (Welding), Selonyana Darinton Rakauoane (Welding), Tshespo Promise Mofokeng (Painting and Decorating), Siyabonga Raymond Mtsi (Painting and Decorating), Setabele Jonas Mokhatla (Painting and Decorating), Ian Tladi (Painting and Decorating), Siphon John Nchee (Welding), Meisie Joyce Majale (Painting and Decorating), Nonhle Blessing Twala (Painting and Decorating), Tinte Victor Zwane (Painting and Decorating), Lindwe Bernice Sebao (Painting and Decorating), Zandile Monica Makhawu (Painting and Decorating), Motse Samuel Rantoe (Painting and Decorating), Mamello Trevor Falane (Painting and Decorating), Matshene Kranshoek (Painting and Decorating), Mafelane Joseph Mooloantsoa (Painting and Decorating), Refilwe Athur Mahlavi (Painting and Decorating), Pinky Motomeni (Painting and Decorating), Moleboheng Regina Litabe (Painting and Decorating), Noma Elsie Gwanbi (Painting and Decorating), Nqobile Sibya (Painting and Decorating), Zikhona Mdlala (Painting and Decorating), Mqoba Isaijah Majola (Carpentry), Sello William Sehloho (Carpentry), Motlalepula Tekeny (Welding), Papadi Lehopa (Welding), Buntu Gwambi (Plumbing), Thabang Kenneth Mokoena (Electrical Installation).

Opinion

Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller
Research Theme Leader: Flourishing Life, Directorate Research
Development, University of the Free State



Foreclosing Flourishing: Xenophobia and South Africa's Constitutional Future

Xenophobia has long been a feature of South African society. What is particularly concerning is that hostility towards immigrants appears to be deepening and becoming increasingly normalised. According to the latest Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) analysis, the proportion of South Africans who say they would welcome all immigrants has declined from 34% in 2003 to just 15% in 2025, while the proportion who would welcome no immigrants has risen to 42% - the highest level recorded in the survey's history.

These findings should concern us deeply, not simply because of what they reveal about attitudes towards foreigners, but because of what they reveal about us.

It is tempting to view xenophobia as a problem that affects only migrants. That would be a mistake. Xenophobia is not merely a threat to those who are excluded; it is a threat to the moral foundations of our society and to the constitutional project upon which our democracy rests.

The frustrations driving anti-immigrant sentiment are real. South Africans continue to confront staggering levels of unemployment, inequality, poverty, crime and insecurity. Many communities feel abandoned by a state that has struggled to fulfil its constitutional promises. These conditions create fertile ground for resentment and scapegoating by those with nefarious intentions.

Yet recognising the legitimacy of public frustration does not require us to accept the legitimacy of exclusion. Indeed, history teaches us that societies rarely solve their deepest challenges by identifying new groups to blame.

The danger of exclusion

The Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben offers a useful lens through which to understand what is at stake. Agamben warned of the dangers that emerge



when societies create categories of people who are physically present but politically and morally excluded. He described this condition as 'bare life' - a state in which human beings are reduced to their mere existence, stripped of meaningful recognition, belonging and protection.

One need not embrace all of Agamben's arguments to appreciate the warning. The moment a society begins to ask who deserves dignity, rather than how dignity can be protected, it enters dangerous territory.

South Africans should recognise this danger. Our

constitutional democracy emerged from a history in which human worth was systematically categorised, graded and denied. The struggle against apartheid was not simply a struggle against racial discrimination. It was a struggle against a political order that treated some lives as less valuable than others.

The Constitution represented a profound rejection of that logic. It affirmed that dignity inheres in all persons and that human worth cannot be contingent upon race, ethnicity, origin, status or utility. The constitutional promise was never merely procedural; it was ethical and transformative. It sought to

create a society in which all people could flourish.

This is why the rise in xenophobic sentiment should alarm us. The danger lies not only in acts of violence or discrimination, but also in the growing normalisation of exclusion itself. Once exclusion becomes accepted as a legitimate political principle, the constitutional culture that sustains rights begins to erode.

Constitutional democracies do not survive through courts and legal texts alone. They depend on habits of recognition. They require citizens to acknowledge the humanity of others, even when those others are different from themselves. When this recognition weakens, constitutional guarantees lose their social foundation.

Ubuntu as a constitutional ethic
At this point, ubuntu offers an important corrective.

Ubuntu is often invoked as a call for compassion, but it is much more than that. It is a profound philosophical account of what it means to be human. Ubuntu teaches that personhood is relational. We become fully human through our relationships with others, and our wellbeing is intertwined with the wellbeing of those around us. This insight carries particular significance in the present moment.

Xenophobia assumes that flourishing can be achieved through exclusion. Ubuntu suggests precisely the opposite.

It reminds us that flourishing emerges through recognition, belonging and mutual care. It teaches that our humanity is not secured by diminishing others, but deepened through our relationships with them.

Nelson Mandela understood this well. So too did Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Both recognised that denying another person's humanity ultimately diminishes our own.

South Africans Are Not Xenophobic

#Abahambe is directed at illegal immigrants



Refilwe Mochoari
Editor-in-Chief

The Immigration Act 13 of 2002 clearly states that entry into South Africa must be lawful. Yet, every day we witness lawlessness with individuals living and operating in the country without proper legal documentation.

The #Abahambe slogan is not aimed at law-abiding foreigners, it is directed at those who have entered the country illegally to exploit.

The narrative that is painted by the international community that South Africans are xenophobic has to come to an end. These are not xenophobic protests, these are protests over an immigration crisis in the country.

For me, 30 June 2026 marks a moment in history that we must never take for granted as citizens of the Republic of South Africa. It is not just another date, it is a date where citizens demonstrated an extreme call to action and a demand for order, discipline, and accountability.

It is a date when citizens finally plead for respect, for adherence to the law, and for the protection of all South Africans.

Hi everyone, my name is Refilwe Mochoari, lets talk about what the March and March movement is and what it is not. Look around you and tell me that the March and March movement highly championed by Jacenta Ngobess-Zuma from KwaZulu-Natal, is not something that we as citizens who prefer law and order should support. This movement is not about hatred or exclusion.

It is about restoring dignity and enforcing the rule of law. It says "You are welcome in South Africa, but not illegally"

This movement is rooted in discipline, not discrimination. The government for the June 30 shutdown, allocated a R600 million security budget. I hate how twisted the government's priorities are. What was the R600 million for, exactly?

Who is government supporting?
This is R600 million in a country where some households cannot afford a loaf of bread. In a country where people resort to criminal activities because they are not able to get formal or informal employment because illegal immigrants are occupying the labour market.

Today South Africa is accused of being a xenophobic country, but that is not the truth.

I have travelled across Africa, and in every country that I visited, I knew that I had to carry my passport at all times.

Going to each country that I have visited, I know that I have to enter through the right channels.

Why should South Africans tolerate what other nations would never allow?

Illegal immigrants have become so comfortable that they now operate drug manufacturing plants, hijack buildings and infiltrate industries.

Just this week, 28 undocumented immigrants were discovered in Bloemfontein at a guesthouse that allegedly belongs to the husband of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Deputy Mayor.

It is alleged that the guesthouse is used as a drug lab. In Ekurhuleni, a South African spaza shop owner was kidnapped by Pakistani nationals who did not want him to operate the spaza in his neighbourhood, because they say the spaza shop space belongs to them.

Do you understand how entitled illegal immigrants are in this country? Going to the extent of kidnapping citizens. In the North West province, two months ago, four Mexican nationals were arrested for drug trafficking.

