



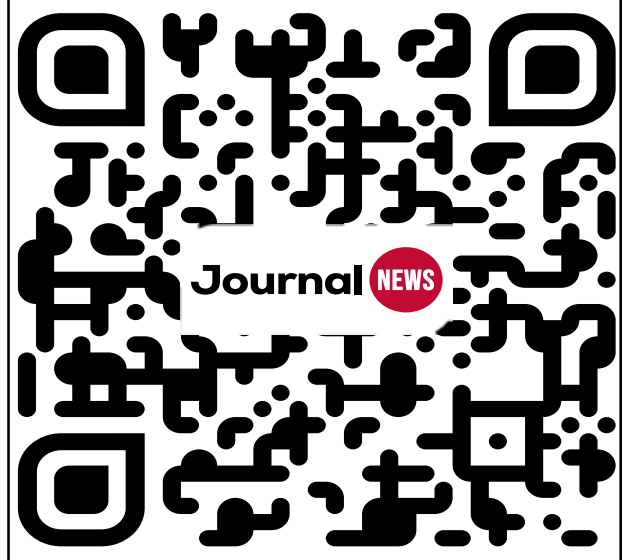
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ANC MAYORAL CANDIDATES CONTEST TIGHTENS

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Mangaung Holds More's Suspension

- **Metro opts for private probe into City Manager's misconduct allegations**
- **Mayor has under 30 days to present probe's findings**

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

The Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Council will appoint an independent investigator to probe misconduct allegations against

City Manager, Sello More. The Council opted against immediate suspension during a special sitting in Bloemfontein, choosing instead to ensure a thorough and impartial examination of the claims. Council Speaker, Lawrence Mathae, explained

that the neutral assessment will determine if formal disciplinary proceedings are necessary.

"We have subjected that process to further investigation, and we will meet after 30 days to see if there is reasonable evidence to believe that there are allegations of misconduct," he said.

Mathae noted that the City Manager will be granted a fair opportunity to respond if the probe yields substantial findings.

"If indeed there are cases of misconduct, the City Manager will equally be allowed to make formal representations, and the matter will be brought

back to Council," he added.

Mathae further emphasised that taking drastic steps without a preliminary report from an external party would be premature.

"Allegations are allegations until they stand the legal test. So it would have been unfair now to conclude that you take drastic action against the City Manager, when in fact the external independent person has not even formulated an opinion that indeed there is prima facie evidence to believe that cases of misconduct must be investigated," Mathae said.

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Mangaung Holds More's Suspension



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Executive Mayor Gregory Nthatsi confirmed his office was instructed to appoint the investigator to examine the claims presented by the Democratic Alliance (DA).

"On the strength of that, inside 30 days I will have to come back to the Council with the report that will be coming from the independent investigator to check if there is merit in what they have raised," Nthatsi said.

During the same meeting, the Council also received a progress report regarding 17 separate financial misconduct cases involving various city officials. These ongoing investigations by the Financial Disciplinary Board are expected to conclude by the end of the month.

Nthatsi indicated that the municipality is also executing a repayment plan mandated by the Auditor-General (AG) regarding a separate debt notice issued to More.

"Our City Manager received what we call the Certificate of Debt from the Auditor-General. A decision was taken that a process of recovering the R2.9 million must be put into process, where the recovery process will be proceeded with," he said.

Nthatsi acknowledged that More intends to contest the multi-million-rand debt certificate through formal legal channels. However, despite this pending challenge, the council will continue with the mandated recovery measures.

"It is safe to say the City Manager has reserved the right to even challenge the matter in court but we as the council are not between what the city manager is doing.

"We are fulfilling the mandate that was given to us by the Auditor (AG). Now all we must do is to put into place the process of recovery of that money," said Nthatsi.

Rustenburg ANC Mayoral Candidates Contest Tightens

Who will emerge as the ANC's mayoral candidate in North West's economic hub?



By Refilwe Mochoari

The ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) is finalising its shortlist of mayoral candidates across all municipalities in the country ahead of the upcoming local government elections and for the North West economic hub of Rustenburg, the party has reportedly narrowed its focus to two frontrunners. Council Speaker Lebogang Pule and MMC for

Local Economic Development Thabang Rampou have emerged as the parties leading candidates in the municipality as the NEC wraps up its mayoral interviews process at Luthuli House - which included and extensive public consultation process that has allowed communities and key sectors to nominate local leaders to represent the movement nationwide.

ANC Secretary-General, Fikile Mbalula, is expected to confirm and announce the final candidates, who



will need campaign and present their respective manifestos ahead of the looming local elections.

The selection framework builds on an official process launched earlier in the year to strengthen competency-based leadership deployment.

ANC national spokesperson, Mahlengi Bhengu, explained that incorporating public submissions marks a fundamental shift in how the party governs and selects executive representatives.

"The first phase establishes a centralised implementation machinery within the office of the secretary general, supported by a dedicated secretariat and working in coordination with the local government interventions committee and other organisational structures," she said.

"This will ensure uniformity, strategic oversight, discipline and consistency in implementation across all provinces," she added.

Former Centlec CEO Hitmen Caged

Contract killers handed heavy life sentences two years after brutal assassination



By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

The Bloemfontein High Court has handed life sentences to the convicted murderers of former Centlec CEO, Andries Mgoqi, thus concluding the two-year long complex case that exposed a deadly murder-for-hire plot that shook the Mangaung energy utility back in February 2024.

Nkwebe Seatile and Tlotlisang Monyane were found guilty of fatally shooting the 52-year-old executive outside a tavern in Bergeman Square, Bloemfontein, two years ago, with Seatile receiving life imprisonment for murder and an additional 10 years for attempted murder. Monyane, on the other hand, was sentenced to life for assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) revealed that the pair's murdering spree initially began a month earlier when they lured a man outside another Bloemfontein nightclub, where a struggle ensued before one of the suspects fired several shots directly into the victim's face.

Despite sustaining serious near fatal injuries, the 53-year-old victim survived the brutal attack.

The attempted murder case was subsequently transferred to the Provincial Organised Crime Unit under the leadership of Detective Sergeant Lethola Taiwe.

The suspects struck again weeks later by assassinating Mgoqi while conversing with a friend. The armed attacker - Seatile in this instance - shot him multiple times before fleeing the scene in a white Mercedes-Benz.

An intelligence-driven operation by the Mangaung Trio Task Team eventually tracked the suspects to a safe house in Wepener, where Seatile and Monyane were successfully arrested early on the

morning of 23 February 2024.

A joint investigation uncovered that both accused were paid contract killers hired to execute the initial shooting and Mgoqi's assassination.

The prosecution team worked closely with dedicated investigators to secure these significant convictions, which have now effectively removed two dangerous hitmen from society while delivering justice to Mgoqi's family.

During sentencing, Judge Corne Van Zyl strongly condemned contract killings as a severe threat to society. The judge stressed that courts hold a profound responsibility to protect citizens from violent criminals.

"It is the duty of this court to punish those who commit such acts, to serve as a lesson to stop those who are thinking of doing the same thing. This is also to encourage the community not to take the law into their hands and allow the wheels of justice to prevail," said Van Zyl.

In a rare gesture, Van Zyl requested Captain Jacques Wilson of the SAPS to stand in court to be publicly commended for his exceptional dedication. The judge further praised his investigative skills and the relentless attitude displayed by the entire team throughout this complex case.

Free State Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Thabang Lesia, welcomed the sentences and praised the collaborative teamwork between the police and the National Prosecuting Authority.

He noted that this successful prosecution highlights the immense value of cooperation between detectives and prosecutors.

"The life sentences send a strong message that contract killings will not be tolerated and that those responsible will be identified and successfully prosecuted," Lesia said.

CRIME REPORTS

Suspects arrested for robbery in Taung

The police in Taung have arrested two male suspects, Ezekiel Phirisi and Edwin Madito, in connection with a house robbery that was reported at Magogong Village, Diplankeng near Taung on Thursday.

According to authorities, initial investigations revealed that a 26-year-old man was allegedly resting at home in the early hours of Thursday, when he woke up to noises, and he discovered two unknown armed males, wearing balaclavas, inside his bedroom. He attempted to scream for help, but was overpowered, and the suspects forcefully took money and a smartphone before fleeing the scene.

The matter was reported to the police, who man-

aged to trace and arrest both suspects, and they were found to have one round of ammunition and a toy firearm.

Both suspects were charged with House Robbery, appeared before the Taung District Court on Thursday, 16 July 2026, and were remanded in custody until their next court appearance.

The Acting Provincial Commissioner of North West, Major General Ryno Naidoo, applauded the police for the successful arrest of the suspects. Reiterating that all perpetrators who violate the law will be brought to justice and that the police will continue to strive for a safer community that is free from the danger of illegal firearms.

Man receives 10 years imprisonment in a domestic violence-related crime

The Tlhabane Regional Court sentenced a 34-year-old man to 10 years direct imprisonment on Thursday.

This comes after he was found guilty of assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm (GBH) in a domestic violence-related matter.

The court heard evidence that on the evening of 18 May 2025, the 37-year-old victim had visited her boyfriend in Meriting Extension 1 in Boitekong, when he accused her of infidelity before repeatedly assaulting her with his fists and causing bruises all over her body.

The accused further locked the victim in the room, but she managed to escape and reported the matter to Boitekong SAPS. The authority said the accused

was arrested two days later on Tuesday, 20 May 2025, which was the same day the matter was reported to the police.

He made his first appearance before the Tlhabane Magistrates' Court on Thursday, 22 May 2025, and was denied bail, and following successful investigations, he was convicted and sentenced by the Tlhabane Regional Court. In addition to the 10-year prison sentence, the court declared the accused unfit to possess a firearm in terms of section 103 of the Firearm Control Act, Act 60 of 2000.

Brigadier Mamotsamai Ntoagae said the sentence demonstrates the criminal justice system's commitment to holding perpetrators of gender based violence accountable.

767 suspects arrested in Potchefstroom during Operation Shanela 2

A high-density Operation Shanela 2 was conducted in Potchefstroom between , 13 and 19 July resulting in the arrest of 767 suspects for various crimes ranging from murder, attempted murder, and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, among others.

Additionally, 97 suspected undocumented migrants were taken in for processing by Immigration officials.

Authorities said during these operations, 391 premises, 2 856 persons and 1423 vehicles were searched.

Yesterday information received was operationalized, leading to the recovery of a Toyota HiAce Quantum, found parked next to the road in Majakaneng, close to Mooiooi.

The vehicle, valued at about R400 000.00, was

recovered before the owner, who is from Tlhabane, realized that his vehicle was stolen.

The Acting Provincial Commissioner Major General Ryno Naidoo welcomed the results achieved.

He said police will remain resolute in their mission to decisively deal with serious and violent crime in the North West Province through Operation Shanela 2. He further encouraged all law enforcement agencies to continue working tirelessly towards building safer communities and urged members of the public to cooperate with police by reporting criminal activities.

Naidoo, said police across the province will continue to squeeze the space for criminals in response to serious and violent crimes through Operation Shanela 2, which focuses on enhanced crime prevention and combatting criminal activities.

Weekend special abuser sentenced to 10 years imprisonment

The Kimberley Regional Court sentenced a 36-year-old man, dubbed the 'Weekend Special' abuser, to 10 years' direct imprisonment for assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

It is reported that the victim, a 27-year-old woman who was in a domestic relationship with the accused and resided with him, endured repeated physical abuse, particularly over weekends.

The latest incident occurred in the early hours of 1 January this year when the victim was socializing at a business establishment in Rietvale, Ritchie.

The authorities said the accused arrived at the premises, forcibly removed her and assaulted her before dragging her to their residence, where the assault continued.

The victim managed to escape and sought refuge at her parents' home, and she subsequently reported the matter to the police and opened a case of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The accused was subsequently traced, arrested, and appeared in court, where his bail application was denied, and he remained in custody until the conclusion of the case on Tuesday.

The Frances Baard District Commissioner, Major General Charlotte Makgari, reiterated that the South African Police Service remains resolute in its efforts to prevent, combat and investigate crimes against women and children and to ensure that perpetrators of gender-based violence and domestic abuse face the full might of the law.

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ANC Suspends District Mayor Five Weeks Into Office

...While separate allegations have surfaced concerning her son's alleged "Ghost Employment" by two municipalities



By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

The African National Congress (ANC) in the Free State has suspended Lejweleputswa District Municipality Executive Mayor Phindiwe Maseko, just five weeks after her appointment.

Maseko was elected executive mayor during a special council meeting in Welkom in mid-May, succeeding Veronica Ntakumbana as part of the ANC's broader intervention to improve governance and stability in struggling municipalities.

Her suspension follows a dispute with the provincial ANC after she allegedly declined to remove a member of her mayoral committee in line with a party cadre deployment directive.

In a suspension letter, the ANC informed Maseko that her membership had been suspended with immediate effect in terms of Rule 25.60 of the party's constitution, pending disciplinary proceedings.

The rule allows the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) and National Working Committee (NWC) to summarily suspend a member without first obtaining their response where "justifiable excep-

tional circumstances" exist.

