

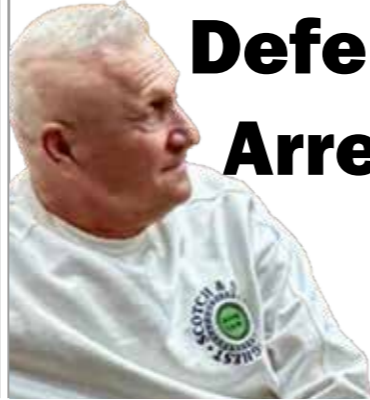
Journal NEWS

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Premier Haunted by Faceless Ghosts

Page 2



Defensor Directors Arrested, Workers Left Helpless

Page 2

Dragons Down Lions in Super Over Thriller

Page 12



IBL DENIES BLAME IN N8 CRASH



Bus operator rejects drunk driver and mechanical faults claims in crash that killed 11

Page 3

N8 Bus and Truck Collision Leaves 11 Dead. Picture: Supplied

Residents Disrupt Council, Mayor Survives Removal Bid



Mohokare Residents Halt Council Sitting Over Move to Remove Mayor. Picture: Facebook

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

A tense council sitting in the troubled Mohokare Local Municipality descended into chaos on Tuesday when a group of residents stormed the chambers, disrupting proceedings and ultimately halting a planned motion to remove the mayor. The unexpected intervention forced councillors to abandon the session, effectively safeguarding embattled Mayor Teboho Mochechepa and exposing deepening political rifts within the municipality.

According to councillors present, the motion—driven by long-running factional tensions—was expected to pass before the disruption. However, the sudden interruption prompted security concerns and brought the meeting to an abrupt end.

Some opposition councillors — including several ANC councillors — accused the mayor’s supporters of orchestrating the disturbance, while community members insisted they were fed up with political infighting that has stalled service delivery across the municipality.

“We are tired of councillors fighting for positions at our expense. Our municipality hasn’t provided services for a long time. Now that we have someone who seems to care for us, they want to remove him and start stealing from us again. That is enough,” said one community member.

Another resident expressed support for Mochechepa in a Facebook post on the page ‘Savemohokare Mohokare’. “Our mayor is going nowhere, period. These crooks tried to stage a coup, and they failed shamefully. They thought they could hijack Mohokare behind closed doors, but they miscalculated the people,” the resident wrote.

He further accused Chief Whip Pule Mahapane of orchestrating the failed attempt to oust Mochechepa to pave the way for his own mayoral ambitions.

“Let them hear this clearly: Mohokare is not for sale. We are done with puppets, backroom deals, and power-hungry opportunists. The community is awake now, and we will not let thieves, cowards, or political failures take our municipality,” he added. Residents say services in Mohokare — which includes **Continues on Page 6**



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Tragedy meets the Mokoena Family on their doorstep



By: Matshidiso Sebeleng

A shocking incident has left a family in Qwaqwa, reeling after the body of a young man believed to be in his teenage years was found on their doorstep in the early hours of Saturday (15 November) morning.

Sanah Mokoena, 40, was awakened by her neighbor, who had been alerted to the presence of a person at their door.

Initially thinking it was her husband who had collapsed, the neighbor was shocked to find a young man, covered in mud and unresponsive.

"We immediately called the police and paramedics, but unfortunately, the person was pronounced dead at the scene," Mokoena said.

The incident has left the Mokoena family shocked and shaken, as they struggle to come to terms with what happened.

"I am a mother too, and this is every parent's nightmare. I never thought this would happen to me, in my own yard and on my doorstep," said the mother of two.

Mokoena added that they will be meeting with the deceased's family to discuss the circumstances surrounding the incident and the traditional cleansing of their home.

Police Spokesperson Warrant Officer Mmako Mophiring confirmed that an inquest case has been opened to investigate the circumstances behind the young man's passing.

Mophiring said the victim's family has been notified, and the police are launching an investigation into the matter.

Premier Haunted by Faceless Ghosts

By: Abigail Visagie

Free State Premier MaQueen "Mama Action" Letsoha-Mathae finds herself under intense scrutiny as allegations and controversies swirl around her like unseen spectres. With critics voicing concerns and media reports hinting at missteps, she faces mounting pressure to address issues that remain largely hidden from public view—forces that, though invisible, continue to shape her political standing.

Insiders suggest that much of the turbulence stems from decisions taken behind closed doors and ongoing internal leadership battles within the ANC, raising renewed questions about financial management, governance, and accountability.

While formal charges were previously laid, Letsoha-Mathae is said to be cooperating with ongoing probes. Nonetheless, political opponents inside and outside the ANC continue to call for action, citing corruption allegations made in 2024 by New Beginnings Project CEO Patrick Phuti.

"Politics is a dirty game... and the Premier knows that," said one senior ANC leader. "She is being chased by people she used to call comrades because the tables have turned. They want her out. The case everyone, including the media, keeps referring to is not true and that will be proven in due course. It is meant to derail her work and have her removed under the step-aside policy."

This week, ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula publicly acknowledged that "outside influences" and individuals "with vested interests" are attempting to interfere in internal processes.

"The Premier of the Free State appeared before the Integrity Commission voluntarily. As it stands, the report is not conclusive," Mbalula said. "There are overzealous people with vested interests are dragging themselves into these processes uninvited, running a campaign on the Free State Premier through City Press, Central News, writing every week. MaQueen has complained that people are feeding newspapers wrong information every week."

He added that no report has been released and dismissed claims that Letsoha-Mathae had been given



Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae. Picture: Facebook

six days to reappear before the commission.

Last year, Phuti accused Letsoha-Mathae and her husband, Mangaung Metro Speaker Lawrence Mathae, of involvement in corruption—a claim that gained traction on social media. He alleged that his company was appointed to undertake R269-million worth of road construction by the Department of Roads and Transport during Letsoha-Mathae's tenure as MEC, but claimed he was later sidelined after offering the couple two luxury vehicles—a Mercedes-Benz V300d and a BMW 7 Series—and funding several of the Premier's events.

These allegations prompted the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) to open a corruption case against

the Premier and her husband. According to the EFF's Free State Provincial Chairperson, Thomas Macingwane, the matter has since stalled due to an alleged conflict between the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Hawks.

Macingwane told Journal News that the party discovered that Sello Mahlolo, the NPA's Chief Director and senior prosecutor in the Free State and Northern Cape, is allegedly the father of Letsoha-Mathae's child. "When we opened the case at Parkweg Police Station, the station commander indicated that the matter was strong based on prima facie evidence, and the witness was willing to testify with substantiated proof," said Macingwane. "But everything fell

through, and the case has stalled because of the Premier's ties to the NPA boss."

He further claimed that Letsoha-Mathae attempted to distance herself from the allegations by citing rumours of a divorce—claims which remain unverified. However, a source with direct knowledge of the matter disputes Phuti's version of events and insists that his allegations lack evidence.

"The evidence shows the cars Phuti is talking about were rentals belonging to a company, not to the Premier or her husband," the insider said. "Phuti also accused former Premier and ANC Provincial Chairperson Mxolisi Dukuwana of receiving significant financial benefits, but there is no evidence of that either."

Defensor Directors Arrested, Workers Left Helpless

By: Refilwe Mochoari

Today marks the third day in prison for the directors of Defensor Security Systems, Gert Van Rooyen (66) and Claudius Peterson (61), following their sentencing for a R384 million security tender fraud involving the Northern Cape Department of Health.

Many families in the Northern Cape are directly affected by this arrest and are now left destitute, with no income, no provident funds, and lost hope for their future.

Both Van Rooyen and Peterson were found guilty on 11 August in the Kimberley Magistrate's Court and were officially arrested on Wednesday morning on charges of fraud, contravention of the Private Security Industry Regulation Act (PSIRA), and violation of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

The fourth accused, Dr Steven Jonkers, a former acting head of the Northern Cape Department of Health and now deputy director general in the Office of the Premier, was acquitted of charges related to the Public Finance Management Act.

The case, which spanned over two years, involved extensive litigation, including several applications.

The directors were first arrested in October 2021 along with Jonkers who was quoted on all counts and



Defensor Security Systems, Gert Van Rooyen (66) and Claudius Peterson (61). Picture: Supplied

the directors were released on bail of R100 000 each.

Nthatsi Monye (43) from Kimberly a single mother of three children is a former worker for Defensor Security Services is one of over 50 Defensor security workers in the province who lost their jobs, a significant contribution to the 31% unemployment rate in the province.

Monye, now unemployed with all hope lost, says the company put bread on her table for more than three years and is shocked that the owners are now in jail for corruption, but says the signs were there.

"It all started in June this year, when we were not getting our salaries on time, and then salaries completely stopped being paid.

"We started getting worried and went to check out UIF only to find that the money had not been paid.

"When we checked the medical aid, they were also not paid. "We then started to request our outstanding salaries and we struggled to get them.

"Now their corruption has affected our families. My child had to drop out of school because I cannot pay the fees

. I am shattered, she said.

According to Hawks provincial spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Tebogo Thebe, the accused initially turned themselves in during October 2021.

It is alleged that both Van Rooyen and Peterson applied for a tender even though they did not meet the fundamental requirements for qualification and Jonkers allegedly awarded the tender irregularly to the company, giving the two directors an unfair advantage over other bidders.

Originally valued at R224 million in 2017, the tender's total escalated to over R384 million.

The Kimberley Division of the High Court sentenced the accused as follows, Defensor Security Services was fined R1.5 million for fraud, and R10 000 for the contravention of PSIRA, the latter of which is now suspended for five years.

Both Van Rooyen and Peterson received six-year prison sentences, with three years suspended for charges of fraud and contravention of PSIRA, along with the fully suspended R10 000 fine.

According to Thebe, the case was reported to the Hawks Serious Corruption Investigation in December 2017, and led to an inquiry being registered.

"This inquiry was subsequently turned into a case docket in January 2020, culminating in the arrest and court appearances of the accused, said Thebe.

Matlosana CFO, Co-accused Lose Luxury Cars

By: Matshidiso Sebeleng

As corruption continues its strong surge in South Africa's government sphere, the long arm of the law seems to be catching up with some alleged rogue leaders.

This seems to be the case with suspended Matlosana Local Municipality Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Mercy Phetla, and her co-accused who have reportedly lost their luxurious vehicles worth millions after being charged for fraud, corruption, and money laundering.

This comes after a recent September judgment by Acting Judge Tebogo Maodi, which ordered that, in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA), two of Phetla's co-accused,

Anga Ludidi Shongwe and Tiisetso Lethogonolo Sebetlele, may forfeit three luxury cars, it was granted on 26 September 2025, while the other order was carried out on 9 October 2025.

The cars, which include a Black Maserati Levante S M156, a red Mercedes-Benz CLA200, and a silver/grey Land Rover Range Rover are worth millions of rands, according to the NPA and the Hawks.

It was further discovered that the Matlosana Municipality paid over R6 million to a supplier for services that were never provided.

Apparently, a portion of the money that was paid to the company in question was used to purchase a Porsche valued at R2.3 million, a Maserati valued at R1.4 million, while R1ml million was

used to buy a Range Rover.

Two of them were among the cars that were ordered to be forfeited by two of the accused.

"The Hawks' Serious Corruption Investigation and Priority Crime Specialised Investigation teams revealed that between September 2023 and January 2024, the City of Matlosana Municipality paid a service provider, called Variegated (Pty) Ltd, over R6 million for services which were never rendered.

Further investigation uncovered that from the amount paid to Variegated, more than R4 million was transferred to a vehicle dealership for the purchase of luxury vehicles," Lt Col Tinyiko Mathebula, spokesperson for the Hawks, told Nova News.



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IBL Denies Blame in N8 Crash

Bus operator formally denies any culpability in fatal crash that claimed several lives



N8 Bus and Truck Collision Leaves 11 Dead. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

Interstate Bus Lines has firmly denied responsibility for the deadly N8 crash, dismissing allegations of drunk driving and mechanical failure after one of its buses collided with a truck last weekend.

The company says its initial assessments show no evidence of negligence and has appointed an independent forensic investigator to further probe the incident, while calling on authorities to conduct a full investigation into the cause of the tragedy.