Home Affairs officials are also part and parcel of these criminal activities because they enable this.

They forge documents for the illegal immigrants, and they have been getting away with these barbaric acts for many decades. These are only a few cases that I am raising here, but it is a clear indication of the disturbing pattern. We have also seen the fake qualifications of illegal medical practices endangering the lives of sick patients in need of medical help.

We have seen how citizens have faced stolen identities. We have seen how the taxi industry is being overtaken by undocumented foreign nationals.

In the Free State, some families are still unable to trace the perpetrators of crimes committed by those who should not be here.

South Africans are not xenophobic, we want peace, order, and unity with our African brothers and sisters.

However, the unity and the peace that we are seeking has to be built on legality and respect.

Why is it so difficult for the government to tighten border control? Who is benefiting from the chaos? Who profits from the hijacked buildings?

Look at the drug dens that are often disguised as internet cafes, hair salons, guesthouses, and nightclubs.

This is a huge distraction in our communities. Our children, our brothers and sisters are at the end of the value chain. They are the ones who are suffering the most.

They are the ones we call the nyaope boys and nyaope girls. The future of many people in our communities is destroyed by the drugs that are so easily found in all our communities. In townships in schools and sometimes even in church. The root cause is indeed an illegal immigrant who comes into the country to empower themselves while destroying the lives of millions of South Africans.

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



Pastor
Motsamai Kareli
Empowerment Ministries
International

The Laws of Strategic Leadership

Part Two

Leadership is more than occupying a position of authority; it is the ability to influence people toward a desired future. Strategic leadership takes this a step further.

It is the capacity to see beyond the present, anticipate opportunities and challenges, align people around a vision, and guide an organization toward sustainable success.

Great leaders do not merely react to circumstances—they strategically position themselves and their organizations to thrive.

Throughout history, successful leaders have understood and practiced certain timeless laws that govern strategic leadership.

These laws are not optional; they are principles that consistently determine whether leaders succeed or fail.

6. The Law of Decision-Making

Leaders are paid to make decisions. Strategic leadership requires courage to make difficult choices, even when information is incomplete. Effective leaders:

- Gather facts.
- Seek counsel.
- Evaluate risks.
- Act decisively.

Indecision often creates greater problems than making an imperfect decision.

Key Principle: Delayed decisions often become lost opportunities.

7. The Law of Empowerment

Strategic leaders understand they cannot accomplish everything alone.

Their effectiveness is measured not by what they do personally, but by what they empower others to do. Empowerment involves:

- Delegation.
- Training.
- Mentoring.
- Trust.

Organizations grow when leaders develop other leaders.

Key Principle: Leadership is not about being indispensable; it is about making others capable.

8. The Law of Relationships

People accomplish more together than they do alone. Strategic leadership is built upon strong relationships.

Healthy relationships

- create.
- Trust.
- Collaboration.

- Unity.
- Loyalty.

Leaders who invest in people create teams capable of achieving extraordinary results.

Key Principle: Leadership moves at the speed of relationships.

9. The Law of Stewardship

Leadership is a trust, not an entitlement. Every leader is a steward of people, resources, opportunities, and influence.

Strategic leaders manage resources wisely and ensure sustainability for future generations.

Stewardship requires:

- Accountability.
- Transparency.
- Responsibility.
- Long-term thinking.

Key Principle: Leaders are responsible for what has been entrusted to them.

10. The Law of Legacy

The ultimate measure of leadership is not what happens during a leader's tenure, but what remains after they leave.

Strategic leaders build organizations that can thrive without them.

They intentionally develop successors and create systems that outlast their leadership.

A lasting legacy is built through:

- Succession planning.
- Leadership development.
- Strong culture.
- Institutional values.

Key Principle: Great leaders prepare others to carry the vision further than they could themselves.

Conclusion

Strategic leadership is not merely about achieving short-term results; it is about positioning people and organizations for long-term success.

Leaders who embrace the laws of vision, preparation, priorities, influence, adaptability, decision-making, empowerment, relationships, stewardship, and legacy create enduring impact. In every generation, organizations rise or fall based on the quality of their leadership.

Those who understand and apply these strategic laws will not only achieve success but will also leave a meaningful legacy that benefits future generations.

"A strategic leader sees farther, thinks deeper, plans wiser, and develops others to achieve a future greater than themselves."

South Africa's "three presidents" problem worsened by false amnesia

False amnesia is a form of memory loss. In this instance, it occurs when a person claims to have forgotten something, but testing shows the memory is still intact. In most cases, this is due to unconscious avoidance, when retrieving a memory is painful or embarrassing.

This article argues that the current political posturing by some former Presidents is a form of false amnesia and is quite repulsive. The scale and magnitude of the socio-economic problems confronting the country are not new. During the various terms of all South Africa's presidents who completed at least one full term, these three economic fault lines remained stubborn and difficult to abate. The reference to presidents who completed at least one full term is deliberate, to exclude former President Kgalema Motlanthe, who was a caretaker president for just over nine months after the resignation of former President Thabo Mbeki in 2008.

MANDELA ERA OF EUPHORIA FOR THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

1994-1999 was an era of euphoria following the democratic transition. During this era, unemployment averaged 30%, with formal non-agricultural employment falling by 3.3% in 2000. On average, 60% of households were below the poverty line, though there were small registered increases in income of poor households. Inequality was acute, the third highest in the world, behind only Guatemala and Brazil. During this period, the country had a Gini coefficient of 0.60 on a long-term average. This meant that the top 10% of households earned about 50% of all income, while the bottom 40% earned less than 10% of all income. South Africa was therefore structurally split: there was growth, but it was narrow and brittle.

MBEKI ERA OF ACCELERATED GROWTH AND INCREASE IN INCOME INEQUALITY

1999-2008 was an era of accelerated growth punctuated by high inequality. During this era, the long-term average unemployment was 26%. Despite the 2008 global financial crisis and the aggression of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, households below the poverty line fell sharply post-2005, from 60% to 45%. The decline in poverty was mainly due to the expansion of social grants, from 2.5 million beneficiaries in 1999 to 12 million in 2007.

The peak Gini coefficient of 0.648 was recorded in 2005, which marked a regression from 0.578 in 2000. During the 1999-2008 era, the long-term average Gini was 0.62, which was worse than in the 1994-1999 era. It was during this time that South Africa overtook Guatemala and Brazil to become the world's most unequal society. A Gini of 0.62 means extreme inequality. As a result, South Africa became the most unequal major economy in the world. The top 10% of households earned as much as the bottom 60% combined.

ZUMA ERA OF SLOW GROWTH AND INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

2009-2018 was an era of reversal in the decline of unemployment, poverty and inequality, as average unemployment rose to 28%. This is what Stats SA said: "In the past 10 years, 2008-2018, the unemployment rate increased from average 26% in 2007 to almost 28.0%." The jobs problem worsened during this period. It is also important to note that it was during this era that youth unemployment, for the first time, went above 50% to 54%.

Households below the poverty line rose sharply from 45% to 55%. The 1999-2008 decline in poverty was reversed due to a multitude of factors, such as poor policy implementation, low economic growth, low commodity prices, higher food and energy costs, and the intensification of corruption and the hollowing out of state institutions. Inequality did not abate but increased, with a long-term average Gini of 0.67. A Gini of 0.67 means extreme, world-leading inequality, which stalled social mobility, resulted in fragile economic growth and increased levels of poverty.