According to the letter, Maseko was given clear directives regarding the composition of her mayoral committee following her appointment.

The ANC said she met with a Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) official on more than two occasions to discuss the matter but allegedly failed to implement the party's instructions or respond to formal communication from the Provincial Secretary's Office (PSO).

The party alleges that her conduct breached Rule 25.17.1 of the ANC Constitution, relating to acting in breach of the membership oath, as well as Rule 25.17.3, which deals with failing, refusing or neglecting to comply with ANC policies, rules, regulations or resolutions adopted under the constitution.

The ANC further advised Maseko that, during her temporary suspension, she would not be entitled to exercise any rights as an ANC member, except to participate in disciplinary proceedings and any subsequent appeal or review process.

As an ANC deployee, her continued participation in the municipal council would be regulated by the

party's Chief Whip while the disciplinary process is underway.

The ANC has invoked a seldom-used constitutional provision allowing for the summary suspension of a member without a disciplinary hearing in what it describes as exceptional circumstances.

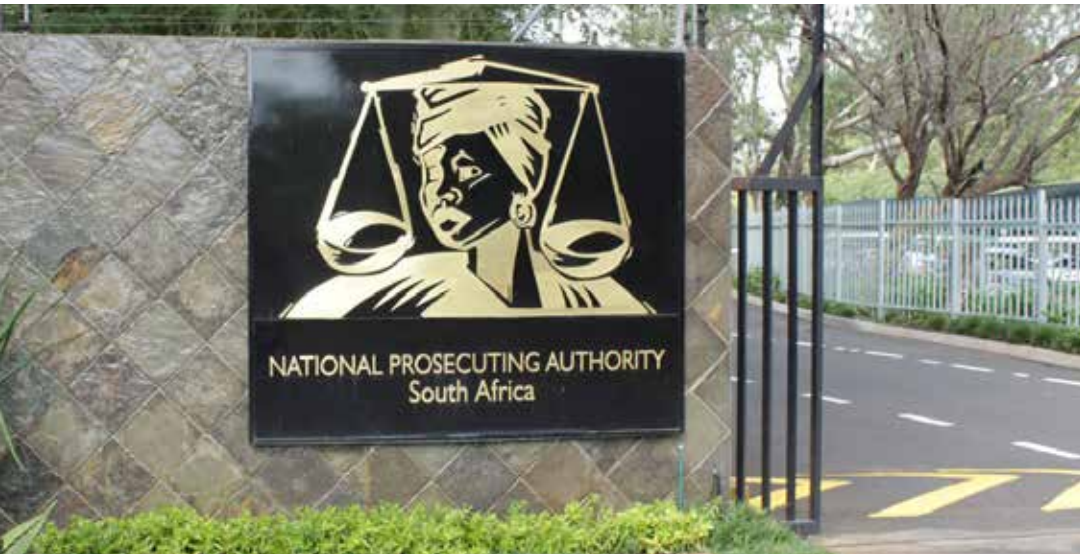
Meanwhile, allegations have also emerged concerning the employment of Maseko's son, who is alleged to be on the payrolls of both Tokologo Local Municipality and Lejweleputswa District Municipality as a general worker.

It is alleged that he has been receiving salaries from both municipalities despite not reporting for duty, raising allegations of a possible "ghost worker" arrangement.

Journal News Network contacted Maseko for comment on both her suspension and the allegations concerning her son's alleged employment at the two municipalities. However, she declined to comment.

"I will not be speaking to the media about anything. Please contact both Tokologo and Lejweleputswa municipalities, as well as the ANC, about all these issues," Maseko said.

Ex-Upington prosecutor found guilty of assault, awaiting sentencing



By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

The sentencing of a former Upington District Court prosecutor is expected to take place on 15 September for allegedly assaulting his partner during a violent altercation that took place at their home in Paballo.

The prosecutor, whose name cannot be revealed to protect the victim's identity was convicted in November 2022 on multiple charges which include, amongst others, grievous bodily harm and the contravention of the Domestic Violence Act.

According to the spokesperson for National Prosecuting Authority Mojalefa Senokotsoane the accused also faced two counts of rape, one count of assault with intent to do grievously bodily harm, one count of violating a protection order in contravention of Section 17(1) (a) of the Domestic Violence Act, one count of compelling or causing a child to witness sexual offences, as well as charges relating to the unauthorised use of his employer's motor vehicle and driving under the influence of alcohol.

"The 40-year-old former prosecutor, who attached to the Upington Cluster in the Northern Cape, cannot be identified because doing so would reveal the identity of the complainant," said Senokotsoane.

Senokotsoane says after the investigations that were conducted by the South African Police Service (SAPS) Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit, the Upington Regional Court found him not guilty of the two rape charges and the charge of compelling a child to witness sexual offences, ruling that the state had failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he had raped the complainant.

Senokotsoane says evidence that was presented before the court suggests that the complainant had been sleeping before her night shift when an argument broke out after she told the accused that she believed their relationship should end due to infidelity.

"The accused allegedly assaulted his partner in the presence of their two-year-old daughter.

"The victim managed to escape when colleagues from SAPS arrived to collect her for duty and intervened, Senokotsoane said.

He first appeared in the Upington Magistrates' Court on 15 November 2022 and remanded in custody before later being granted bail.

During the trial, Prosecutor Charnill Kok led the State case, calling several witnesses, including SAPS members who responded to the incident. They testified about the complainant's physical and emotional condition and described the accused's aggressive behaviour when police attempted to intervene.

A registered forensic nurse from Dr Harry Surtie Hospital in Upington also testified about the complainant's injuries based on the J88 medico-legal examination. The complainant gave detailed evidence about the assault and the events that unfolded while their young child was present.

The court convicted the accused of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, violating the Domestic Violence Act, unauthorised use of a motor vehicle and driving under the influence of alcohol. He recorded a blood alcohol concentration of 0.34 grams per 100 millilitres during a separate incident on 20 May 2020.

The accused is on bail under his existing bail conditions.

The NPA commended Prosecutor Charnill Kok and members of the SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit for their professionalism and commitment throughout the investigation and prosecution.

"The case demonstrated that no one is above the law, regardless of their position, and reaffirmed its commitment to prosecuting gender-based violence and femicide cases to ensure offenders are held accountable, and justice is served for victims," said Senokotsoane.

Severe weather hope for South Africa



Severe weather patterns are expected to hit South Africa in the coming summer months, which could contribute to already-rising food prices—but some experts are hopeful that the country will dodge a food price bullet.

Experts have predicted that an El Niño weather pattern will hit South Africa at the end of 2026—climate conditions which often lead to drought conditions in the country.

Past El Niños have had devastating consequences for the country's agricultural sector, which needs consistent rainfall to function.

Between 2014 and 2016, drought conditions plagued many parts of the country and led to decreased food production.

Maize farming was heavily affected, with only 8.9 million tonnes of the crop being produced to meet the annual demand of roughly 12 million tonnes.

Maize was not the only crop affected during this period, and most farming operations saw significant declines in production.

The lack of food production had a notable impact on South Africa's inflation rates, which peaked at 6.8% in 2016. This was largely due to reduced farming operations caused by the drought, as food prices play a major role in determining the inflation rate.

The impact of food prices on inflation rates is particularly concerning, given South Africa's current situation.

In June 2026, inflation reached 5%, the highest in two years, largely due to international conflicts and rising fuel prices.

This was above the expectations of most analysts, who predicted inflation rates to rise to roughly 4.7%.

Inflation rates have consistently exceeded South Africa's current target of 3% since the outbreak of the war in Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Roughly 25% of the world's oil passes through the strait, and its closure has led to erratic fuel prices in South Africa.

Oil prices have already put pressure on South Africa's agricultural sector, and drought conditions could worsen the situation.

The South African Reserve Bank has said it expects inflation rates to remain above the 3% target until 2027, but decreased food production could push these figures higher.

This presents a challenge for South Africa's consumers, with the rising cost of living placing pressure on many households.

The Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa's chief economist, Wandile Sihlobo, had a positive outlook on the possible El Niño weather pattern.

He said South Africa's agricultural sector was in a good position to handle potential drought conditions, given the exceedingly rainy past year.

South Africa has experienced an unusually long La Niña period, which has led to heavy rainfall and high-

er dam levels.

The heavy rainfall means farms have higher soil moisture, increasing their resilience to potential drought conditions.

"South Africa will enter the 2026-27 summer crop season with higher soil moisture, because there were excessive rains in the 2025-26 season, which lasted far longer than usual," Sihlobo said.

He said the increased soil moisture would support crop growth even if rainfall were reduced in the country. "There may be sufficient soil moisture to support seed germination and crop development even as El Niño conditions likely result in below-normal rainfall," he said.

Healthy dam levels are also a good sign for South Africa, with roughly 20% of the country's farms relying on irrigation supplied by them.

Irrigation is especially important for fruit and vegetable farming, which cannot normally rely on South Africa's rainfall.

Sihlobo said South Africa also currently has high grain supplies, which may further soften the impact of a possible drought—especially on food inflation.

Both of these factors are good signs for South Africa's food inflation, which may be kept under control, according to Sihlobo.

He said South Africa's agricultural sector is in a better position than it was before previous drought conditions, such as in 2014 to 2016.- Business Tech

Free State Mourns 'Big Player' Nxangisa

By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

Former Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela has described the death of former MEC Thembeni "Skully" Nxangisa as a painful loss, saying the province and the African National Congress (ANC) have lost a committed leader, trusted adviser and dedicated public servant.

Nxangisa died at his home yesterday following a long illness.

He served as the Free State MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) from May 2019 to October 2021 before being appointed MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development. Following his tenure in the provincial executive, he continued serving as a Member of the Free State Legislature.

Memorial and funeral arrangements are expected to be announced by the Nxangisa family in the coming days.

Ntombela said she was overwhelmed with emotion following the death of Nxangisa, describing him as one of the Free State's most dependable public servants.

"You find me when I am very emotional with the matter of Thembeni. In fact, the whole Free State has lost a big player. Not only Free State, but the ANC as well," said Ntombela.

"I just want to thank God and thank his family for giving us time to work with him."

The former premier described Nxangisa as one of the most committed members of her executive, saying he carried out his responsibilities with humility, hard work and a strong spirit of collaboration.

"I think I was one of the luckiest premiers to have an MEC like Thembeni. He was a very committed, very humble, hardworking person and he even knew that as an executive, we must meet and work together," she said.

According to Ntombela, Nxangisa also played a critical role in empowering women in agriculture during his tenure as MEC for Agriculture.

She said he embraced initiatives aimed at advancing women farmers and ensured they received opportunities to participate meaningfully in the agricultural sector.

Beyond his official duties, Ntombela said Nxangisa became one of her most trusted confidants and advisers.

"What I liked about him is that he was also my adviser. If there was something he wanted to be done in the department, he would make an appointment and come to me, seek my input and make sure that there is a shared understanding," she said.

"Thembeni was one of those people whom you should have in your corner because he would not lead you astray."

Ntombela also reflected on Nxangisa's lengthy battle with illness, saying he had fought courageously for several years.

She revealed that she had spoken to him just a week before his death while he was attending a hospital check-up.

"Thembeni was supposed to have long passed on in 2023, when he was critically ill. But God protected him until this far. It is a real pity. He fought for his life," she said.

"I spoke to him last week. He told me that he was at the hospital for a check-up. When you consoled him, he was the one in return consoling you."

Although both had since left the provincial executive, Ntombela said their communication never ended, making his passing even more painful.

"Communication between us never ended even when we were set aside. May his soul rest in peace," she said.





Maboya Drives Anti-Drug Campaign in Viljoenskroon

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

Free State Education MEC, Dr. Mantlaka Maboya, and Mophahla Municipality Mayor Ramasimong Tau recently hosted an anti-drug campaign for Mandela Day. The event took place at Tshaphalo Rammulotsi to tackle rampant substance abuse in the local community.

The municipality partnered with various government departments and the local Community Policing Forum to organise the programme. The session provided local youth with the necessary information and skills to overcome addiction.

During her keynote address, Dr. Maboya told attendees that the greatest weapon against drugs is not found in a courtroom or police station.

"The greatest weapon against drugs is a child who receives love, stimulation, protection, and quality education from the earliest years of life.

"Thupa e kojwa e sa le metse," she asserted in a

Sesotho proverb that directly translates to: 'a stick is bent while it's still fresh and green' – meaning children must be moulded while still young.

In addition to the youth programme, Tau unveiled new signage boards and donated essential supplies to four early childhood development centres in Matlwanglwang.

These donations included mattresses, gas stoves, and laptops to support local education.

"This was made possible by the support from Sinde Nhlapo, as part of giving back to the community during Nelson Mandela Month," Tau stated.

To conclude the day's outreach activities, the mayor visited The Divine Favour Old Age Home Centre in Makong to distribute blankets to elderly residents.

Officials noted that these actions reflect the core purpose of Nelson Mandela International Day.

"The declaration affirms Mandela Day and Month as a global call to take responsibility for building a more just and equitable society," they said.

Mahlatsi Hails Sasol Partnership as Health Drive Gains Momentum



By JN Reporter

Free State MEC for Health Monyatsi Mahlatsi has praised Sasol for strengthening public healthcare through community partnerships during a productive visit to Sasolburg.