Eleven people died when the bus they were travelling in crashed into a truck on the N8 on Saturday morning. Six people sustained severe injuries and were transported to Pelonomi Trauma Unit in Bloemfontein.

Seven others with moderate injuries were taken to

Botshabelo Hospital and Busamed, while 24 passengers with minor injuries received further care at Botshabelo Hospital. The road remained closed for most of the day.

Speculation also emerged that the bus driver had allegedly been seen leaving a tavern at around 4am on Saturday — claims Interstate Bus Lines (IBL) strongly refuted.

The company told Journal News that the allegation was new to them and stressed that the bus line can only be held accountable for an employee's conduct during working hours.

"As per IBL's policies, all employees, visitors, contractors and anyone else who enters its premises are subjected to an alcohol screening test, and if any alcohol is detected, that person is not allowed into the premises. All our employees are subjected to the same test every

time they set foot inside our premises. If alcohol is detected, they are likely to be sent home and disciplinary actions follow before they resume duties the following day," said IBL spokesperson Vuyo Ondala.

Responding to further allegations that the crash may have been caused by poor vehicle maintenance due to subsidy shortfalls, Ondala said passenger safety remains a priority and all buses are kept in pristine condition.

"Bus 4075 was mechanically fit and had gone through an independent testing facility and received a Certificate of Fitness on 10 October 2025," he said.

Ondala confirmed that the forensic investigation is underway and that Interstate Bus Lines is cooperating fully with all authorities involved.

Meanwhile, SAPS spokesperson Sergeant Mahlomola Kareli said preliminary findings indicate that both vehicles were travelling northbound when the crash occurred. The bus had 40 occupants, 11 of whom died.

He added that police will only release their official findings once all stakeholders conclude their investigations, noting that it is still too early to determine whether human or mechanical error caused the accident.

"We are doing our utmost by hosting regular roadblocks on the N8 with other stakeholders to pass the message of road safety and ensure that road users adhere to regulations. Our sister department, the Department of Transport, can provide further details," Kareli said.

Department of Road, Transport and Community Safety spokesperson Hilary Mophethe said MEC Jabu Mbalula responded immediately to the weekend's fatal incidents, visiting the crash scene with Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae, later meeting with injured passengers and the families of the deceased.

"The N8 accident that left 11 people dead is very shocking and quite sad. The MEC believes no life should be lost on the road — one life lost is one too many," said Mophethe.

She added that festive-season road safety operations are being intensified, with increased visibility, community engagement and awareness campaigns. "Most accidents happen due to human behaviour. Even on a straight road like the N8, people still cause accidents — through recklessness, impatience, and other forms of human error," she said.

Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy, emphasising the human toll behind the numbers.

"Each lost life represents a family member, a loved one, a breadwinner. Our hearts, prayers, and the full support of our provincial services are with the victims and their families during this unimaginable time," she said.



Polelo Mahloane will have his leg amputated. Picture: OTP Facebook

Survivors Relive N8 Tragedy

Premier, MEC hear chilling first-hand accounts from hospital beds

By: Mogomotsi Selebi

Polelo Mahloane will have his leg amputated following the horrific accident that occurred on the N8 between Botshabelo and Bloemfontein last week.

Mahloane is among the survivors of the crash that claimed 11 lives. He was travelling to work in Bloemfontein when the bus he and other passengers were on collided with a truck, leaving dozens injured.

Speaking from his bed at Pelonomi Hospital on Saturday night, Mahloane told Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae and MEC for Community Safety, Roads and Transport Jabu Mbalula that he witnessed the tragedy unfold from the front seat.

"I was sitting in the front and saw everything. As we approached the truck, I wondered if the driver could see it. By the time I yelled for her to be careful, it was too late. I tried to run to the

back, but the impact was severe and the pain excruciating," he said.

Despite the devastating news that he will lose his leg, Mahloane remained remarkably positive. "It could have been worse. I saw some passengers lying dead on the ground. I am fortunate to have survived. I am thankful my life was spared," he said.

Another survivor, Nozipho Nhlathi, who suffered a broken leg, said she is grateful to be alive. "I saw dead people around me. It was horrible, and I am happy that my life was saved," she said.

Premier Letsoha-Mathae described the accident as one of the worst she has seen in recent years. "We once again call on road users to exercise caution. I visited the scene with MEC Mbalula in the morning, and what I saw was terrible. I want to thank the medical professionals at Pelonomi Hospital for taking care of the injured," she said.

Death toll in N8 Crash Surpasses Previous Accidents



Interstate Bus terminal. Picture: IBL

The N8 crash involving an Interstate Bus Line (IBL) vehicle and a privately-owned truck between Botshabelo and Bloemfontein on Saturday 15 November is the third large-scale incident here in the last eight years. The number of deceased from the latest accident exceeds those in 2017 and 2022 — in which eight and nine passengers were killed, respectively.

The confirmed death toll is 11, after one person who was admitted to the Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) succumbed to her injuries on Monday. She was among six people with severe injuries

admitted for medical treatment at this state hospital in Bloemfontein.


The fatal crash between an IBL bus and a truck on 10 November 2022 claimed nine passengers from Thaba Nchu and left some with long-term injuries. It was reported that 71 commuters had boarded the 80-seater bus, which was travelling from Zone 5 in Thaba Nchu to Bloemfontein. The accident reportedly occurred at about 06:30 on the fateful day. According to preliminary findings, human error was suspected as the cause of this accident. The truck driver reportedly attempted to over-

take another vehicle when it was unsafe to do so.

In the accident on 3 July 2017, eight passengers from Botshabelo died. It happened when the 114-seater bus rear-ended a stationary truck at about 06:00 near the Mandela View settlement, which is 20km outside Bloemfontein. The commuters on board were from Section W. The crash left 51 people with severe injuries, while 32 escaped unharmed. It emerged that the stationary truck was left unattended and had not been removed overnight after its engine stopped running.

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PUBLIC NOTICE:

NOTICE NO: SCM/PC-S116/1 of 2025

NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 116(3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003 (ACT 56 OF 2003) FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF EXISTING CONTRACTS

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 116 (3) (a) and (b) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) that it is the intention of the Mangaung Metro Municipality to amend the following existing contracts:

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	NAME OF THE CONTRACTOR	EXTENSION PERIOD
C705 - MMM BID 638/ 2021-2022	Construction of New Community Centre in Thaba Nchu	Rakitla Construction	30 September 2026
C703 - MMM BID 622/ 2021-2022	Construction of New Fire Station in Botshabelo	Khanya Lesedi	31 December 2026

Notice is further given in terms of Section 21 and 21A of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) that the local community and affected parties are invited to submit comments or representations on the proposed amendment and extension of the existing contracts with Rakitla Construction (Pty) Ltd and Khanya Lesedi.

The reasons for the amendment and extension of the existing contracts have been considered by the Municipal Council at its Council meeting held on 30 October 2025 as per Council resolution No. 161.4 of which a copy will be made available to all interested parties on request via the e-mail address indicated below.

Such comments or representations must be submitted by not later than **3rd December 2025 at 12h00**. Comments or representations must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly endorsed "COMMENTS ON NOTICE OF AMENDMENT OF EXISTING CONTRACT" and be physically submitted at the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Supply Chain Management offices located at No. 6 Mannion road, Orangesig, Bloemfontein, 9301 and be deposited in the bid box no. C. **No emailed or faxed comments shall be accepted.**

Persons who are physically disabled or unable to write but need to participate in the process may present themselves during office hours at the offices of the Municipality listed above where a staff member will assist them to transcribe the relevant comments or representations.

For any information about the above, please contact Mr. Sunil Poken via e-mail: sunil.poken@mangaung.co.za or at telephone number 051 - 405 8428 / 051 - 405 8342.

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Ex-Municipal Manager Faces R1.9m Fraud Charges



Former Municipal Manager of Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality, Dr Futhuli Mothamaha. Picture: Supplied

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Amid ongoing power outages, the financially troubled Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality's former Municipal Manager faces charges of fraud, corruption, and money laundering over allegations that he pocketed funds meant for local transformers.

Dr Futhuli Mothamaha, was arrested on Tuesday alongside his accomplice and businessman Lelokonyane Letseng of Lesedi Khanya Energy in relation to a R1.9 million tender awarded in 2021 to install transformers in the area of Qwaqwa.

The Qwaqwa electricity crisis is a long-standing issue of poor service delivery in the municipality, characterized by severe power outages and infrastructure problems. It is caused by a combination of factors, including a high demand for electricity, infrastructure backlogs and vandalism, and municipal mismanagement, which has led to persistent power cuts, often lasting for hours.

According to the Hawks spokesperson in Free State, Lieutenant Colonel Zweli Moholobeli, Letseng's company, Lesedi Khanya Energy failed to deliver on its mandate, prompting an investigation into the matter.

"In 2021, the company was awarded a tender worth R1,9-million to install transformers in the Maluti-A-Phofung. However, the transformers were never delivered. It later emerged that Letseng had submitted a R1,9-million invoice, which was authorised by Mothamaha.

"The municipality made the payment and thereby suffered a loss. The suspects were arrested on a warrant on 18 November 2025. They have already appeared in the Bethlehem Magistrate's Court, where they were each granted R10, 000 bail. The matter was postponed to 22 January 2026," said Moholobeli.

Mothamaha is not a stranger when it comes to arrests related to cases of fraud, corruption, uttering and forgery.

He was thrown into jail in 2022 while he was the mu-

nicipal manager of Maluti-A-Phofung in the case related to a R58-million security contract awarded to the company called Kill Crime Security Services, based in Phuthaditjhaba in Qwaqwa.

At that time, Mothamaha was arrested for authorising a project and awarded Kill Crime a tender worth R58-million.

This was despite no tender advertisement being published for bidders.

Mothamaha was released on bail of R500, 000 cash in September 2022. His co-accused who are also directors of Kill Crime, Thabiso Sekosana and Dimakatso Sekosana, were given bail of R150, 000 each.

The case was mysteriously thrown out of court. And Mothamaha and his co-accused were let scott free.

At the time of his arrest on Tuesday, Mothamaha had been a municipal manager of Ngwathe since August 2024. Prior to this he was acting in the same position from May 2024.

Dumisani Khumalo Reinstated as Head of Crime Intelligence



Lieutenant-General Dumisani Khumalo, head of Crime Intelligence. PHOTO: X/Supplied.

Lieutenant General Dumisani Khumalo has been reinstated as head of Crime Intelligence.

Khumalo was reinstated on Thursday morning, after being temporarily removed from his post in late June following his arrest on fraud and corruption charges.

He was arrested by the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC), alongside six co-accused colleagues, for allegedly manipulating appointments within Crime Intelligence.

At the centre of the case is the controversial hiring of Dineo Mokwele, a 30 year old with no policing background, for a senior executive role.

The group faces allegations of fraud, corruption, and misuse of intelligence funds.

His arrest, combined with his former leadership role in the Political Killings Task Team (PKTT),

has made him a pivotal figure in the ongoing Madlanga Commission, chaired by retired Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga.

In his testimony before the commission, Khumalo spoke of the gains made by the task team, and questioned why an attempt was made by since-suspended police minister Senzo Mchunu to disband it.

He also told the commission that some of the most serious threats to police operations came from inside SAPS and the criminal justice system, allowing external criminal networks to penetrate and neutralise investigations.

He alleged syndicates recruited serving police officers, prosecutors and other justice officials as "insiders" to leak information, derail dockets, influence bail outcomes, and protect cartel leaders from prosecution. *inside politics*

Targeted for Halting Corruption: Setai Denies All Allegations



Free State Premier's Spokesperson Matshidiso Setai. Picture: Supplied

By: JN Reporter

Free State Premier's Spokesperson Matshidiso Setai has strongly rejected allegations of corruption levelled against her, describing them as baseless and part of a coordinated smear campaign aimed at damaging her reputation and pushing her out of the Free State Provincial Government.

Speaking to Journal News, Setai addressed recent media reports accusing her of fraud, forgery and involvement in a R4.3 million financial mismanagement matter dating back to her tenure as Chief Director of Communications and Acting DDG: Communication at the National Department of Transport (DOT) between 2008 and 2012.

