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ANC FACES CRUCIAL MANIFESTO TEST



Party pressured to present visionary policy statement that will appeal to disillusioned voters while evading the temptation to revert to 'baseless' rhetoric

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Mabuyane Sounds Alarm Over 'Counter-Revolutionary Tendencies'

Reinstated PEC faces fresh court challenge as political tensions mount

By JN Reporter

Eastern Cape's political storm is gathering pace, with Premier and ANC provincial chairperson Oscar Mabuyane warning against "counter-revolutionary tendencies" as the party's reinstated Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) faces a fresh court battle.



Mabuyane's warning comes amid renewed uncertainty over the ANC's provincial leadership. The reinstated PEC is facing another legal challenge, while the party awaits a Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) decision next week on the legal dispute surrounding its Provincial Task Team (PTT).

Following Wednesday morning's announcement of the PEC's reinstatement, a group challenging Mabuyane's leadership collective has threatened to launch another court challenge, demanding that the reinstatement be withdrawn within seven days.

Mabuyane, however, warned that no court could amend the ANC Constitution or determine the party's leadership structures.

"We are dealing with counter-revolution here, and all ANC members must be ready to look at this as counter-revolutionary. Genuine members of the ANC will remain in the organisation and ensure growth of the organisation moving forward," said Mabuyane.

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Mabuyane Sounds Alarm Over 'Counter-Revolutionary Tendencies'

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He said the reinstatement of the PEC presented the party with another opportunity to lead the people of the Eastern Cape and prepare for the upcoming local government elections in November.

"I want to be optimistic that this is another opportunity that is given to us to lead the people of the Eastern Cape. We are preparing ourselves to hit the ground running because I think the vacuum has been felt quite hugely. We have been grappling in terms of navigating the challenges we have been having and I want everybody to embrace the intervention that is meant to help the ANC to move forward to try to strengthen our programme for the elections.

"We have got elections coming, let's focus on elections. We are all volunteers of the ANC. We want to see people on the ground. People must be volunteers because they are leaders," he said.

ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula announced the reinstatement of the PEC on Wednesday after petitioning the SCA to overturn a judgment handed down by the High Court in Makhandha, which nullified the party's Provincial Task Team.

However, the reinstatement has already triggered fresh opposition.

In a letter to Mbalula, Eastern Cape ANC member Luntu Sokutu argued that the PEC's term of office expired on 8 May this year and that reinstating it without first holding a Provincial Elective Conference was unlawful and violated the ANC Constitution.

Sokutu said no individual or structure had the authority to extend the term of an expired structure.

"The reinstatement or recognition of a PEC, whose term of office has lapsed, is in violation of the ANC Constitution in particular and the intention of the letter is to ensure that the ANC does not violate its own Constitution. You serve powers that are not granted by the Constitution itself. The only way you can extend the term of office of any structure is to amend the Constitution and that can only be done at a national conference," he said.

ANC FACES CRUCIAL MANIFESTO TEST

ANC pressured to win back disillusioned voters as it prepares to announce mayoral candidates and launch manifesto

By Mpho Sekharume

The African National Congress (ANC) finds itself at another crucial political juncture as anticipation builds ahead of its announcement of mayoral candidates this Saturday in Sandton and the subsequent launch of its party manifesto in Diepsloot on Sunday.

Having ceded sole power following the formation of a government of national unity after the 2024 general elections, the ruling party stands at another precipice of power with its electoral popularity widely perceived to be waning.

Building up to this weekend's events, political detractors pre-empt that the party will present recycled versions of its previous manifestos. Citing municipal service delivery failures - largely attributed to widespread corruption across various councils where the party governs - political commentators have raised questions on whether the ANC will introduce vision-ary milestones or repeat familiar political rhetoric.

In defence of its governance record leading up to the mayor candidates' unveilings, the ANC hosted two media briefing sessions on 12 and 16 August 2026 to review its previous 2021 local government elections manifesto.

The party used the review sessions to present its achievements under the theme Building Better Communities Together: A People's Plan for a Better Life for All, while serving as the launchpad for this weekend's activities.

Following the briefings, the ANC emphasised its commitment to its inclusive approach that saw them



Sink or Swim ... The ANC is pressured to deliver a realistic manifesto to try recover its disillusioned and diminishing voter base. Pictures: Bloomberg

open the candidacy platform to party outsiders.

"The Mayoral Candidate announcement will provide an opportunity for the ANC to introduce the men and women who will carry the organisation's mandate of building capable, accountable and responsive local government," the party said in an official statement.

It continued: "The event forms part of the ANC's commitment to presenting communities with leadership that is ready to serve, rebuild confidence and accelerate the delivery of better communities."

Outlining the background of its policy platform, the party stated:

The ANC further outlined that its 2026 manifesto is informed by extensive consultation with communities; an assessment of the implementation of the 2021 Local Government Elections Manifesto, as well as the ANC's vision to strengthen local government and improve the quality of life of all South Africans.

The latest manifesto is therefore expected to echo those briefing sessions, focusing on planned strides in housing provision, power grid stability, and water access, amongst others.

Navigating the administrative complexities brought about by fragile local coalition governments across major councils is also expected to feature significantly in the party's policy statement ahead of the 4 November 2026 local polls.

University of the Free State (UFS) academic and political commentator, Professor Sethulego Matebesi, believes the governing party faces the difficult task of aligning its pledges with visible municipal performance.

"You need to align service delivery with what you are doing and what you are promising. And I think that's where the difficulty will come for the African National Congress," he said.

In an interview with Journal News Network, Mate-

besi noted that the ANC has maintained ideological consistency across successive democratic election cycles, highlighting that policy design remains thoroughly articulated in the party's published and widely accessible foundational documents.

Matebesi, however, cautions that a persistent gap remains between technical document design and the practical realities experienced by citizens on the ground.

He views severe infrastructure decay and municipal instability in urban centres as key drivers of widespread voter frustration.

"The manifestos are well-clearly articulated, what the party wants to achieve. But then you go to observe anywhere where the ANC is in power, then you get a completely different picture," he stated.

Matebesi expects the manifesto to publicly acknowledge existing governance flaws and propose corrective remedies - an attribute the ANC has become renowned for.

He emphasizes that while many citizens still regard the party as dominant, electoral support is no longer guaranteed. He believes the ANC's electoral prospects remain complex as service delivery breakdowns and corruption allegations continue to erode core support. According to Matebesi, another major risk involves alienated voters choosing total political apathy over supporting opposition parties.

"They are sitting at home to say, 'I've washed my hands with politics... because I've been so disappointed by one and the only party that I know,'" Matebesi noted.

The ANC has since adopted an inclusive candidate selection process allowing public participation in councillor nominations as a direct response to the growing voter disillusionment.

Matebesi considers this public nomination process a strategic step that may potentially succeed in rebuilding public trust.

"It was a masterclass from the ANC to reach out to communities to say, irrespective of who you are, when it comes to our candidate, you've got an opportunity to either stand or you have an opportunity to support whoever stands," he concluded.

FMD cases climb to 770 in Free State

Six new infections reported as department urges livestock owners to strengthen biosecurity



By Matshidiso Selebeleng

Almost a year after the introduction of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine in South Africa, new infections continue to emerge in the Free State, with six additional cases reported in the province.

The Free State Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs said the latest cases have pushed the total number of confirmed infections in the province to 770. Of these, 550 cases have been resolved.

The disease has affected 19 municipalities, with Mqohaka Local Municipality the hardest hit, recording 125 confirmed cases. Ngwathe follows with 96 cases, while Mafube has recorded 81.

Department spokesperson Modiehi Moeng said vaccination efforts are continuing in line with the national FMD control strategy.

"Vaccination continues to be implemented in accordance with the national Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control strategy, with priority being given to infected premises, neighbouring farms, epidemiologically linked properties and other high-risk areas identified through veterinary risk assessments," said Moeng.

She said applications for vaccination remain open, with the department continuing to receive a high number of requests.

To date, 1 485 340 cattle have been vaccinated using the Biogenesis Bago and Dollvet vaccines.

However, the department has raised concerns over the failure by some livestock owners to report suspected cases, warning that this places other animals at risk and hampers efforts to contain the disease.

"Failure to report suspected cases not only constitutes a contravention of the Animal Diseases Act but also compromises the department's ability to

accurately assess the disease situation, implement effective control measures and limit further spread of the disease," said Moeng.

The department has also noted a decline in adherence to basic biosecurity measures on some farms.

"Such non-compliance increases the risk of disease transmission between neighbouring properties and may undermine ongoing efforts to contain the outbreak," she said.

The department urged livestock owners and other stakeholders to immediately report suspected cases to the nearest State Veterinary office on the same day the disease is suspected.

Affected animals must be isolated, while the movement of cloven-hoofed animals, animal products, vehicles, equipment and potentially contaminated materials from affected premises must be prevented.

Stakeholders have also been urged to restrict unnecessary access to livestock premises and implement strict biosecurity measures, including keeping visitor records and cleaning and disinfecting vehicles, equipment, clothing and footwear entering or leaving livestock properties.

The department further stressed that livestock movements from quarantined premises may only take place with written permission from the State Veterinarian and must be accompanied by the prescribed Veterinary Red Cross Permit and all required movement documentation.

Livestock owners are also encouraged to maintain accurate records of animal identification, vaccination history and movements to support traceability and disease investigations.

Moeng urged all stakeholders to comply with quarantine notices, movement restrictions and biosecurity requirements until these are officially withdrawn by Veterinary Services

CRIME REPORTS

84-year-old man gets life for raping eight-year-old

An 84-year-old man has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the Bloemfontein Regional Court for raping an eight-year-old girl in Petrusburg.

The court sentenced him on Wednesday to life for rape, with an additional 15 years for sexual exploitation and four years for causing a child to witness sexual acts. He was also ordered to be placed on the Register for Sexual Offenders and declared unfit to work with children.

The sentence was delivered via audio-visual link from hospital, where he remains under guard while awaiting surgery.

The case came to light in July 2024 after a teacher became concerned that the girl was being abused. The child told authorities that "Oom Bennie steeka

haar" and demonstrated sexual movements when asked to explain.

She alleged that the accused gave her and her friends treats and allowed them to swim before taking her to his bedroom, where he raped her while other children watched.

Her account was corroborated by two friends who witnessed the attacks, while medical evidence supported her testimony.

The accused claimed the children had been coached, but the court rejected his version.

Despite his attorney's plea for leniency because of his age and health, the court found no grounds to depart from the prescribed minimum sentences, ruling that his age did not lessen the seriousness of his crimes or the threat he posed to children.

Hitchhiker robbery ends in three arrests

Three suspects have been arrested after a woman hitchhiking from Wolmaransstad to Vryburg was allegedly robbed at gunpoint after accepting a lift from occupants of a white Volkswagen Polo.

Police said the suspects, two men and a woman aged between 26 and 39, were traced to Makwasie following the incident on Wednesday afternoon along the Wolmaransstad/Schweizer-Reneke Road.

According to police, about three kilometres outside Wolmaransstad, the driver allegedly pointed what appeared to be a firearm at the victim and demanded her money and personal belongings before dropping her off in an isolated area.

However, the victim had managed to conceal her cellphone and photograph the vehicle. The photo-

graph was circulated through community groups, prompting police to issue a lookout for the vehicle.

Following information received, police swiftly traced and arrested the three suspects in Makwasie. The victim's stolen property was also recovered.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the firearm allegedly used during the robbery was an imitation firearm. Police said an additional charge in terms of the Firearms Control Act is expected to be added.

The owner of the vehicle has also been linked to an alleged business robbery that took place on 9 August 2026 along the Broadbent N12 in Wolmaransstad.

Police investigations are continuing.

Eight nabbed with AK-47 in suspected robbery plot

Eight suspects, aged between 19 and 31, have been arrested after police allegedly foiled a planned robbery in the Delareyville policing precinct on Wednesday evening.

The arrests followed a tip-off received by the Delareyville Detective Unit, Crime Prevention Unit and Mahikeng Tactical Response Team (TRT), who intercepted a vehicle matching the description provided along the Sannieshof/Ottosdal road.