RAMAPHOSA ERA OF CUMULATIVE CRISIS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

2019 to date is an era marked by the cumulative impact of inadequate responses to the crisis of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The confluence of these three faultlines is a cause of social despair. By cumulative, this article means increasing in quantity, degree or force due to successive inadequate responses over the past 32 years. Unemployment in the country now stands at 32%, of which about 60% are young people. The long-term average unemployment is 31%. All of this is due to slow growth because of structural constraints in the economy, such as logistics gridlock and energy constraints. This was further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused prolonged stop-start periods in the economy.

Despite these negative economic trends, lower-bound poverty fell from 57.5% to 37.9%. However, the percentage of households living below the upper-bound poverty line increased from 52% to 55.5%. These numbers make for interesting reading. While there has been a significant decrease in households in extreme poverty due to the Child Grant and the Social Relief of Distress grant (SRD), there has been an increase in households in marginal poverty. There has also been a decrease in the Gini coefficient, from a long-term average of 0.67 to 0.63, which still places South Africa as the capital of income inequality in the world. A Gini of 0.63 also highlights extreme inequality, wherein the top 10% account for 40% of all income and the bottom 50% account for about 15%.

CONCLUSION

From the above, it is quite evident that in all four eras of the democratic dispensation, the picture remains the same, with only slight variations.

By Dr. Zamani Saul, Northern Cape ANC Provincial Chairperson

Business

Markets and Indicators

Rand/Dollar	16.22	0.11%	▲
Rand/Pound	21.65	0.05%	▲
Rand/Euro	18.55	0.18%	▲
Platinum	1,656.94	2.32%	▲
Brent Crude	72.30	0.98%	▲
Gold	4,179.64	1.38%	▲
Ethereum	1,707.19	0.63%	▲
Bitcoin	61,446.94	-0.07%	▼

Investors find relief as currency strengthens despite June 30 protest fears



Investors were relieved after South Africa's anti-illegal immigration protests were fairly peaceful, with the local currency not reacting adversely. Picture: Gomolemo Winkel

Investors were relieved yesterday after South Africa's anti-illegal immigration protests were fairly peaceful, with the local currency not reacting adversely. Instead, the rand strengthened after thousands of demonstrators marched through cities including Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town without the widespread violence or disruption some investors had feared.

The muted market reaction came despite heightened concern ahead of the demonstrations, which were organised by the March and March movement and centred on demands for government to remove undocumented immigrants from South Africa.

The campaign comes against a backdrop of persistently high unemployment, with youth unemployment remaining above 40%.

March and March leader Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma has since vowed that supporters will return to the streets every Thursday until government responds to the group's demands.

No adverse effects

But analysts said investors ultimately viewed the peaceful outcome as reducing, rather than increasing, South Africa's immediate political risk.

"The rand strengthened after South Africa's anti-illegal immigration marches concluded without the widespread violence or disruption that many investors had

feared," said André Botha, head of execution at TreasuryONE.

Botha added that the local unit appreciated despite a firmer US dollar and rising US Treasury yields following stronger-than-expected American labour market data, underscoring the resilience of investor sentiment towards South African assets.

Markets had unwound some of the domestic political risk premium that had been priced into the currency, although Botha cautioned that the rand would continue to be driven primarily by global factors such as US interest rate expectations, oil prices and broader investor appetite for risk.

Watching

Ahead of the demonstrations, TreasuryONE currency strategist André Cilliers warned markets would be watching closely for disruption. "A peaceful day could allow the rand to recover further, while any escalation may quickly reverse recent gains," he said.

Botha told IOL yesterday that "the marches also serve as a reminder of South Africa's deeper structural challenges".

Nolan Wapenaar, co-chief investment officer at Anchor, said financial markets had taken the protests in their stride. "We did not see an impact on markets from yesterday's events," he said.

Wapenaar said "I think the protests went off smooth-

ly which is a positive. We are in an election year, so this is to be expected during 2026." He said investors had likely viewed the absence of major unrest as "a sigh of relief".

Muted

Abax Investments equity analyst Nkosinathi Nsibandé said the market reaction was similarly subdued. "It was a slightly muted reaction in the market in terms of local bonds and the currency," he said.

"The overall outcome of the shutdown was much better than anticipated."

Nsibandé said the rand had initially weakened slightly before strengthening later in the day, supported by month-end flows, while global drivers including oil prices and US interest rates remained relatively stable.

On Monday, Investec chief economist, Annabel Bishop, pointed out that the local currency was calm ahead of the protests. She added that the rand had firmed further in June, gaining each month on average since March.

According to Trading Economics, the currency has traded in a relatively narrow range of about R16 to R16.50 against the US dollar since May, with movements driven largely by international factors including oil prices, US monetary policy and geopolitical developments in the Middle East rather than domestic political events. **IOL BUSINESS**

CUT Vice-Chancellor's Breakfast Focuses on Government Partnerships



By Refilwe Mochauri

This week, business leaders, academics, and senior government officials gathered at the Central University of Technology (CUT) for the first leg of the 2026 Vice-Chancellor's Business Breakfast under the theme "Advancing Collaborations with Government".

The main aim of the VC Business breakfast is to foster inclusive growth, enhance student success, and promote regional development.

Hosted at CUT's hotel school in Bloemfontein, the high-level discussion on the VCs table featured prominent figures amongst others including the Director-General of the Free State Provincial Government Dr Molefynana Phera, Executive Mayor of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Gregory Nthatisi, former acting DG in Free State provincial government Dr Mafole Mokolobe, Carol Tladi, and Nthabiseng Modigaesi.

This engagement marked a shift from last year's focus on industry ties and prioritised partnerships with provincial government stakeholders to align shared development objectives for the Free State province.

CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Pamela Dube highlighted the importance of collaboration between academia and government to address societal challenges.

She shared CUT's vision of becoming a future-focused higher education institution that is driven by innovation, impactful research, entrepreneurship, and technology-enhanced education.

Dube cited the Pothole Eradication Programme (PEP) as a flagship example of transforming research and innovation into tangible societal benefits.

"Through this initiative, CUT has leveraged its technical expertise and advanced solutions to support government efforts in improving road infrastructure, enhancing service delivery, and promot-

ing sustainable community development.

"The program reflects our commitment to utilising our knowledge and innovation to tackle real-world challenges and contribute to national development priorities, she said.

Phera was afforded an opportunity to deliver a keynote address and emphasised the importance of strategic partnerships for advancing skills development and economic growth.

He highlighted the tripartite partnership between the Free State Provincial Government, merSETA, and CUT, which has committed R57 million to resolve the historical debt of 589 CUT students and said that the initiative opened opportunities for students to graduate and make meaningful contributions to the economy.

Phera also referenced the Free State Advanced Manufacturing Skills and Prototyping Initiative as a prime example of the value derived from collaboration between government and CUT.

"This initiative uses the university's specialised expertise through the Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM), positioning the Free State to seize emerging opportunities in advanced manufacturing and innovation, he said.

He identified key drivers of regional economic development, such as advanced manufacturing, medical technologies, industrial prototyping, green hydrogen manufacturing, localisation, and emerging industrial value chains.

Additionally, he stressed the importance of expanding Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities, stating that they are crucial for graduate employability and workforce readiness.

"Closer cooperation between government, industry, and higher education is essential to develop the skilled workforce our province needs," said Dr. Phera.

"These are key drivers of regional economic development, job creation, and industrial growth," said Phera.