Mahlatsi first met with representatives of the Sasolburg Development Forum for a constructive discussion on local healthcare challenges and solutions before joining Sasol employees who volunteered their time to clean and paint sections of Fezi Ngubentombi District Hospital.

Commending the company's commitment to the communities in which it operates, Mahlatsi said Sasol's continued investment reflects the value of strong partnerships between government and the private sector in improving healthcare facilities for residents.

He also thanked the Sasolburg Development Forum for its valuable contributions and reaffirmed the Department of Health's commitment to working closely with community stakeholders to strengthen service delivery in the area.

During the engagement, Mahlatsi highlighted progress being made by the department, including ongoing efforts to fill vacant healthcare posts and the gradual expansion of the provincial ambulance fleet to improve emergency medical response across the Free State.

He said collaboration between government, business and communities remains essential to building a stronger, more responsive public healthcare system that delivers quality services to all residents.

Kumba Iron Airport Secures Gold Award for High-Level Safety Standards



By Refilwe Mochoari

The Kumba Iron Ore mine based in Kathu privately operated airport Sishen Airport earlier this month was awarded Gold Status for displaying outstanding and high safety standards.

The mine airport was recognised by leading auditing group in aviation safety and operational efficiency by Liston and Associates Group aviation safety awards committee.

The airport underwent its annual compliance audit measured against International Civil Aviation Organisation, (ICAO) Annexure 14 Standards, which sets international standards and practices for aerodromes to achieve safe flight and maintenance operations in all environments.

Sishen Airport is a South African Civil Aviation Au-

thority-licensed facility, servicing Kumba's logistical and the public's transportation needs with flights to and from the Northern Cape, connecting the remote region to Johannesburg via direct flights.

Transportation and Facilities section manager at Kumba Iron Ore Liana Blaauw says, "This recognition is a testament to the unwavering commitment that our team has to our organisational "Zero Harm" initiative, which puts the safety of our people and partners above all else.

"As a facility open to public use, we are proud that no audit findings were noted by the advisors. "This demonstrates the dedication the airport staff has towards the safety of passengers and we will continue to work diligently to comply and maintain these standards, as we serve as an important gateway for travel and opportunities to the region, she said.

SAPS FCS Unit and St Peter's Women's Manyano Bring Hope to Rockland Beacon of Hope



By Katlego Mashwabi

Renowned live performance icon and poet Lebo Mashile (47) has secured a role in an international production company Peacock Studios alongside film stars Lynn Whitfield, Coco Jones, and Chloe Bailey.

Strung is an American psychological thriller directed by Malcom D Lee and produced by Tyler Perry released late last month. Although it was filmed in Cape Town, the movie set is in Los Angeles and was debuted at the American Black Film Festival earlier this year.

In this American psychological thriller, Mashile is entwined in a web of dark secrets. In Strung, Mashile portrays Femi,

a no-nonsense domestic worker for a wealthy family from Los Angeles that is riddled with secrets.

While the plot does not suggest that Femi is aware of these secrets, she collaborates with the grieving violinist Laila Calloway, played by American singer Chloe Bailey.

Laila serves as a live-in tutor for the family's daughter, Zuri, and becomes increasingly enmeshed in the family, leading to unsettling revelations that force her to question the true nature of the household.

Femi, whose full name is Femina Sithole, is an observant domestic worker focused on maintaining the family's outward cleanliness and collecting her paycheque, all while remaining a silent observer as the

family's secrets unfold.

Mashile, born in America and hailing from South Africa, has made a significant mark in the film industry.

She has been in the industry for over two decades and has performed in more than 28 countries and also starred in the international movie Hotel Rwanda.

She is an iconic and prominent voice in South African arts and is the co-founder of the collective poetry group Feela Sistah,

When describing her character, Femina, she harbours the household's secrets in Strung as a tribute to the resilient domestic workers in South Africa.

She says her role as a domestic worker in Strung closely aligns with her activism and public commentary on social issues.

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Mandela Day 2026: “It’s still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity.”

Mayor Hands Over Title Deeds



By Matshidiso Selebeleng

The Executive Mayor of Dhlabeng Local Municipality, Tseki Tseki, handed over title deeds to beneficiaries at Mmetla Park, Extension 2, as part of Mandela Day celebrations.

Accompanied by human settlements MMC Lebohlang Radebe, finance MMC Sophia Jacobs, as well as municipal directors and managers, Tseki reflected on the enduring legacy of former President Nelson Mandela and reminded residents that Mandela Day is a call to action for every citizen to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to community service.

Tseki encouraged residents to assist the less fortunate, participate in clean-up campaigns, and continue promoting unity, compassion, and active citizenship.

He also urged beneficiaries to safeguard their title deeds as legal proof of home ownership that provides long-term security.

According to the municipality, title deed handover forms part of the municipality’s ongoing commitment to restoring the dignity of residents by providing them with legal ownership of their homes.

“Receiving a title deed provides beneficiaries with security of tenure, protects their property rights, and opens opportunities for economic empowerment, investment, and wealth creation for current and future generations,” said the municipality in a statement.

The municipality added that this initiative demonstrates its commitment to accelerating property transfers so more residents enjoy the full benefits and security of home ownership.

Kimberley Roads Refurbished for Mandela Day



By Matshidiso Selebeleng

The Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works celebrated the 2026 edition of Nelson Mandela International Day by executing community service activities across Kimberley - including road maintenance under ‘Operation Vala Zonke’ in Kosmos and Recreational Streets, followed by street cleaning initiatives in St Pauls Street.

MEC Fufe Makatong said the department partnered with the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality to improve the condition of streets across the city.

“For a long time, residents have raised concerns about the condition of our streets. Today they are beginning to see the difference. This initiative is making a visible impact, and we remain committed to restoring dignity to our communities through cleaner and safer public spaces,” said the Public Works MEC.

Makatong noted the overwhelming public support received during the road maintenance interventions, while also commending the department’s continued leadership in job creation through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

She further expressed heartfelt appreciation to EPWP participants for their dedication to making a tangible difference in honour of Nelson Mandela’s legacy.

EPWP participants also dedicated their service to cleaning the premises of the Thuthuzela Care Centre at Galeshewe Day Hospital.

Highlighting Mandela’s strong belief in education, Makatong encouraged participants to invest in their personal development by enrolling in Adult Basic Education and Training or the Second Chance Matric Programme.

She urged them to utilise the department’s bursary opportunities to further their education and skills development.

Vista Park Community Brings Mandela’s Spirit to Life at Old Age Home



By Gomolemo Winkel

Menzi’s Palace for the Aged in Vista Park, Bloemfontein, was showered with love and warmth as the community came together to honour the spirit of Nelson Mandela Day last Saturday.

Led by Ward 19 Councillor Qondile Peter and Coca-Cola, the Vista Park community donated much-needed blankets, bed sheets, bed covers, cleaning products and groceries to help improve the comfort and well-being of the elderly residents.

Community members also rolled up their sleeves to

SANDF Supports Elderly Citizens for Mandela Day



By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

The 2 South African Infantry Battalion commemorated Mandela Day by supporting the Hands That Care Multipurpose Centre in Zeerust on 16 July 2026.

Led by Acting Officer Commanding, Major S. Mnk-gaba, members of the battalion visited the centre to spend time with senior citizens and donated groceries and toiletries to support the organisation’s work.

They were joined by officials from the Department of Social Development, highlighting the importance of partnerships in improving the lives of vulnerable community members.

Speaking during the event, Mnk-gaba said Mandela Day is about turning compassion into action through meaningful service to others.

“Mandela Day is not only about a day of remembrance but also a call to action (sic). It reminds us that together we can make the world a better place,” he said. He also encouraged the elderly to remain hopeful, assuring them that they are valued, respected and appreciated.

The Hands That Care centre provides essential care services, nutritional support and social programmes aimed at improving the well-being and quality of life of senior citizens and other vulnerable residents.

“Thank you for the donations, your presence and contributions means a great deal to the organisation and the community it serves,” said Gadifele Sebogo, the centre’s founder in accepting the donations.

The outreach formed part of the battalion’s Mandela Day activities, reflecting its ongoing commitment to development beyond its military duties.

Pageant Finalists Dedicate 67 Minutes to Animal Welfare



By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

Miss and Mr Hope Free State 2026 finalists spent their 67 minutes of Mandela Day volunteering at the Zanciet Wildlife Rescue Centre. The contestants assisted staff members with daily operations while learning about regional wildlife conservation efforts.

Pageant founder and organiser, Laurina Mabunda, noted that the visit reflected the pageant’s core values of compassionate leadership and community service.

“Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do,” said Mabunda, quoting Nelson Mandela.

The group thanked the rescue centre management for allowing the finalists to contribute to animal welfare work. Participants actively supported the ongoing care of rescued wildlife throughout the day’s outreach activities.

This conservation initiative forms a key part of the contestants’ journey toward the 2026 final competition. Finalists will continue engaging in various community service projects across the province over the coming months.

Metro FM Cares Mandela Day Outreach



By Katlego Mashwabi

The walls of Tshwane Place of Safety received a facelift on Saturday for 67 minutes for Nelson Mandela Day.

To commemorate the 17th anniversary of Nelson Mandela Day, urban radio station Metro FM partnered with the humanitarian group Gift of the Givers for their METRO FM Cares outreach, a way of giving back in honour of the struggle icon Nelson Mandela.

The centre was graced by the presence of Naked DJ, Lamiez Holworthy, Siyabonga Ngwekazi, and Khutso Theledi, who refurbished the shelter, creating a safe space for children to grow. The refurbishment included a brand new play area, vibrant murals, and a dollhouse. Some of the activities were to paint swings

Arts, Dignity And Hope Behind Bars



By Katlego Mashwabi

A powerful reminder that incarceration does not strip people of their dignity or their potential to rebuild their lives was delivered to female offenders at Mahikeng Prison in Mmabatho on 18 July.

The message came during a Mandela Day celebration hosted by Mahikeng Female Correctional Services in partnership with the Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation and the Groove NPC Foundation.

Held under the theme “Making a Difference Through the Arts,” the event used music and dance to restore dignity, inspire hope and bring joy to women serving time at the correctional facility.

The Mmabana Echoes of Excellence Dance and Music Unit delivered a vibrant performance, creating a memorable experience for the inmates.

The initiative was further strengthened by support from local partners, including Mahikeng VW Motors dealership and Clicks, which donated 120 toiletry packs, sanitary products, nappies, baby clothing, toys and four electric heaters to assist women struggling to access essential items while incarcerated.

Addressing the women, North West Provincial Legislature Speaker Disebo Mohono, accompanied by Ngaka Modiri Molema Local Municipality Executive Mayor Molefe Khumalo, Department of Correctional Services Commissioner Nduduzo Buthelezi and other senior officials, encouraged the offenders to embrace rehabilitation, personal growth and the opportunity to build better futures.

The event underscored the power of compassion, the arts and community support in restoring hope and dignity behind prison walls.

Mothlaping Upgrades Kuruman ECD



By Katlego Mashwabi

MEC Lebogang Mothlaping recently led a transformative Mandela Day Outreach Programme at Kobo ya Bana in Kuruman, where infrastructural upgrades transformed the facility into a safer, cleaner environment for early childhood education.

The initiative saw the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environment Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform address urgent community needs.

Officials and local partners united to deliver immediate relief and long-term support to vulnerable families in the Taolo Gaetswe District. The department, therefore, established a community soup kitchen to provide immediate nutritional relief and bring residents together.

To foster long-term self-reliance, officials distributed household food garden inputs so families can cultivate their own fresh produce. These comprehensive refurbishments directly support both local educators and young children in their daily learning activities.

Through these combined actions, the department demonstrated its ongoing dedication to sustainable development and community care. The successful outreach highlighted how collective effort continues to drive Nelson Mandela’s vision of a self-sufficient society forward.

“It is a call to action that inspires individuals and institutions to serve others and contribute to building stronger communities,” Mothlaping said.

and the installation of a jungle gym, a trampoline and multicoloured paving. The radio personalities painted words of encouragement and affirmations “I am strong. I am brave, I am loved” all over the centre walls. Gift of the Givers, provided essential items such as formula, diapers, wipes, food, and other everyday necessities. Model and reality TV star, Blue Mbombo said she partnered with the initiative because as a mother she feels it is the right thing to do.

“As a mother, I was looking for something that resonates with me and something that I am very passionate about. So a place that is a home for children will always have my heart. “I wanted to do something that is not just 67 minutes of Mandela but something significant, and for me, this was the best way I could contribute,” she said.



TAKING SERVICES

MATJHABENG TAKES SERVICE DELIVERY TO THE PEOPLE IN BRONVILLE

Executive leadership engages residents, faith-based leaders and stakeholders in a full-day programme focused on action, accountability and improved services



Matjhabeng Local Municipality's Executive Leadership took government directly to the people with a full-day programme in Bronville, Ward 11, focused on accelerating service delivery, strengthening community engagement and advancing responsive municipal governance.

The programme began with a Mayoral Committee (MAYCO) meeting at the Bronville Community Hall, where the Executive considered a range of strategic reports presented by various municipal departments.