Setai maintains that the allegations are distorted and driven by individuals who view her as an obstacle to corrupt activities in government procurement.

In September, reports alleged that she had fraudulently authored a letter bearing the forged signature of former Acting Director-General Dr Mafole Mokalobe and sent it to Education HOD Advocate Tshwarelo Malakoane.

Reiterating her position, Setai said these claims form part of a broader attempt to discredit her.

"I will stop at nothing to ensure that corruption ends within the seventh administration of the Free State pro-

vincial government," she said.

According to previous reports, Setai was allegedly placed on suspension following a KPMG investigation that found tender procedures were not followed in certain departmental projects. She was reportedly charged with 14 counts and found guilty on 13, including procurement irregularities, gross dishonesty and gross negligence. "We went to lawyers and reached an out-of-court settlement, which was initiated by the department itself," Setai said.

Media reports further claim the DOT sought to review and revoke the 2012 settlement agreement. However, Setai insists the agreement has never been reviewed.

"Based on all those charges, the department opted to settle out of court. The settlement letter was issued by them, and it resulted in my payment of R4.3 million," she said. According to the agreement, seen by Journal News, R3.5 million was allocated for salary, leave days and pension, while R800 000 covered legal costs.

Setai confirmed she had heard of the department's alleged intention to revisit the matter but said no court application has ever been filed.

"To date, the Department of Transport has not reviewed the agreement. If there is a review outcome, I ask that it be issued now," she said.

She added that ongoing litigation between her and

the department is scheduled for October 2028.

In a separate matter, Setai has been given until today (21 November) to publicly apologise to local businessman Ben Moseme for alleged defamation after a WhatsApp message she sent to him surfaced. In the message, Setai accused Moseme of leading a media campaign against Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae and Mangaung Speaker Lawrence Mathae.

Moseme, through Phatsoane Henney Attorneys, issued a letter of demand on Monday.

"It is our instructions that you are publishing defamatory remarks regarding our client via WhatsApp... These messages are being sent to third parties to discredit and damage our client's reputation," the letter states.

Setai denies the allegations. "I don't understand why Moseme is responding with lawyers when I sent the message directly to him," she said. "I sent it as a friend because I wanted clarity. I did not circulate the message—he is the one circulating it."

She believes the backlash forms part of efforts to undermine her stance against corruption.

"This reflects their level of desperation. They are trying to find dirt on me but cannot succeed. I am viewed as an enemy because I have halted corruption. I am a target because they are unable to steal from the government," Setai said.

There are now two provinces in South Africa where more people are unemployed than working



Unemployed youth. Picture: Supplied

South Africa's latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) shows that the North West and Eastern Cape are the only two provinces where more people are unemployed than working.

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the country's official unemployment rate dropped to 31.9% in the third quarter of 2025, down from 33.2% in the previous quarter.

This marks a 1.3 percentage point improvement and means about 248,000 more people found jobs, bringing the total number of employed South Africans to 17.1 million.

At the same time, the number of unemployed people fell by 360,000 to 8 million. However, despite this improvement, the total labour force—those who are either working or actively looking for work—actually decreased by 112,000 people.

Stats SA said this drop was partly due to more people giving up on finding jobs. The number of discouraged job seekers rose to 3.5 million, while others who were available but not actively looking for work increased to nearly 1 million.

Altogether, the "potential labour force" now stands at 4.5 million people. Stats SA also made changes to how it defines and measures unemployment, which affects how the data is interpreted.

The term "Not Economically Active," used in previous surveys, has been replaced by "Outside the Labour Force," with a new category called the "Potential Labour Force."

These include people who are not working and not looking for work, as well as those who are available for work but not actively job-hunting.

Because of these changes, the new data on informal employment cannot be directly compared with earlier surveys.

However, when all groups are included (the unemployed, discouraged workers, and others on the fringes of the labour market), the broader

unemployment picture still remains worrying.

The combined measure of labour underutilisation (similar to the expanded unemployment rate) stood at 44.9% in the third quarter of 2025. The rate that most closely tracks the old expanded definition was 42.4%.

Two provinces in trouble

Across the provinces, the differences are striking. The Western Cape continues to have the lowest official unemployment rate in the country at 19.7%, maintaining its decade-long position as the best-performing province.

Limpopo follows at 29.8%, while the Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal recorded rates of 31.2% and 31.7% respectively.

However, the situation looks much worse in the Eastern Cape and North West.

The Eastern Cape was the only province to record an increase in unemployment in the third quarter.

Under the new expanded definition, its unemployment rate now sits at 50.2%, meaning more than half of its adult population is unemployed.

The North West is in an even worse position, with an expanded unemployment rate of 52.5%.

By contrast, the Western Cape's expanded unemployment rate is below 20%, showing that its economy remains relatively stable and better able to create jobs.

Still, the national picture shows that South Africa's job market remains deeply uneven. Mpumalanga also faces major challenges, with an expanded unemployment rate of 47.5%, placing it just behind the North West and Eastern Cape.

Other provinces may have shown slight improvements, but millions of South Africans are still locked out of the job market.

The survey makes it clear that South Africa's unemployment is still in crisis, with deep regional gaps showing who is benefiting from economic recovery and who is not. — *Business Tech*

Free State Women Join Forces Against GBV

Civil society groups rally behind the 21 November national shutdown, demanding urgent action on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

By: Abigail Visagie



Free State women's organisations have joined the national call for urgent action against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), backing the 21 November shutdown aimed at pressuring government to declare the crisis a national disaster. Former Free State Premier and founder of the Buang Basadi organisation, Sefora Ntombela, has urged women across the province to join a gathering at Hoffman Square in Bloemfontein later today in solidarity with the national action led by Women For Change.

Ntombela said the time had come for the country to reconsider the death penalty, arguing that harsher consequences may deter the rising number of women and children killed by intimate partners.

"How long should women and children suffer in silence while nothing gets done? We have buried mothers who lost their children in the most tragic circumstances and never saw justice, because the constitution has failed them," she said.

She added that despite continuous community efforts—educating children, supporting grieving families in court, hosting dialogues and awareness campaigns—women and children continue to be buried weekly. "Enough is enough," Ntombela said.

Ntombela also highlighted the importance of prioritising men's mental health and the need for stronger father

figures, noting a worrying surge in suicides among men. "Five men in Frankfort, Free State, took their own lives within a month. Ntokozo Miya, Simon Moyana, Thabo Mofokeng, December Mokoena and Beki Mtjali—all victims of suicide. This is why we believe it is okay not to be okay. Men must learn to speak up and seek therapeutic help rather than taking their rage, sorrow and anger out on women and children."

Founder of the Miss Kay Foundation, Nomsa Morule, echoed the call for urgent intervention, arguing that South Africa may need to challenge a constitution that "protects perpetrators more than victims." She said her organisation is preparing to host a dialogue session with men to address the root causes of the crisis.

"Men's mental health has been deteriorating for years, worsened by a patriarchal culture that teaches boys that showing emotion is weakness. That narrative

must change," said Morule. Frustrated by limited progress despite years of protests, campaigns and awareness initiatives, Morule also believes reinstating the death penalty could curb the violence. "We even have foreign nationals fleeing into our country and killing our women and children—clear proof that our judicial system is failing us. It is time for harsher punishment. The death penalty should return." Women For Change will stage the national shutdown ahead of the G20 Summit on 21 November, demanding that GBVF be declared a national disaster. Women are urged not to work, spend money or participate in the economy on the day, and to join a 15-minute national standstill at 12pm in honour of the 15 women murdered daily in South Africa.

Participants will wear black, and many have already changed their profile pictures to purple to amplify the shutdown online.

ANC Narrows Mayoral Selection Criteria



ANC Electoral Committee Chairperson, Kgalema Motlanthe. Picture: (X) MyANC

By: JN Reporter

Cracking the whip on its own ranks, the ANC has imposed sharper, stricter criteria for mayoral appointments, vowing to end the era of poorly vetted candidates steering municipalities.

These guidelines outline the minimum requirements ANC members must meet to qualify for seats in municipal councils across the country.

Among them is the requirement that all candidates must hold a matric certificate and have the necessary experience to make a meaningful contribution.

ANC Electoral Committee Chairperson, Kgalema Motlanthe, who briefed members of the media on the candidate selection process for the 2026 local government elections on Monday, said mayoral candidates for metros and cities will be handled through the National Office Bearer.

The briefing, which took place at the party's headquarters in Johannesburg, also outlined the lifestyle audits and clear eligibility criteria as part of the party's commitment to strong, diverse, and capable candidates.

Motlanthe said that for this to succeed, candidates must have the right skills, experience, and integrity required to serve communities effectively.

"All candidates must have no criminal records or criminal charges brought by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). This, of course, includes politically related crimes committed before April

1994. No candidate shall be eligible for nomination if he or she has been found guilty by the disciplinary committee for contravening the code of conduct."

Motlanthe said the ANC's candidate list must also be gender balanced.

"The list must also achieve 50% or more representation of women, in line with Rule 6 of the constitution, with every second candidate being a female throughout the list. It must reflect a mix of youth and age."

This comes as the party in the Free State recently confirmed the firing of seven mayors as part of a major shake-up in local government.

In August, provincial secretary Polediso Motsoeneng announced during a post-PEC media briefing that seven municipal troikas in the Free State would be reshuffled due to persistent audit disclaimers, weak leadership, and corruption allegations that have crippled service delivery.

This decision followed an oversight visit by Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), which uncovered widespread dysfunction across municipalities — including billions in missing funds, sewage spills, illegal tenders, and severe staff shortages.

Parliamentary committee chairperson Dr Zweli Mkhize described the state of Free State municipalities as "disastrous," a sentiment echoed in the Auditor-General's latest report, which highlighted rampant irregular expenditure, lack of accountability, and numerous audit disclaimers across the province.

#YAFF AWARDS WINNERS 2025

Ms Elzabe Rockman
MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development

Kenneth Magaxane

Tshidiso Tshabalala

Sello Nkone

Molo Brothers of the soil Producer

Lehlohonolo Koena

Tumelo Pedi

Relebohile Nko

Rethabile Izack Thiane

Thato Phalatse

Nani Joseth Kumalo

Matsae Tsotetsi

Pedi Agri (PTY) LTD

Traffic chaos ahead: G20 Summit road closures in Johannesburg



Law enforcement agencies are urging Gauteng residents to prepare for traffic disruptions as South Africa is set to host world leaders for the G20 Summit this weekend.

A wide network of road closures and rolling traffic restrictions will be in place from November 18 to 23 2025, affecting major highways and urban routes across Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni.

In a joint statement, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), Gauteng Traffic Police (GTP), JMPD, TMPD, EMPD, and the South African Police Service (SAPS) said the closures form part of heightened security measures for the high-level gathering.

"These measures are necessary as South Africa proudly hosts the G20 Summit, a major international event bringing together global leaders," the agencies said. "Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, allow additional travel time, and consider alternative routes where possible."

Authorities stressed that the restrictions are designed to enhance public safety, ensure traffic compliance, and support extensive vehicle inspections and congestion management during the summit. "Clear signage, traffic officers, and real-time updates will be provided to guide road users, and access for emergency and essential services will always be prioritised," they added.

Road closures will impact key areas of Johannesburg, Tshwane, and Ekurhuleni.

Major routes impacted include national and regional highways such as:

- N1 (multiple interchanges including Atterbury, Garsfontein, John Vorster, Brakfontein, Allandale, Buccleuch, Rivonia, 14th Avenue, Maraisburg)
- N3 (north and south flyovers)
- N12 (Elands, Reading, Comaro, Xavier, Diepkloof)
- N14
- R21 (Voortrekker and Atlas off-ramps)
- R24/N12 west junction
- M1 (Woodmead through Glenhove, Jan Smuts, Empire, M2 Crown, Xavier, Golden Highway)

Residents Disrupt Council, Mayor Survives Removal Bid



Mohokare Local Municipality Mayor, Teboho Mochecheba Picture: Facebook

Continues from Page 1

the communities of Rouxville, Smithfield and Zastron — have all but collapsed as deepening factional battles within the council paralyse key operations. From stalled infrastructure projects to delayed basic services, many believe political infighting has taken priority over governance, leaving communities to bear the brunt of a crisis driven by power struggles rather than capacity.