A search of the vehicle uncovered an AK-47 rifle with ammunition and two pistols, one of which was found with ammunition.

Police said the suspects could not provide a satisfactory explanation for possessing the firearms and ammunition. They were subsequently arrested and charged with possession of unlicensed firearms and

ammunition.

The recovered firearms will undergo ballistic testing and analysis to establish whether they have been linked to other crimes.

The suspects are expected to appear before the Delareyville Magistrate's Court on Friday, 21 August 2026.

North West Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Arthur Adams commended the police officer who received and relayed the information, enabling officers to act swiftly and allegedly prevent the planned robbery.

Adams praised the officer's alertness and commitment to intelligence-driven policing, stressing that credible information is vital in disrupting criminal activities and keeping communities safe.

Okiep drug bust nets two suspects

Two suspects have been arrested after police seized suspected tik and mandrax worth an estimated R3 824 during an operation in Okiep on Thursday.

The arrests form part of ongoing efforts by the Namakwa District Task Team to disrupt the illegal drug trade under Operation Shanella II.

Police, together with members of the District Crime Intelligence unit, executed a search and seizure warrant at a residence in The Hill, Okiep, following information linking the property to suspected drug dealing.

Two people were found at the premises when police arrived. A search subsequently led to the discov-

ery of a quantity of suspected tik and mandrax, along with cash believed to be proceeds from illegal drug sales. A 28-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman were arrested and face charges of dealing in drugs. They remain in custody and are expected to appear before the Springbok Magistrate's Court soon.

Namakwa District Commissioner Brigadier Schalk Andrews commended the police for their swift action and said operations targeting drug trafficking would remain a priority.

Andrews warned drug dealers and distributors that police would continue pursuing those involved in activities that contribute to drug-related harm in communities.

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DA Unveils Ward Candidates, Vows to Fix Mangaung

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

With less than 100 days to go before the much-anticipated local government elections (LGE) on 4 November, the Democratic Alliance (DA) in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality and Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality has launched its ward candidates, signalling its readiness for the elections.

Last Saturday, the party launched 51 candidates who will contest wards across Mangaung Metro, while 35 candidates were launched on Monday for Maluti-a-Phofung (MAP).

Mangaung Ward 23 candidate Tjaart van der Walt, whose ward includes Universitas, Brandwag and Parkweg in Bloemfontein, expressed satisfaction at having another opportunity to continue his fight for better and safer neighbourhoods.

"We want to change the systems in Mangaung that are broken so that we can fix the entire Mangaung.

"Every single neighbourhood has problems with crime, safety, unemployment and basic service delivery, such as water supply and sewerage running in the streets," he said.

Van der Walt said the current municipal leadership was unable to address problems at ward level and urged residents to vote the DA into power, saying the party had a plan to get the municipality working again.

Selma Pretorius, who is serving her second term as Ward 44 councillor, is also contesting the ward again. The ward includes Olive Hill, Bayswater and Noordhoek, among other areas.

Pretorius said she would continue focusing on the daily challenges facing residents.

"I call them bread-and-butter issues, the issues that you feel on your skin every day – water, electricity, refuse removal, everything that affects you and me every day," she said.

Under the theme "To Get Mangaung Working for All", the DA has pledged to



fix the city's finances, deliver reliable water and electricity, build a clean, safe and corruption-free city, repair roads and potholes faster, and create jobs and economic opportunities.

During his keynote address, the party's mayoral candidate, Werner Pretorius, said Mangaung was broken under the current leadership and that the DA was the only party with solutions to revive the city and restore its former glory.

"I am here to talk about the next chapter of Mangaung, the chapter of growth, the chapter of opportunity.

"The chapter of a working Mangaung for every resident.

"I am here to talk about the DA being ready to govern this city. Today I stand before you with this immense and capable team of united, strong and diverse ward candidates that will take our city to the next level and ensure our city works for everyone," he said.

Pretorius said the DA was not there to make promises, but to make a commitment to the people of Mangaung and launch a movement that would get the city back on its feet.

Leboneng Hostel Project Nears Finish Line



The hostel, designed to accommodate learners with special educational needs. Pictures: Supplied

By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

Construction of the Leboneng Special School hostel in Welkom is entering its final phase, with learners already benefiting from newly completed boarding facilities ahead of the project's expected completion by the end of October 2026.

The hostel, designed to accommodate learners with special educational needs, comprises 32 dormitories with capacity for 98 boys and 98 girls. Supporting facilities include a kitchen, dining and multi-purpose hall, laundry and other essential infrastructure.

Water and electricity have been connected, while sectional completion allowed learners to occupy the boys' section from February 2026. Learner numbers have since increased, while construction continues on the remaining facilities, including the dining hall, kitchen and laundry.

The project formed part of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) oversight visit to the Free State from 18 to 20 August 2026. Welcoming NCOP members on the first day, Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae reaffirmed the province's commitment to accelerating infrastructure

delivery.

The Premier said projects in Welkom, including the Leboneng hostel, formed part of broader efforts to strengthen service delivery, improve monitoring and ensure public resources translate into tangible benefits for communities.

"We must ensure accountability and that the findings of oversight translate into improved outcomes for our citizens," she emphasised.

The need for improved school infrastructure in the Free State has been highlighted over the years. Provincial records previously indicated that 156 schools had pit latrines, including 51 in Thabo Mofutsanyana, 43 in Fezile Dabi, 39 in Lejweleputswa, 20 in Mangaung and three in Xhariep.

The province has also invested in boarding facilities for learners. By 2019, 37 hostels had been built across the Free State, while four additional hostel projects were identified under the 2019/20 infrastructure programme, including Leboneng Special School.

The infrastructure programme is complemented by efforts to strengthen the province's teaching workforce.

Previous provincial figures recorded 20,279 educators across schools, with 2,271

Heilbron Transition Takes Centre Stage



Ngwathe Municipal Manager, Dr Futhuli Mothamaha together with administrator, Dr. Solly Motingoe. Pictures: Facebook/Ngwathe

By JN Reporter

The future of Heilbron took centre stage as Ngwathe Local Municipality hosted Metsimaholo Local Municipality for a crucial consultative meeting on the proposed incorporation of Heilbron into Metsimaholo.

The engagement brought together senior municipal leadership and key officials to ensure that the proposed transition is guided by proper planning, coordination, consultation and institutional readiness.

According to COGTA's Dr. Solly Motingoe, who is also the Ngwathe Administrator, bringing the two municipalities together is critical to ensuring that all stakeholders are aligned ahead of the proposed transition.

"Bringing together senior leadership and key officials to ensure that the proposed transition is approached through proper planning, coordination, consultation and institutional readiness in both municipali-

ties is fundamentally important to ensure that all involved stakeholders are on the same page," said Dr Motingoe.

Ngwathe Municipal Manager Dr Futhuli Mothamaha, together with senior managers and officials from both municipalities, participated in the engagement.

The meeting provided a platform for various workstream champions to outline their responsibilities and report on preparations aimed at ensuring a smooth transition should the incorporation proceed.

"The meeting provided a crucial platform for the various workstream champions to present their respective areas of responsibility and outline the work being undertaken to prepare for the proposed transition in a smooth manner," said Dr Mothamaha. Key presentations focused on Information and Communication Technology (ICT), communications, human resources, the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and other critical municipal functions.

Officials stressed that the proposed transition goes beyond redrawing municipal boundaries.

It involves the integration of systems, people, services and resources while safeguarding institutional continuity.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of placing communities at the centre of the process and ensuring that municipal services are strengthened rather than disrupted.

The engagements between Metsimaholo and Ngwathe signal a concerted effort to ensure that, should the incorporation go ahead, Heilbron's transition is carefully planned, coordinated and responsive to the needs of residents.

The message emerging from the meeting was clear: cooperation, institutional preparedness and community-centred planning will be critical in laying the foundation for a seamless transition and stronger local government.



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Dikwena Tailings Collapse Raises Safety Concerns

By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

Earlier this month South Africa South Africa was confronted with another yet industrial disaster, this time at the Samancor Dikwena Chrome mine outside Brits in the North West province where mine wall tailings collapsed leaving hundreds of community members stranded with no homes and no transportation.

The Dikwena Chrome released a large volume of mining slurry where material flowed across the R566 towards Northam Platinum's Eland Mine, disrupting access to the mine and damaging infrastructure in the surrounding area.

The Dikwena collapse also comes just weeks before the fourth anniversary of the Jagersfontein tailings disaster in Free State on 11 September 2022, where five people were killed and scores of homes destroyed.

The Dikwena incident has raised fresh concerns about the safety and management of tailings storage facilities. Footage from the site shows a trail of sludge extending across the surrounding landscape, while reports indicate that the collapse damaged Eskom power infrastructure and caused electricity interruptions in Brits, Hennops and surrounding areas.

Eskom, with assistance from Samancor Dikwena Chrome, began working to gain access to damaged poles and restore the affected network. The muddy

and slippery conditions complicated the repair work. The Department of Water and Sanitation and the Limpopo-Olifants Catchment Management Agency were notified of the breach at approximately 17:30 on 13 August and engineers from the department's Dam Safety Regulation unit, together with officials from the catchment agency and the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, subsequently assessed the site and the impact of the incident.

The Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Minister Gwede Mantashe said that seepage had reportedly been identified at the facility approximately three months before the failure. According to Mantashe, the problem was not addressed decisively, and the situation was allowed to deteriorate.

He also criticised the supervision of contractors working on the tailings facility, describing the handling of the facility as reckless. "We are very lucky that there is no fatality. Authorities and the mine should have acted more proactively to prevent the incident," said Mantashe.

The collapse has also raised questions about regulatory compliance and the status of the facility under South Africa's water and mining legislation. The Civil Society Tailings Working Group is therefore calling for urgent action and immediate scene management to secure the site and protect surrounding communities and emergency responders.

The society made an independent public inquiry into the structural integrity and management of the Dikwena facility.

These questions must be answered transparently and independently. Any investigation must establish when warning signs were first detected, what remedial measures were recommended, who was responsible for implementing them, whether those measures were implemented, and whether regulators were properly informed.

"It is not enough to wait for an incident and then investigate its consequences. Tailings facilities require continuous monitoring, competent engineering oversight and decisive intervention when signs of instability emerge. "Under Chapter 12 of the National Water Act of 1998, tailings facilities meeting safety risk criteria such as wall height and storage capacity must be registered and managed under strict engineering standards. The last updated dams register (July 2025) does not include this tailings facility as a registered facility, which must be remedied.

"We are calling for immediate action, including securing the site to protect communities and emergency responders from further harm," said Hassan Lorgat, Convenor of the South African civil society tailings working group.

"The absence of fatalities should not become an excuse to minimise what happened. It should instead be understood as a warning and a narrow escape, the society said.

DA to lay charges against municipal managers



By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

In their bid to continue holding leaders accountable for deteriorating municipalities, the Democratic Alliance (DA) is set to lay criminal charges against four Free State municipal managers for failing to manage municipalities' finances.

The municipal managers, are Majalefa Matlole of Masilonyana municipality, Mokete Solomon Nhlapo of Nketoana municipality, Mopedi Mohale of Mokare municipality and Matthews Mofokeng of Maluti-A-Phofung,

DA Parliamentary Leader George Michalakis said that over the next two weeks he will be laying charges across the country.

Michalakis emphasized that the failures of these municipal managers infringe on basic human rights due to the dire consequences they impose on residents, who deserve better treatment from their leaders. He also stated that the ANC has historically "recycled" failing officials by moving them between different State roles.

"Poor administration of municipal services affects every individual directly: no water, housing, electricity, sewage, or refuse removal. People experience it every day. These infringe on the basic human rights of every individual in those municipalities, and many others across the country," he said.

Michalakis said the party identified these officials as repeat offenders based on findings contained in

auditor-general (AG) reports, adding that in several cases, municipalities had recorded consecutive years of disclaimer opinions and failed to implement AG recommendations

The DA also emphasized that the charges will be pursued under Section 173(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, which provides for offences relating to gross negligence, material accounting irregularities and providing false information to the auditor-general.