Key reports came from the Human Settlements and Spatial Planning, Corporate Services, Finance and Infrastructure departments. The Executive also assessed progress on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) projects and reviewed the implementation of the Municipality's Financial Recovery Plan — a critical intervention aimed at restoring financial stability and strengthening service delivery.

Following the MAYCO meeting, Executive Mayor Cllr Thanduxolo Khalipha and the municipal management team engaged with faith-based leaders from across Bronville.

The engagement addressed key challenges affecting churches, including church sites and title deeds, municipal service payments, the role of churches in community development and upcoming programmes involving the church fraternity across Matjhabeng.

Pastors and church leaders were also given an opportunity to raise challenges affecting their congregations and communities while engaging directly with municipal leadership on possible solutions and interventions.

The day culminated in a well-attended Mayoral Imbizo, where residents received updates on key service delivery projects underway in Ward 11.

Officials from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Vaal Central Water

and appointed contractors provided detailed progress reports on ongoing sewer infrastructure projects in Bronville.

The Acting Municipal Manager also presented the Municipality's Ward 11 Service Delivery Plan, outlining current and planned interventions aimed at improving the quality and reliability of municipal services.

Municipal Executive Directors responded to concerns raised by residents and committed to implementing practical solutions to address challenges affecting the community.

A major announcement came when Executive Mayor Cllr Thanduxolo Khalipha confirmed that the long-awaited renovation of the Bronville Community Hall will begin in the coming weeks.

The announcement reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to upgrading community facilities and creating dignified, functional public spaces for residents.

Residents were given a platform to engage directly with the Executive Mayor, Members of the Mayoral Committee, municipal management and government stakeholders by asking questions, raising concerns and proposing solutions on issues affecting their community.

The Bronville programme forms part of Matjhabeng Local Municipality's ongoing commitment to taking government

ment closer to the people, promoting transparency and accountability, and ensuring that residents remain active partners in building a responsive, developmental and service-oriented local government.



DECADES OF END AS TITLE

BRING DIGNITY

*Long-awaited proof of ownership
over to military veterans*



For decades, they built homes, raised families and helped shape their communities — but many military veterans and senior citizens never held the legal documents proving that the homes they occupied were truly theirs.

That changed in Thabong.

A day that began with a media briefing at Matjhabeng Local Municipality culminated in an emotional title deed handover at the AME Church on Nkoane Road, where long-awaited ownership documents were placed directly into the hands of beneficiaries.

The handover formed part of the Title Deeds Restoration Programme (TDRP), an initiative aimed at addressing historical delays and restoring legal ownership to rightful beneficiaries.

Lejweleputswa District Executive Mayor Cllr Phindiwe Maseko led the District delegation and, following the media briefing, proceeded to the church to personally hand over title deeds to senior citizens and military veterans.

"A title deed is dignity you can hold. It secures your children's future. Lejweleput-

swa District will not rest until prior Citizen and Veteran is restored TDRP," said Mayor Maseko.

Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Hon Tandi Mahambehlala also joined the delegation, bringing the national government's commitment to the programme directly to the Thabong community.

She emphasised that the Title Deeds Restoration Programme exists to address historical delays and ensure that eligible beneficiaries are recognised as homeowners.

"Today you leave AME Church as occupants, but as legal owners of your homes. This is generational wealth in your hands," she said.

Matjhabeng Executive Mayor Cllr Thanduxolo Khalipha, who led the municipal delegation at the Municipality, also joined the delegation at the church, reinforcing the Municipality's commitment to ensuring that eligible beneficiaries are recognised as homeowners.

"We started at Matjhabeng Local Municipality telling the story. We ended at AME Church changing lives. Matjhabeng

MATJHABENG STANDS WITH

Mayor Khalipha pays tribute to a family

Executive Mayor Cllr Thanduxolo Khalipha, accompanied by Members of Council, paid a heartfelt condolence visit to the Khoabane family following the passing of the mother of MMC Mojabeng Radebe.

The visit demonstrated the Municipality's solidarity and support for the bereaved family during a difficult period of loss.

Executive Mayor Khalipha conveyed his sincere condolences to MMC Radebe, Ntate Oupa Khoabane, the entire Khoabane family, relatives and

friends, offering prayers for comfort and peace as they grieved their beloved mother.

During his address, the Executive Mayor also paid tribute to the Khoabane family's remarkable contribution to the struggle against apartheid.

He acknowledged the family's unwavering commitment, courage and sacrifices in the pursuit of freedom and justice, noting that their legacy continues to inspire present and future generations.

The Executive Mayor emphasised

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trace every missing beneficiary ward by ward so no Senior Citizen or Veteran is left behind,” said Mayor Khalipha.

The AME Church in Thabong became a powerful symbol of restoration as beneficiaries received documents that transformed decades of occupation into legally recognised ownership.

For some, the moment brought tears of relief. For others, it represented security, dignity and the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for their children and grandchildren.

Children watched as their grandparents became the legal owners of homes they had built and cared for over decades.

The message was clear: a home is more than bricks and mortar. With a title deed, it becomes security, inheritance and generational wealth.

Under the leadership of Executive Mayor Cllr Phindiwe Maseko, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, in partnership with Matjhabeng Local Municipality and the national Department of Human Settlements, continues to turn promises into property and policy into tangible ownership.

MATJHABENG YOUTH CONNECTED TO
OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN
CHANGE LIVES

Y
oung people in Matjhabeng were given a powerful platform to connect with opportunities in education, skills development, entrepreneurship and employment at a Youth Opportunities Expo hosted by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) in partnership with Matjhabeng Local Municipality.

The initiative brought together a wide range of organisations and Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), creating a one-stop platform where young people could access information, ask questions and connect directly with institutions that can help shape their futures. Among the organisations represented were SEDA, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), W&RSETA, Hand in Hand Southern Africa, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), South African Youth Council (SAYC), MICTSETA, IWISA, Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA), MPhira Training Sector, Minute Message, FASSET, the National Development Agency (NDA) and YOGO.

Representatives engaged directly with attendees, providing information on bursaries, learnerships, internships, skills development programmes and other opportunities available to young people.

Through the exhibition stalls, attendees were able to register their details, ask questions and receive practical guidance on application processes and how to access opportunities that can help them take the next step towards education, employment or entrepreneurship.

Goldfields TVET College also participated in the expo, encouraging learners and unemployed youth to pursue further education and training.

The institution showcased its range of study opportunities and highlighted bursary programmes available to assist students with tuition and related costs.

Aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners also benefited from valuable information on business funding, enterprise development programmes and the steps involved in formalising and licensing their businesses.

The Youth Opportunities Expo reflects a strong collaborative commitment by the NYDA, Matjhabeng Local Municipality and its partners to tackle youth unemployment by creating practical pathways to education, skills development, entrepreneurship and meaningful economic participation. By bringing opportunities directly to young people, the initiative is helping ensure that information, support and access are no longer barriers to progress.

MAYOR KHALIPHA TAKES THE FIGHT TO
MATJHABENG’S SEWER CHALLENGES

Ward 34 oversight visit puts project progress, quality
and accountability under the spotlight



T
he Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Cllr Thanduxolo Khalipha, has stepped up oversight of critical sewer infrastructure projects in Ward 34, conducting an on-site inspection of works being implemented under Ministerial Intervention.

Accompanied by Ward Councillor Cllr Werner Van Rensburg and municipal officials, the Executive Mayor assessed progress on the ground, monitored the quality of construction work and reviewed whether project timelines were being met.

During the inspection, project teams provided updates on sewer line replacement and rehabilitation works aimed at improving sanitation services and addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges affecting residents in the area.

Executive Mayor Khalipha emphasised the need to accelerate implementation while ensuring that construction work meets the required standards.

He stressed that speed must not come at the expense of quality, noting that infrastructure interventions must deliver sustainable solutions capable of improving service delivery for residents over the long term.

Following the site inspection, the Executive Mayor held a community engagement session with residents of Ward 34.

The session provided residents with firsthand updates on the progress of the projects and an opportunity to raise concerns and engage directly with municipal leadership on service delivery matters affecting their community.

The visit forms part of Matjhabeng Local Municipality’s ongoing commitment to strengthening oversight, enhancing accountability and ensuring that service delivery interventions translate into tangible improvements in the lives of residents.

FAITH, UNITY AND SERVICE: MATJHABENG MAY-
OR TAKES GOVERNMENT TO THE CHURCH

Mayoral Church Visits Programme strengthens partnership
between Municipality and faith-based organisations

E
xecutive Mayor Cllr Thanduxolo Khalipha joined the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church congregation in Thabong for a fellowship service as part of Matjhabeng Local Municipality’s Mayoral Church Visits Programme.

The visit reaffirmed the Municipality’s commitment to working closely with faith-based organisations in addressing community challenges, strengthening social development and building more connected communities. The Executive Mayor was accompanied by Ward Councillor Mpho Mokhothu, former Ward Councillor Ntate Tsatsa, Mr Morgan Masike and staff from the Office of the Executive Mayor.

The Mayoral Church Visits Programme provides an important platform for direct en-



gagement between municipal leadership and communities. It enables the Executive Mayor to interact with congregants, share the Municipality’s vision for improved service delivery and community development, and listen to issues affecting residents. The programme also serves as a platform to promote unity, hope and active citizen participation in building a stronger Matjhabeng.

Through continued engagement with churches and other faith-based organisations, the Municipality is strengthening partnerships with institutions that play a vital role in supporting families, empowering communities and responding to social challenges. For Matjhabeng, the partnership between government and the faith community remains an important part of building a united, caring and developmental municipality.

H KHOABANE FAMILY IN TIME OF LOSS
whose legacy of courage and sacrifice continues to inspire

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that the loss of a mother is not only a profound loss to her immediate family, but also to the broader community whose lives she touched through her wisdom, care and guidance.

He encouraged the family to draw strength from the cherished memories they shared with her and from the support of the community during this time of mourning.

Matjhabeng Local Municipality once again extends its heartfelt condolences to MMC Mojabeng Radebe and the entire Khoabane family.



Opinion

Philangenkosi Shabangu
Department of Curriculum Studies and Higher Education,
University of the Free State

Violence in South African schools is a structural violence crisis

Violence in South African schools is predominantly portrayed as a problem of recalcitrant learner behaviour. However, recent reports denote that more than 800 learners in Mangaung Metro have been profiled as potential gang members, while in Gauteng, 245 schools have been flagged as high-risk for violence. These statistics are a genuine cause for concern. They do not depict an individual moral failure. However, they are symptoms of a deeper social crisis. School violence ought to be understood as an expression of structural violence which is marked by the systematic inequalities and institutional failures that shape learners' lives long before they enter the classroom.

Briefly, structural violence refers to the social, political, and economic arrangements that are designed to prevent others from meeting their basic needs and reaching their full potential. Unlike direct (physical) violence, structural violence is often invisible, embedded in poverty, unemployment, spatial inequality, inadequate service delivery, and the enduring legacies of apartheid. Learners arrive at school carrying these burdens of food insecurity, community violence, substance abuse, family instability, and limited opportunities. Thus, schools inevitably become sites where these broader injustices are reproduced.

The identification of 245 high-risk schools in Gauteng reflects this reality. Violence does not begin at the school gate. It emanates from communities characterised by inequality, organised crime, drug trafficking, and social exclusion before spilling into school premises. Equally, the profiling of more than 800 learners in Mangaung Metro depicts the extent to which schools are confronted with social injustices that extend beyond teaching and learning.

Can security measures solve structural injustices?

The Department of Basic Education's response in these two provinces encapsulates police partnerships observed through conducting search-and-seizure operations, profiling at-risk learners, and increasing surveillance. It demonstrates a commitment to protecting learners and teachers while safeguarding every learner's constitutional right to learn in a safe environment. These interventions may help prevent imminent harm and restore order.

However, security measures alone cannot solve structural injustices. Metal detectors cannot eliminate poverty. Police patrols cannot address youth unemployment. Learner profiling cannot dismant

le the inequalities that make gangs attractive to vulnerable young people. Without confronting the conditions that produce violence, South Africa risks treating symptoms while leaving the underlying causes untouched.

There is also an important ethical concern about learner profiling. While identifying learners at risk may enable early intervention, such a practice may also reinforce stigma and exclusion if it is not accompanied by adequate psychosocial support. Schools ought to be spaces of hope and transformation, not places where vulnerable learners become permanently defined by their circumstances.

From policing schools to pursuing social justice

Understanding school violence through the lens of structural violence requires a paradigm shift in public discourse. As opposed to asking why learners become obstinately violent, we should ask: What social conditions make violence appear normal? Why do some communities continue to experience chronic underinvestment while others enjoy well-resourced schools and safer neighbourhoods?

Why are schools expected to solve problems rooted in housing, health care, unemployment, po

licing, and social welfare?

These questions are an attempt to move the conversation beyond individual blame towards collective responsibility. The disturbing developments in Mangaung Metro and Gauteng should therefore be viewed as a signal of a much deeper national crisis. Violence in schools is not merely an educational issue. It reflects South Africa's enduring structural injustices. Every learner profiled, every weapon confiscated, and every school designated as high-risk signals not only a breakdown in safety but also a failure of social justice.