The municipal council elected Mochecheba in May this year following the removal of former mayor Zingisa Mqawuli, who was accused of failing to provide basic services, among other shortcomings.

In an interview with Journal News in July, Mochecheba said his appointment as mayor was a responsibility he did not take lightly.

"It is a true privilege to serve our communities, and I am fully committed to working tirelessly to improve the lives of our people, deliver quality services, and uphold the values and vision of the ANC. Throughout my time as a councillor, and especially since my election into this new role, I have gained valuable insights that have shaped my approach to leadership and service," he said.

He added that one of the most important lessons has been the power of listening — "truly listening" — to communities, municipal staff and key stakeholders. "Effective leadership starts with understanding the real needs on the ground."

Mochecheba said he is starting his term with a deeper sense of purpose, greater wisdom and a renewed commitment to delivering services that restore dignity and bring hope to the people of Mokare.

US wants to join G20 summit, end boycott: South Africa



President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the closing of the G20 Social Summit at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg. Picture: GCIS

JOHANNESBURG - In an 11th-hour about-turn, the United States has told South Africa it wants to take part in this weekend's G20 summit in Johannesburg, President Cyril Ramaphosa said Thursday.

President Donald Trump's administration had said it would not take part in the November 22-23 meeting and that no final statement by G20 leaders could be issued without its presence.

It has clashed with South Africa over various international and domestic policies this year, extending its objections to Pretoria's G20 priorities for the meeting of leading economies being held for the first time in Africa.

"We have received notice from the United States, a notice which we are still in discussions with them over, about a change of mind about participating in one shape, form or other in the summit," Ramaphosa told reporters.

"This comes at the late hour before the summit begins. And so therefore, we do need to engage in those types of discussions to see how practical it is and what it finally really means," he said.

In a note to the government on Saturday, the US

embassy repeated that it would not attend the summit, saying South Africa's G20 priorities "run counter to the US policy views and we cannot support consensus on any documents negotiated under your presidency".

In response, Ramaphosa said earlier Thursday that South Africa would not be bullied.

"It cannot be that a country's geographical location or income or army determines who has a voice and who is spoken down to," Ramaphosa told delegates at a G20 curtain-raiser event.

There "should be no bullying of one nation by another", he said.

"POSITIVE SIGN"

But after notice from Washington that it had reconsidered, Ramaphosa said the change of heart was "a positive sign".

"All countries are here, and the United States, the biggest economy in the world, needs to be here," he said.

"So it's pleasing to hear that there is a change of approach, and so we are still discussing how that will manifest."

It was not immediately clear how Washington would join the meeting, where around 40 countries will be present including several heads of state.

South Africa chose "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" as the theme of its presidency of the G20, which comprises 19 countries and two regional bodies, the European Union and the African Union.

Its agenda focuses on strengthening disaster resilience, improving debt sustainability for low-income countries, financing a "just energy transition" and harnessing "critical minerals for inclusive growth and sustainable development".

After early objections from Washington, it vowed to press on with its programme and its aim to find consensus on a leaders' statement on the outcome of the discussions.

"We will not be told by anyone who is absent that we cannot adopt a declaration or make any decisions at the summit," Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola said Thursday.

Trump has singled out South Africa for harsh treatment on a number of issues since he returned to the White House in January, notably making debunked

claims of white Afrikaners being systematically "killed and slaughtered" in the country.

He expelled South Africa's ambassador in March and has imposed 30 percent trade tariffs, the highest in sub-Saharan Africa.

US businesses were well represented at a separate Business 20 (B20) event that wound up in Johannesburg Thursday.

The head of the US Chamber of Commerce, Suzanne Clark, thanked South Africa for fostering "real collaboration between G20 nations during a time of rapid change" during its rotating presidency, which transfers to the United States for 2026.

"The US Chamber of Commerce will use our B20 leadership to foster international collaboration," Clark said.

The United States has significant business interests in South Africa with more than 600 US companies operating in the country, according to the South African embassy in Washington.

G20 members account for 85 percent of global GDP and around two-thirds of the world's population. *EWN*

UKZN distances itself from Mary De Haas following controversial testimony

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has dissociated itself from researcher and crime activist, Mary De Haas, following her 'disappointing testimony' before the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee.

De Haas, who appeared before Parliament on Tuesday, is an honorary research fellow at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

During her appearance before Parliament, De Haas provided the committee with the information she received from confidential sources but refused to divulge their names and identities.

She also declined to reveal the names even in a private session.

This resulted in her testimony being described as "disappointing, unreliable and hearsay" by several members of the committee. The MPs also argued that her refusal to disclose the names made her evidence impossible to verify.

The Ad Hoc Committee is currently investigating serious allegations of police corruption, criminal infiltration, and political interference within the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the broader criminal justice system.

The committee was established following explosive claims made by the KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Nhlhlanhla Mkhwanazi in July.

De Haas is also widely referred to as "Professor" by the media and in public discourse.

Her qualifications were also questioned by an EFF MP, Leigh-Ann Mathys, who said that De Haas does not hold an earned doctorate and that her "Dr" title comes from an honorary degree.

However, De Haas stated that she is "sick of saying" she is not a professor and aims to disassociate UKZN from personal insults.

In response to concerns raised regarding the university's association with De Haas following her appearance before the committee, UKZN Executive Director of Corporate Relations Normah Zondo, through the statement issued on earlier on Wednesday, said De Haas is not an employee of the university and is also not a professor at UKZN.

"For clarity, Ms De Haas is not an employee of the University and is not a professor at UKZN. She retired



The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has distanced itself from crime activist, Mary De Haas, following her appearance before the Ad Hoc Committee on Tuesday. Picture: TimesLive

from the then university of Natal in 2002, where she served as a Senior Lecturer and Programme Director in Social Anthropology," she said, adding the University of Natal merged with the University of Durban-Westville in 2004, to form UKZN.

Zondo added that De Haas's current association with UKZN is limited to the position of Honorary Research Fellow in the school of law. She said the position does not involve employment or teaching responsibilities.

"While she has collaborated with members of the Navi Pillay Research Group, she also conducts independent research, which is entirely separate from the university, and this includes work on violent crime and policing," said Zondo who added that the university will not comment on evidence presented

before the Ad Hoc Committee.

Meanwhile, political analyst Professor Sipho Seepe said De Haas's performance risked undermining her relationship with UKZN, adding that the institution may choose to disassociate itself from her.

Seepe added that her reluctance to reveal her sources is understandable as the government has been unable to protect whistleblowers from acts of violence and intimidation, even though her submission will be rendered to be nothing more than hearsay.

"In an environment where the state has been unable to protect whistleblowers from acts of violence and intimidation, it is understandable that Mary de Haas may be reluctant to reveal her sources.

"Having said that, in the absence of verifiable tes-

timonies and authenticated documents, Mary de Haas's submission would be rendered to be nothing more than hearsay. Her performance risks undermining her relationship with UKZN. The institution cannot be held accountable by acts of individuals associated with it. UKZN may choose to disassociate itself with her," said Seepe.

Another analyst Professor Sethulego Matsebesi, said although refusing to disclose the identities of confidential sources does not diminish the credibility of De Haas or her testimony, she seemed circumspect in her statements, which may raise questions about her credibility.

Dr Ntsikelelo Breakfast said De Haas said that it was pointless to give testimony without providing names. *IOI*

The Human Resource Development Council Should Support the Local Economy



Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae. Picture: OTP

By: Abigail Visagie

Free State Premier, MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae launched the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) at the OR Tambo Building yesterday.

Attended by MEC for Finance, Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs, Ketso Makume, the HRDC's mandate is to provide strategic leadership and secure a commitment to collaboration through various channels to ensure that an integrated human resource mechanism is woven into the province's structure.

Acting Director of Provincial Skills Development Coordination in the Free State, Dr. NC Tsaeng, said the launch aimed to outline the HRDC's objectives, guided by the Human Resource Development Strategy.

"The HRDC was established to drive skills development and support inclusive growth, aiming to accelerate youth employment and career pathways," said Tsaeng.

Mathae addressed the audience and welcomed key stakeholders who are contributing to the development of the Free State.

"We have representatives from all our key sectors, civil society, labor, business, and institutions of higher learn-

ing. We must leverage each other's strengths to shape the future we want for our province," said Mathae.

She acknowledged the recent reports of a decline in unemployment rates in the Free State but emphasised that this should not signal the end of efforts to improve job creation. "Yes, we appreciate the announcement and yes, the prospects are encouraging, but more needs to be done. "We need to strike a balance between achieving success in education and creating sustainable employment opportunities," Mathae said.

She pointed out a significant misalignment between the career paths of the youth and the demands of the job market. This disconnect means that young people are not fully utilising the province's natural resources, which could benefit the community as a whole.

Mathae said Human Resource Development Councils are critical in ensuring that their initiatives directly support the local economy by focusing on key sectors such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing in the Free State. "The council will unite provincial leaders, the private sector, academia, labor, and civil society to seamlessly integrate national skills development programs with provincial initiatives, maximising resource deployment and avoiding duplication," Mathae explained.

She expressed optimism that involving local universities, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, and industry partners will enable the HRDC to create a sustainable pool of skills tailored to meet specific industry needs, ultimately helping to combat unemployment, poverty, and inequality in the province.

"This structure will also facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the HRDC Strategy's targets at the local level, allowing for the identification of successes, challenges, and best practices.

"The Free State is on an upward trajectory. There is a sense of optimism and a belief that we are approaching a turning point. We are on the verge of transforming this province. The sweet, alluring smell of victory signals a significant change for us," said a hopeful Mathae.

Among the many initiatives the Mathae is undertaking, she emphasised that the launch of the HRDC ignites a renewed determination to make the province a prosperous place to live. "We have been presented with an opportunity to carve our names into the historic legacy of the Free State. Let us be the generation that can proudly look back and declare.

"We were given a mandate by the people of the Free State, and we delivered," said Mathae.

Madlanga Commission: Brown Mogotsi a 'professional liar'



Commissioners at the Madlanga inquiry into police corruption this week said the testimony of North West businessman Brown Mogotsi was suspect.

"We should be concerned that you may be using this platform, at least to some extent, to make allegations that you are not backing up," Commissioner Sesi Baloyi said.

Commission chairperson Mbuyiseli Madlanga said he had "fundamental problems" with Mogotsi's unsubstantiated testimony, while evidence leader Matthew Chaskalson called Mogotsi "a professional liar".

"An oath is meaningless to you and I have no reason to believe the one you took here means anything to you," Madlanga said.

Mogotsi, believed to be a middleman between suspended police minister Senzo Mchunu and murder accused and alleged leader of the Big Five cartel Vusumuzi Cat Matlala, testified at the start of phase two of the commission where those implicated in corruption in the criminal justice system will respond.

He accused KwaZulu-Natal police commissioner Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi and Zulu king Misizulu of being CIA spies due to their association with United States universities, admitting that this was "hearsay" but insisting his source was credible.

"During my clandestine investigations I uncovered criminal activities, as a result the scope of my work expanded. There was a suspicion that Lieutenant Gen-

eral Mkhwanazi was recruited by the CIA and actively worked for them," Mogotsi said.

He said he felt suppressed by the criticism from the bench and that the evidence leader acted as though the inquiry was an interrogation.

Mogotsi claimed to be an agent of the state tasked with uncovering crime intelligence information and said he received basic training in 2020 when he was promoted from being a police informant to contact agent.

Asked if he was a member of ANC's former military wing at the age of 13 Mogotsi readjusted his age and said he was born in 1977 instead of the stated age in his affidavit of 1979.

He said the home affairs department made an error in his birth certificate.

He said the nature of his relationship with Mchunu was philanthropic and they would talk about mutual projects they care about as well as political topics.

Mchunu's decision to disband the political killings task team was "a procedural and policy matter", Mogotsi said, denying it was aimed at protecting Matlala and co-accused Katiso Molefe.