Michalakis said the only way to get municipalities working is to replace poor-performing and corrupt municipal officials with competent ones.

"The DA's plan is clear: appoint competent officials on merit, enforce accountability without exception, and professionalise municipal administration through continuous skills development. So the only solution is to vote the ANC out and the DA in on 4 November," he stated.

He says the culture of political protection and consequence-free mismanagement must end because South African citizens deserve municipalities that work, protect public money, and deliver basic services.

Other municipalities include Eastern Cape's Makana Local Municipality and Sundays River Valley Local Municipality. North West's Ditsobotla Local Municipality and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. Lastly, the Western Cape's Kannaland Local Municipality.

Sol Plaatjie Strengthens Electricity Supply in Galeshewe



By JN Reporter

The Sol Plaatjie Municipality has taken a significant step towards strengthening electricity supply in Galeshewe and surrounding communities following the delivery of a new 20 MVA transformer at the Galeshewe substation on Tuesday.

The transformer, which represents a major investment in the community, will undergo installation, testing and commissioning before being integrated into the municipal electricity network.

Sol Plaatjie spokesperson Thabo Mthibhi says once commissioned, the additional capacity will significantly strengthen the substation and improve the municipality's ability to provide a more reliable and stable electricity supply.

He says the new transformers will increase the capacity of the Galeshewe Substation and reduce pressure on existing infrastructure.

"This is particularly important during periods of high electricity demand, when the network experiences increased loading.

"With two 20 MVA transformers, the municipality will have greater operational flexibility to manage electricity demand, conduct planned maintenance and respond more effectively to faults, reducing the potential impact on residents and businesses.

"The additional capacity will also support the continued electrification of Marikana, new portions of Tshwaragano and Platfontein, with approximately 300 new household connections planned for the current financial year.

"This investment is therefore not only about strengthening existing infrastructure, but also about creating capacity for growing communities and extending access to reliable electricity services, said Mthibhi.

He says a stable electricity supply is fundamental to local economic development supporting businesses, schools, community facilities and households.

"The new transformer provides important redundancy at the Galeshewe Substation, and gives the municipality greater flexibility when responding to emergencies, equipment faults and maintenance requirements.

"It also strengthens the Municipality's ability to accommodate future growth and new developments in Galeshewe and surrounding areas while maintaining network stability.

"The arrival of this transformer is a clear demonstration that we are investing in the infrastructure that matters most to our communities.

"Reliable electricity is not a luxury, it is fundamental to the functioning of households, businesses, schools and our local economy.

"This investment will reduce pressure on our existing infrastructure, improve the resilience of the Galeshewe electricity network and, importantly, create additional capacity to connect more households.

"We are building an electricity network that is better prepared for the needs of our communities today and the growth of tomorrow, Mthibhi said.

He also said that the municipality will continue to prioritise infrastructure investment that improves the reliability of basic services, supports development and responds to the growing needs of communities across Sol Plaatjie.

NW tops provincial expanded unemployment figures



By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

Recent data from Statistics South Africa highlights that unemployment continues to be a big challenge in the North West province despite the province's status as a mining hub with the total employment in the province declining by about 15 000 jobs during the second quarter of 2026.

The North West has the highest unemployment statistics followed by Eastern Cape with 54% and Mpumalanga with 48%.

The official unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2026 was 38.1% in the North West while the expanded unemployment rate, which includes potential job seekers (LU3), reached 56.0%.

Economist Tony Modise has pointed out that mining does not automatically lead to widespread employment, as the industry is becoming increasingly capital, technology and skills-intensive.

"A mine can thus generate substantial economic value without employing as many people as labor-intensive sectors such as agriculture, construction, tourism, and small businesses," stated Modise.

While employment in the mining sector increased by approximately 8000 jobs quarter-on-quarter and by 14 000 year-on-year, this growth was insufficient to offset job losses in other areas of the provincial economy.

According to Modise, several factors contribute to the province's high unemployment rate.

He says the economy remains insufficiently diversified and heavily reliant on mining and government-related activities.

He says mining supply chains often fail to provide enough opportunities for local manufacturing, procurement, and small businesses.

"Rural communities are often situated far from major employment centers, and inadequate and ex-

pensive transportation limits access to jobs.

"Failures in municipal service delivery, deteriorating infrastructure, and uncertainty around electricity and water supplies further discourage private investment, he said..

Modise says this situation also affects the nation as a whole, as the North West is crucial due to its platinum group metals, chrome, agriculture, and related industries.

"There are broader social consequences. Prolonged unemployment increases poverty, inequality, household debt, and dependence on state support. It may also lead to increased crime, community instability, and migration to Gauteng and other economic centers, putting further pressure on housing, transportation, and municipal infrastructure in those areas," Modise explained.

He emphasized that South Africa cannot achieve meaningful national economic growth while large segments of its working-age population remain excluded from productive economic activity.

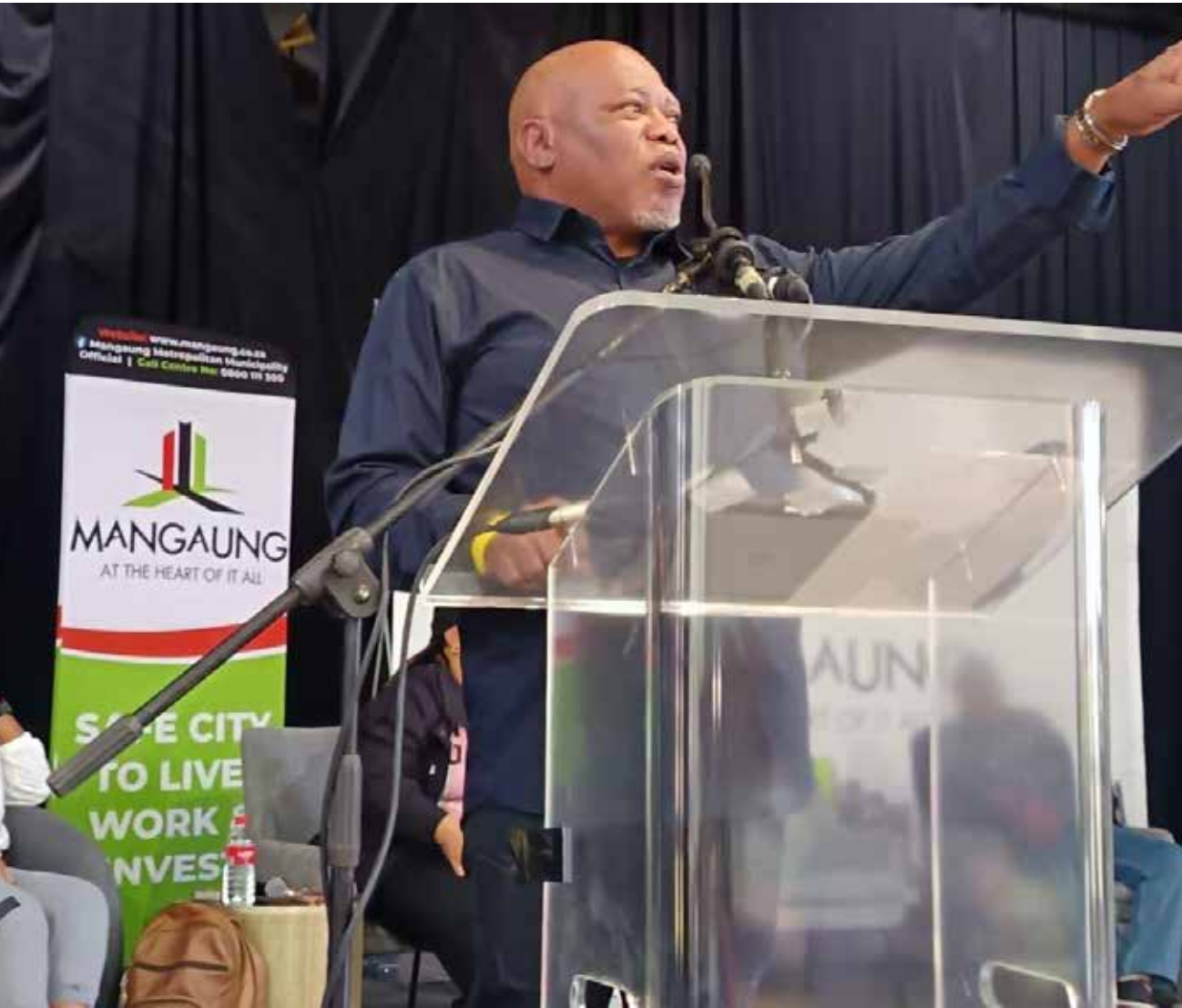
"The latest figures are deeply concerning. "Nationally, the official unemployment rate rose from 32.7% to 33.6%, with about 8.5 million people officially unemployed. The broader national LU3 rate reached 43.8%," he added.

Modise also said to improve the situation, the North West should reduce its reliance on primary mining by pursuing long-term economic diversification and industrialization.

"This includes developing local mineral beneficiation, attracting refineries and manufacturing firms, aligning skills training with real job opportunities, and securing competitive, reliable electricity.

"The province can also enhance municipal infrastructure, including water systems, roads, and services, to support investment. Mining procurement could be leveraged to grow local businesses, said Modise.

Mangaung Takes Voter Education to the People



Speaker of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Dr Lawrence Mathae. Pictures: Facebook/MMM

By JN Reporter

How well do Mangaung residents understand the voting process? That question took centre stage on Wednesday, 19 August 2026, when the Speaker of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Dr Lawrence Mathae, officially launched the municipality’s Voter Education Roadshow at Norman Dubell Hall in Heidedal, Bloemfontein.

The roadshow will be rolled out across all seven regions of Mangaung as part of efforts to equip residents with the knowledge they need ahead of the 2026 Local Government Elections.

The launch provided an opportunity for a two-way engagement between residents and electoral officials, focusing on common challenges experienced by voters. These included understanding the different types of elections, the number of ballot papers voters receive and how to correctly mark

a ballot paper.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) guided a packed hall through the voting process, explaining how it begins, proceeds and concludes, as well as the rules governing elections. Residents were also given clarity on why Mangaung falls under the “two-ballot” electoral system.

The IEC was joined by the Master of the High Court, Mangaung ward councillors, traditional leaders, Centlec, Human Settlements, the Financial Indigent Registration Office and external stakeholders, including FNB and Nedbank.

Delivering the keynote address, Mathae urged residents to recognise the power of their vote and their responsibility to hold elected representatives accountable.

“I am very grateful that we are here, all of us, to launch this event,” said Mathae. “We can decide who to vote and not to vote for. We can decide to exchange ideas because we are in different ward commit-

tees.”

He said residents had the right to demand quality service delivery from government and to replace leaders through the ballot box when they failed to meet their expectations.

“When we are registered, we have a right to criticise the government because it is us who elected them,” Mathae said.

His remarks echoed the theme of the 2026 Local Government Elections: “Your Vote. Your Voice. Your Future.”

The event also featured legendary Mangaung thespians Jerry Phela and Kgotsa Nkgatho, who entertained residents with a skit encouraging citizens to turn out in large numbers to vote, just as they do when taking to the streets to protest or march.

The roadshow is expected to continue across Mangaung’s seven regions, taking voter education directly to communities ahead of the elections.



MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT IDP/BUDGET AND PMS PROCESS PLAN 2027-2032 FOR COMMENTS

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 28(2) and section 29(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 read with the provisions of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003, that Matjhabeng Local Municipality intends to adopt its draft IDP/Budget and PMS Process Plan 2027-2032 financial years.

In terms of section 21(a) and (b) of Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000, Matjhabeng Local Municipality invite all stakeholders, community members, business organizations, national and provincial departments, interested and affected stakeholders to access the draft IDP/Budget and PMS Process Plan in places reflected below and submit comments or inputs to the office of the Municipal Manager.