Creating safer schools requires more than surveillance and policing.

It demands sustained investment in social justice through stronger community engagement, psychosocial services, restorative justice programmes, trauma-informed teaching, and meaningful life opportunities for young people.

Until structural injustices are addressed with the same urgency as security deployments school violence is likely to remain a recurring symptom of deeper structural failures. Safe schools cannot be built on surveillance alone; they must be built on justice.

Could the EFF's 13th Anniversary Be Julius Malema's Last Address to the Fighters?



Refilwe Mochoori
Editor-in-Chief

The Economic Freedom Front is celebrating its 13th anniversary on Saturday, a milestone that comes as South Africa approaches the Local Government Elections. To date, the organisation has proved to be a force to be reckoned with in the political arena.

Their achievements so far, make me wonder what their numbers are going to look like in the upcoming polls.

For the upcoming elections, I do not see any party securing an outright majority in SA metropolitan municipalities.

However, I must say that in my view, the EFF is arguably the most successful breakaway from the ANC, so this anniversary is not just symbolic, but it is a testament to the party's resilience and the vision of the Commander-in-Chief, Julius Malema.

This is indeed a great milestone achieved by the party and its founder the Commander-in-Chief, Julius Malema. Hi everyone, my name is Refilwe Mochoori and I would like to wish the EFF a happy birthday.

With over one million members in good standing, the EFF is yet to secure an outright Executive mayoral seat in government, but its influence is undeniable.

In Johannesburg, the party secured the Member of Mayoral Committee for Health and Social Development.

In Ekurhuleni, before exiting the coalition setup, the EFF secured key MMC positions in Finance, Community Safety and Human Settlements.

Today their Gauteng Provincial Chairperson Nkululeko Dunga is the MEC for Treasury in Gauteng.

In Free State, the EFF has also secured the MMC roles in Public Safety and Corporate Services.

A party that was born from the expulsion of young visionaries from the ANC, the EFF has now become an official opposition in many municipalities.

The EFF draws strong support from young black South Africans and its ethos states that they were born out of the urgent need to confront the unfinished struggle for true liberation in South Africa.

Their dress code in parliament and all official events such as the State of the Nation address consistently projects itself as the voice for the poor, working class and the dispossessed.

Their seven cardinal pillars are the organisation's blueprint to achieve economic emancipation.

For all these years since its inception, the EFF has been talking about expropriation of South Africa's land without compensation for equitable redistribution in use.

Nationalisation of mines, banks and other strategic sectors in the economy without compensation.

Building state and government capacity which will lead to the abolishment of tenders.

Free quality education, healthcare, housing and sanitation for all.

Massive protected industrial development to create millions of sustainable jobs, including the introduction of minimum wages to close the wage gap between the rich and the poor.

Massive development of the African economy and advocating for a move from reconciliation to justice in the entire continent.

An open, accountable government and society without fear of victimization by the state agencies.

But what happens to this giant of an organisation when its leader goes to jail?

Julius Malema in October last year was found guilty of unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, discharge of a firearm in a public area, and reckless endangerment during an EFF rally that took place in the Eastern Cape in 2018.

He fired a rifle in the air in a stadium full of people. That was extremely reckless and inconsiderate. He endangered the lives of his supporters.

In April this year, he received a five-year prison sentence but remains free pending an ongoing appeal, which is really what is keeping him out of jail currently.

As much as I admire the CIC, I cannot ignore the recklessness of that moment.

What he did during that rally was very inconsiderate. My honest opinion is that he must face the consequences of his behavior.

As a leader, he must know that leadership requires and demands accountability.

What if someone got shot? What if someone died?

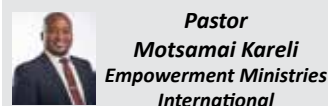
The EFF is that political party home for many young South Africans disillusioned with the ANC corruption.

But if Malema is imprisoned, can the EFF withstand the absence of its leader?

Is the EFF foundation solid enough to survive without him?

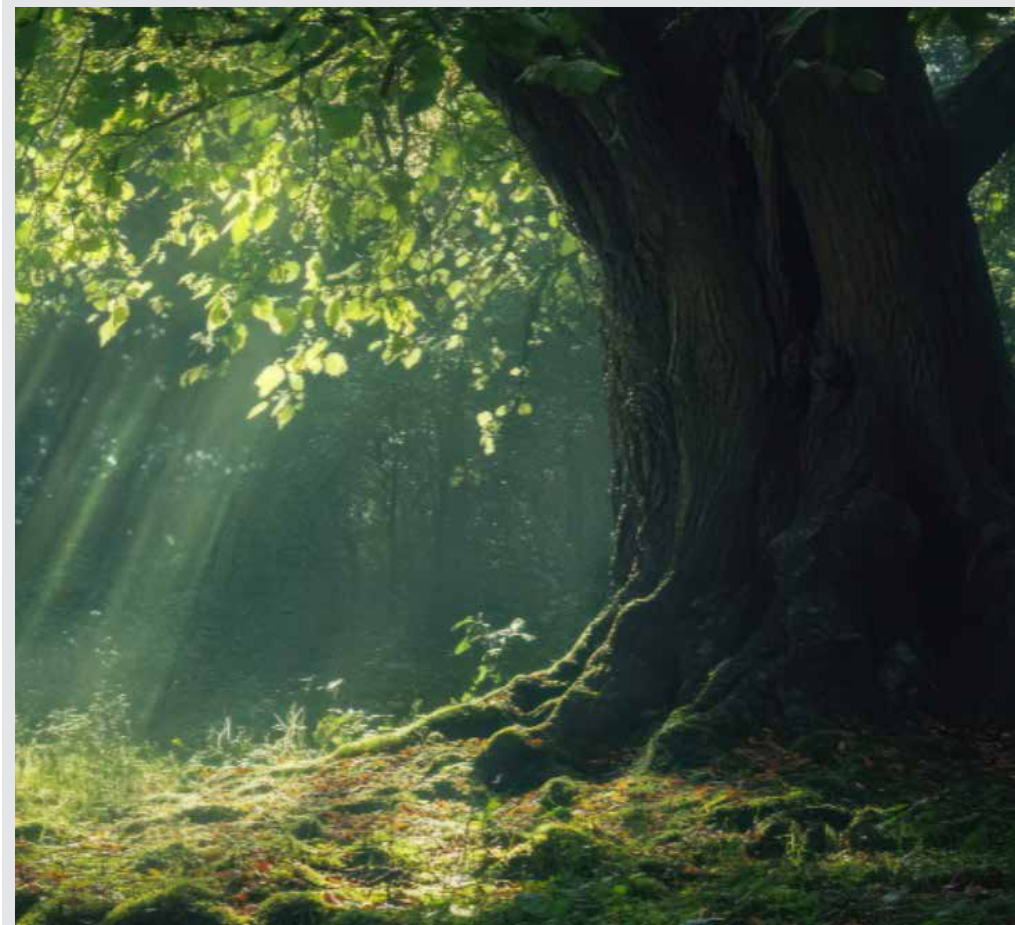
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Pastor
Motsamai Kareli
Empowerment Ministries
International

Relational Intelligence: The Leadership Skill That Determines Success



In a world driven by technology, artificial intelligence, and rapid innovation, one human ability remains irreplaceable: the ability to build and sustain meaningful relationships.

This ability is known as Relational Intelligence (RQ)—the capacity to understand people, build trust, manage relationships wisely, and create environments where individuals can thrive together. Many people possess a high Intelligence Quotient (IQ), while others excel in Emotional Intelligence (EQ). Yet countless careers, businesses, churches, families, and even governments struggle because they lack Relational Intelligence. Success is rarely determined by what we know alone; it is often determined by how well we relate to others.

Relational Intelligence teaches us that every interaction leaves either a deposit or a withdrawal in the bank account of trust. Leaders who consistently listen, encourage, appreciate, and serve others make deposits that strengthen relationships. Those who criticize unnecessarily, break promises, manipulate, or ignore people slowly deplete trust until relationships collapse.

In today's workplace, employees are not merely seeking salaries; they are seeking respect, recognition, and purpose. Organizations with healthy relationships consistently outperform those plagued by conflict and mistrust. Productivity rises where trust exists. Innovation flourishes where people feel valued. Loyalty grows where leaders genuinely care.

The same principle applies to families. Children flourish when parents are emotionally available. Marriages become stronger when spouses choose understanding over winning arguments. Friendships endure because of consistency, honesty, and forgiveness.

Strong relationships are never accidental—they are intentionally cultivated. For leaders, Relational Intelligence demands humility. Great leaders understand that leadership is not about titles, positions, or authority. It is about influence. Influence grows where trust exists, and trust grows through integrity, consistency, competence, and genuine concern for people. One of the greatest threats

to Relational Intelligence is pride. Pride prevents listening. Pride resists correction. Pride values being right more than preserving relationships. Humility, however, creates space for dialogue, collaboration, and mutual growth.

Relational Intelligence also requires effective communication. Many conflicts do not arise from bad intentions but from poor communication. Listening with empathy, asking thoughtful questions, and communicating with clarity can prevent misunderstandings that might otherwise destroy valuable relationships.

In our increasingly divided society, Relational Intelligence is urgently needed. Communities are fractured by political differences, racial tensions, economic inequality, and social divisions. Healing begins when people choose understanding over assumption, conversation over confrontation, and compassion over condemnation.

As a nation, South Africa cannot build a prosperous future if we continue allowing division to define us. Our diversity should become our greatest strength rather than our greatest weakness. Relational Intelligence calls us to build bridges instead of walls, partnerships instead of rivalries, and unity instead of suspicion. The future belongs to those who can collaborate effectively. Businesses will grow through strategic partnerships. Churches will transform communities through unity. Governments will succeed through meaningful engagement with citizens. Families will thrive through intentional love and communication. Ultimately, Relational Intelligence is not simply about being liked. It is about creating lasting value in the lives of others. People may forget what we said or even what we achieved, but they will never forget how we made them feel.

May each of us strive to become leaders who inspire trust, cultivate healthy relationships, and leave behind a legacy of unity, compassion, and positive influence.

In the end, our greatest achievements will not merely be measured by our accomplishments, but by the quality of the relationships we built along the journey.

What happens to a household when a breadwinner dies?



ASISA says South Africa's life and disability insurance gap has widened to R50.4 trillion
FSCA data shows funeral cover is the most commonly held insurance product, but when it is excluded, the share of South Africans with insurance drops to 19%
Capitec says many South Africans miss the benefits of life cover, leaving families exposed after the funeral

According to the 2025 Insurance Gap Study released by the Association for Savings and Investment South Africa, South Africa's life and disability insurance gap has widened to R50.4 trillion. The average South African income earner has a shortfall of around R3.1 million in death and disability cover, and existing cover meets only 39% of what families need to maintain their standard of living. Following the death of a breadwinner, the average household would have to cut spending by 34% – or find an extra R7 400 every month – just to stay afloat.

The same study says around 440 income earners are expected to die every day in South Africa in 2025, while 145 are likely to become disabled daily. For many families, that means the loss of an income, the pressure of immediate expenses and the longer-term reality of trying to keep a household going.

For Capitec, South Africa's leading diversified financial services group, these figures point to a bigger responsibility: helping clients to understand what cover they are paying for. It's something Deepesh Desai, CEO of Capitec Life, believes should be an industry standard, arguing that too much focus has gone into products, services and payouts.

"Our industry is good at talking about insurance products, but not nearly good enough at talking about the people whose needs these products were developed to protect," says Desai. "Choosing cover isn't simply a financial decision. It's one of the most meaningful promises we can make to the people we love – that even if we're no longer here, they'll still be protected."

Changing the conversation

One simple intervention may be for the industry to change the way it talks about life insurance, especially when it comes to the difference between life and funeral cover.

Funeral cover has much higher take-up among South Africans, with 24 million having some form of funeral cover. Of those, 10.5 million have more than one policy. FSCA data also shows that funeral cover is the most commonly held insurance product in the country. But when funeral cover is excluded, the share of South Africans with life insurance drops to 19%.

The disparity between being over-insured with funeral policies and under-insured with life insurance may be down to the fact that many families see the two as interchangeable, despite the very

different roles they play in protecting a family's future.

Funeral cover helps families through one of life's most immediate and difficult moments, easing the financial burden of saying goodbye.

Life cover protects what comes afterwards, helping families continue paying for everyday life, whether that's keeping children in school, maintaining a home, covering monthly expenses or protecting future opportunities.

Together, they tell a much bigger story: one provides support in the immediate moment of loss. The other provides stability for the life that continues beyond it.

Education and simplicity

It's something that Capitec is trying to change, both with its messaging around life cover and the products it offers.

Its latest television campaign, for instance, doesn't lead with the product or the policy benefits it offers. Instead, it tells a deeply human story through a symbol every South African instinctively understands: a blanket.

Across cultures, a blanket represents warmth, comfort and protection. It's one of the very first ways we show love to another person. The gesture acts as a metaphor for people's ability to continue protecting the people they care about, even after they're gone.