Mogotsi said Mkhwanazi's July media briefing where he accused Mchunu and deputy national commissioner for crime detection Shadrack Sibiyi of collusion with criminal syndicates was a "misdirection".

He said Mkhwanazi should not have gone to the media but rather registered his complaints inhouse.

However, Chaskalson said Mogotsi's unsubstantiated claims against Mkhwanazi being a CIA spy were a "misdirection" and that Mogotsi "fabricated" allegations he could not back up.

Mogotsi defended his WhatsApp texts with Matlala where he solicited funds in exchange for confidential police information, saying they were part of his "legend building" as a police informant to extract information from the suspected cartel leader.

Crime Intelligence boss Dumisani Khumalo has presented WhatsApp evidence to the commission where Mogotsi asked for funds from Matlala and warns him about planned police operations.

This week Mogotsi also accused former police minister Bheki Cele of being the senior official in collusion with criminal syndicates.

He said Matlala's R360 million police healthcare tender contract was signed during Cele's term as police minister. He accused Cele of lying that he met Matlala once and added there were plans to arrest Cele at Matlala's house. He said a 2018 crime intelligence report which Cele would have seen named Matlala as "John Wick" with numerous convictions and pending cases.

He told the commission a source told him Cele had an interest in Matlala's irregular police contract. He accused Cele of receiving a bribe for the R360 million tender which was approved during his time as police minister. mg.co.za

'Get ready, you lying crook': Nkabinde receives threatening SMS from Paul O'Sullivan



Suspended Police Minister Senzo Mchunu's chief of staff, Cedrick Nkabinde, receives threatening message amid testimony. MPs vow legal action, protection, and accountability against private investigator Paul O'Sullivan. Picture: @MorningLiveSABC

Suspended Police Minister Senzo Mchunu's Chief of Staff, Cedrick Nkabinde, received a threatening message while testifying before Parliament's ad hoc committee on Wednesday, sparking concern over the intimidation of witnesses and MPs.

Nkabinde told the committee that he had received a message from Paul O'Sullivan while eating, which read: "Get ready, you lying crook. I am going to make sure you spend some years in prison. You were bribed by Mkhwanazi and Mabula. Now you will pay for your crimes, guaranteed."

This comes after Nkabinde had earlier dropped explosive bombshells before Parliament on Wednesday, alleging that private investigator O'Sullivan wielded unlawful influence over SAPS, IPID, the NPA, and the broader justice cluster, and that senior officials allowed him to do so.

Chairperson Molapi Lekganyane acknowledged that Nkabinde had brought the message to the committee's attention and urged caution.

He said the Legal Services Department of Parliament would work with Nkabinde to ensure his rights as a citizen were protected.

"When we fly that banner which says proudly South African, we also include you in that message," he said.

MKP MP Sibonelo Nomvalo called for O'Sullivan to be summoned urgently. "We've heard enough about this man intimidating people running the show alone, putting his hands where it doesn't qualify to put hands.

"He must come here as a matter of urgency. Before we close, he must come before this committee. We just want to put that on the record," Nomvalo said. ANC MP Xola Nqola emphasised the committee's responsibility to protect witnesses assisting its work. He stressed that intimidation would not be tolerated and said the committee would await guidance from the Legal Services Department on options to handle the matter decisively.

EFF MP Leigh-Ann Mathys recalled that O'Sullivan had sent similar messages to MPs in 2018 during a police committee session.

"It's not just about the witness that is here today, but it's also about us as members of Parliament and as members of this ad hoc committee.

A very strong message must be sent out, and we should also explore our legal obligations and options on what we can do about him outside of him just coming to appear here.

"We can't be threatened in front of the whole nation, actually internationally, by this Paul O'Sullivan. It can't happen," Mathys said.

PA's Ashley Sauls stressed the importance of documenting the message for the official record.

"I think it's very imperative that Mr Nkabinde should send a screenshot of that message to us so that we also have that on record. The whole country will be watching. What will we as Parliament do, if there was ever a time, to show the power vested in us to save this country and put South Africans first? It's now. We can't allow that," Saul said. MKP David Skosana said the police should be involved immediately.

"We've opened cases, and the police acted. We'll open a case against him because we can't have a thug intimidating parliamentarians and witnesses here. We should not be a banana republic or a mafia state. If I was in charge of the police, or if we were in America, he would be arrested tonight," he said.

MKP MP Vusi Shongwe also advised Nkabinde to capture all details of the message, including the sender's numbers, and warned that O'Sullivan should understand that South Africans would no longer tolerate such behavior.

"You are our guest. So for this Paul O'Sullivan to understand what South Africans are no longer paying, can he report to any politician tomorrow? Personally, I am going to open that case. This is our house and you are my guest. We will deal with this person," Shongwe said.

Chairperson Lekganyane concluded that the matter would be escalated to Parliament's legal team. He assured Nkabinde that his rights would be safeguarded and that appropriate steps would be taken in accordance with the law.

"Unfortunately, where I am sitting, I cannot say to them, 'help you.' I can only acknowledge their presence here to say, as people who deal with the law, for sure they know better what are your rights as a citizen of this country and what are the necessary and appropriate steps that must be taken," he said to Nkabinde. iol

Fire forces evacuation at UN climate talks

A fire erupted in a pavilion of the UN's climate talks in Brazil on Thursday, forcing panicked delegates to run for the exits and disrupting tense negotiations among ministers from around the world.

UN and security crews rushed with extinguishers to put out the blaze, which tore a hole in the roof of the COP30 site in Belem as smoke engulfed the corridor and people shouted "fire!"

The fire was brought under control and no injuries were reported, Brazilian tourism minister Celso Sabino said. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known.

Firefighters arrived at the scene as smoke billowed inside and out of the conference, which is being held in large tents in the city at the edge of the Amazon, with tens of thousands of people in attendance.

Firefighters and security teams responded promptly and continue to monitor the site, Brazil's COP30 organisers said in a statement.

The fire started in a country pavilion inside the site's "blue zone" near the entrance of COP30. A light rain caused people outside to cheer.

The fire took place as ministers were deep in negotiations aimed at breaking a deadlock over

fossil fuels, climate finance and trade measures, with one day left in the two-week conference.

Mauricio Lyrio, the head of the Brazilian delegation, said he was signing an agreement with a third country when he was asked to leave. He said his team does not believe they will be able to return to the site on Thursday.

"World is watching Belem"

Nearly 200 countries have spent the past two weeks hashing out issues at COP30 -- from a "roadmap" to transition away from fossil fuels proposed by host Brazil, to concerns over weak emissions-reduction plans, finance for developing countries, and trade barriers.

Earlier in the day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged negotiators to reach an "ambitious compromise."

"The world is watching Belem," he told reporters during a morning news conference, as nations awaited a new draft negotiating text before the summit officially closes on Friday evening.

"Communities on the frontlines are watching too -- counting flooded homes, failed harvests, lost livelihoods, and asking how much more must we suffer?"

"Please engage in good faith," he said. AFP

Purple Power: A symbol of Courage, Justice and Unity



If there is anything we continue to see as citizens of this country, is the deafening silence on issues that affects us.

It is a silence heavy enough to feel, it suffocates and is dangerous enough to cause stress and trauma even to the most resilient people.

We wake up into this silence daily. We move through life carrying stories that remain unspoken. Stories of violence, of crimes reported but never resolved. Stories that are disheartening and sickening.

Multitudes are currently using purple to show support, raise awareness and demand action against GBV and femicide. Purple as a symbol of resistance, courage, justice, dignity, strength and unity.

GBV is not the only crime that gets swallowed by this silence.

It's the corruption, robberies, kidnappings, breakdown of healthcare systems, the list goes on and we are no longer shocked whenever we hear about these on the headlines.

Purple has come to represent courage, justice, and the refusal to accept silence — especially in the context of GBV. Purple is positioning itself as a powerful symbol in our society.

Perhaps these values can be extended to tackle other pressing challenges in the country, using the movement as a unifying force rather than a single-issue campaign. To take on issues such as failing service delivery, youth unemployment, corruption, mental health and community safety.

The power of Purple presents us with an opportunity to break the silence. To stop normalizing the unacceptable. It does not only mean protesting or speaking out on social media. It means building networks of support within communities, creating safe reporting spaces, demanding accountability, supporting survivors, and refusing to normalize violence or corruption.

Our future depends on how we choose to respond to this moment. Do we remain quiet or do we choose to disrupt the silence that is slowly consuming us? Do we learn from the purple power to build better industries? To be a respected stakeholders in national conversations?

The common thread between GBV, crime, corruption, poverty, and social collapse is silence. Let us break the silence around every injustice. **Written by Annah Lelimo**

Opinion

Anele Siswana
Clinical Psychologist and Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of the Free State



The fight against GBV is not a women's issue, it's a human issue

The scourge of gender-based violence (GBV), femicide and child abuse continues to tear through the moral fabric of South Africa. For many, these atrocities are not newspaper headlines they are daily lived realities. They occur in homes, schools, workplaces, and tragically, within our universities.

In the rural communities, townships and informal settlements violence against women and children is often hidden behind walls of silence, shame and patriarchy. There, survivors are made to believe that they are the problem; that their pain is their fault; that their suffering is part of life. It is in these very spaces that our collective conscience must awaken.

On 21 November, South Africa will mark the National Women's Shutdown, a day of non-violent protest and solidarity. It is a day that compels us to pause and ask: How long will we allow the silence to suffocate us? How can institutions of higher learning, like ours at the University of the Free State (UFS), become sanctuaries for healing rather than spaces of harm?

As a newly appointed lecturer in the Department of Psychology, I have been moved by UFS's proactive stance in responding to social injustices. Yet, even within our walls, the question remains: how do we transform commitment into concrete protection, advocacy and care for the most vulnerable among us?

The crisis before us

The data continues to confront us. A national survey by the Human Sciences Research Council found that 33.1% of South African women — over seven million — have experienced physical violence. Nearly 10%, or about two million women, have survived sexual assault. According to the South African Medical Research Council, seven women are murdered every day, most by intimate partners.

In higher education, the statistics are equally distressing: between 20% and 25% of female students report sexual violence every year. GBV is not an external issue it is present in our lecture halls, residences, and campuses. But these numbers are not mere data points. They are students in our classes, colleagues in our offices, and children in our communities. They are the invisible and unheard, the ones who think they are the problem because society tells them so.

Violence in the margins

In the rural and township spaces, abuse remains under-reported because systems of care are fragile. Police stations are far, counselling services scarce. Women fear stigma, disbelief, and retaliation. The cycle of patriarchy and poverty sustains the violence and the silence. These are the realities that must inform our activism. We cannot build responses that only fit the urban, resourced world. Our solutions must reach rural areas and townships where pain sits quietly in the corner, unspoken.

At UFS, our moral responsibility as an institution goes beyond academic discourse. We must embed activism, community engagement, and trauma-informed support into the very DNA of our university life. The fight against GBV is not a women's issue it is a human issue, one that implicates us all.

A spiritual and intersectional call to action

As a clinical psychologist, an academic, and Igqirha (Xhosa/African spiritual healer), I am drawn to the intersection between violence, spirituality,



and the human soul. Healing, in the African sense, is never isolated to the individual it is communal, spiritual, and relational. Our interventions against GBV and trauma must therefore go beyond psychology and policy. They must reach into the psyche and spirit of our people. They must recognise that trauma is not only physical or emotional, but also spiritual and historical. It echoes through generations, shaped by colonial violence, patriarchy and inequality.

In my own spiritual practice, I view lamentation as a sacred form of activism. To lament is to cry out collectively to name pain so it may begin to heal. Our protest, then, is not only resistance it is also remembrance and restoration. It is an act of reclaiming the humanity that violence tries to erase. This spiritual activism demands that our response at UFS be intersectional. Faculties of humanities, theology, education, health sciences must collaborate. Healing must be understood as holistic embracing body, mind, culture, and spirit. Our approach to GBV must draw equally from Ubuntu, feminist thought, trauma research, and African spirituality.

To invoke Ubuntu is to affirm that "I am because we are." It is a reminder that when one student or staff member is violated, the entire university community is wounded. When one child in a rural village is silenced, our shared humanity is diminished.