The draft IDP/Budget and PMS Process Plan can be viewed at the following offices:

1. Head Office- Matjhabeng Local Municipality-main building
2. Odendaalsrus unit office
3. Hennenman unit office
4. Virginia unit office
5. All libraries within Matjhabeng Local Municipality
6. Municipal website: www.matjhabengmunicipality.co.za.

Those who cannot read and write will be assisted by submitting comments or inputs. For more information contact the IDP Acting Senior Admin Officer Me. Xoliswa Sejane at 057 492 0573. during office hours.

Dr. VUYO ADONIS
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Mmoho - Together - Sisonke - Tesame

MEC ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION WITH FARMERS



Date: 22 August 2026
Time: 10h00 - 12h00
Venue: Valhope Farm, Fauresmith



Ms Elzabe Rockman
MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs

 Free State Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs

 @fsdardea

 @fs_dardea



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REFLECT, RENEW, RECONSTRUCT

A FREE STATE THAT WORKS FOR ALL



agriculture, rural development and environmental affairs
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Diabetes Is Rising, But So Is The Need For Awareness

By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

Diabetes has officially overtaken tuberculosis and HIV as South Africa's leading underlying natural cause of death, highlighting the growing burden of non-communicable diseases on the country's healthcare system.

Recent mortality data from Statistics South Africa shows that diabetes mellitus accounted for approximately 27 000 deaths in 2023.

The figures point to a significant shift in South Africa's disease burden, with chronic conditions increasingly contributing to mortality.

Chairperson of the South African Medical Association (SAMA), Mvuyisi Mzukwa, says the development is a major concern and warns that diabetes should not simply be viewed as the result of individual lifestyle choices.

He identified factors including increasing obesity, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and high consumption of sugary drinks and processed foods as some of the issues contributing to the growing burden.

He also raised concerns that many people are diagnosed only after the disease has already caused serious complications.

"Chronic disease management must be strengthened at the primary health care level so that patients are diagnosed earlier and managed before they develop costly and life-threatening complications," he said.

Mzukwa also says more young people are facing diabetes.

"The growing number of younger people developing metabolic conditions is another concern.

"The earlier someone develops diabetes, the longer they are exposed to the risk of serious complications," Mzukwa said.

According to the International Diabetes Federation estimates approximately 2.3 million adults aged 20 to 79 in South Africa were living with diabetes in 2024, with the number projected to reach about 3.9 million by 2050 if current trends continue.

For people living with diabetes, however, the condition is about far more than statistics.

It can affect education, social relationships, mental wellbeing and everyday life.

One young South African knows this experience all too well.

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in June 2020 while in Grade 10, Paballo Moffat was just 15 years old when her life changed.

By the time she was diagnosed, she says she knew that the condition had already been present in her body for approximately six or seven months.

During that period, she visited doctors several times, but her symptoms were initially attributed to other illnesses.

"I had been going to the doctor a few times before, and they assumed that it was the flu or COVID, perhaps," she recalls.

She says her symptoms eventually became more severe and for about a month, she temporarily lost her eyesight every morning.

"When I told the doctor, that's when they thought to test for diabetes because they would not have assumed that I'd be diabetic, and that was my first ICU experience," she added.

At 15, she said, diabetes was simply not something people expected her to have, despite the symptoms she had been experiencing.

"Nobody would've ever associated me with diabetes, even though I displayed all the symptoms," she said.

Her diagnosis also exposed her to widespread misconceptions about the condition.

Returning to school was particularly difficult because many people did not understand the difference between the various types of diabetes.

She said some people even believed diabetes could be transmitted through close contact.

She explained that type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition in which the pancreas stops producing insulin, meaning people living with type 1 diabetes require insulin to survive.

"There are too many misconceptions about diabetes.

"Some people were under the impression that if they surrounded themselves with me, they'd also be infected, she said.

She believes one of the most important misconceptions to address is the idea that diabetes only affects older people or is simply caused by eating too much sugar.

"This can occur to anyone and has nothing to do with age or the amount of sugar a person eats," she said.

Learning to live differently. Following her diagnosis, she says she had to make significant changes to the way she lived.

With the support of her medical team, including dietitians, she learnt how to count carbohydrates, assess the food on her plate and calculate how much insulin she needed for each meal.

"I had to change my entire lifestyle and eating habits, from

the portion size to the way I prepare my meals, she said.

Managing diabetes also became part of her education.

During her matric year, she applied for special concessions to accommodate possible diabetes-related emergencies during examinations.

When it came time to pursue tertiary education, she chose to study online rather than attend university in person.

She said constantly having to explain her condition and the medical devices she used became emotionally draining. By then, she had moved from regular finger-prick testing to using glucose sensors to monitor her blood sugar levels.

She also had to disclose her condition to her institution, register with the disability support services and undergo medical clearance.

Despite these challenges, she stresses that diabetes does not prevent her from doing the things other young people can do.

Fighting stigma and finding community. The condition also affected her social life.

She became more antisocial and avoided romantic relationships, partly because managing diabetes and explaining her condition to others made it difficult to feel as though she could simply live like everyone else.

Online diabetes communities eventually provided a sense of belonging.

Through these communities, she connected with other people living with diabetes and began to understand that the condition did not define her identity.

"I am just a person living with diabetes," she said.

She later completed an online diabetes advocacy course and began supporting others on the same journey.

Today, she provides peer counselling, particularly to teenagers who have recently been diagnosed, while also assisting adults living with the condition.

Her message to newly diagnosed patients is simple that they are not

alone.

A call for greater awareness. Over time, she progressed to using an insulin pump after developing insulin resistance.

Her experience has strengthened her belief that South Africa urgently needs greater diabetes awareness.

She believes the lack of public knowledge can have serious consequences, particularly when people do not understand the type of diabetes they have or how it should be managed.

Mzukwa similarly argues that prevention and management cannot be left entirely to individuals.

Government, the food industry, schools, healthcare professionals and communities all have a role to play in creating healthier environments, he said.

She called for measures to discourage excessive sugar consumption, improve food labelling, regulate the marketing of unhealthy foods to children and make healthier food more affordable.

For individuals, he stressed the importance of early detection, particularly among people who are overweight, physically inactive, have high blood pressure or have a family history of diabetes.

Maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, eating a balanced diet and limiting sugary drinks and highly processed foods can help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

But for people living with type 1 diabetes, awareness must go further. It must include understanding that the condition can affect children and young people, that it is not contagious, and that it requires lifelong access to insulin and appropriate medical care.

For this young woman, raising awareness is now part of her own journey.

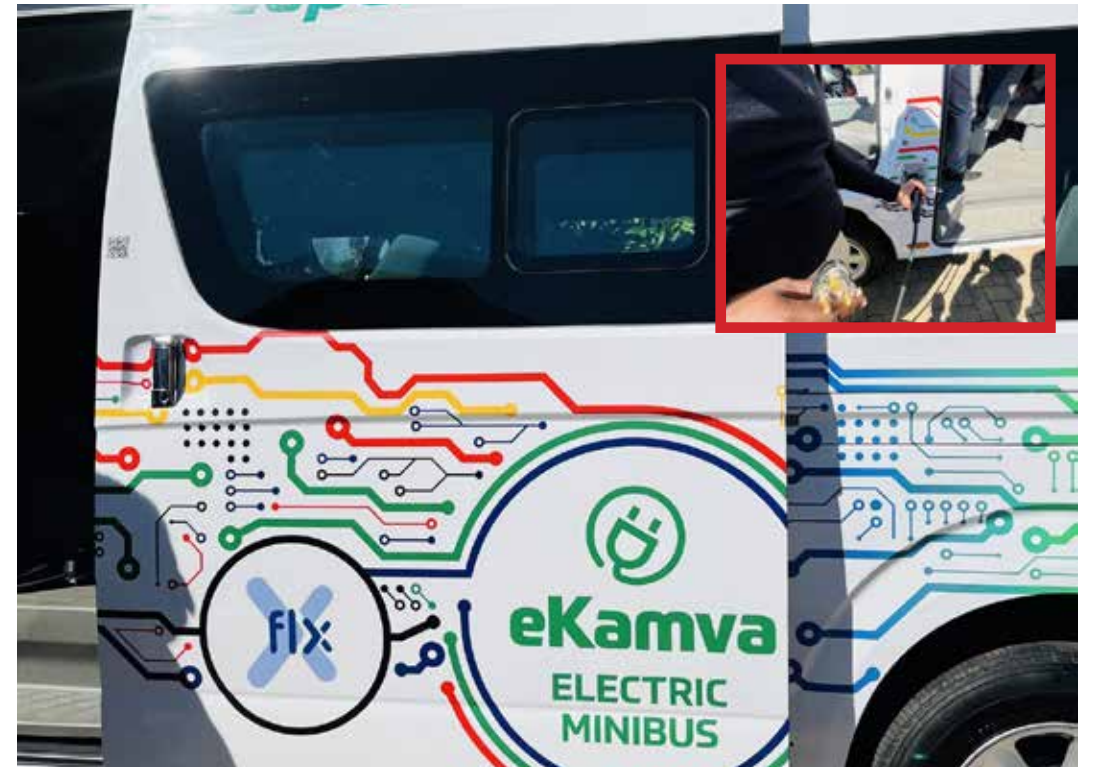
After years of learning to manage diabetes herself, she is using her experience to help others navigate diagnosis, treatment and the stigma that can accompany the condition.

According to Dr Elizabeth Cordier, a Family Medicine Registrar, you can have type 2 diabetes for years without experiencing noticeable symptoms, and many South Africans living with the condition may not even know they have it.

This makes waiting until you "feel sick" before getting tested a serious risk.

"A simple blood test can help detect diabetes early, particularly if you are overweight or have other risk factors such as high blood pressure, physical inactivity or a family history of diabetes. Early detection and treatment are important in reducing the risk of serious complications associated with the disease," she added.

Free State Unveils First Electric Minibus Taxi



The eKamva Electric Minibus Taxi was unveiled at SANTACO House in Bloemfontein as part of a national drive towards zero-emission public transport. Pictures: Katlego Mashwabi

By Gomolemo Winkel

The Free State has taken a step towards greener public transport with the unveiling of the province's first electric minibus taxi.

Ikamva Consulting Agency presented the eKamva Electric Minibus Taxi to the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) on Thursday at SANTACO House in Bloemfontein, showcasing a fully electric, zero-emission vehicle aimed at reducing carbon emissions while providing quieter and potentially more cost-effective public transport.

Ikamva Consulting founder and CEO Matshidikanye Moswane said the company partnered with electric vehicle manufacturer FLXEV because of its experience in the minibus taxi industry and public transport advisory services.

Moswane said the initiative supports South Africa's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Climate Agreement, while addressing the contribution of road transport to air pollution.

"Road transportation has been identified as one of the key contributors to air pollution, and the minibus taxi industry forms a significant part of the country's transport network," he said.

He stressed that the project was not aimed at targeting the taxi industry, but at supporting its transition from fossil-fuel-powered vehicles to hybrid or fully electric alternatives.

"We would like to help government, and particularly the taxi industry, in moving from internal combustion engines to hybrid or fully electric vehicles," Moswane said.

He explained that the vehicle unveiled in Bloemfontein is still a prototype and that the company is seeking input from taxi operators and commuters before finalising the design.

"One of the reasons we are demonstrating the vehicles across the country is to get input from the industry and users on what is good and what is not good," he said.

Moswane said government departments, the taxi industry and development finance institutions, including the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), could play a critical role in establishing local manufacturing and charging infrastructure.

He said discussions were already underway to establish solar-powered charging hubs, particularly in rural areas and along major national routes.

The vehicle is currently fully imported from China and costs approximately R850,000. However, Moswane said local assembly and manufacturing could bring down the price while creating jobs and developing local component manufacturing.

"It's a whole value chain that will sort of feed off once the vehicle is manufactured locally," he said.

Addressing concerns about the vehicle's durability, Moswane said it had been designed with South African conditions in mind. However, he acknowledged that further testing would be needed on rural roads and under different weather conditions before the vehicle could be commercially deployed.