The idea at the heart of the campaign is simple: the true value of life and funeral cover is rarely felt by the person paying for it. It is felt by the people they love and leave behind. Cover isn't a purchase so much as an act of care – the quiet knowledge that someone thought about you long before they had to.

But messaging is only part of the solution. The process also needs to be as simple as possible for people to access life cover.

"When something is this important, it shouldn't feel complicated," says Desai. "People don't avoid cover because they don't love their families. They often avoid it because the process feels intimidating, confusing or overwhelming. We wanted to remove those barriers so families can focus on what really matters: protecting the people they care about."

Which is why Capitec has tried to completely strip complexity from the process of taking out cover. Clients can take up cover at any Capitec branch or through the app. Life cover requires just eight simple questions, with no medical, no annual premium increases and flexible payout options designed around different family needs.

Funeral cover, meanwhile, offers predictable premiums with no automatic annual premium increases, as well as a six-month premium pause during periods of financial difficulty, recognising that life's unexpected moments don't only happen after loss.

Business

Markets and Indicators

Rand/Dollar	16.83	-2.53%	
Rand/Pound	22.41	-2.10%	
Rand/Euro	19.15	-2.26%	
Platinum	1 595.19	-2.90%	
Brent Crude	99.78	4.94%	
Gold	4 047.14	-2.07%	
Ethereum	1 878.65	-3.07%	
Bitcoin	64 817.01	-1.90%	

R433m Boost for Botshabelo as Vukile Expands FS Footprint



By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

Vukile Property Fund has reinforced its investment in the Free State with the acquisition of Botshabelo Mall for R433 million, marking another major step in the company's strategy to grow its portfolio of high-performing retail centres across South Africa.

The company announced that it has acquired 100% of Botshabelo Mall, situated in the Free State's largest township.

The transaction was transferred in July 2026 and is expected to deliver an initial yield of 8.6%.

The acquisition forms part of Vukile's strategy to expand its exposure to resilient retail assets while recycling capital from non-core properties. During the financial year, the company concluded R1.7 billion in property transactions in South Africa, disposing of R630 million in assets and acquiring shopping centres with strong income streams and long-term growth potential.

In addition to the Botshabelo investment, Vukile acquired a 50% stake in Chatsworth Mall in KwaZulu-Natal for R620 million, with an initial yield of 8.7%.

The property fund reported another strong performance from its South African retail portfolio, valued at R19.5 billion and comprising township, rural, urban and commuter shopping centres.

Retailer sales increased by 5.4%, while customer footfall grew by 2.2%. Vacancies remained low at 1.7%, with 90% of expiring leases renewed at the same or higher rental levels. Positive rental reversions improved to 3.9%, highlighting sustained demand for retail space.

The company also reduced its cost-to-income ratio from 15.3% to 12.4%, supported by continued investment in renewable energy. Its solar photovoltaic capacity now exceeds 40.3MWp, generating around 29% of the electricity consumed across its South African portfolio.

Vukile continued enhancing its existing assets through redevelopment projects. At East Rand Mall, it completed a R71 million upgrade that transformed former cinema space into more than 5,000 square metres of multi-tenant retail space.

It is also investing R76 million in the extension and refurbishment of Nonesi Mall in the Eastern Cape.

Internationally, Vukile expanded its European foot-

print through its 99.7%-owned subsidiary, Castellana Properties. During the year, the group acquired a 35% stake in pan-European retail fund and asset manager Pradera and entered the Italian market through the purchase of a €115 million (about R2.2 billion) portfolio of three shopping centres.

These acquisitions have increased Vukile's property portfolio to R63.7 billion, with nearly 70% of its assets now located in Europe.

Chief Executive Officer Laurence Rapp said the group's disciplined growth strategy continued to produce strong results.

"This robust set of results demonstrates consistent delivery on our focused strategy.

Operational excellence, value-add projects, key acquisitions in core markets and strategic deals in new territories collectively played a pivotal role in delivering results above guidance," he said.

The company also strengthened its financial position during the year, ending the period with nearly R8 billion following an oversubscribed share issue.

Its loan-to-value ratio improved to 38.4%, while ratings agency GCR upgraded Vukile's credit rating to AA+ (ZA) with a stable outlook.

Consumer inflation accelerates to 5% in June, the highest since 2024



Annual consumer price inflation jumped to 5 per cent in June, up from 4,5 per cent in May 2026.

Transport was the largest contributor, due to higher fuel prices driven by higher oil prices.

The price of petrol increased by R1.43 cents per litre in June, while diesel went up by between R2,62 and R3,25 per litre depending on grade.

Other high contributors to the annual inflation rate were housing and utilities and insurance and financial services

Inflation on a month-on-month basis rose by 0.7 per cent between May and June.

Statistics South Africa's Chief Director for Price Statistics, Patrick Kelly, says, "Transport was the largest contributor to both annual and monthly changes in the CPI. This was mainly underpinned by higher fuel prices.

Its annual rate accelerated to 12.7% in June from

9.4% in May. Fuel prices climbed by 34.3 % in the past 12 months, driven by increases of 50.8% in diesel and 31.7% in petrol. Higher fuel prices have had a knock-on effect on passenger transport inflation, which registered a monthly rise of 8.1% in June."

Stats SA data shows food inflation slowed in the month, dipping to 1.4% in June from 1.9% in May.

Kelly says, "Cereal products recorded a fifth consecutive month of deflation at -15%.

Some items that are cheaper than a year ago are white rice, lower by 13.4%, maize meal less by 5.9% and porridge, down by 1.3%."

He says meat inflation also continued a downward trend.

Higher consumer inflation raises chances of another interest rate hike by the Reserve Bank.

At 5%, inflation is way above the central bank's target of 3%. **SABCNews**

Over 1,200 jobs at risk as De Beers suspends Venetia Mine production

Workers at Venetia Mine in Alldays, Limpopo, say they are shocked by mining company's decision to suspend production for two years. The move has placed more than 1 200 jobs at risk at the country's largest diamond mine.

Some workers say they have already received Section 189A notices, which could lead to retrenchments.Venetia Mine contributes more than 40% of South Africa's diamond production. The mine, owned by De Beers, employs more than 3,500 contract workers.Some of the workers say losing their jobs will impact their livelihoods. "It really affected me a lot, especially because this is the job we are relying on for our families and our community members at large. I have worked here for 14 years, and the thought of losing my job is frightening. I don't know where I will go if I'm retrenched. I also employ a nanny, and if I lose my income, she will lose her job too. This affects not only my family, but hers as well," says one of the workers. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) at the Venetia Mine says it will engage with mining company, De Beers, in an effort to save jobs.

De Beers has cited a significant drop in the rough



diamond price value as one of key drivers behind its decision to halt production. "We will fight for the jobs of the employees, that is our first priority as the union. However, the news came as a shock to be notified about the retrenchments, but as a union, as organised labour, we will rally behind to make sure that the jobs of the employees are safe. It's not only about the employees. This also affects communities at large," says NUM Chairperson at the mine, Tshilidzi Sikhivhulu. **SABCNews**

Over 750 businesses in South Africa insolvent in 2026

South African stats body Stats SA has restarted its tracking of insolvencies in the country, revealing that 753 businesses have slipped into this status this year so far.

Stats SA stopped tracking insolvencies in April 2023, when the data releases of the time were split from tracking liquidations and insolvencies to two separate reports.

While data on liquidations continued, data on insolvencies were delayed following a cyber incident at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in 2021.

As a result, South Africa has had no data on insolvencies for several years.

However, "with the issue now resolved, the first standalone release of [insolvencies] is being published for the current period," Stats SA said.

"Users should note that this release does not represent a continuation of the previous series, as there is a break in the time series data between September 2021 and December 2022," it added.

Insolvencies are also fundamentally different from liquidation. Liquidation refers to the winding-up of the affairs of a company or close corporation when liabilities exceed assets. This can be done on a voluntary basis or by an order of the court.

While liquidation can result from insolvency, it is not necessarily reflective of such. Legal experts in the field have noted that voluntary liquidations, especially, could reflect standard business activity.



Insolvency, however, refers to an individual or partnership which is unable to pay its debts and is placed under final sequestration.

Stats SA noted that the number of insolvencies it reports does not refer to the number of persons involved, as a partnership which is unable to pay its debt is regarded as one insolvency, irrespective of the number of partners.

Regardless, insolvencies are more reflective of struggling businesses and could be more closely aligned to the broader business environment.

More specifically, rising insolvencies and insolvency risks point to structural pressure in the global and local economy, which businesses would have felt acutely in 2026 with the onset of the Iran war.

Insolvencies in 2026

According to Stats SA, insolvencies in 2026 are tracking lower than those in 2025, with the 61 recorded in June 56.1% lower than the 139 recorded in June 2025.

Insolvencies for the quarter (April 2026 to June 2026) are 27.3% lower year-on-year, while the year-to-date insolvencies (January to June) are 11.1% lower than the year before.

It is worth noting that total insolvencies for 2023,

2024 and 2025 were remarkably high, peaking in 2024.

Each of these years reflects exceptionally harsh conditions for businesses in South Africa—with a common thread of low economic growth and high levels of unemployment throughout.

In 2023, South Africa experienced the worst load shedding on record, which affected the economy as a whole. During this year, the country recorded 1,883 insolvencies. In 2024, the country continued to face load shedding—although slowing down—and weathered political uncertainty before and after the National Elections. The country recorded 2,105 insolvencies.

2025 was a much calmer year locally, with a notable turn for the better in local economic conditions and sentiment; however, the Trump administration's tariff war and targeting of South Africa still weighed.

Despite this, the number of insolvencies pulled back significantly, with 1,606 recorded last year.

As with the data on liquidations, the statistics serve as one data point and could indicate different causes.

One reading of the improved insolvency data is that business conditions are improving, and the lower numbers point to happier times.

Another reading could be that there are simply fewer businesses around to become insolvent—an unfortunate outcome of more than a decade of stagnant growth. When weighed up against Stats SA's revised liquidations data—where liquidations are accelerating—more negative conclusions can be drawn. **Businesses**

Cassper Nyovest to host the SAMAs in Sun City



Cassper Nyovest will be hosting the 2026 South African Music Awards.

The multi-award-winning rapper announced on social media that he had reached an agreement with the Samas after not seeing eye to eye for 10 years.

"After 10 years of not seeing eye to eye, they called me in and we have come to an agreement !!! This is gonna be huge!!!! 15 August !! We are going to Sun City and I am your OFFICIAL HOST!!!"

In his video, Nyovest reflected on his once-strained relationship with the awards, "You know me and the SAMAs have had a lot of issues, but they called me, we sat down, and I'm very excited to be here."

In a statement last month, RiSA announced that the awards were going back to Sun City in the North West and said the move was about more than simply changing venues.

"This year's announcement signals more than just the beginning of awards season. It heralds a triumphant homecoming."

Nyovest follows the footsteps of musicians such as Kabelo Mabalane, Loyiso Bala and Khuli Chana who have previously hosted the Samas.

Last year Pamela Mtanga and Scoop Ngenkazi hosted the awards held at the Gallagher Estate in Johannesburg.

It hasn't yet been announced if Nyovest will be joined by a co-host or not, but there are hints that he could be joined by a co-host.

This will be Nyovest's first rodeo hosting a live award show. He has previously presented Season 2 of the celebrity lifestyle and cooking series "The Braai Show with Cass".

The show aired on SABC1 in 2021 and featured Cassper hosting prominent South African figures, preparing meals, and having intimate conversations. IOL

Mashile Lands a Role in Tyler Perry movie

By Katlego Mashwabi

Renowned live performance icon and poet Lebo Mashile (47) has secured a role in an international production company Peacock Studios alongside film stars Lynn Whitfield, Coco Jones, and Chloe Bailey.

Strung is an American psychological thriller directed by Malcom D Lee and produced by Tyler Perry released late last month.

Although it was filmed in Cape Town, the movie set is in Los Angeles and

was debuted at the American Black Film Festival earlier this year.

In this American psychological thriller, Mashile is entwined in a web of dark secrets.

In Strung, Mashile portrays Femi, a no-nonsense domestic worker for a wealthy family from Los Angeles that is riddled with secrets.

While the plot does not suggest that Femi is aware of these secrets, she collaborates with the grieving violinist Laila Calloway, played by American singer Chloe Bailey.

Laila serves as a live-in tutor for the family's daughter, Zuri, and becomes increasingly enmeshed in the family, leading to unsettling revelations that force her to question the true nature of the household.

Femi, whose full name is Femina Sithole, is an observant domestic worker focused on maintaining the family's outward cleanliness and collecting her paycheck, all while remaining a silent observer as the family's secrets unfold.

Mashile, born in America and hailing from South Africa, has made a significant mark in the film industry.

She has been in the industry for over two decades and has performed in more than 28 countries and also starred in the international movie Hotel Rwanda.

She is an iconic and prominent voice in South African arts and is the co-founder of the collective poetry group Feela Sis-tah,

When describing her character, Femina, she harbours the household's secrets in Strung as a tribute to the resilient domestic workers in South Africa.

She says her role as a domestic worker in Strung closely aligns with her activism and public commentary on social issues.