R100 billion tax industry under scrutiny over alleged tax loophole



One of South Africa's largest industries, estimated to generate around R100 billion annually, is under renewed scrutiny over claims that it operates largely outside the country's tax system.

The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) and the Democratic Alliance (DA) have alleged that most taxi operators do not pay corporate tax, VAT or payroll taxes, citing the industry's predominantly informal, cash-based business model.

According to reports, most taxi fares are paid in cash, with operators seldom issuing receipts or maintaining

formal financial records, making tax collection difficult.

Speaking to the SABC earlier this year, OUTA CEO Wayne Duvenage said broadening the tax base to include informal sectors such as the taxi industry could generate significant additional revenue for the state.

"So, we've got a lot of informal industries and the taxi industry that is not within the tax base. If you just go and start doing that, start slowly, we should be able to get R2 billion a year, build that up to about R9 billion per annum going forward," Duvenage said.

He added that the proposal was not intended to penalise the taxi industry but to formalise businesses that are already operating at scale.

The South African National Tax Council (SANTACO), however, has rejected claims that the industry does not pay tax, describing the perception as "misguided and shallow".

SANTACO spokesperson Mmatshikhidi Rebecca Phala said most taxi operators are registered as sole proprietors and pay personal income tax rather than company tax.

She said operators receive tax clearance certificates from the South African Revenue Service (SARS), which are required when applying for or renewing operating licences.

Phala acknowledged that the current tax framework does not adequately cater for the informal structure of the taxi industry and called for reforms to address the existing taxation loophole.

She added that taxi operators should not be treated in the same way as public companies, as the industry is made up of individual business owners organised through taxi associations. **IOL Business**

Hiring illegal immigrants in South Africa could cost employers up to R100,000

Employers in South Africa who hire illegal foreign workers could face fines of up to R100,000, criminal prosecution and possible imprisonment, according to labour law expert Osborne Molatudi.

Speaking on 702/CapeTalk, Molatudi said the penalties under the Immigration Act have increased significantly and warned employers to ensure foreign employees have the necessary documentation to work legally in the country.

Immigration Act regulates employment of foreign workers

Molatudi said the Immigration Act governs the employment of foreign nationals in South Africa.

He said the legislation is intended to promote economic growth by employing foreign workers who are needed by the economy or who possess exceptional skills and qualifications.

"What this means is that only those foreigners needed by our economy who are exceptionally skilled or qualified are eligible to be employed in this country."

Employers could face fines, prosecution and jail

Molatudi said employers who knowingly employ foreigners who are in South Africa illegally face a range of penalties.

"There are certain categories of fines... they've now been increased in terms of the Immigration Act. In fact, they've been increased from R10,000 to even



R100,000." He added that employers could also face criminal prosecution, possible imprisonment, investigations by authorities and reputational damage.

Illegal foreign workers risk arrest and deportation

Molatudi said foreign nationals working in South Africa without the correct documentation could also face legal consequences.

He said they could be arrested by immigration officials, detained while their status is investigated, deported and declared undesirable persons, which

could affect their ability to return to South Africa in future.

Labour inspectors can investigate without complaints

Addressing whether authorities can conduct inspections without first receiving complaints, Molatudi said labour inspectors are empowered to investigate employers proactively.

"They don't have to wait for a complaint."

He said labour inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour are employed to check compliance from employer to employer.

"They can do door-to-door. They can investigate at any stage, because that's what they are required to do."

Do inspectors need permission to enter?

Molatudi said registered labour inspectors who suspect non-compliance do not require a permit before investigating.

"If they suspect that you are non-compliant, they don't need a permit."

He said inspectors must identify themselves and, if they find an employer to be non-compliant, they will issue a compliance notice and allow time to rectify the situation. "You won't be arrested on the spot," Molatudi said. Instead, employers would first be allowed to comply before further enforcement action, including fines or possible arrest.

The Deep House Maestro Who Turned Passion Into Purpose



By Bernell Simons

For some artists, music is merely a career choice, while for others, it is a calling. For Bloemfontein-born DJ, producer, sound engineer, and event organizer Siphso Success Ntuli, better known as Segga SA, his journey behind the decks has been a lifelong mission driven by passion, perseverance, and self-belief.

With an impressive 16 years in the entertainment industry, Segga SA has forged a name for himself through determination and an unwavering commitment to his craft. Now 34 years old, the deep house specialist continues to make his mark on the music scene while inspiring the next generation of creatives and event organisers.

Segga's musical journey began in 2010 when he enrolled at Bloembeat Records, where he honed his skills and graduated with a deeper understanding of both the art and the business of music. Unlike many artists who attribute their success to a mentor, Segga proudly states that his greatest mentor has been himself. "I pushed myself," he says simply, reflecting the resilience and self-discipline that have defined his career.

Specialising in Lounge and Deep House, Segga SA quickly gained a reputation for creating unforgettable musical experiences. His ability to read a crowd and deliver soulful, immersive sets has earned him loyal followers and established him as a respected figure in the local entertainment industry.

Since 2013, Segga has served as the resident DJ at Street Corner Braai, where he has also worked as the venue's sound engineer for the past 14 years. His technical expertise behind the scenes is as valuable as his artistry onstage, making him a versatile force in the entertainment space. However, Segga's ambitions extend far beyond DJing.

He is also a producer, sound engineer, and event organiser, continually seeking ways to contribute to the growth of the music industry. One of his notable production achievements includes collaborating with Da Gifto on the single "Summer Nights," which continues to attract listeners online.

Throughout his career, Segga has created and hosted various successful events, which have become well-known among local partygoers. These events include Winter in Style, Feel Good Sounds, Fresh Fridays, Show Off Your Tattoo & Hairstyle, Beach in the Club, We R 1, Ladies Party, and the ever-popular Deep House Brunch.

His talent has also led him to perform at several well-known entertainment venues, including Street Corner Braai, IZA, Club House, News Cafe, Rio, Klak, Cappello, and TNT. Each performance adds another chapter to his growing legacy.

Like many independent artists, Segga's path to success has not been without challenges. In the early stages of his career, he had to personally cover all the expenses required to establish his brand while facing the frustration of limited booking opportunities. Funding was a constant obstacle, with essential equipment such as CDJs and DJ mixers representing significant investments.

Yet, instead of allowing these setbacks to define him, Segga transformed them into motivation.

Looking ahead, his vision for the next five years reflects his commitment not only to his personal growth but also to uplifting others within the industry. Segga hopes to support emerging event organizers by providing equipment and resources to help bring their creative visions to life.

For Segga SA, success has never been measured solely by fame or financial gain. Instead, it's about creating opportunities, building communities, and leaving a lasting impact through music.

GET TO KNOW THE DJ

ARE YOU A DJ AND WANT TO BE FEATURED ON JOURNAL NEWS
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Zee and Mofokeng Join Africa's Elite Under 30

By Katlego Mashwabi

Young South Africans are once again making their mark on the continent after Forbes Africa unveiled its prestigious 30 Under 30 list, recognising exceptional young leaders, innovators and creatives.

Among this year's honourees are Bafana Bafana and Orlando Pirates midfield sensation Relebohile Mofokeng (21) and Amapiano singer Zee Nxumalo (23), whose achievements have earned them places among Africa's most influential young talents. The list was announced in Johannesburg last week.

Nxumalo, who first gained attention through her vocal covers before launching her music career with original releases such as KwaNxumalo in 2022, took to social media to celebrate the milestone.