"When we build this vehicle, we build it with the understanding that we are not a first-world country," he said, adding that the company wanted to ensure the final product could withstand the conditions in which South African taxis operate.

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Paballo Moffat was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in June 2020 while in Grade 10. Picture: Supplied

Motsumi Takes Helm of North West Legislature



By Nonkululeko Ngubeni

Former North West MEC for education, Viola Ntsekatso Motsumi has begun a new chapter in her political career after being elected Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature (NWPL), becoming the eighth person to occupy the position since the advent of democracy in 1994.

Motsumi was elected during a Special Sitting convened to appoint a new Speaker. Her election is also historic as she becomes the first former Deputy Speaker of the North West Legislature to rise to the position.

In her maiden address, Motsumi pledged to protect the dignity and constitutional authority of the Legislature while ensuring that Members of the Provincial Legislature (MPLs) can exercise their rights and participate meaningfully in debates and oversight.

She also committed to presiding over the House fairly and impartially, regardless of political affiliation, while emphasising the Legislature's constitutional duty to hold the Executive accountable.

"Oversight is not hostility. Accountability is not an act of opposition and scrutiny is not disrespect. A strong legislature does not weaken government. A strong legislature helps government govern better," she said.

Motsumi said she would foster an environment where members can ask difficult questions, disagree and engage in robust debate while respecting the Constitution, the Rules of the House and the dignity of the institution.

She further stressed the need for the Legislature

to remain connected to the everyday challenges facing residents, including unemployment, education, healthcare, roads, water, responsible use of public resources and service delivery.

According to Motsumi, the Legislature must continue taking Parliament to the people and ensure that citizens do not experience the institution as distant from their daily struggles.

"The Speaker's chair does not belong to the person who occupies it; it belongs to the institution, and the institution belongs to the people," she said.

Motsumi pledged to pursue an institutional rather than personal legacy, with a focus on making the Legislature more democratic, accessible, accountable and effective.

"I will seek to make this House larger than any of us. More democratic. More accessible. More effective. More worthy of the people of Bokone Bophirima," she said.

Following her election, Motsumi immediately assumed her first official responsibility by presiding over the swearing-in of Rosina Ntshetsana Komane as a new Member of the North West Provincial Legislature. Komane joins the Legislature as an Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) representative, filling the vacancy created by the death of fellow EFF member Primrose Bogatsu last month. Her swearing-in was conducted in terms of Section 107 of the Constitution.

The appointment ensures that the EFF's representation in the House remains intact.

Motsumi's election follows her tenure as MEC for Education in the North West, where she provided political leadership to the provincial Department of

Education.

North West Education Superintendent-General Lengane Bogatsu praised Motsumi for her leadership and contribution to the education sector.

"On behalf of the North West Department of Education, I would like to sincerely thank Ms Motsumi for her leadership, dedication and contribution during her tenure as MEC. Her guidance and commitment to the department are appreciated," Bogatsu said.

He said the department would continue working with learners, educators, parents, labour unions, officials and other stakeholders to advance education priorities and improve the province's performance in the National Senior Certificate examinations.

For Motsumi, the move from MEC to Speaker represents a continuation of her public service, but under a different constitutional mandate. Her responsibilities now include safeguarding the integrity of the Legislature, facilitating effective debate and ensuring that the institution fulfils its oversight and law-making functions.

Her maiden address signals an intention to place institutional independence, accountability and accessibility at the heart of her tenure.

She concluded by pledging to serve with humility, uphold the Rules of the House and defend the Legislature's constitutional authority, with the goal of leaving the institution stronger than she found it.

Her election therefore marks more than a change in leadership; it signals a renewed focus on the Legislature's role as a key institution through which the people of the North West can participate in democratic governance and hold government to account.

Bethlehem Businesses Busted in Consumer Compliance Crackdown



By JN Reporter

A joint compliance operation in Bethlehem has uncovered expired food, counterfeit goods and other illegal products, resulting in the closure of two premises as authorities stepped up efforts to protect consumers.

The National Consumer Commission, working with law enforcement and regulatory agencies, conducted inspections at supermarkets and other businesses across the town to assess compliance with consumer protection laws.

The operation also targeted panel beaters and spare shops, with the Motor Industry Ombudsman of South Africa (MIOSA) inspecting 15 businesses. Only six were found to be compliant, highlighting ongoing concerns within the motor industry.

Officials uncovered several contraventions, including the sale of expired food, dented canned goods, counterfeit products, counterfeit condoms and cigarettes that are not legally permitted for sale in South Africa.

Two premises, including a storeroom, were closed

following the findings. One shop owner was found in possession of an asylum seeker permit that had expired in 2022, while another business was found to be operating in contravention of applicable regulations. The storeroom contained expired products.

The operation brought together MIOSA, the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), the South African Police Service (SAPS), Crime Intelligence, Home Affairs Immigration Services, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Environmental Health Practitioners and Dihlabeng Local Municipality's Building Control and SMME Development units.

Authorities said the joint operation demonstrates their commitment to strengthening enforcement, protecting consumers and ensuring businesses comply with the law.

Businesses have been urged to comply with all relevant legislation and ensure that products meet required safety, quality and regulatory standards.

Consumers are encouraged to remain vigilant and report suspected violations to the relevant authorities.

More concessions, more 'untruthful' testimony from Fadiel Adams at Madlanga

National Coloured Congress (NCC) leader and Member of Parliament (MP) Fadiel Adams' allegations that senior police officials had interfered with criminal investigations and intercepted case dockets came under intense scrutiny at the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry.

Evidence leaders grilled him over his inability to provide any evidence for his claims.

On Thursday, Adams was testifying about charges he had laid against several senior police officials when he was referred to a letter he had written to suspended police minister, Senzo Mchunu. He did not provide details of what the charges were or who the officials were.

In the letter, Adams said he went to Johannesburg in November 2024, to open a case against the same officials after his initial case was supposedly 'intercepted' in Cape Town, in order to protect the individuals involved.

According to Adams, after travelling to Gauteng

and opening cases at Orlando police station, he had been informed that Gauteng police were following the same modus operandi he had alleged was used by police in the Western Cape.

He explained, "In my quest for justice, I travelled to Gauteng and opened the following cases as per Orlando SAPS (South African Police Service). However, I have also been notified that the Gauteng police followed the same modus operandi as the Western Cape PC and is interfering in the investigative process."

Advocate Lee Segeels-Ncube, who was leading evidence, questioned Adams about the basis for the allegation.

She pointed out that Adams had laid the charges on November 1, yet by 8 am the following morning, he was already claiming that Gauteng police were scuppering the investigation.

"You made these claims based on what?" Segeels-Ncube asked.

Adams said he had received the information from

the late general Andre Lincoln, whom he described as a person with insight into the matter.

According to Adams, Lincoln, the former head of the police's Anti-Gang Unit (AGU), served as his primary confidential source of information.

Adams maintained that police officers protect one another and alleged that the information provided by Lincoln had prompted him to approach Orlando SAPS.

"You cannot rely on a dead man every time" Segeels-Ncube rejected the explanation.

"No, Mr. Adams, you have the CASE numbers, you cannot rely on a dead man every time. It is unacceptable."

Segeels-Ncube then challenged the logic of Adams's account. "If we believe you, which I highly doubt that anyone does, that the Cape Town dockets were intercepted, you have now covered every base to make sure that Joburg dockets don't get intercepted. But the next day you say to the minister the same thing has happened," Segeels-Ncube said.

She further questioned whether Adams's version meant that Lincoln and witness G had somehow been responsible for the alleged interception.

Witness G, an anonymous Crime Intelligence officer, had testified in camera before the commission in May 2026.

Adams responded that Lincoln was in Cape Town and, because he had no legs, could not physically have intercepted the dockets.

That prompted further questioning from Segeels-Ncube. "And yet he knew that the dockets were intercepted?" she asked.

Adams clarified that Lincoln had told him police were attempting to repeat what had allegedly happened in Cape Town. Commissioner Sesi Baloyi then intervened, arguing that Adams's explanation appeared to contradict the wording of his own letter to the minister. "Then it means you lied when you said in the letter to the minister the Gauteng police are doing exactly what Cape Town police did," Baloyi said.

Adams conceded that the letter could have been worded differently.

"I could've written the letter better," he said.

Purpose of writing to Mchunu

The questioning then turned to Adams's purpose in writing directly to Minister Mchunu.

Adams said he expected the minister to refer the matter to either the Investigating Directorate for Anti-Corruption or the public prosecutor so that his allegations concerning the alleged interception of dockets and crime committed by police could be addressed.

However, Commission Chairperson Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga challenged Adams's explanation of what he expected the minister to do.

Madlanga suggested that Adams was not being truthful about his expectations and that, in reality, he wanted the police minister to intervene directly and resolve the matter within the SAPS.

Adams conceded, once again, to Madlanga's suggestion. **Sunday World**

National Youth Service Combating Youth Unemployment



As the Northern Cape Province hosts the National Youth Service Coordinators Forum this week, the National Youth Service Coordina-

tors from various provinces visited the Artisan Training Institute and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Academy in Kimberley, where the Northern Cape Department of Public Works is training young people to become professionally qualified welders, boilermakers, fitters and turners, as well as the air conditioning and refrigeration technicians.

The two day visit highlighted the importance of the NYS, under the auspices of the EPWP, in equipping unemployed young people with practical skills, internationally recognised qualifications and meaningful opportunities that can open doors to sustainable livelihoods.

Through initiatives such as the EPWP and National Youth Service, young people are empowered to develop their skills, gain valuable workplace experience and prepare for the world of work.

The Northern Cape DRPW remains a trendsetter in advancing youth development, skills training and economic opportunities for young people across the province. – **NC Public Works communications**

Tombstones Unveiling to honour Tshing fire victims

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

Three families in Tshing Township, Ventersdorp, will gather on Sunday to honour the memory of four children who died in a devastating house fire last August.

The children, aged 1, 5, 7 and 8, were attending a sleeper when the RDP house was engulfed in flames. One family lost two children in the tragedy.

As part of efforts to preserve the children's memory, the local ward councillor donated tombstones to the bereaved families.

The North West Provincial Council on AIDS (NWP-CA), in the Office of the Premier, together with private partners, will officially unveil the tombstones through Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi's Operation Dignity Programme.

The initiative will honour the Ntwagae, Kgosiemang and Twala families and forms part of ongoing efforts to restore dignity to vulnerable households across the



province.

NWPCA Programme Coordinator and spokesperson Neo Moepi said the initiative was among commitments made by Mokgosi during the provincial World AIDS Day 2024 and World TB Day 2025 commemorations.

"This flagship initiative is designed to provide decisive, coordinated, and targeted interventions to communities and households experiencing extreme poverty, vulnerability, and emergency conditions," said Moepi.

He said the programme had previously facilitated the erection of tombstones in several districts and had expanded to address broader societal needs.

Moepi added that Operation Dignity would continue using a multi-sectoral approach involving government, civil society and the private sector.

The ceremony will be held at 07h00 on Sunday, 23 August 2026, in Tshing Township, Ventersdorp, under the JB Marks Local Municipality.

Opinion

Lusanda Madikane
Assistant, Directorate for International Partnerships and Relations



Women are called to lead in times of crisis

August is a month dedicated to honouring women who have led in times of crisis and hopelessness, when South Africa was fighting apartheid injustices, particularly under the pass laws. Women took a stand and declared: “Enough is enough”. The month also commemorates the historic 1956 Women’s March against the pass laws, led by Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa, and Sophia Williams-De Bruyn. It is not merely a time to honour women leaders but an opportunity to assess how far South Africa has progressed in embracing women as capable leaders. It is equally important to ask whether South Africa is truly prepared to be led by women in the digital era. It appears that women’s leadership receives public scrutiny from both women and men, suggesting that significant barriers to inclusive leadership remain.