Universities as safe and sacred spaces

Higher education institutions are not immune to GBV. With 26 universities and more than two million students, campuses reflect the same societal sickness that plagues the nation. For many young women especially those who are first-generation-students from rural or impoverished backgrounds the university should be a place of hope, yet it often becomes a site of trauma.

At UFS, our role must therefore be twofold: to lead by example and to hold ourselves accountable.

A truly transformative university must ensure that survivors are believed, supported and protect-

ed. Reporting systems must be visible and trusted. Lecturers, support staff and administrators must be trained in trauma-sensitive response. Perpetrators must be held accountable, regardless of position.

But transformation cannot end at policy. It must live in our lecture halls, residence corridors, and conversations. It must become part of our pedagogy, our way of teaching and relating to one another. Healing must be as intentional as learning.

From protest to transformation

On 21 November, as we join the National Women's Shutdown, let our protest be one of life and remembrance. Let us wear purple not as a fashion statement but as a symbol of solidarity. Let us protest not with rage alone, but with empathy, spirituality, and moral conviction.

We protest in honour of the women whose voices were silenced.

We protest for the children whose pain was ignored.

We protest for survivors who believed they were the problem and now know they are not. Our protest must not end on the streets; it must continue in the classroom, in policy meetings, in community outreach, and in spiritual spaces. The UFS has always been a place of thought leadership and social responsiveness.

My hope is that we continue to nurture a generation of students who do not only study transformation but embody it, who understand that activism is a spiritual, ethical and scholarly act.

Healing from GBV and trauma demands courage, compassion, and community. It calls on us to invoke, resist, and embrace:

To invoke our ancestors and values.

To resist the normalisation of violence.

To embrace the humanity of those who suffer in silence.

Let us move from statistics to stories, from policy to practice, from awareness to transformation. Together, let us reimagine the university not only as a place of knowledge, but as a space of healing, spirit, and justice.

Global Entrepreneurship Week and the impact of G20 Summit on Small businesses



Refilwe Mochoari
Editor-in-Chief

November is entrepreneurship month, a time dedicated to honouring those individuals who took a leap of faith to drive innovation, economic growth, and employment opportunities.

For the week 17 – 23 November, it is all eyes on business and this year's theme is "Together We Build," and a special message comes from the tax man.

He honours South African small medium and micro enterprises and the vital role that they play in society.

Hello everyone, my name is Refilwe Mochoari, and I would like to discuss the impact of entrepreneurship programs designed to empower entrepreneurs since their inception.

Over thirty years into democracy and because of the shortage of jobs and a lack of skills, the government has been pushing for more people to look into starting their own businesses to assist in creating employment and driving economic growth.

Post 1994 organisations such as the National Youth Development Agency, the National Empowerment Fund, and the Small Enterprise Development Agency, were created to assist in driving the cause.

NYDA was established in June 2009, through a merger between Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the National Youth Commission.

In 2024, the NYDA funded over 70 000 young entrepreneurs have been funded by.

The National Empowerment Fund, was founded in 1998 to promote and facilitate economic participation in South Africa.

NEF has approved over R3.7 billion for black businesses and more than R2.7 billion was disbursed.

Then there is Black economic empowerment which was founded to address the economic inequalities caused by apartheid.

The private sector has also jumped in to help entrepreneurship along with various banks and other entities, aiming to boost the sector.

This month Old Mutual SMEGO launched a R1.2 million funding business asset program to support SMMEs across the country.

The initiative provides R20 000 per business for essential tools, technology, or equipment with payment made directly make you're the supplier. This is open to black owned businesses only.

The Shoprite group has empowered 82 small businesses suppliers with over 400 locally made products available in all Shoprite and Checkers stores nationwide.

The group provided access to markets, working capital, packaging, labelling, marketing, and compliance support.

How effective are these initiatives? What does entrepreneurship month mean for an ordinary entrepreneur who has limited access to information, markets, and resources?

Now, let's look at the G20 Summit, where leaders from around the world gather in South Africa to make decisions that affect local economies.

The G20 Summit is expected to significantly impact small businesses in South Africa, as it brings together world leaders, investors, and business representatives. This creates a platform for South African small businesses to showcase their products and services.

Additionally, South African small businesses can extend their reach into other African markets.

Hosting the G20 Summit in South Africa is also anticipated to boost tourism, as delegates and visitors will spend money on accommodation, food, and local services.

This influx will particularly benefit small businesses in the tourism sector, such as restaurants, hotels, and tour operators.

Moreover, the summit offers an opportunity for small businesses to network and collaborate with international partners through various meetings and networking opportunities.

This allows entrepreneurs and business owners to learn about new trends and explore cross-border business opportunities.

The G20 platform also advocates for policies that support small businesses, such as increased access to finance and reduced regulatory barriers. These efforts aim to create a more favourable environment for small businesses to thrive.

The G20 Summit has the potential to be a game-changer for South African small businesses, providing them with opportunities to grow, innovate, and succeed in the global market.

Letter to the Editor

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

Why Change Is So Hard

Some processes in nature are clear and direct: we plant an apple tree and if we care for it, we'll get apples in the fall; if we have a drainage problem, we can dig a ditch to drain the water away. So why is it so hard for people to change, even those who are leaders and are dedicated to leading change in their organizations?

Pastor Charles Stone has made some remarkable observations about resistance to change, resistance that is rooted deep in the gray cells and synapses of our brains. If we understand the inner workings of our brains, we won't be so surprised when we or others are so slow to do the very things that promise life, health, growth, and success.

Stone taps into research showing that two-thirds of the cells in our amygdala, the most basic part of our brains, are wired for freeze, fight, or flight. We pick up negative signals from our environment more readily than positive ones, so we're normally and continually on guard. When this part of the brain is activated, people respond naturally with

fear, which triggers the defensive reactions.

Preexisting emotions and perceptions are like a door in our brains that is open or closed to change. People who are already fearful, anxious, hurt, or ashamed have barricades over the door, shutting off any opportunity to change course and take courageous steps forward. No matter how many "convincing facts" the leader presents, the barricade effectively keeps the door closed.

Resistance to change becomes more acute as the event approaches. When the change was in the distant future, people may be open and even eager because it's still just a concept. However, as the moment of implementation draws near, anxiety rises, fears multiply, and our minds run on overdrive imagining the costs more than the benefits. At this point, people ask more questions, but often to find a way out, not to move ahead. Stone observes, "Uninformed optimism gives way to informed pessimism."

downloaded in our brains from the time we're

small children. They don't change easily, but they can certainly change. As we've seen, learning to reframe adversity is one of the most important things leaders will ever do. It will radically affect their attitudes, their relationships, their passion, and their health.

We Think More Expansively and Ask Better Questions

Immature people are thinking about what they're going to say while others are talking, but a mature person is fully present, seeking to understand before seeking to be understood. We are no longer "locked in" to a single way to see a person, an opportunity, a problem, or an event. We ask plenty of questions and over time, our questions become more incisive. We spend time with people who have very different experiences and perspectives instead of only hanging out with people who agree with us about virtually everything.

When was the last time you were in an uncomfortable conversation? What about it made you feel

uncomfortable? Did you run away, fight back, or slow down and engage the person more fully?

We often begin our tenure as leaders full of vision and enthusiasm, but over time, we can lose heart. Many leaders I meet think back on "the good old days" before the stresses and strains began to take a heavy toll on them.

Wise, mature leaders don't deny the presence of failure and countless other difficulties, but they find ways to keep refilling their vision tanks. They're not surprised when the level of their passion and enthusiasm goes down; it's a fact of life. But they're always reading great books and articles, listening to podcasts, and talking to other leaders to stay filled and overflowing.

Advertisement

All of us have room to grow, to learn, and to mature a bit more—maybe a lot more. I appreciate men and women who have the courage to admit they're still in process and, in fact, they'll always be in process.



Pastor Motsamai Kareli
Empowerment Ministries International

Business

Markets and Indicators

Rand/Dollar	16.97	0.67%	▲
Rand/Pound	22.33	0.50%	▲
Rand/Euro	19.71	0.47%	▲
Platinum	1 622.10	0.33%	▲
Brent Crude	62.89	0.35%	▲
Gold	4 234.03	0.95%	▲
Etherium	3501.09	2.35%	▲
Bitcoin	102895	1.01%	▲

Makume Promotes FS Beauty



DESTEA hosts a Free State Camp-out experience. Picture: Supplied.

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

In an effort to promote the Free State as an inland destination of choice and connect tourists with nature, the Department of Small Business and Tourism (Destea) will host the Free State Camp-out experience and 4X4 Eco Challenge scheduled for Friday and Saturday at Tussen Die Reviere (TDR) Nature Reserve outside Bethulie in the Free State.

These excursions aim to foster a greater appreciation of Free State adventure and rekindle eco-tourism by allowing visitors to experience the wild beauty from the back of a 4X4.

TDR Nature Reserve is located in the Xhariep District, 15 km from Bethulie on the R701 road.

It lies at the confluence of the Caledon River, also known as the Mohokare, and the Orange River, and the Senqu.

"This is where both rivers cradle wild and are home to large herds of blesbok, black wildebeest, springbok, and other animals that carry the beauty of the province on their backs, while Buffalo take shelter along the bushy riverbanks," said the MEC for DESTEA, Ketso Makume.

He added that this is also where people will most likely find sour karee, wild olive trees, and blue quarries scattered across the Koppies.

He says the area is fringed with stunning Cape and weeping willow trees, white stinkwood, and common taaibos, among others, providing shade for the fish.

"Black eagles soar in the endless blue sky, while secretary birds stalk their prey in the grasslands."

"TDR Nature Reserve offers self-catering chalets, camping facilities, and conference venues, as well as a 4x4 route that passes through unusual and beautiful rock formations, he said.

He also says there are nearly 120km of dirt road routes to explore the reserve and these routes showcase a variety of scenery and wildlife.

"Camping experiences offer unforgettable memories for those seeking nature and adventure, catering to outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds, whether families or individuals.

"With its scenic countryside, stunning sunsets, and rich historical landmarks, all travelers are invited to enjoy its rural experiences," said Makume.

Makume also mentioned that at this two-day event, campers will stay in tents and participate in activities such as sitting around a campfire, game drives, a potjiekos challenge, and witnessing the hidden gem where the Caledon River meets the Orange River.

"This will demonstrate that the Free State Province is not just a passing-through region but one worth exploring and rediscovering, Makume said.

Black Rock won't get a cent from 'Please Call Me' payment, says Makate



Nkosana Makate Picture: Supplied

The inventor of the "Please Call Me" messaging service, Nkosana Makate, who recently signed a confidential settlement agreement with Vodacom, has pointed out that the company that wants to claim a lion's share of his payout has baseless claims on its demand.

Black Rock Mining is demanding Makate to pay 40% from the settlement with Vodacom that is estimated to be running into hundreds of millions of rands.

The claim comes after Vodacom announced in a Stock Exchange News Service statement on November 5 that it had reached a settlement with Makate.

However, Makate told Sunday World on Tuesday that there was no way he would give Black Rock Mining any money from his settlement.

"The claim is baseless and Black Rock Mining has never been a funder of my case. They had a matter that they withdrew from the court roll last year. This one we shall take it head on. They must go to court," said Makate.

However on Tuesday, Sinenhlahlhla Mnguni of SN Mnguni Attorneys, who represents Black Rock Mining, stated that his client had never withdrawn from the Please Call Me case.

Mnguni said his clients did not just wake up and started demanding 40% payment after the highly publicised confidential settlement.

"My client didn't withdraw from the case. We performed at all stages of the matter. We never withdrawn our performances in terms of the agreement."

"This matter has a long history, and it is not something that came out last week. Some of the people who were involved in the litigation process tried to remove my client from the matter," said Mnguni.

The settlement between Makate and Vodacom came after a lengthy legal battle that took 17 years,

where he had taken the giant cellular network company to court to demand compensation for his invention that had seen millions of South Africans being able to send a message to the other end, and get to be called back.

Based on these new claims by Black Rock Mining, Makate has vowed to fight tooth and nail to protect his money.