Tyla's own Bratz Doll

By Katlego Mashwabi

After many years of requests, a doll brand focused on diversity has finally added a celebrity doll of colour to their collection for Johannesburg-born superstar and popiano queen, Tyla Laura Seethel

This month, Tyla, hinted at this exciting development on her social media platforms where she shared a screenshot of her 2024 tweet, "Imma have my own Tyla doll one day," prompting fans to guess what she was referring to.

Shortly after, she posted a video unboxing her long-anticipated mini-me doll, exclaiming, "finally got my own doll!"

"Everyone who's an OG will remember when I tweeted that one day I would have my own doll, a limited edition Bratz doll!"

In the celebratory video, she unboxed the Tyla doll package in her dressing room, showcasing her two Grammy Awards, her first album, a microphone, her miniature tiger, a magazine, and even



changed her doll into the outfit from her Chanel

music video.

The doll is set to debut by the end of today at FAO Schwarz in New York, alongside her second album, "A POP".

The launch event will feature a meet-and-greet for the first 100 buyers of the Bratz doll, which will be priced at R1,236 in South Africa.

Tyla is the first South African celebrity to be featured in the Bratz Celebrity Collector lineup.

She joins Colombian reggaeton star Karol G and billionaire beauty mogul Kylie Jenner since the brand's debut in 2001.

The Tyla doll instalment showcases two of her looks, the Met Gala sand gown and her performance outfit complete with a chained miniature tiger.

She also announced that "A POP" Bratz vinyl is available for pre-order along with Bratz A POP merchandise, including black and white T-shirts for the July release.

A wider release will be available on Bratz.com starting on 27 July.

Breaking The Dress Code With Molebogeng Ramos

By Katlego Mashwabi

Growing up petite, soft, and fragile, confidence came as second nature for Bloemfontein-based social media influencer Molebogeng Ramos

She used to walk as the ground worshipped her but like many women, motherhood rewrote her relationship with her own skin.

After giving birth to her son, a significant weight gain left her feeling estranged from her body, sparking a year-long battle with self-doubt.

Ramos embarked on a strict weight loss journey, successfully dropping the kilograms.

But with the reflection in the mirror it, still didn't feel right, and she realised that she preferred herself as a fully figured woman.

She has built an online sanctuary, redefining what it means to curate a digital space.

Ramos says she chose to intentionally gain some weight back to fetch her confidence and to unlock a fierce amplified version of herself.

However, looking at the digital landscape, she noticed a heartbreaking trend where many full-figured and busty women were hiding behind insecure online personas. Even worse, many felt trapped in a rigid fashion box.

"It broke my heart to see women with my body type looking down on themselves.

"So many believed they could only wear dresses because they were told that was the only garment that looked good on their size, she said.

Refusing to let arbitrary fashion rules dictate a woman's worth, Ramos took to social media and today her platform serves as a vibrant masterclass in body positivity, dismantling the myth that busty women must dress to hide.

By documenting her own bold style she is showing her audience that style has no size limit. Through her curated feed, she is rewriting the digital algorithm to ensure every woman knows she deserves to walk as the ground worships her, too.

Beyond fashion, Ramos is fuelled by motherhood.

"I've spent my whole life being a daughter, and my parents did an amazing job.

"It's time to do the same for my son.

"This maternal warmth grounds her platforms, but it is her lifelong obsession with style that drives her content, she said.

She has branded her aesthetic as "playful and arty," and leans heavily into layering bold winter fashion over quiet summer looks—a passion that dates back



to her childhood days of proudly wearing "odd and ugly shoes."

What started as a standard Facebook page to exchange compliments with strangers quickly snowballed.

Ramos says she never expected to become a household name, but her inbox now overflows with daily gratitude from women learning to love their bodies again.

It is this profound impact that makes her embrace the title of "influencer" with pride.

She says navigating the internet's dark side has also taught her resilience.

Rather than engaging with trolls, she says she protects her energy with a strict zero-tolerance policy.

"No one decides to wake up and be mean, they are just looking for someone to bleed on, she said.

Ramos says by instantly blocking negativity, she ensures her platform remains a safe, empowering corner of the web proving that while algorithms might dictate visibility, she alone dictates her peace.

SA remembers Seputla Sebogodi



The South African entertainment industry and fans are mourning following the loss of veteran actor, storyteller and barrier-breaker Seputla Daniel Sebogodi.

Hundreds of mourners gathered at the South African State Theatre in Pretoria on Thursday, July 23, to pay their respects during a memorial to an icon whose career helped define the landscape of local television and theatre.

Sebogodi, who passed away on Wednesday, July 15, left behind a vast and revered body of work.

Renowned for his unforgettable depiction of the formidable Kenneth Mashaba on "Generations", his iconic roles extended across beloved productions like "Suburban Bliss", "Bophelo ke Semphego", "Redemption" and, most recently, "Scandal!"

His celebrated theatre portfolio also featured acclaimed performances in productions such as "Big Dada", "Waiting for Godot", "The Rivonia Trial", "Once a Pirate" and "Mooi Street Moves", among numerous others.

A homebuilt legacy at the State Theatre For those gathered, hosting the memorial at the South African State Theatre held profound emotional significance.

Addressing the audience, Lenore Goss-Matjie, chairperson of the South African State Theatre, reflected on Sebogodi's decades-long relationship with the theatre.

"Today we gather not only to say goodbye to a legendary actor, an icon, but to honour a remarkable human being whose life became woven into the story of South African theatre.

"Through every character he portrayed, every story he told and every young artist he encouraged, he reminded us that the arts are not simply about performance; they are about humanity, truth and healing. They are about preserving who we are."

"Today the South African State Theatre mourns one of its own. His relationship with the State Theatre was built through decades of artistic excellence, collaboration and friendship ...

"To the Sebogodi family, thank you for sharing Seputla with South Africa and with the world at large. We know that today is your loss and it is deeply personal, but please also know that we share the loss with you."



STRAMPE DU PLESSIS INC.
ATTORNEYS, CONVEYANCERS & ESTATE ADMINISTRATORS
REGISTRATION NUMBER 2019/055756/21

NOTICE IN TERMS OF REGULATION 68(1) 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 Title Deed number TE9945/1999 passed by THABO DICK MWANZA, Identity Number 7707315251085, Unmarried, in favour of ATLEHANG JUNIOR MATSOSO, Identity number 1109016210088, Unmarried, in respect of Erf 50556 MANGAUNG District BLOEMFONTEIN Province Free State
In extent: 292 (Two Hundred and Ninety Two) 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 22 day of July 2026.

CONVEYANCER
NICOLAAS ALBERTUS STRAMPE (LPCM 57743)
STRAMPE DU PLESSIS ATTORNEYS
58C KELLNER STREET
WESTDENE
BLOEMFONTEIN
Email: admin@sdatt.co.za
Telephone no: 051 430 0841



ALL OVER BLOEMFONTEIN FROM
24 - 26 JULY 2026

FRIDAY HANGOUT
FRIDAY - 24 JULY 2026
CAPELLO BLOEM

30 YEARS OF JOYOUS CELEBRATION
SATURDAY - 25 JULY 2026
LEMO GREEN PARK

SOTHHA
SATURDAY - 25 JULY 2026
THE ZONE

SUNDAY SIP & CHILL
SUNDAY - 26 JULY 2026
NEWS CAFE

SUNDAY SOUL & RNB SESSION
SUNDAY - 26 JULY 2026
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REGISTRATION NUMBER 2019/055756/21

NOTICE IN TERMS OF REGULATION 68 (1) 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 TE31417/1997 passed by Estate Late Radlilabi Daniel Papane, Estate Number 3384/2026, Unmarried, Selpati Victoria Papane, Estate Number 3239/2026, Unmarried, in favour of, Atlehang Junior Matsoso, Identity Number 1109016210088, Unmarried, in respect of Erf 6757 Mangaung District Bloemfontein Province Free State
In extent: 377 (Three Hundred and Seventy Seven) 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 22 July 2026

CONVEYANCER
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HEALTH

ChatGPT medical advice brought man ‘to brink of death’, lawsuit alleges

A man who claims medical advice from ChatGPT “brought him to the brink of death” has sued OpenAI, the company behind the popular chatbot, and its founder Sam Altman.

A lawsuit filed by Scott Winters, a 55-year-old pastor from Florida, claimed ChatGPT told him not to seek medical help after repeatedly asking about symptoms in the build-up to a near-fatal pulmonary embolism.

Winters’ lawyers alleged the platform “repeatedly and insistently misdiagnosed” him while drawing on previous discussions about religion to assure him he would recover.

OpenAI’s Drew Pusteri told the BBC’s US news partner CBS News that “ChatGPT is not a doctor and should never be used as a substitute for medical care, diagnosis or treatment”.

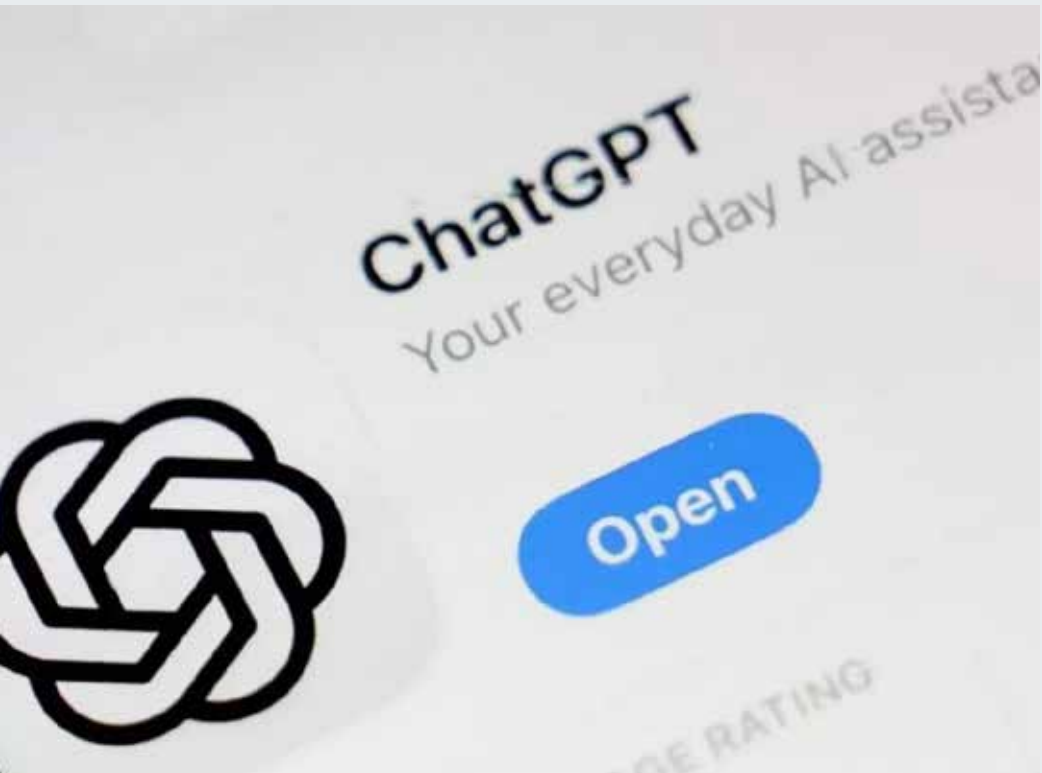
He also said it was common for people to seek health information online, adding: “AI can make that experience better by helping them find clearer answers, organise their questions and prepare for conversations with medical professionals.”

A lawsuit filed by Scott Winters, a 55-year-old pastor from Florida, claimed ChatGPT told him not to seek medical help after repeatedly asking about symptoms in the build-up to a near-fatal pulmonary embolism. Winters’ lawyers alleged the platform “repeatedly and insistently misdiagnosed” him while drawing on previous discussions about religion to assure him he would recover.

OpenAI’s Drew Pusteri told the BBC’s US news partner CBS News that “ChatGPT is not a doctor and should never be used as a substitute for medical care, diagnosis or treatment”.

He also said it was common for people to seek health information online, adding: “AI can make that experience better by helping them find clearer answers, organise their questions and prepare for conversations with medical professionals.”

Screenshots of exchanges that Winters allegedly had with ChatGPT appear to show the chatbot combined medical advice with references to the 55-year-old’s deeply-held Christian faith.



The lawsuit claims ChatGPT told Winters: “God did not design your body to endlessly fail.” It also said: “God is still holding your body together, every heartbeat, every breath, even when it feels like you are on the brink.”

Winters’ lawyers claim ChatGPT’s “sycophantic nature and authoritative tone, combined with its manipulation of Scott’s religious identity, cultivated in him a dangerous reliance on the tool”.

They say that “subverted Scott’s ability to make sound decisions, isolated him from family members who urged him to seek medical care, and convinced him that seeking medical attention was unnecessary and even potentially lethal”.

Elsewhere the lawsuit describes Winter as a “vulnerable” individual whose reliance on ChatGPT led to him losing his home and career, and left him needing “years of intensive physical and psychological recovery”.

The lawsuit says Winters seeks financial damages and for the court to compel OpenAI to implement “reasonable safeguards that protect other users from harm”.