"Izinja Madoda! For the little girl who dared to dream beyond what she could see, for every lesson, every setback, every prayer, and every stage along the way," she wrote.

Her post was met with an outpouring of congratulatory messages from fellow entertainers, including Fifi Cooper and Cyan Boujee, as well as thousands of fans who praised her achievement.

Mofokeng's inclusion further highlights the growing impact of South Africa's young sporting talent.

The midfielder has become one of the country's most exciting football prospects, earning admiration

for his creativity, confidence and ability to influence matches for both club and country.

In total, eight South Africans featured on the Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 list this year, recognised for making significant contributions across various sectors, including entertainment, sport, business and entrepreneurship.

The Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 list has previously honoured globally recognised figures such as Mark Zuckerberg and Kanye West, cementing its reputation as one of the continent's most prestigious platforms for celebrating young excellence. A virtual summit for the new cohort was held on 26 June and was open to public registration, offering the young leaders an opportunity to share insights and inspire the next generation of African changemakers.



Screen Tourism is Transforming Cinema into Tourism



By Katlego Mashwabi

The film and Television industry is transforming cinema into tourism as the demand for Set-Jetting increases.

A new global trend, Screen Tourism is on the rise, so much so that industry groups are now focusing on converting filming sites into activated destinations to sustain the tourism sector in the long run. Screen Tourism or Set-Jetting is a fast-growing travel trend where visitors tend to visit destinations featured in a movie.

Airbnb is taking it a step further, allowing fans to stay over in iconic film locations through its sites.

Screen Tourism has become more than just about entertainment, it has been turned into a lucrative economic strategy to create jobs, fill hotels, support local businesses and strengthen the country's global image.

According to research from the Granite Tower shows even local governments and businesses are transforming their spaces into sustainable tourism products that help revitalize regional economies.

Screen Tourism acts as a powerful marketing tool for travel destinations, bridging entertainment and real-world experiences.

Brand Nation Company for Africa says 70% of Gen Z said they are likely to visit a place they have seen on screen when reviewing the Global Netflix features.

Euronews lists South Africa among the top ten destinations to be visited in 2026 for Set-Jetting because of the Mission Impossible Franchise.

Social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok drive high engagement for visually recognizable film locations.

Mossel Bay Tourism received international recognition after winning a Gold award at the International Tourism Film Festival Africa for their film "ICONIC Mossel Bay" growing Mossel Bay's appeal as a global destination.

The global economic boost yields massive financial benefits for the country too. The film and screen tourism industry contributes an estimated R7.18 billion to R8.8 billion annually to the South African national economy.

According to research done by SA Good News international crews book over 59000 hotel beds per night, injecting about R148 million into the South African hospitality sector per night. Screen Tourism in South Africa is a driver of growth, launching new Home Affairs systems such as the STAGES (Screen Talent and Global Entertainment and Scheme) Visa to fast-track access to international cast and crew and creatives. Partnerships are formed for formal collaborations of the Made in South Africa initiative that bring together Netflix and South African Tourism to intensively promote local landscapes to global subscribers.

Tyla Signs Multi Million Dollar Deal with Roc Nation



By Katlego Mashwabi

Big things just keep happening in Popiano artist Tyla's career.

This week the, Time Square screen in New York City went live with an announcement that South African singer, songwriter and global sensation Tyla has signed a multi-million dollar with Roc Nation " ROC NATION WELCOMES TYLA TO THE FAMILY".

This comes after Tyla's deal with Epic Record and the Water singer refused to renew their record deal.

The pop star recently promoted her upcoming studio album, titled A*Pop which will be released on the 24 July which will be her second album with Epic Record and FAX.

This transition from the Sony Music Entertainment owned American Record label marks a huge stepping stone for Tyla, putting her next to big leads.

Roc Nation artists include Megan Thee Stallion, Rihanna, ASAP Rocky, Arya Star and other international artists, making Tyla the only South African

Artist in the family.

Radio and music producer DJ Kyle Watson previously had music distributed under the Roc Nation umbrella and South African Rapper Nasty C had an exclusive deal with Roc Nation in 2016 before making another International turn to Def Jam.

The full-service management, entertainment company and music publishing company was founded in 2008 by Hip Hop Mogul Jay Z, Shawn Carter.

Roc Nation is a successor of Jay Z's previous record label, Roc-A-Fella.

While in music, Roc Nation in South Africa is only limited to Tyla, Roc Nation Sports is manages South Africa's most iconic athletes, Rugby World Cup winning Springbok Captain Siya Kolisi, Rugby player Cheslin Kolbe and Proteas Cricket Captain Temba Bavuma.

The move is expected to open even more international doors for Tyla as Roc Nation is known to have the biggest support for their stars in brand strategy, deal architecture and long game especially for South African Artists for joined at this level.



Kehlani Announces Her Return To South Africa

By Refilwe Mochoari

California born Kehlani Ashley Parrish announces her return to South Africa in her trilogy of posters for the world tour of her fifth studio album. Kehlani,31, is an American R&B singer, songwriter and dancer. The R&B sensation is promising gypsy festival electrifying performances and memorable vibes for the tour of her Kehlani fifth Studio Album, which was released on the 24th of April 2026.

South Africa's two dates were the latest addition to the 44 dates line up which was announced on the star's official Instagram page. The world tour of her fifth self-titled album is a series of concerts starting with North America on the 6th of August until the 3rd of October.

The second stage will be in Europe on the 20th of November until the 10th of December before heading to South Africa for her two dates tour at the Pretoria SunBet Arena on the 15th of December and the 17th of December at the Grand Arena, Cape Town. Kehlani announced the South African

tour with the ticket sale for the tour immediately going live.

The two time Grammy winning R&B singer premiered her visit to South Africa in October 2022 when she was headlining the Rocking the Daisies Music Festival. Synonymous with her tattooed gypsy bohemian image, Rocking the Daisies music festival is South Africa's first three to four days eco-friendly music and lifestyle festival, hosted annually in October.

Kehlani came to our Playlists in 2011 as part of the teen pop group Poplife on America's Got Talent. The star then went on to start her solo career with mixtapes, until she graced our billboards with her first self-titled album Kehlani.

The star concluded the Instagram announcement with an excited " South Africa, Can't wait to see you"



STRAMPE DU PLESSIS INC.
ATTORNEYS, CONVEYANCERS & ESTATE ADMINISTRATORS
REGISTRATION NUMBER 3618/EST/2021

NOTICE IN TERMS OF REGULATION 68 OF THE DEEDS REGISTRIES ACT, 1937, IN RESPECT OF A LOST TITLE DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer T18453/2021 passed by Mamotsie Anna Spyker Identity Number 6710260289085, Unmarried, in favour of, Thato Masoabi, Identity Number 9808045348080, Unmarried, in respect of Erf 2780 CALEB MOTSABI EXTENSION 1 District Bloemfontein Province Free State
In extent: 406 (Four Hundred and Six) square metres

All interested persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at Bloemfontein within two weeks from date of the publication of this notice.

Dated at Bloemfontein this 2 July 2026

CONVEYANCER
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WEEKEND Gig Guide

ALL OVER BLOEMFONTEIN FROM
03 - 04 JULY 2026

GROOVY FRIDAYS
FRIDAY - 03 JULY 2026
CENTRAL LIFESTYLE

HOUSE OF K - GRAND OPENING
FRIDAY - 03 JULY 2026
HOUSE OF K

IZA SATURDAY
SATURDAY - 04 JULY 2026
IZA BLOEMFONTEIN

THE GRAND OPENING
SATURDAY - 04 JULY 2026
FK BRAAI LOUNGE

BOKSTOWN
SATURDAY - 04 JULY 2026
LEMO GREEN PARK

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HEALTH

Why poor sleep is a silent contributor to anxiety and depression

A radical shift is needed in how people think about sleep, with experts warning that poor rest is quietly fuelling anxiety, depression and reduced productivity.