The settlement comes after the Constitutional Court in July referred Makate's case against Vodacom back to the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA).

The judgment, delivered by then outgoing ConCourt Justice Mbuyiseni Madlanga, could have resulted in Makate being awarded R47-million or over R10-billion for the "Please Call Me" invention.

The Constitutional Court delivered the July judgment in favour of Vodacom during a special court sitting in Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

Madlanga said the SCA decision in February 2024 to set aside Vodacom's offer to Makate is invalid. Madlanga said the matter between Vodacom and Makate must be remitted back to the SCA and heard again.

On November 21, 2024, Vodacom brought an application to the Constitutional Court to appeal a February 2024 SCA judgment that set aside a R47-million offer that Vodacom made to Makate six years ago in 2019.

Appeal dismissed by the SCA

Makate opposed Vodacom's ConCourt application. He cited that he deserved to be compensated R9.4-billion by Vodacom.

The November 2024 appeal application at the Constitutional Court was heard by Chief Justice Mandisa Maya, Madlanga, and Justices Nonkosi Mhlantla, Leona Theron, Steven Majiedt, Zukisa Tshiqi, Rammaka Mathopo, Owen Rogers, and Acting Justice Rishinand Seegobin.

In February 2024, the SCA dismissed an appeal by Vodacom and ordered the Constitutional Court to pay Makate an amount ranging between 5% and 7.5% of the total revenue made through the "Please Call Me" service for more than 18 years.

Calculation estimations showed that Vodacom should pay Makate an amount ranging from R9-billion to R63-billion as fair compensation for his idea. But Makate intended to settle for R9.4-billion.

Previously, in 2022, the Pretoria High Court ruled that Vodacom must pay Makate more than R47-million it offered him in the long-running saga.

Vodacom, through its CEO Shameel Joosub, offered Makate R47-million for his "Please Call Me" idea but Makate rejected it.

Makate was represented by his lawyer Stuart Scott, while Vodacom was represented by Adv Wim Trengrove SC, during the November 2024 appeal application.

In November 2024, Vodacom argued that Makate cannot be entitled to up to R63-billion. Its offer to him of R47-million, now R80-million after adding interest, is fair and equitable, it said. - SW

SARB cuts repo rate by 25 basis points



Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago. Picture: SABC.

Reserve Bank Governor Lesetja Kganyago has announced that the repo rate will be cut by 25 basis points – meaning that the prime lending rate will decline to 10.25%.

Kganyago made the announcement in Pretoria on Thursday, following the three-day Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

The rate cut was widely expected. Announcing the rate cut in Pretoria, Governor Kganyago says the decision was unanimous among all MPC members.

He adds that the Quarterly Projection Model continues to forecast gradual rate cuts as inflation subsides.

Kganyago says the bank continues to closely monitor inflation.

Kganyago says, "Because of these downside surprises, together with a stronger rand and a lower oil price assumption, we have small downward revisions to our inflation outlook, for both 2025 and 2026. We remain on track to deliver 3% inflation over the medium term."

Mining Leaders Celebrate Excellence in the Industry



By: Refilwe Mochuari

To honour achievements in the mining sector, the Northern Cape Mine Managers Association (NCMMA) hosted its prestigious annual gala dinner in Kimberley last Saturday.

The event brought together mining leaders from

across the province to celebrate accomplishments and reflect on the industry's performance.

Organised by Kumba Iron Ore, Media Liaison for Anglo American in Northern Cape Mokoteli Moeketsi says the event recognised exceptional contributions and reinforced the sector's commitment to safety and sustainability. "We welcomed industry professionals

from over 30 regional mining companies.

"The 2025 NCMMA Gala Dinner also included various stakeholders, such as labor unions, business representatives, and officials from the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR).

"As part of the evening's events, awards were presented to acknowledge both individual and operational achievements related to safety performance and leadership, which were celebrated among peers," he said. The CEO of Kumba Iron Ore, Mpumi Zikalala, delivered a keynote address and emphasised the industry's contribution to the country's development.

She commended the accomplishments of various NCMMA work streams and highlighted the importance of fostering a strong safety culture.

"Mining continues to play a critical role in South Africa. In 2024, mining contributed 23% to the Northern Cape's GDP and 6% nationally.

"The Northern Cape, with its rich deposits of iron ore, manganese, diamonds, copper, and zinc, remains pivotal to economic growth.

"As an office-bearer and board member of the Minerals Council South Africa, I am truly pleased with the work done through the Northern Cape Mine Managers Association. It aligns with our vision for the industry and our shared commitment to Zero Harm," Zikalala added.

GET TO KNOW YOUR DJ

DJ SoulfulNellz is Weaving Soul and Story into Every Set



By: Lerato Mutlanyane

If you are a lover of deep and soulful house music, let Nellz be your source of energy.

As soon as she steps onto the decks, she delivers a powerful blend of rhythm and vibe that she skillfully crafts from start to finish.

The 24-year-old house maverick, whose real name is Naledi 'SoulfulNellz' Molotsi from Masilo in Theunissen, has a career spanning five years and expresses an immense love and passion for deep house music.

Molotsi's signature style is characterised by bass-filled, nostalgic, deep, and soulful house sounds.

The beats per minute are unmatched as soon as she hits the stage the.

Her incredible talent was honed with the help of her brother.

"This journey has been nothing short of amazing alongside my brother, Itumeleng Molotsi.

"I have been playing deep house music ever since, and I consider myself a deep house advocate," she said.

Molotsi has made an impression at numerous esteemed venues across the Free State, including Black Lounge, The Thoughts, Capello, 057 Cafe, and many others.

Experience this deep house catalyst for yourself by following her Facebook page, DJ SoulfulNellz.

'Africans come from brilliance': Nandi Madida challenges Errol Musk's controversial apartheid comments

"I refuse for future generations to be brainwashed into believing our ancestors were anything less than extraordinary."

Those are the words of South African media personality and radio host, Nandi Madida.

Madida was responding to Errol Musk, the father of the controversial tech billionaire, Elon Musk, after he said that he did not witness oppression of black people during apartheid.

Musk made the controversial statement during an interview with CNN's Donie O'Sullivan for Sullivan's upcoming special, MisinfoNation: White Genocide.

"You see, if you take South Africa, we have a small white population that projects European culture, or what we learned from Europe. How do you oppress? We know, we gave them work, we paid them.

"They grew from a tiny little group into a massive group. That's not oppression, that's feeding them. Do you understand? You only grow big if you get fed. You only start at 800 000 and become 50 million if you get fed.

"We feed them for crying out loud. You know, enough with this nonsense. Well, we never saw this oppression you're talking about. No, I never saw it," said Musk.

After a clip of the interview aired, it trended across social media platforms around the world.

Madida took to her X account and responded



to Musk's statement with a photo collage of nine pictures signifying traditional African life, particularly food preparation and cooking.

The pictures were captioned, "We fed them." Former news anchor Aldrin Sampear responded to Madida, saying, "You'd swear life didn't exist in Africa before colonialism..."

Madida replied, "Exactly. I refuse for future generations to be brainwashed into believing our ancestors were anything less than extraordinary. Africans come from brilliance, civilisation, innovation, and genius, and colonialism has continuously appropriated, rewritten, and exploited that at our expense.

"Our children deserve to know the truth about where they come from."

Several netizens applauded Madida for speaking her mind without fear of being cancelled or losing gigs. Her posts also sparked a heated debate on the importance of teaching African culture and history.

This is what netizens had to say:

User @iThando stated, "It's not even a belief; it's a fact. There are loads of books on African civilisation, cosmopolitan cities of Africa, before Westerners had ulterior motives. We traded with the Asians and the Portuguese way before the Portuguese decided to be greedy and destructive."

Another user, @Ntje11, said, "But I blame African leaders who fail to introduce our African history curriculum. Youth can't dispel Western propaganda without knowing themselves first. Knowledge is power."

User @BookerZeee commented, "I used to think that I should ignore it and them because I KNOW what our history is. But we need more of THIS. It's time we speak up LOUDLY and proudly of what civilisation in Africa as a whole used to be before and what we TAUGHT them."

While @NegroNegro08 expressed, "I'm glad that, as a so-called celebrity, you are able to voice and speak out without being afraid of being censored or cancelled." IOL

Gospel star Mmatema cancels album tour to focus on spiritual and physical rest

Prominent South African gospel singer, songwriter and media personality Mmatema has announced that she is cancelling her upcoming album tour.

In a statement, she wrote, "Family, I would like to take this moment to thank you all for the incredible love and support you continue to show me. Your prayers, messages and unwavering encouragement never go unnoticed. I am deeply, deeply grateful."

"After much prayer, reflection and guidance from the Lord, I have decided to officially cancel the upcoming album tour. This has not been an easy decision, but it is one I am at peace with."

Mmatema shared a pinned video on her social media that offers further insight into her decision.

"In 1 Kings 4:7, we read about the woman whose oil stopped flowing only when there were no more vessels to fill. The Lord reminded me through this scripture that sometimes, when there are no more cups to pour into, it is time to shut the door, rest and refill."

"As ministers, we often give and pour continuously until the oil runs low. God has lovingly called me into an intimate season with Him, to refill, to rest and to restore both spiritually and physically."

She also cautioned fans against purchasing tickets from unauthorised sellers.

"This cancellation is official, and I will communicate directly when the time is right to gather again. Please note that I am still fulfilling the remaining commitments I made for this year, so you will still see me at those. It is only the tour that has been cancelled."

Mmatema encouraged fans to continue engaging with her music and online content.

"In the meantime, please continue to stream my album, 'Heart of Gratitude', and watch the music videos on the Mmatema Music YouTube channel.

"You can also subscribe to my YouTube channel, where I'll continue sharing the Word, vlogs, and

more moments with you. I love you all so much, and I truly can't wait to see you soon."

Mmatema first rose to national prominence as the runner-up in the eleventh season of "Idols SA".

Earlier this year, she released her second album, "Heart of Gratitude".

The gospel album reflects her personal journey of faith and gratitude, combining live performances with deeply spiritual themes.

The cancellation affects remaining tour dates, including stops in Botswana and Johannesburg.

According to Mmatema, this decision allows her to enter "a season of rest, refilling and spiritual physical restoration."

The Polokwane leg of the tour, however, took place as scheduled in October, giving fans there the chance to experience her live performance. IOL

Prominent South African gospel singer, songwriter and media personality Mmatema. Picture: Supplied.



One man show with Nik Rabowitz at the Baxter

Comedian Nik Rabinowitz brings his sixteenth solo show, Geriatric Millennial, to the Baxter Concert Hall in Kimberly this festive season.

The comedy show will take place between 2 and 7 December, at 19:00 daily.

The 70 to 80 minute stand-up comedy show explores the increasingly blurry line between spiritual awakening and chronic back pain management.

"I'm at that beautiful intersection where I remember when the internet made sounds, but I also need a nap after scrolling," said Mr Rabinowitz.

"I'm under-medicated, over-methylated, orthopaedically compromised, catastrophically sleep-deprived and somehow still standing. Up. On stage. It's basically a miracle." He said.

The five day production will deliver what Rabinowitz calls "a laugh-a-minute reflection on the absurdity of modern adulthood, midlife anxiety, and wondering if that knee thing is permanent."

The almost-50-year-old comedian asks existential questions during his show, such as, Is it a midlife crisis or just a slow, brutal unravelling?

Should we put grannies in charge of everything? And when exactly is the Messiah coming back?

northern news



Drama alert: Relebogile Mothapo stirs the pot in her 'Skeem Saam' debut



Mzansi's favourite soapie, "Skeem Saam", is opening doors for young talent after the production announced that a new character, Jacqui Monama, portrayed by Relebogile Mothapo, is gracing our screens this week and bringing even more drama.

In a statement shared by the soapie on Tuesday, November 18, the 15-year-old shared that being a part of the beloved soapie is a dream come true for her.

"I've always wanted to tell stories that make people feel something. Being part of 'Skeem Saam' is a dream come true."

The soapie shared that the rising star, who hails from Hweshaneng, Ga-Mphahlele in Limpopo, will make her debut on Wednesday, November 19.