Persistent barriers to women’s leadership

Women’s capabilities are persistently overlooked, as some men and women often refer to a courageous woman as a man, saying “Uyindoda” – “You are a man” when a woman takes on a leadership role. This suggests that even women themselves doubt their capabilities and associate courage with

men. Patriarchy remains one of the most persistent structural barriers affecting women’s advancement, and it is a struggle to dismantle it. Some argue that women now enjoy greater opportunities, yet the continued existence of feminist movements reflects ongoing struggles for equality and representation. As long as stereotypes portray women’s leadership as emotional and men’s leadership as rational, genuine leadership equality will remain difficult to achieve. The high number of reported workplace sexual harassment cases further undermines women’s ability to compete equally for leadership positions, because these cases prove that men continue to exercise power over women in the workplace. Many women leaders continue to face pressure to tolerate hostile workplace environments or risk professional marginalisation. This also raises the question: do women in the contemporary era face barriers that differ from those confronted by Ngoyi’s generation, and are we doing enough to address this?

The role of young women in shaping South Africa’s future

The women of 1956 have passed the baton to the

women of the digital era, to lead courageously and eradicate the barriers that hindered and suppressed them during the apartheid regime. Although more young women are entering leadership spaces, relatively few reach senior leadership positions and remain there. Those who succeed are often portrayed negatively or subjected to intense criticism. Constant scrutiny can force women leaders into a defensive leadership style that is focused on survival rather than innovation. Young female leaders, together with institutions and society, have a responsibility to challenge barriers that continue to restrict women’s leadership.

Women are often recognised as effective leaders during periods of crisis, particularly when institutions require stability and credibility. This was evident when Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was called to lead the country during a crisis. Her appointment occurred during a major political crisis within the ANC and government, and she stepped into a highly contested and unstable position rather than inheriting a stable office. Mlambo-Ngcuka was called upon not simply because the country was ready for a woman deputy president, but because leadership

needed someone to restore credibility and stability after the Zuma scandal. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, as Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, became a central figure responsible for managing lockdown regulations and disaster governance. She was effectively tasked with steering one of the most difficult governance challenges in post-apartheid South Africa. These examples suggest that women are frequently entrusted with leadership responsibilities when institutions face uncertainty, reputational damage, or governance challenges. Unless attitudes toward women’s leadership change, women risk being viewed primarily as crisis managers rather than leaders capable of guiding institutions during both stability and adversity. Leadership scholars describe this phenomenon as the “glass cliff”, when women are more likely to be appointed to leadership positions during periods of crisis or instability, when the likelihood of failure is highest. Rather than being trusted with leadership in ordinary circumstances, women are often called upon when institutions need rescuing.

Letter to the Editor

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



**Pastor
Motsamai Kareli**
Empowerment Ministries
International

THE 12TH OF JUNE 2026: WHEN A TRILLION-DOLLAR BARRIER WAS BROKEN — AND THE LESSONS WE MUST LEARN

There are certain dates that become permanently embedded in history because something happens on that day that changes the way humanity thinks. 12 June 2026 was one of those days. On that day, Forbes declared Elon Musk the world’s first trillionaire after SpaceX began trading publicly on Nasdaq. Forbes estimated his fortune at approximately \$1.1 trillion at the close of trading. A trillion dollars.

One thousand billion dollars.

For generations, the trillion-dollar mark existed largely as a theoretical number. Billionaires were already part of our economic vocabulary, but a trillionaire was something that belonged to another level of imagination. Then someone crossed the line. The barrier was broken. And when a barrier is broken for the first time, something important happens to humanity’s imagination: what was once considered impossible becomes possible. That is why 12 June 2026 should not simply be remembered as the day Elon Musk became a trillionaire. It should be remembered as the day a psychological ceiling was shattered. The question is no longer, “Can somebody become a trillionaire?” We already know the answer. Yes. The more important question is: Who will be next? And perhaps an even more important question for us in Africa is: What can we learn from the journey that took someone from billions to a trillion-dollar valuation?

IT DID NOT START WITH A TRILLION DOLLARS

One of the biggest mistakes we make when looking at extraordinary wealth is that we look at the destination and ignore the journey. When people hear “\$1.1 trillion,” they can easily imagine that Musk’s story is simply a story of extraordinary luck or extraordinary circumstances. But his wealth was built through years of creating and owning stakes in companies, particularly Tesla and SpaceX. Forbes notes that Musk first appeared on its annual billionaires list in 2012 with an estimated fortune of about \$2 billion. Think about that progression. \$2 billion. Then tens of billions. Then hundreds of billions. Then the trillion-dollar threshold. This is important because great wealth is usually accumulated through stages. You don’t have to become a billionaire tomorrow. You have to become better at creating value today. You don’t have to build a trillion-dollar company tomorrow. You have to learn how to build something valuable. And then you scale it. And then you scale again.

LESSON ONE: THINK BEYOND YOUR CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

One of the most powerful lessons from Musk’s journey is the importance of thinking beyond the limitations of your immediate environment. A person’s circumstances can become a prison if they become the limit of their imagination. If you grow up surrounded by poverty, you can begin to believe poverty is normal. If everyone around you is looking for employment, you may never consider creating employment. If everyone around you is thinking about surviving the month, you may never think about building an institution that will exist for generations. Your environment can explain where you are, but it must never determine where you can go. Musk repeatedly positioned himself around industries with enormous potential: electric vehicles, space technology, satellite communications and artificial intelligence.

The lesson is not that everyone must become Elon Musk. The lesson is that we must learn to think at a larger scale. Don’t only ask: “How can I make R20,000?” Ask: “What can I build that can eventually serve 20,000 people?” Don’t only ask: “How can I get a job?” Ask: “What problem can I solve that could create 1,000 jobs?” The size of

your vision influences the size of the problems you are willing to solve.

LESSON TWO: BECOME A LEARNING MACHINE

This may be one of the most important lessons of all. The size of your future is heavily influenced by the size of your knowledge. Musk’s businesses operate in technically complex industries. Tesla is involved in electric vehicles, batteries and energy products, while SpaceX operates in the highly technical aerospace industry. You cannot build in an industry you refuse to understand. This is why I believe the next generation must become obsessed with learning. Read. Study. Ask questions. Find mentors. Learn technology. Learn economics. Learn business. Learn investment. Learn sales. Learn negotiation. Learn leadership. Learn artificial intelligence. Learn how capital works. Learn how companies are built. Learn how assets appreciate.

The wealthy do not simply work harder; they understand systems that produce wealth.

This is why I say: it is becoming easier to become wealthy, but only for those who are willing to learn. The world has never provided humanity with so many opportunities to access information. The challenge is no longer simply access to information. The challenge is what you do with it.

LESSON THREE: BUILD ASSETS, NOT JUST INCOME

This is perhaps the greatest financial lesson we can learn. There is a significant difference between earning money and owning wealth-producing assets. A person can earn a large salary and still remain financially fragile.

Another person can earn less but steadily accumulate ownership in businesses, property, intellectual property, investments and other productive assets. Musk’s wealth illustrates this distinction very clearly. His trillion-dollar status did not mean he had \$1.1 trillion sitting in a bank account. It was largely connected to the value of his ownership stakes in companies. Forbes reported that his SpaceX holdings alone represented hundreds of billions of dollars in estimated value. That is the lesson. Ownership matters. We must teach our children not only to get jobs but to eventually own something. Own shares. Own businesses. Own property. Own intellectual property. Own technology. Own brands. Own productive assets.

The objective should not simply be: “How much do I earn?” The better question is: “What do I own?”

LESSON FOUR: SOLVE BIG PROBLEMS

Extraordinary wealth is often connected to extraordinary value creation. The bigger the problem you can solve—and the more people you can solve it for—the greater the potential economic value. Tesla did not simply enter the automobile market. It positioned itself around electric vehicles, energy and related technologies.

SpaceX did not simply enter the aerospace industry. It pursued ambitious goals around reducing the cost and increasing the capabilities of space transportation.

The lesson for us is simple: Stop looking only for opportunities. Start looking for problems.

Where there is a problem, there may be an opportunity. South Africa has enormous problems.

Africa has enormous problems. Energy. Housing. Transport. Agriculture. Water. Healthcare. Education. Financial inclusion. Technology. Manufacturing. Waste management. Infrastructure. Digital services. These are not only social problems. They are also potential areas for innovation, enterprise and wealth creation.

Instead of asking: “Where can I find money?” Ask: “What problem can I solve so effectively that people will pay me to solve it?”

LESSON FIVE: THINK IN SCALE

One of the biggest differences between an

ordinary business and a potentially extraordinary business is scale. If you can serve ten people, your income is limited to ten people. If you can serve 10,000 people, your economic opportunity changes. If technology allows you to serve 10 million people, your entire economic model changes again. This is why technology has created enormous wealth. Technology allows a solution created once to potentially reach millions of people. We must therefore stop thinking only about small businesses that can feed one family. We must also begin thinking about businesses that can serve cities, countries and continents. Africa has 1.4 billion-plus people. That is not merely a population. That is a market. The African entrepreneur who learns how to solve African problems at scale will have access to extraordinary opportunities.

LESSON SIX: TAKE CALCULATED RISKS

There is no extraordinary achievement without risk. But there is an important distinction between reckless risk and calculated risk. Musk has repeatedly committed significant resources to ambitious ventures whose outcomes were uncertain. That does not mean we should imitate every decision he has made. It means we should understand that fear cannot become our permanent financial strategy. Many people will never build wealth because they are terrified of losing what they already have.

They never start. They never invest. They never build. They never innovate. They never enter new markets. They never employ anyone. They never attempt something significant. You cannot eliminate risk from entrepreneurship.

You can only learn to understand, manage and calculate it.

LESSON SEVEN: THINK LONG TERM

The wealthiest builders often think in years and decades rather than weeks. This is another lesson we need to recover. We live in a culture of instant gratification. People want to become rich quickly.

They want immediate returns. They want overnight success. But institutions are not built overnight. Companies are not built overnight. Generational wealth is not built overnight. A great business may take years before its full value becomes visible. Musk’s journey from a roughly \$2 billion estimated fortune in 2012 to the trillion-dollar threshold in 2026 represents more than a decade of business development and changing asset values. Do not underestimate what can happen when you work consistently for 10 or 20 years. Your first business may fail. Your second may struggle. Your third may teach you something your first two could not. Keep learning. Keep improving. Keep building.

LESSON EIGHT: DO NOT CONFUSE SETBACKS WITH FAILURE

There is another fascinating lesson in what happened after 12 June. Musk’s trillionaire status was not permanent. As SpaceX’s share price subsequently declined, Forbes reported that his estimated wealth fell below the trillion-dollar threshold. He later regained trillionaire status on 29 June as SpaceX and Tesla shares rallied. That teaches us something important: Even extraordinary wealth fluctuates. Success is not a straight line.

Markets move. Businesses struggle. Projects fail. Investments decline. Plans change. People criticize you.

The ability to continue learning and building despite setbacks is one of the greatest assets an entrepreneur can possess. Do not build your identity around a temporary financial position. Build your identity around your ability to create value.

LESSON NINE: BUILD A TEAM, NOT JUST A PERSONAL BRAND

No extraordinary enterprise is built by one person alone. Behind every major company are engineers, managers, developers, designers, financiers, lawyers, marketers, administrators and thousands of employees. This is especially important for African entrepreneurs. We often have a culture of trying to do everything ourselves.

We must learn to build teams. Find people who know what you do not know. Find people who are

better than you in particular areas. Give people responsibility. Build systems. Delegate. Develop leaders. Create institutions that can continue functioning even when you are not present. Your personal capacity limits your business until you build organisational capacity.

LESSON TEN: BREAK THE MILLION-BARRIER BEFORE YOU WORRY ABOUT THE BILLION-BARRIER

There is something else we must understand. You cannot jump from financial confusion to a trillion-dollar empire.

There are stages. First, learn to manage money. Then build income. Then eliminate destructive financial habits. Then save. Then invest. Then acquire assets. Then build a business. Then build systems. Then scale. Then create multiple streams of value. Then build institutional wealth. The journey from millionaire to billionaire is not simply about earning more money. It is about developing the capacity to manage greater levels of value.