This is according to clinical psychologist Tony de Gouveia, who practices at Netcare Akeso Alberton, and says sleep is still widely underestimated as a pillar of mental wellbeing.

"Just how much our sleep affects our mental health and wellbeing is generally vastly underestimated," de Gouveia said. "The role of poor sleep in anxiety and depression is well documented. It's not only our physical energy that is replenished during sleep, but it is also essential for our cognitive functioning and emotional regulation."

He warned that between a third and half of people regularly fail to get the recommended seven to eight hours of sleep per night, a trend he described as concerning in an already high-stress society.

"Burning the midnight oil is the enemy of productivity and creativity, yet when we are under pressure, rest is often the first thing we tend to sacrifice. We need to rethink how we value our sleep. Rest is fundamental to productivity, not its opposite," he said.

De Gouveia noted that there are more than 80 recognised sleep disorders, with chronic insomnia and obstructive sleep apnoea among the most common. He added that undiagnosed sleep conditions can significantly increase the risk of other health complications.

He also pointed to modern lifestyle habits, particularly late-night "doomscrolling", as a growing threat to sleep quality.

"Doomscrolling on social media late into the night, along with the blue light from screens that disrupts normal sleep patterns, is becoming a significant issue," he said, warning that heavy phone use among high school learners may impact their learning and concentration."



Stress, he added, is another major disruptor. Racing thoughts before bed can delay sleep onset, while anxiety during sleepless nights often worsens the problem, creating a cycle that is difficult to break.

"Each stressful thought takes the average person about 20 minutes to process before they can start to fall asleep," he explained.

He further noted that women are statistically more likely to experience sleep difficulties due to a combination of physiological and social factors, including childcare responsibilities.

De Gouveia also cautioned against using alcohol or cannabis as sleep aids, saying they disrupt natural sleep cycles and may lead to dependence.

"Getting enough quality sleep may seem like an elusive goal, a luxury we can't afford in our busy lives," he said. "But there are numerous intrinsic benefits that make it truly worthwhile to re-evaluate the importance of sleep for every aspect of our daily lives."

- Rest reset: Tips for better sleep**
1. Go to bed at the same time every night and stick to it
 2. Put down devices and dim lights at least 20 minutes before bed
 3. Avoid caffeine after lunch and limit fluids before bedtime
 4. Keep your sleeping environment cool and comfortable
 5. Ensure a quiet space, or use white noise if needed
 6. Avoid oversleeping or long daytime naps
 7. Prioritise rest as a goal, not just productivity

De Gouveia urged anyone struggling with persistent sleep problems to seek professional help.

"If your sleep doesn't improve or you still don't feel rested, consult a doctor to investigate whether there may be an underlying physical cause, or book an appointment with a mental health professional if stress, anxiety or racing thoughts are keeping you awake," he said. **iol**

FASHION

Hit or miss? Oscar Mbo stuns in R20k Maison Margiela Tabis shoes

South African musician and podcaster Oscar MBO has once again found himself trending, this time not for his music but for his bold fashion choice.

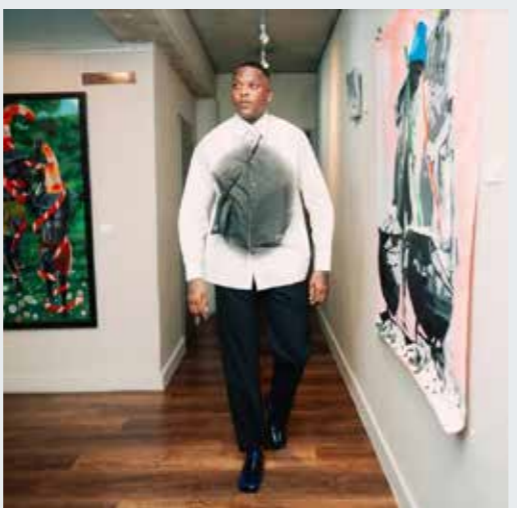
The award-winning DJ recently attended the launch of the #FortheGroovist app, where he stepped out wearing a pair of Maison Margiela Tabi Ombre blue loafers, which retails for around R20,000.

Known for their unconventional design, the luxury shoes feature a distinctive split-toe silhouette that separates the big toe from the rest.

The design is inspired by traditional Japanese tabi socks and has become one of Maison Margiela's most recognisable signatures.

While the avant-garde footwear has long been embraced in high-fashion and menswear circles, MBO's latest look divided opinions on social media, with many South Africans sharing humorous takes on the designer shoes.

Media personality Sizwe Dhlomo joined the conversation after a photo of MBO wearing the shoes



surfaced online. Taking to X, Dhlomo jokingly questioned what kind of socks are worn with the split-toe design. "So ke, anishoni... leshandisi igqokwa nesokisi

elinjani? (So, please say... what type of sock do you wear this thing with) Because now the sock can't be a g-string lapha," he wrote.

His comment quickly sparked a wave of reactions from social media users.

@kwaNompondwana joked: "Not the g-string [emoji]. Actually you're not the only one wondering. Also, how comfortable is it walking around with a camel toe."

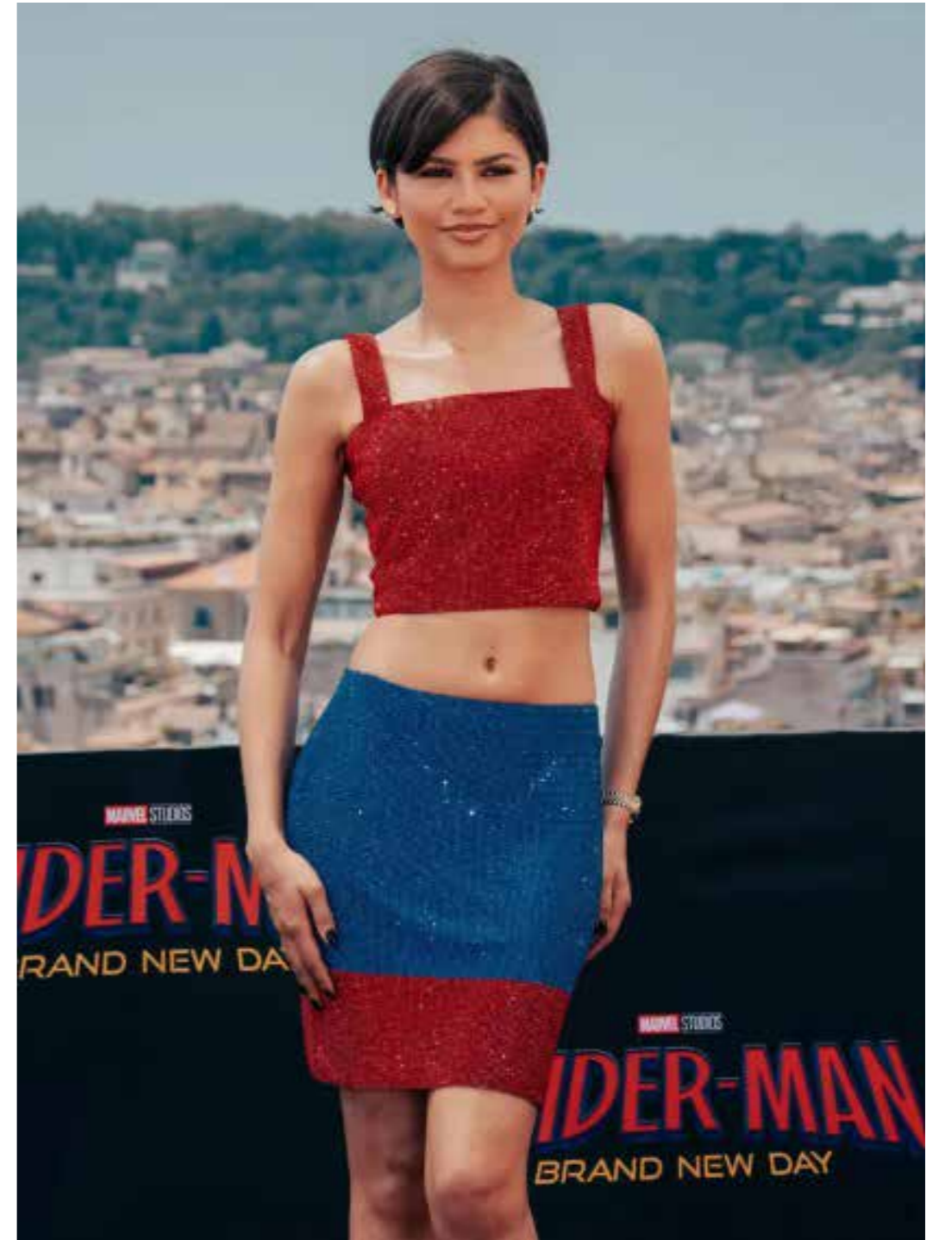
@Sweden_Mags added: "You cut the sock with a scissors [emoji] accordingly to accommodate the shoe."