"Skeem Saam" further shared that Mothapo will play Melita Monama's (Hellen Motsuki) teenage daughter, who is a smart, outspoken, confident and sharp girl who grew up without her parents.

While navigating through school and identity, Monama battles with feelings of abandonment and shame towards her mother.

Melita's affair with Mr Kgomo (Lebohlang Elephant) kept viewers glued to their screens.

Although their love story had many viewers upset because a family was ruined, many loved how well Mtsuki nailed the character.

From just being a mistress, who was simply after Mr Kgomo's money, to fighting with anyone who wanted to get in the way of having Mr Kgomo all to herself and finally getting married.

Although they tied the knot, Melita abandoned her children after their home caught on fire, making Mr Kgomo and his son, Paxton, her priority.

In addition, the soapie revealed that the young talent will bring even more drama and a new storyline.

The soapie shared: "Skeem Saam" proudly welcomes Relebogile Mothapo, a bright young talent who joins the soapie as Jacqui Monama. She's set to make her unforgettable entrance on "Skeem Saam" on the 19th of November, marking the start of a storyline fans won't stop talking about."

"Skeem Saam" cast members and fans celebrated the newest addition to the Turfloop community.

"Welcome to the 'Skeem Saam' family, dearest Relebogile," Mogau P. Keebine shared.

While Mtsuki commented, "My baby girl. Relebogile, I am so proud of you. Welcome to the family. As you start with this amazing journey, know that I'm here to protect you, support you and love you every step of the way. Shine bright, my love, you've got this." IOL

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

Notice is hereby given in terms of regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer Number T17266/2010 passed by VICCI KAMVER, Identity Number 700418 0116 084 in favour of GENEVIEVE ALTE JANSSEN, Identity Number 760223 0169 084 in respect of

Portion 1 of Erf 15922 BLOEMFONTEIN (EXTENSION 118), district BLOEMFONTEIN, Province Free State
In extent: 603 (Six Hundred and Three) 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 18TH day of November 2025.

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GIG Guide

Saturday 22 November 2025

Lekompo&Gospel Picnic
Centenary Lounge
Bloemfontein

Saturday 22 November 2025

Mavele and Tash
IZA
Bloemfontein

Sunday 23 November 2025

Supreme Sunday
Vegas
Bloemfontein

ChuffPlek.
Lounge

PRESENTS

TOAST BOTTLES

28 SATURDAY FEB 2026

GENERAL TICKET R250 | VIP R3000

VENUE
ARTHUR PITSO STADIUM
MANYATSENG, LADYBRAND - FREE STATE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT COMPUTICKET



Sport



Dragons Down Lions in Super Over Thriller



De Klerk, De Swardt shine as Dragons defeat Lions at Wanderers

North West Dragons vs DP World Lions. Picture: SABC Sport

By: Mpho Sekharume

The Wanderers Stadium witnessed a thrilling cricket nailbiter with a Super Over victory for the Renault Potchefstroom North West Dragons over the DP World Lions.

This contest, which dramatically ended the Lions' 2025 CSA T20 Challenge playoff hopes, saw the precision of spinner, Jade de Klerk, combined with the explosive all-round performance from Ruan de Swardt steal the show and seal the victory for the North West visitors.

Despite Evan Jones's late, dazzling counter-attack for the Lions - securing the fastest T20 fifty in the match - it was the clinical finish executed by De Swardt and the groundwork laid by De Klerk that defined the upset.

De Klerk's spell was a masterclass in control. His exceptional figures of 3/12 from his four overs - projecting a remarkable economy of 3.00 - included the crucial wickets of Reeza Hendricks, Beyers Swanepoel, and Connor Esterhuizen. This com-

pletely stifled the Lions' chase and momentum, leaving the star-studded Joburg side's middle order exposed.

It was De Klerk's effort that ensured the required rate ballooned, setting the stage for the chaotic, thrilling finale.

De Swardt later stepped into the spotlight - first with the bat and later with the ball.

Having propelled the Dragons to a competitive total with a brilliant, unbeaten 45 off just 20 balls, striking three fours and three sixes at a strike rate of 225.00, De Swardt was handed the ultimate pressure task of bowling the final over of the Lions' regulation innings. With the hosts needing a single run from the last two balls to win, he removed Mitchell van Buuren and Wandile Makwetu off consecutive deliveries, forcing a tie at 181 runs apiece, setting the stage for a pulsating Super Over.

The narrative then switched back to him having to bowl the six-ball eliminator. Facing the Lions' two biggest hitters, he conceded only 7 runs while taking two wickets, including the crucial one of Evan

Jones, to set a minimal target. Lesiba Ngoepe and Captain Wihan Lubbe quickly knocked off the required 8 runs, crowning De Swardt and De Klerk the true match-winners.

The overall match saw the North West Dragons, after being put in to bat, put up a fighting 181/6. Their innings was anchored by Janneman Malan's patient 56 off 43 balls, which provided stability after early wickets, before De Swardt's late assault provided the necessary impetus, transforming a par total into a challenging one.

The Lions' chase was initially solid, spearheaded by Rassie Erasmus's measured 66 off 45 balls. However, it was De Klerk's spin that applied the choke. The dramatic closing stages, where the Lions scored an incredible 54 runs in the last three overs thanks to Jones, only to fall short at the very last ball, showcased the unforgiving nature of T20 cricket.

For the North West Dragons, this victory, only their second of a difficult campaign after seven matches played, offers a much-needed lift. They

currently sit low on the Division One table, with this win providing 4 crucial points to move their total to 10.

Their journey has been inconsistent, demonstrating flashes of potential, notably the promising cameos from rookie Ludwich Schuld and the experience of Malan and captain Lubbe, but lacking the sustained collective performance required to challenge for the top spots.

However, the emergence of De Klerk as a premium T20 bowler and De Swardt's phenomenal all-round capability suggests a strong spine for the future.

Going forward in the tournament, the Dragons must focus on consistency, converting promising starts into comprehensive victories, and maintaining the kind of collective intensity demonstrated in this thrilling Super Over triumph.

While the playoffs may be a distant hope, building a winning culture and unearthing match-winners like their two heroes from this incredible Wanderers night is the more valuable long-term prize.

Rassie relies on his experienced core for Boks' big day in Dublin



Springbok coach Rassie Erasmus. Picture: SuperSport

Springbok coach Rassie Erasmus has returned to his most experienced combinations for Saturday's final big test match of the year against Ireland at AVIVA Stadium in Dublin.

Erasmus mixed and matched last week for the game against Ireland, making 11 changes to the side that beat France in Paris the week before. He has effectively now gone back to the group that won 32-17 at the Stade de France, with the obvious caveat that Lood de Jager, who was red carded in that game, is unavailable.

There are some other minor switches from the game against France, however, and one of them is Canan Moodie playing on the right wing instead of Kurt-Lee Arendse. The Bulls wing has returned to South Africa after a minor concussion suffered last week but the change won't hugely hurt the team.

Moodie was at outside centre for last week's game in Turin so there are effectively 12 changes from that game if you factor in that positional switch. Moodie was good in countering Italy's aerial kicking assault last week and that may have in any case become a factor in his selection in the position where he has played most of his games for the Boks so far. Ireland were really good at their contestable kicking game when they beat Australia 46-19 in Dublin last weekend.

CHANGE OF FORMULA TO FORWARD BENCH BACK-UP

Although Franco Mostert was cleared and his red card received early in last week's game rescinded in a disciplinary hearing this week, he is not playing any part in the AVIVA Stadium clash. That may be an indication that Erasmus has stuck with his policy of only considering players who are available for the whole week of training, which would mean there was some cost to Mostert for the poor decision made by referee James Doleman in the Italy game.

However, while the Boks did go in with two locks in their six/two bench split between forwards and backs in the Paris game, thus making it a proper 'Bomb Squad', meaning he has an entire tight five backing up, this week he has only RG Snyman as a lock and Kwagga Smith, excellent as a replacement against Italy, on the bench.

With Andre Esterhuizen again fulfilling his hybrid role, meaning he can play both centre and flank, this might be an indication that Erasmus' selection is more around tactics, with Ireland's proficiency at the breakdown and their reliance on quickly recycled ball coming into his thinking.

LANDMARK FOR RG

Talking of Snyman, the double World Cup winner will be playing his 50th test for his country in Dublin at a stadium he knows well as he is currently a Leinster player. He will no doubt see it as fitting that he plays his landmark game for the Boks in the city where he currently resides.

Erasmus' selection means that the same halfback pairing that has fronted for all the big Bok games since the win over New Zealand in Wellington in September will be starting, with Cobus Reinach and Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu again being backed up by Grant Williams and Manie Libbok.

With most of the players being rested last week against Italy to ensure that Erasmus could field a fresh team to match the hosts' energy, he reverted to his tried and tested combinations for their clash against Ireland, who they last defeated on home soil in 2012.

Snyman will become the third squad member to achieve a significant milestone on the Castle Lager Outgoing Tour, following Siya Kolisi and Erasmus sharing the special occasion of earning their 100th test caps as a player and 50th as the head coach against France.

The two personnel changes apart from Moodie playing in Arendse's place from the Paris game to Erasmus' squad sees Ruan Nortje being promoted from the replacements bench to the starting line-up in place of De Jager, while Kwagga Smith returns to the team on the bench in his place.

Cheslin Kolbe (wing) and Reinach will both feature in their 49th test matches, leaving them only one game short of joining Snyman and several other teammates on 50 caps.

The match kicks off at 19h40 (SA time) and will be broadcast live on SuperSport. **SuperSport**

All Set for Kimberley's Big Hole Marathon

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

With the countdown underway for the much-anticipated Diamond and Dorings Kimberley Big Hole Marathon, preparations are in full swing to ensure a seamless experience for athletes and spectators alike.

The marathon will take place tomorrow at 5 am, featuring four race categories: 5 km, 10 km, 21 km, and the 42 km main event. The race has officially been recognised as a qualifier for both the Comrades Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon, marking a major achievement for the region.

"Preparations on the ground are progressing well. The race route is fully certified, and extensive readiness and maintenance work is underway to ensure world-class standards of safety and quality for both athletes and spectators. We also have approximately 30 water points positioned along the route to keep runners adequately hydrated. Safety remains a central priority, with a robust security plan in place, including strong police visibility and comprehensive safety measures across the marathon footprint," said Conrad Fortune.

Leading up to the event, organisers hosted a four-day programme from 18 to 21 November 2025, in-



cluding the opening of the Marathon Expo at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre. The Expo served as the central hub for race pack collection for athletes participating in all event categories.

The marathon has attracted elite athletes from across South Africa and the continent, including 2025 Comrades Marathon champion Tete Dijana, Namakoe Nkhasie of Lesotho, and Jesaja Matheus of Namibia. On the women's side, top contenders in-

clude Dikeledi Majara of Lesotho, Meseret Biru Fita of Ethiopia, and Siftolina Daba Chemenda, also from Ethiopia.

Fortune appealed for patience and cooperation from the public and encouraged residents along the route to come out and cheer the runners, showcasing Kimberley's renowned warm hospitality.

"Residents and motorists are advised that several intersections along the race route will be affected

by marathon activity. Roads will not necessarily be closed but will be manned by traffic officials to ensure traffic flow and runner safety," he added.

Major routes affected include Oliver Road, Landbou Road, the R31 towards Barkly West, Green Street, Sechowareng, Hulana Road, Seleke Street, Barkly Road, Cecil Sussman Road, Phakamile Mabija Road, Hull Street (Boshoff Road), and Long Street.

In line with supporting local economic development, organisers ensured that two-thirds of all race-related goods and services were procured locally, directly benefiting Kimberley-based businesses and strengthening community participation.

The marathon has drawn over 2 300 athletes across all race categories.

The event features a substantial prize purse, with the men's and women's overall winners each receiving R200 000, while second and third places will take home R70 000 and R30 000, respectively. Prize money extends to the top 10 finishers in the 42.2 km race, with rewards also allocated to top performers in the 5 km, 10 km, and 21 km events.

An additional R50 000 incentive has been set aside for the first Northern Cape male and female finishers affiliated with Athletics Griqualand West or the North West Cape Federation.