If you cannot manage R100,000, having R1 million will expose the problem.

If you cannot manage R1 million, having R100 million will magnify the problem. Wealth requires capacity.

THE AFRICAN QUESTION

This is where the story of 12 June 2026 becomes bigger than Elon Musk.

The question should not only be: “How did Elon Musk become a trillionaire?” The question should be: “Why shouldn’t Africa produce the next trillionaire?” Why not South Africa? Why not Nigeria? Why not Kenya? Why not Ghana? Why not Rwanda? Why not the Democratic Republic of Congo? Why not the Free State? Why not Welkom? Why not someone whose parents are currently struggling financially?

We have become accustomed to consuming wealth created elsewhere.

We buy foreign technology. We use foreign platforms. We import foreign products. We invest in foreign companies. We celebrate foreign entrepreneurs. But perhaps the next chapter must be different. We must become creators. We must become owners. We must become investors. We must become builders. We must become innovators. We must become manufacturers. We must become technology developers. We must become institution builders.

THE MILLIONAIRE AND BILLIONAIRE BARRIERS ARE ALSO PSYCHOLOGICAL

Before you break a financial barrier in the marketplace, you often have to break it in your mind. Some people cannot imagine themselves owning R1 million. Others cannot imagine owning R10 million. Others cannot imagine owning a company worth R100 million. And because they cannot imagine it, they never prepare themselves to build it.

This is why the significance of 12 June 2026 goes beyond Musk.

Someone did it first.

The psychological barrier has been broken.

Now others can study the pathway. The same thing happened with the first millionaire. The first billionaire. The first person to reach \$100 billion. And now the first trillionaire. Every first creates a new reference point for the generations that follow. And above all, keep learning. The first trillionaire has already crossed the psychological barrier. The door has been opened. Now the question is: Who will walk through it? Perhaps the next person to break the million-dollar barrier is reading this article. Perhaps the next billionaire is still in school. Perhaps the next African trillionaire has not yet started a business. Perhaps they are currently working in a small office, running a small shop, writing software from a bedroom, farming a few hectares, developing an idea or sitting in a classroom. We do not know their name yet.

But history has already taught us something: The barriers are not as permanent as we once thought. The trillion-dollar barrier has fallen. Now we must prepare ourselves for greater heights.

It is possible. But it will be easier for those who learn.

What is the ANC going to say this time around?



Refilwe Mochoari
Editor-in-Chief

The ANC is launching its election manifesto this Sunday in Johannesburg ahead of the 4 November 2026 local government elections and I cannot help but ask myself what new promises could be made that have not already been recycled over the past 32 years.

This week, Statistics South Africa announced the latest quarterly unemployment results in South Africa, and the numbers have increased to 33.6% from 32.7% in the first quarter, which is the highest since the second quarter of 2022.

This means currently there are 8.5 million South Africans who are unemployed.

Even more concerning is the high youth unemployment rate, which now stands at 47.4%. This is almost half of the country’s young people locked out of the economy.

In the ANC’s defense, millions of people have indeed benefited from free housing, expanded access to water and opportunities that were unimaginable under the leadership of the apartheid government.

Indeed the organisation opened doors for millions of people and its policies on paper are progressive and people-centred.

The ANC policies which are designed to empower people.

Some of my favorite ANC policy discussions are the policy framework for youth development, the land reform policy, the economic transformation policy and the national health plan, and women’s empowerment.

Women’s empowerment, black economic empowerment, free education and quality education are all very noble ideals, but ideals are not governance.

The policies are designed to uplift South Africans of all races, because the theme of our democracy “The rainbow nation” suggests that South Africa is a country for all people who live in it.

But what is on paper does not equal what is in reality. These policies that were designed to uplift the people are now hijacked by people who use their leadership positions to abuse power.

They see governance in leadership as a ladder to personal gain and no longer a platform for public service.

So much is going on at all levels of government, service delivery failures, corruption, scandals, crime committed by top law enforcement officers.

The Madlanga Commission of Inquiry is a platform that shows us every day that the biggest criminals in South Africa are in the police force.

Are they going to deliver the same promises that they delivered four years ago?

My expectation from the ANC although I know that this might be their last manifesto launch as a ruling party, is that they really come up with new strategies which they will try to implement and fulfil.

The ANC created a framework of good governance, but they are the very same people who are undermining it.

I hope that this manifesto launch is not going to be another performance.

I hope that the ANC is aware that their time to play is over.

I hope that the ANC leaders are aware that many young people have lost faith in the organization whose leaders such as OR Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Lillian Ngoyi, and Sophie de Bruyn fought so much for black South Africans to live a better life that we are living today.

I hope that the current leadership of the ANC is aware that their power tussles are not going to help them to win the elections on 4 November.

I hope that they are aware that they cannot afford another recycled manifesto.

I hope that the leaders of the ANC are aware that South Africans can no longer be swayed by T-shirts and food parcels.

Business

Markets and Indicators			
Rand/Dollar	16.14	-0.21%	⬆️
Rand/Pound	21.99	-0.38%	⬆️
Rand/Euro	18.84	-0.20%	⬆️
Platinum	1 336.50	0.34%	⬆️
Brent Crude	93.49	3.75%	⬆️
Gold	4 521.35	0.08%	⬆️
Ethereum	2,322.89	3.17%	⬆️
Bitcoin	72,772.36	4.35%	⬆️

University shutdown in South Africa escalates



The shutdown of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) has escalated to direct government intervention, with the Department of Higher Education and Training stepping in.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Buti Manamela, requested that a team from the university education branch work with CPUT to facilitate discussions between the university and student leadership groups.

This follows the university being immediately shut down after an arson attack on its Bellville campus, causing significant disruptions to teaching and learning.

The arson attack came as the university has experienced disruptions due to student dissatisfaction with CPUT's proposed 2027 financial plan.

The plan proposed changes to how historical debt would be handled and several other key issues, which student bodies raised concerns over in a memorandum sent to the university.

In a statement, the Department of Higher Education and Training condemned the attacks on the university

and said that students should make use of proper channels.

"The Ministry condemns unequivocally the destruction of university property, violence, intimidation and any conduct that places students, staff and other members of the university community at risk," it said.

"The Minister urges students to use legitimate channels through which to raise concerns affecting their access to higher education, affordability and living and learning conditions."

The Department's team has been dispatched to handle several functions, including:

- facilitate structured and constructive engagement between the parties;
- establish the verified facts underlying the respective grievances;
- identify matters that can be resolved immediately;
- assist the parties to agree to a clear and time-bound process for addressing outstanding matters; and
- support urgent efforts to restore learning, teaching and essential university services.

"The immediate priority is to bring the parties around the table, establish the facts and find a way forward that allows the academic programme to resume," Manamela said.

"Students have a right to raise legitimate concerns about their access to higher education. Those concerns must be heard and addressed through constructive engagement."

"Equally, no student or staff member should have to fear for their safety or be prevented from exercising their right to study or work."

The Minister also said that the withdrawal of the draft financial plan would be an important opportunity for the university and student leaders to reset their engagement. He said that future engagements should focus on resolving immediate issues, identifying problems that require further consideration, and planning to address them.

"Leadership at the University and among students carries a responsibility to find solutions. Public statements and actions that inflame tensions will not assist us in resolving the issues before us," Manamela said.

SARS three-year warning for taxpayers in SA

A recent High Court judgment has clarified that SARS can reopen tax assessments older than three years if it proves fraud, misrepresentation, or non-disclosure by the taxpayer.

Legal experts at Werksmans Attorneys said that the South African Revenue Service (SARS) is generally prohibited from challenging income tax assessments that are more than three years old.

This rule applies unless SARS can demonstrate that the taxpayer was incorrectly assessed due to fraud, misrepresentation, or the non-disclosure of material facts by the taxpayer.

For SARS to assess tax after the three-year prescription period, two key conditions must be met. There must be evidence of fraud, misrepresentation, or non-disclosure by the taxpayer.

This fraudulent or misleading behaviour must be directly linked to the failure to assess the full amount of tax.

This means that there must be a causal connection between the taxpayer's actions and the incorrect assessment.

If either of these conditions is not satisfied, SARS cannot adjust income tax assessments more than three years old.

Werksmans Attorneys' legal experts explained that determining whether a taxpayer made a "misrepresentation" that allows SARS to skip the three-year prescription period can be complicated.

The group said that this depends on whether the taxpayer honestly shared a legal opinion, which shouldn't invalidate the prescription period even if it is wrong, or if the taxpayer deliberately misrepresented facts that led to an incorrect assessment.

"SARS does not have free rein to reopen old as-



sessments simply because it disagrees with the legal position taken by the taxpayer – for example, that a particular expense is deductible," said Werksmans Attorneys.

"However, taxpayers should take care to make full and accurate disclosure to SARS to ensure that there is no justification for revisiting historical tax assessments."

Werksmans Attorneys highlighted the case of SARS versus Meiring Citrus, which involved the High Court overturning a Tax Court ruling regarding the deduction of a premium by the taxpayer, which SARS initially rejected more than three years later.

The High Court determined that the taxpayer had made a "misrepresentation" by failing to provide essential factual information about the contract underlying the deduction.

While the Tax Court had ruled that differing legal opinions cannot be interpreted as misrepresentations, the High Court emphasised the importance of disclosing contract terms.

South Africa's new tax laws

The National Treasury has officially implemented the

Taxation Laws Amendment Act of 2024.

Although the laws were signed by President Cyril Ramaphosa and promulgated in December 2024, they were not active until now.

This Amendment Act introduces several changes to South Africa's tax laws, including modifications to the Income Tax Act, VAT Act, and laws governing tax incentives.

It includes the introduction of incentives for electric and hydrogen vehicles, offering a 150% tax deduction or investment allowance for new investments in these areas.

Another significant change addresses the misuse of existing incentives, particularly the Employment Tax Incentive (ETI). The ETI was introduced by the government in 2013 to encourage employers to hire young job seekers. It reduces the cost of employing young people by sharing costs with the government, without affecting the wage the employee receives.

The ETI began on January 1, 2014, and is set to expire on February 28, 2029. However, in recent years, the government has had to amend the ETI Act to prevent abuses of the incentive through aggressive tax schemes. These schemes often involved training institutions claiming incentives for students classified as employees under the ETI Act.

However, these students never received cash payouts in their bank accounts. Instead, the institutions would deduct training fees directly from their wages.

"The misuse of the ETI for creating fictitious employment, primarily to exploit the incentive, contradicts the policy's intention," Treasury said.

To tackle this issue, the new laws introduce punitive measures that will compel employers caught abusing the system to pay fines to the Treasury. – *Business Tech*

End of an era for owner of Sun City



Sun International has announced that its CFO and finance director, Norman Basthdaw, will retire from the group at the end of the year, after 14 years at the group.

Sun International is the owner of Sun City, an iconic luxury resort and entertainment centre in the North West, close to Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The group announced on 20 August that Basthdaw was nearing retirement age and would therefore step back from his role in the company to ensure a smooth transition.

In a note to shareholders, the company said that, "with effect from 1 January 2027, [Basthdaw] has agreed to step down as the CFO and Finance Director of Sun International, as well as other group companies".

Basthdaw joined Sun International in 2013 as the group's head of corporate finance and new business development.

Following this, he was appointed to his current CFO and finance director positions in 2017, where Sun International said he played a "pivotal role".

"His leadership has extended well beyond the finance function, encompassing portfolio optimisation, corporate transactions and the execution

of strategic initiatives that have strengthened the group's resilience, competitiveness and long-term value creation," it said.

The group also named Basthdaw's successor, Vannessa Olver, who will start in her new position on 1 January 2027.

Olver is a qualified chartered accountant and has served in several executive positions, including as the CFO of Business Connexion.

She has also worked in senior positions at Standard Bank and Absa and currently serves on the boards of Investec and Quantum Change.