@YoungDeezy95 wrote: "This is the type of shoe you cannot buy in your size unless you have long toes [emoji]. Because that split is quite deep in between toes."

However, not everyone was critical of this look. @msmonakhisi simply admired the footwear, writing: "What a nice shoe though."

Love them or hate them, Maison Margiela's iconic Tabi shoes continue to divide opinion, proving that some fashion statements are designed to spark conversation just as much as they are to make one.

LOOK: Zendaya spins a web of fashion on the 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' press tour



Okay, we are all excited about the latest "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" film. For many of us, Spider-Man was the superhero growing up. Sorry to the rest of the Avengers, but Peter Parker had us in a chokehold.

While fans are counting down to the film's release, someone else has been stealing the spotlight on the promotional tour. No, we're not talking about Spider-Man himself. We're talking about his leading lady, Zendaya, who has been serving themed looks on red carpets like it's her full-time job.

And can we talk about the fact that these outfits weren't giving futuristic superhero? They were giving old-school glamour with a stylish twist. Vintage, theatrical and a little dramatic, exactly how fashion should be.

One of the standout moments came during the London press stop, where Zendaya wore a look from John Galiano's Spring 1997 Circus collection. The outfit featured celestial charms and a glittering spiderweb draped across her back.

A spiderweb. Across her back. Add the short hair, and suddenly the whole thing became a masterclass in how to make a themed outfit look expensive rather than costume-party chaotic.

Then came a dramatic charcoal-grey, almost black-veil of a gown, with sheer undertones and spiderweb detailing running through it as something spun straight out of a stylish nightmare.

Fashion people will probably give it a long French name we can't pronounce, but the rest of us just saw it and thought: Spider-Man, but make it couture and

a little bit haunted. Of course, the iconic red and blue colours had to make an appearance somewhere. Zendaya stepped out in a shimmering two-piece ensemble that kept things simple while still making a statement.

The crop top, the long legs, the sparkle - it was giving Spider-Barbie. Yes, Spider-Barbie. And to be fair, someone should trademark that before Marvel does.

Another look had fashion fans doing a double-take. A red skirt paired with a black-and-white jacket had some serious Michael Jackson energy.

Nobody can convince us otherwise. Whether it was intentional or not, the outfit felt like a stylish mash-up between a pop icon and a comic-book universe.

She also proved that she can make the most understated outfit look red-carpet worthy. A casual top paired with a knee-high check skirt somehow gave equal parts Princess Anne and cool-girl fashion editor.

The short hair deserves its own publicist at this point because it is working overtime.

And because no Zendaya fashion run is complete without a little edge, she also stepped out in an all-black leather two-piece featuring a crop top and long skirt. The look showed just enough skin while keeping things sleek and powerful.

If Wednesday Addams ever wandered into a Spider-Man universe and raided the wardrobe, it would look exactly like this.

While Spider-Man may be saving the world on screen, Zendaya is saving themed dressing from becoming boring. And that's a superpower all on its own. **iol**

Tyla's Roc Nation Deal Raises Stakes for SA

South African music star Tyla has reportedly signed a global deal with Roc Nation, marking what could become one of the most significant career moves by an African artist in recent years.

The announcement comes ahead of the upcoming release of her second album, APOP, following the end of her previous agreement with Epic Records. The news was revealed via a massive digital takeover spanning the billboards in New York City's Times Square.

Founded by Jay-Z, Roc Nation has evolved into far more than a record label. The company operates across artist management, one of the entertainment industry's most comprehensive talent businesses.

Its roster includes globally recognised artists such as Rihanna, Alicia Keys, John Legend, Tiwa Savage and Ayra Starr, demonstrating its ability to develop artists into global entertainment brands rather than simply chart performers.

For Tyla, whose career increasingly spans music, fashion, luxury partnerships and international live performance, this broader ecosystem could prove as valuable as the music itself.

From a commercial perspective, the timing appears strategic. Tyla enters the partnership following an extraordinary rise that has already included Grammy success, international festival appearances, fashion campaigns and major brand collaborations. Rather than signing as an emerging artist, she arrives

with proven global demand. Roc Nation could help accelerate several areas of her business. Its worldwide management infrastructure may unlock larger touring opportunities and headline festival slots while strengthening relationships with fashion, beauty and lifestyle brands.

The company also possesses significant expertise in building long-term artist businesses that extend well beyond album cycles. Perhaps most importantly, the partnership comes just weeks before the release of APOP, giving Tyla access to expanded international marketing, media relationships and commercial partnerships at a pivotal moment in her career.

The deal also reflects a broader shift within the global entertainment business. Today's biggest artists are no longer valued solely for music sales or streaming numbers. They are intellectual property brands capable of generating revenue through fashion, endorsements, live experiences, film, digital content and entrepreneurship. Viewed through that lens, Roc Nation represents less of a traditional label move and more of a business expansion strategy. It suggests Tyla's future may increasingly include ventures outside music itself.

If the partnership succeeds in preserving her creative identity while expanding her international business footprint, it could become a blueprint for how the next generation of African artists builds sustainable global careers.