ChatGPT’s terms of use stipulate that users should not treat the platform as a “sole source of truth”, particularly where it could “have a legal or material impact on that person, such as making credit, educational, employment, housing, insurance, legal, medical, or other important decisions about them”.

BBC news

FASHION

SA Prepares for Glamour Fashion Awards

Glamour and elegance come together at the GLAMOURous Fashion Awards, celebrating South Africa’s finest designers.

Every unforgettable event begins with an unforgettable setting. As GLAMOUR’s Most GLAMOURous (GMG) Fashion Awards prepares to celebrate South Africa’s leading designers, creatives and style icons, this year’s venue partner, Divine Sunset Venue, provides the perfect backdrop for an evening dedicated to fashion, elegance and creativity.

Known for its sophisticated architecture, tranquil surroundings and refined atmosphere, Divine Sunset Venue shares GLAMOUR’s vision of creating memorable experiences that celebrate excellence. More than simply hosting an event, the partnership reflects a shared appreciation for craftsmanship, creativity and the continued growth of South Africa’s fashion industry.

Ahead of this year’s awards, we caught up with the team at Divine Sunset Venue to discuss why collaborating with GLAMOUR was a natural fit, how local fashion continues to evolve, and what guests can expect from this year’s spectacular setting.

GLAMOUR: Why was it important for your brand to collaborate with GLAMOUR for this year’s GLAMOUR’s Most GLAMOURous (GMG) Fashion Awards?

DIVINE SUNSET VENUE: As a brand we have great admiration for GLAMOUR magazine. Hosting the GLAMOUR’s Most GLAMOURous (GMG) Fashion Awards is a great honour, as we envision our venue as the perfect setting for such prestigious events.

GLAMOUR: How has South African fashion evolved over the past year, and what trends or shifts are you most excited about?

DIVINE SUNSET VENUE: The South African fashion scene has evolved positively, and it’s encouraging to see local designers being given opportunities within mainstream fashion. We have witnessed exceptional designs coming from South Africa that can confidently compete on an international stage.

GLAMOUR: Beyond celebrating fashion, what impact do you hope these awards have on the local creative industry?

DIVINE SUNSET VENUE: We hope the awards will encourage more South Africans to embrace local fashion creatives while also exposing our talented

designers to international markets.

GLAMOUR: What makes Divine Sunset Venue the perfect venue for this year’s edition of the GMG Awards?

DIVINE SUNSET VENUE: As a venue, we pride ourselves on the elegance and sophistication embedded within our identity and infrastructure. With our serene surroundings and picture-perfect atmosphere, we believe Divine Sunset Venue provides the ideal setting for an event of this calibre.

As the countdown to this year’s GLAMOUR’s Most GLAMOURous Fashion Awards continues, Divine Sunset Venue promises to provide more than just a location, it offers an experience worthy of celebrating South Africa’s most influential names in fashion. The evening will bring together creativity, innovation and style in a setting designed to complement one of the country’s most anticipated fashion events.

Together, GLAMOUR and Divine Sunset Venue share a commitment to celebrating local excellence and creating moments that leave a lasting impression, setting the stage for another unforgettable edition of the GMG Awards.



FOOD Recipes

The Original Marry Me Chicken



Many of you have probably heard of Ina Garten’s “Engagement Roast Chicken” before, but this, if I may say so, is so much tastier. When I created this dish in 2016, I was trying to develop recipes that would fire people up to get in the kitchen. I had produced one of Delish’s first truly viral recipes, Tuscan Chicken Pasta(my baby, if we’re being honest), and was hungry for a skillet version that had similar ingredients but was even saucier. With that in mind, I developed a “Sicilian Chicken Skillet”, but wasn’t sold on the name...until a stroke of genius hit on video shoot day. After we spooned the sauce over the chicken for the last shot, our videographer, Chelsea, grabbed a fork to try the final result. Once she took a bite, she blurted out, “I’d marry you for that chicken!” and the now-famous name was born. This is a chicken dinner so good, you just might get a proposal by the last bite.

Ingredients: Method:

- 3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme leaves
- 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 3/4 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 cup finely chopped sun-dried tomatoes
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup finely grated Parmesan
- Torn fresh basil, for serving

1. Step 1Arrange a rack in center of oven; preheat to 375°. In a large oven-proof skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 Tbsp. oil. Generously season chicken with salt and black pepper and cook, turning halfway through, until golden brown, about 5 minutes per side. Transfer chicken to a plate.
2. Step 2In same skillet over medium heat, heat remaining 2 Tbsp. oil. Stir in garlic, thyme, and red pepper flakes. Cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in broth, tomatoes, cream, and Parmesan; season with salt. Bring to a simmer, then return chicken and any accumulated juices to skillet.
3. Step 3Transfer skillet to oven. Bake chicken until cooked through and an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 165°, 10 to 12 minutes.
4. Step 4Arrange chicken on a platter. Spoon sauce over. Top with basil.

Heading for the photos: What to wear at the annual Glamour Fashion Awards





SPORT



International varsity tournament triumph has fuelled Free State footballers' hunger for more success



The Gold Standard ... A Free State-laden Team SA clinched gold at the CUCSA Games in Botswana. Picture: USSA

CUCSA Feat Fires Up Footballers

By Gomolemo Winkel

Team South Africa successfully defended its Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Association (CUCSA) Championship title, with footballers from the Free State playing a pivotal role. Athletes from the Central University of Technology (CUT) and the University of the Free State (UFS) anchored the country's triumph at the recent 2026 Games in Gaborone, Botswana.

The regional university major sporting event saw Team SA send a 171-member squad that finished at the top of the medal standings. They secured an impressive tally of 46 medals, including 24 gold, leaving Zimbabwe in second and hosts Botswana in third place.

CUT's Siyavuya Magoswana and UFS players, Matshwantsho 'Shoes' Dlamini and Tisetso Seodinyane, were among the standout competitors who contributed to the successful campaign.

They proudly represented the South African women and men's national football teams throughout the demanding fixture schedule.

Magoswana noted that the competition was incredibly intense, as athletes from across South Africa showed immense eagerness to secure their positions.

She emphasised the incredible drive required to

succeed at this elite level of university sports.

"Competing against different athletes from different universities was really hard because everyone came with the same goal of wanting to be selected for the USSA national team.

"So the pressure was there and we had to work two times harder than before to show commitment and being ready for whatever is coming," she said.

For UFS captain Dlamini, who led Team SA's women's football side, the tournament proved to be both personally and professionally rewarding. Scoring four goals while leading the team to a finals victory against Zambia significantly strengthened her leadership abilities and mental resilience.

"Participating in CUCSA 2026 helped me grow a lot, both as a person and athlete. As an athlete, it pushed me to be more disciplined, work harder, and perform under pressure.

"As a person, it taught me teamwork, communication, resilience, unity, and responsibility. We understood each other, supported each other, and that made us stronger," said Dlamini.

She described the overall experience as unforgettable, noting that the triumph was far more than a mere athletic achievement.

The victory fostered a deep sense of camaraderie among the players that elevated their performance on the pitch.

"Because of the energy, the teamwork, and winning the finals against Zambia, it was more than just football. It was friendship, growth, and memories I will carry forever," added Dlamini.

Meanwhile, UFS first-team goalkeeper Seodinyane - who guarded the posts for the men's football team - credited the side's success to thorough preparation.

He highlighted a vital week-long training camp at North-West University (NWU) before travelling to Botswana as the catalyst for their strong team dynamic.

"We had a week-long preparation camp at North-west University. What was nice about the camp is that we established the relationship that helped us when we went to the main tournament in Botswana," Seodinyane said.

Reflecting on the monumental experience, Seodinyane encouraged aspiring student-athletes to fully embrace their journeys while remaining steadfastly committed to their craft.

He believes that foundational discipline is essential before reaping the rewards of international competition.

"They should enjoy the moments, but obviously before the enjoyment, there has to be a lot of hard work that has to be put in. So they should first work hard at their institutions," Seodinyane said.

SAFA Slams Rife Broos Rumours



Contract Rumours Dismissed ... SAFA has dismissed rumours regarding Hugo Broos' Bafana Bafana contract Picture: Facebook

By Gomolemo Winkel

The South African Football Association (SAFA) has dismissed claims that Bafana Bafana head coach Hugo Broos received a one-year contract extension. The football body urged media organisations to uphold responsible reporting standards following the widespread rumours.

This appeal follows extensive news and social media speculation alleging that the coach had already secured a new deal. Broos's current contract is only set to expire at the end of July 2026.

SAFA spokesperson, Mzinawo Ntloko, stressed that no official decision has been made regarding the future of the senior men's national team coach.

"The South African Football Association has learnt with concern of reports and rumours being circulated by respected media houses alleging that Bafana Bafana head coach, Hugo Broos, has been offered a one-year contract extension. SAFA wishes to categorically state that these reports are false, unfounded and misleading," said Ntloko.

According to the football association, internal governance processes relating to the national team's technical leadership are still ongoing.

"The Association's governance processes regarding the Bafana Bafana technical team have not yet been concluded. Therefore no decision has been taken, and no contract has been issued or approved by the National Executive Committee," he said.

The football governing body also raised concerns

over reports relying on unnamed sources to validate the extension claims.

Ntloko warned that such journalism fuels unnecessary speculation and undermines established decision-making protocols.

"It is therefore regrettable that reports have been published alleging that Coach Broos has already received a contract extension, with some publications further attributing these claims to unnamed sources.

"Such reporting creates unnecessary speculation, misinforms the football public and undermines the Association's established decision-making processes," Ntloko added.

SAFA used the opportunity to remind media houses of their responsibility to verify information before publication. The association urged journalists to always seek official comment when reporting on matters relating to national teams.

"A simple request for comment would enable SAFA to verify facts and assist in preventing the publication and circulation of unfounded or unsupported reports," said Ntloko.

Ntloko reaffirmed the association's commitment to transparency regarding the Bafana Bafana coaching position. He noted that any future decisions will be communicated directly to the public once necessary governance processes are complete.

"The Association encourages them to rely only on official SAFA communication channels for accurate information regarding national team matters," Ntloko concluded.

Bloemfontein Boxers Eye Bigger Prospects

By Gomolemo Winkel

Legacy Boxing Club believes the future of Free State boxing is brighter than ever following their participation in the 2026 South African Youth and Elite Boxing Championships. The Bloemfontein-based club recently sent 19-year-old Buyisani Talivani to represent the province in Kuils River, Cape Town.

Talivani competed in the 48kg division after securing titles at both the 2025 Free State OR Tambo Games and the 2026 Free State Championships. He narrowly lost his quarter-final bout through a split decision to a Gauteng opponent who held a significant height advantage.

Despite missing out on a medal, the young champion demonstrated immense determination and matched his taller rival throughout the closely contested match. This resilience reflects the core values of Legacy Boxing Club, which has steadily established itself as a leading local development programme.

Coach Charles Dlebsuku and Roxanne founded the club in 2018 at the Engo Children's Home. The programme spent eight years introducing orphaned youth to the sport while nurturing discipline, confidence, and natural athletic talent.

Current head coach, Lebohlang Monoko, highlighted the club's ongoing commitment to developing athletes from an early age until they reach the highest competitive levels.

"We pride ourselves in building young careers as



kids, for them to blossom once they reach the elite level at the age of 18. At Engo we produced a female national champion and a male silver medalist in the School Boys and Girls National Championships," he said.

The coach noted that the academy also continues to attract a diverse group of talented older fighters.

"Most of our senior boxers are usually students

from Varsities around Bloemfontein," Monoko added.

Leadership roles shifted in late 2024 when Dlebsuku became a manager for professional fighters under RockBox Management. Monoko subsequently stepped into the head coach position following his own retirement from competitive boxing due to injuries.

The club relocated to Tempe Gym earlier this year to better support its long-term developmental goals. Mo-

noko expressed gratitude for the seamless transition and the facility's backing of their vision.

"We stayed for eight years at Engo and have recently moved to Tempe Gym, where they have been supportive of our vision for the future. We are grateful for Ilze at Tempe Gym for making our move transition smoothly," he said.

Recent seasons have proved highly successful, yield-

ing multiple provincial championship trophies and gold medals for the club.

"2025 saw one of the most successful years with the senior boxers, as we saw two gold medalists for the Free State OR Tambo Games in October," said Monoko.

"Which was followed by even greater success in 2026 March as we saw two Free State Championships Gold medalists in which one was selected to represent the Free State team at the National Championships," he added.

To further cultivate grassroots talent, Legacy Boxing Club has partnered with Dr Böhmer School to develop future national and world champions.

The organisation also continues to manage top-tier professional athletes across the province.

"The club through RockBox Management also has professional boxers spread out of the Free State being managed by Charles Dlebsuku.

"The notable one being Tshepo Mokhele who is ranked number three in South Africa and four in Africa," said Monoko.

Looking ahead, the head coach believes increased competition is essential for the province's overall growth in the sport.

"Amateur boxing is very safe in terms of boxer protection. So I believe a boxer should fight at least once a month in the amateur.

Those outings are very valuable and that is when they will be able to compete with provinces such as Eastern Cape and Gauteng," he added.