FOOD Recipes



Marmelade Muffins

Ingredients:

- 2 extra large eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) canola oil
- 125 g butter, melted
- grated zest from 2 oranges
- 1 cup (250 ml) plain yoghurt
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) full cream milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) orange juice from zested oranges
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) marmelade
- 1 x 700 g Ina Paarmann's Raisin & Bran Muffin Bake Mix
- extra marmelade
- 1 orange, cut into slices and then in 1/2s

Method

Remove the raisin bag from the muffin box, and pour boiling water over the raisins to plump them up. Drain the raisins, set them aside, and leave them to swell. Adjust the oven rack to the middle position, and preheat the oven to 180 °C. Line the muffin tins with baking paper squares. (See the back of the box for step-by-step instructions on how to do this.) Beat the eggs, oil, and melted butter together for 1 minute on high speed, until well blended. Add the orange zest, yoghurt, milk, orange juice, and marmelade. Beat for another minute on high speed. Add the contents of muffin pack and the

plumped raisins. Stir the mixture by hand with a spatula until uniformly blended - do not beat. Spoon the muffin mixture into the lined muffin tins. An ice cream scoop is perfect for the job. Make a hollow at the top of each muffin with the back of a wooden spoon (dipped in water), and spoon about 1t (5 ml) of marmelade into each hollow. Push an orange 1/2 slice into each muffin. Bake for 40 - 45 minutes. Serve with butter and extra marmelade.

My absolute favourite fibre-rich health muffin. Marmelade, rich, deeply flavoured with citrus, tailor-made for brunch. Baked muffins freeze exceptionally well.



Belgian Champs Finally Unveil Mofokeng

Pirates cash in as the prolific President of Ama2K as he joins Belgian Pro League titleholders in major career move

Cocomelon Captured ... Orlando Pirates's Relebohile Mofokeng will from next season ply his trade in the Belgian Pro League for Royale Union Saint-Gilloise. Picture: Orlando Pirates



Orlando Pirates can confirm that the move remains subject to Mofokeng passing a medical examination and finalising personal terms with the Belgian Pro League side.

"The Club can also reveal that an agreement in principle between Orlando Pirates and Union Saint-Gilloise was in fact reached before the start of the FIFA World Cup," Pirates said in statement.

Mofokeng follows in the footsteps of Percy Tau, who previously utilised a loan spell at the Belgian club to launch his European career. He departs South African football as a reigning league champion and hopes to make a similar impact in Belgium.

Bafana Bafana coach, Hugo Broos, has expressed his support for the transfer, noting the importance of this progression for young South African talent.

"I think it is a good thing for him. I think he will progress," he said.

Broos cautioned that the Belgian league requires significant physical intensity and expects the club to prioritise the development of the youngster's conditioning.

He anticipates an initial period of adjustment while the playmaker adapts to the rigours of European football.

"I also think that you do not have to expect that from the first day he will play because Rele has to be stronger. It is a very tough competition in Belgium. So I think the first five or six months they will put him in fitness to get a little bit stronger," stated Broos.

The transition from the Buccaneers to this rapidly ascending European outfit represents a significant opportunity for the South African international to test his abilities on the continental stage. Mofokeng leaves behind a legacy of creativity and flair that dazzled supporters throughout his tenure in the Betway Premiership.

Founded in 1897, Union Saint-Gilloise ended a 90-year championship drought by securing their 12th league title in 2025. The club maintains a strategic partnership with English Premier League side Brighton & Hove Albion, which serves to refine their player development model.

This model provides an ideal setting for young stars to flourish while competing in high-profile tournaments like the UEFA Champions League. Mofokeng now stands to join a system widely recognised for preparing players for the world's most demanding leagues.

By Gomolemo Winkel

Orlando Pirates have finalised a major transfer agreement that will see young star Relebohile Mofokeng move to the Belgian Pro League champions, Royale Union Saint-Gilloise (USG).

The deal remains subject to the playmaker successfully completing his medical and fitness assessments.

"While the two clubs have concluded negotiations over the transfer fee and structure of the deal,

CUT Celebrates Netball Champs Milestone

Curtain falls on netball tournament as Bloem varsity revels in historic hosting feat

By Gomolemo Winkel

The Central University of Technology (CUT) has made history by becoming the first university of technology to host the University Sport South Africa (USSA) Netball Championships in Bloemfontein. This milestone event, which concludes this week, featured over 900 student-athletes from across South Africa and Namibia.

"For many years, hosting the championships was governed by strict bylaws that required institutions to have at least six netball courts, technical facilities, accommodation capacity, accreditation systems and strong institutional support."

These hosting requirements historically favoured traditional universities, often excluding newer institutions. Nobubele Phuzza noted that these criteria frequently left universities of technology without the infrastructure needed to bid.

"And what we know about universities of technology is that the sporting infrastructure has never been geared towards giving netball, at least the kind of support that we see at the institutions that currently rank top six," Phuzza said.

Rapid investment in the university's programme transformed the campus into an emerging powerhouse. This growth persuaded officials that the institution was ready to manage the high-stakes national tournament.

"You will see that the product of netball at CUT, especially this campus in Bloemfontein has grown significantly in the last two to three years. And when they put their hands up to, to host, it was also at the rise of the potential of their netball. They were starting to win in their different divisions," continued Phuzza.

This event signals a shift toward creating more equitable spaces for netball across the national university landscape and according to Phuzza, organisers hope to break the long-standing hegemony of a small group of institutions that have dominated the sport for years.

"So what CUT Bloemfontein is exemplifying here and what they signify for the broader ideas of netball is that on the one hand, we are seeing a shift in the kind of centrality of universities in this core group that has held hegemony over netball for years. We are seeing a shift and CUT Bloemfontein is signifying that shift towards more equitable spaces for netball," she added.

The championships reflect a vision to strengthen competition and ensure opportunities are not confined to select locations.

Leaders remain committed to making the tournament accessible for every institution.

"This is an extremely competitive competition, but we also make it fun, and we also want it to be equal; equally accessible to all institutions."



Karla Victor from CUT, as the new addition in the CUT-Bloem Females Team playing against UJ-Netball on the first day of the tournament. Picture: Supplied

Junior Rugby Stars Ignite Bloem

By Gomolemo Winkel

Bloemfontein showcases the country's finest primary school rugby players this week as the prestigious SA Rugby U13 Craven and Academy Week takes place at Grey College from 29 June to 3 July 2026.

The annual tournament has transformed the Free State capital into the home of junior rugby, with 18 teams competing for provincial pride.

The participating sides include 14 provincial unions, the Limpopo Blue Bulls, and the Border Country Districts, alongside international teams from Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Provincial sporting leaders, including Free State Sport Confederation President, Edward Sanderson, have attended the event to support the nation's emerging rugby stars. "Their presence underscores the importance of school sport in nurturing future athletes while promoting rugby development across the province," said Sanderson.

Free State Primary Schools Rugby chairperson, Wes-



ley Wheeler, noted that the tournament provides an invaluable opportunity for young players to experience elite-level competition for the first time.

Wheeler emphasised that hosting the event offers significant economic benefits for Bloemfontein while exposing youngsters to the demands of high-level

competition.

"I think it is very important because this is where you are exposed to high-level rugby, competition rug-

by or competing rugby," he said.

Wheeler highlighted that this tournament serves as a crucial milestone for young players, many of whom are representing their unions, provinces, or countries for the first time.

He believes the experience is essential for preparing participants for the rigours of professional rugby while allowing selectors to identify future talent.

"My biggest advice would be to work hard, do something that the other players do not do, have the correct mentors and friends, and keep yourself away from the wrong things," Wheeler added.

The tournament continues to cement its reputation as South Africa's premier Under-13 exhibition. It has become a vital stepping stone in the country's rugby development pathway, with 48 Springboks such as Victor Matfield, Heinrich Brüssow, and Werner Swanepoel previously featured at the event before progressing to the international stage.

The annual event, therefore, remains a cornerstone of the broader national rugby development pathway.