"Vanessa brings more than 25 years of senior finance leadership experience in listed companies with a distinguished career marked by strong commercial impact across banking, technology and financial services," Sun International said.

While Olver will be starting in her new role at the start of the new year, the company said that Basthdaw would remain with the group to help with the transition.

"he will remain available to the Company until April 2027 and will work closely with Vanessa to effect a smooth transition and continue supporting the board and group as appropriate," it said. *!ol*

Absa takes over from Standard Bank as custodian of South Africa's R3.5 trillion pension fund



Absa has been appointed as the Master Custodian for the Government Employees' Pension Fund (GEPF), which is Africa's largest pension fund, managing over R3.5 trillion in assets.

Standard Bank acted as the custodian for the GEPF for thirty years, a role it has held since the fund's establishment in 1996.

This responsibility officially transferred to Absa in August 2026, after they won a competitive contract to manage the safekeeping and administration of the R3.5 trillion portfolio.

The GEPF supports over 1.2 million active members and more than 565,000 pensioners and beneficiaries. Its assets exceed R3.5 trillion.

Absa reported that it has maintained a transactional banking relationship with the GEPF since 2001.

Since then, Absa has provided banking services to the GEPF, including cheque deposit processing and electronic banking solutions.

Absa said that these services will continue alongside the new Master Custodian appointment.

Absa said that this appointment represents one of the most significant custody mandates in South Africa's institutional investment market.

The group said that this appointment strengthens the long-standing relationship between Absa and the GEPF, which has lasted more than two decades.

As the Master Custodian, Absa will be responsible for safeguarding and managing the Fund's investment assets.

This includes overseeing the settlement of investment transactions, managing investment-related cash, and providing reporting services.

The role also includes coordinating broader custody functions within the investment ecosystem.

Absa will also support the Fund's governance and oversight requirements.

"We recognise that the stewardship of Africa's largest pension fund carries enormous responsibility," said Absa CIB Public Sector Head of Client Cov-

erage, Francinah Madise.

"At the centre of this appointment are the livelihoods and long-term financial security of millions of South African public servants, pensioners, and their families," said Madise.

Madise said that Absa does not take lightly the trust placed in institutions that support the Fund.

The group said the decision to entrust such a significant responsibility to Absa reflects the bank's institutional servicing capabilities.

In addition, it said this demonstrates advanced technology platforms, robust infrastructure, high governance standards, and a long-term commitment to the African custody market.

Absa explained that the appointment primarily reflects a change within the institution and its operations and does not directly affect the daily experiences of GEPF members or pension beneficiaries.

It said that over time, the custody framework is expected to improve governance, transparency, and oversight of the Fund's assets, thereby helping to protect the long-term interests of its members.

Much of the work performed by a custodian happens behind the scenes, but it plays an important role in maintaining the confidence and operational integrity that enables the Fund and its stakeholders to make informed decisions.

Absa Investor Services Group Head Mosetsana Mahlafunya said that much of a custodian's work is performed behind the scenes.

Mahlafunya said that it plays a crucial role in maintaining the confidence and operational integrity necessary for the Fund and its stakeholders to make informed decisions.

"Our relationship with the GEPF has developed over many years, and we have taken the time to understand its requirements to deliver the level of support and consistency the Fund requires over the long term," said Mahlafunya. *!ol*

Mamakie Motlogelwa Honors Mahikeng's Unsung Sheroes



Katlego Mashwabi

The red carpet was rolled out, the fashion was show-stopping, and the energy was electric at the Mafikeng Hotel School last week Saturday.

The stars aligned for the highly anticipated second annual Sheroes Unite Empowerment and Awards Ceremony, widely known to fans and trending online as #She26.

Hosted by media personality Mamakie Motlogelwa, the star-studded night blended high fashion with deep purpose, celebrating the incredible women making major waves across South African communities.

For Motlogelwa, seeing the massive crowd gather at the Mafikeng Hotel School, was a deeply emotional experience.

Reflecting on the journey, she shared that the vision was born out of a desire to champion the women who change the world quietly.

"I was inspired by the silent Sheroes," Motlogelwa revealed.

"The women doing extraordinary things with no applause. I wanted a platform that says: Your story matters. Your resilience matters. You are not alone," she said.

The glamorous evening beautifully delivered on that promise, offering a mix of entertainment, sisterhood, and inspiration.

Guests were treated to panel discussions featuring industry heavyweights, moving guest speeches, and a sensational live performance by the MM Band that had the crowd on their feet. Under this year's theme, "Unite. Heal. Share."

The event proved to be far more than just a standard awards show.

"It's a call for us to come together, find healing in community, and share our stories so that other women can be set free," Motlogelwa explained.

The true highlight of the night was the glittering awards ceremony, which honoured thirteen phenomenal unsung heroes. Breaking away from traditional categories, this year's event turned heads and won praise for its fresh, inclusive lineup, which included accolades like Best LGBTQ+ Sheroe, Best LGBTQ+ Content Creator, and Best Sheroe Journalist. The crowd erupted when local favourite Mapule Pule, famously known as #Villagegirl, snatched the Best Hustler title, while Mahikeng's own culinary star, Chef Motso Tlhabane, took home the coveted Best Sheroe Chef award.

Watching these women step into the spotlight brought the entire room to tears. "The highlight is always the people.

"Watching a woman receive her award and realize she is seen and valued.

"The sisterhood, the tears, the standing ovations and those moments are everything, she said.

She added that seeing this atmosphere unfold meant the event achieved exactly what she had envisioned from the start.

"My heart behind Sheroes Unite was to create a safe space where women leave feeling seen and empowered - that's exactly what I prayed for.

"They mean healing, unity, and purpose. Sheroes Unite is a movement of love that reminds women they are worthy and that together we are stronger," said Motlogelwa.

Following the spectacular turnout, a grateful Motlogelwa took to social media to thank her followers, her family, and her children, who worked tirelessly backstage to make the night a seamless success.

Sharing her joy online, she promised that the momentum wouldn't stop here, closing her post with an exciting teaser for the next big date on the social calendar.



Kwesta, Nasty C to Headline Ngwathe Spring Festival

Kwesta and Nasty C will share the stage with Ntate Stunna, Sjava and other performers at Fezile Dabi Stadium in Tumahole, Parys, on September 26.

According to the Edgar Legoale Foundation, the pairing of the two acclaimed rappers has attracted particular attention, bringing together different generations of South African hip-hop on one stage.

"The combination of big-name performers, a scenic Free State venue and strong community interest has turned the Ngwathe Spring Experience into the province's most talked-about festival of the season," said the foundation.

The Ngwathe Spring Experience forms part of a broader month-long programme in the area. Events leading up to the main festival include a tourism expo, camping experience, business breakfast and golf day.

The programme aims to showcase Ngwathe's tourism potential, support local businesses and create a comprehensive lifestyle and entertainment offering for visitors.

Linked to the work of the Edgar Legoale Foundation, the festival is positioned as one of the biggest music and lifestyle events in the Free State this year.

By JN Reporter

Award-winning South African hip-hop stars Kwesta and Nasty C are set to headline the highly anticipated Ngwathe Spring Festival, promising music lovers an exciting entertainment experience as the municipality welcomes the new season.

The festival is expected to draw crowds from across Ngwathe and neighbouring areas, with the star-studded line-up aimed at providing residents and visitors with a memorable celebration.

Organisers have confirmed that Katlehong-born rapper and songwriter

NW Stars Anchor SAMA 32's Sentimental Return

By Katlego Mashwabi

The South African Music Awards (SAMAs) made a triumphant, deeply sentimental return to their spiritual home this past weekend.

Hosting the 32nd annual installation on Saturday, the Sun City Superbowl in the North West welcomed the prestigious awards back after a multi-year stint in Gauteng.

Billed as the ultimate "Homecoming Edition," the night celebrated legends and foundational North West roots.

The theme of homecoming was heavily anchored by some of the province's biggest exports.

Mahikeng-born hip-hop megastar and entrepreneur Refilwe Phoolo also known as Cassper Nyovest served as the primary anchor and host for the main ceremony alongside co-host radio broadcaster Zanele Potelwa.

Fellow Mahikeng native and superstar Bonang Matheba added immense star power to the evening, presenting one of the night's most prestigious honors.

On the musical front, Amadodana Ase Wesile scored a massive double-victory. The legendary Methodist gospel group, which is deeply tied to the traditional faith movements of the North West and Free State, took home both Best African Indigenous Faith Album for Monghali Mesia and the Radio 2000 Duo/Group of the Year award.

The ceremony beautifully balanced provincial pride with global excellence through standout wins and historic moments.

International superstar Tyla accepted the International Achievement Award in a stunning black



sheer gown, bringing her entire team onto the stage to celebrate a historic year.

Music pioneer and industry giant Oskido was honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, while Kabza De Small cemented his status as the undisputed "King of Amapiano" by sweeping multiple top awards, including Best Amapiano Album for Bab'Motha, Remix of the Year for Eningi,

and Best Collaboration.

Gospel star HLE dominated the faith categories alongside Kabza's run, taking home three major awards, Best Contemporary Faith Music Album, SAMPRO Album of the Year for The Ground We're On, and Lesedi FM Female Artist of the Year. Additionally, the hit track Abantwana Bakho, featuring DJ Maphorisa, Xduppy, Thatohtatsi, Young Stunna, and Nkosazana Daughter, walked away with both Best Collaboration and Most Streamed Song of the Year. While the sentimental value of the return to Sun City was undeniable, the event faced a stark reality check.

A widespread artist boycott plagued the venue with empty seats and left several statues standing unclaimed on the stage as winning artists failed to appear. With supporters forcing the Recording Industry of South Africa (RiSA) to implement a "no show, no win" policy for the South African Music Awards (SAMAs)

Despite the empty rows, the performances inside the Superbowl set the atmosphere on fire. A powerhouse, homegrown Motswako tribute by Maglera Doe Boy, Cassper Nyovest, and Mo Molemi serenaded the crowd in an emotional nod to the late North West icon HHP.

In another standout moment, gospel powerhouse Bucy Radebe and legendary group Amadodana Ase Wesile both took to the stage wearing traditional church uniforms, delivering raw, powerful performances that captivated both the live crowd and viewers at home. Ultimately, SAMA 32 proved that while the glitz of the industry might currently face internal friction, the cultural heartbeat of South African music remains deeply rooted in its origins.

Ernest Mofokeng Rewrites the Runway Script

By Katlego Mashwabi

From an aspiring radio host to a trailblazing pageant king, Ernest Mofokeng is living proof that the runway knows no gender.

For decades, the glitz, glamour, and competitive grit of the modelling and pageantry industries have been widely perceived as a woman's world.

From towering high heels to historic crownings, the runway has traditionally been paved by female icons.

However, 32-year-old Bloemfontein native Ernest Mofokeng is shattering that glass ceiling, proving that a modern man cannot just survive in this space, but command it.

Widely celebrated as the reigning Mr Central South Africa (MrCSA), Mofokeng is rapidly becoming one of the country's most formidable multi-hyphenate talents.

Born in November 1993, Mofokeng initially harboured dreams of dominating the airwaves, deeply inspired by local South African broadcasting legends. Instead, destiny guided him toward a different kind of mic and a much larger stage: the fashion runway.

Stepping into an industry heavily populated by women requires immense confidence, a thick skin, and undeniable talent.

Mofokeng possesses all three. He recently clinched the coveted 'Best Male Model' award at Free State Fashion Week (FSFW), cementing his status as a premier face for the organization's anni-

versary events and seasonal rollouts.

Whether he is walking for high-end boutique designers from Gauteng or anchoring luxury heritage showcases like the Qoal Fashion Show at Bloemfontein's annual Lemo Fest, Mofokeng brings a distinct, powerful masculinity to the catwalk.

His signature look, often featuring impeccably tailored formalwear and "Harvard-inspired" menswear has redefined regional style trends.

For Mofokeng, breaking into this industry was never just about wearing nice clothes; it was about leveraging a platform.

He has seamlessly translated his MrCSA title into a vehicle for heavy-hitting social advocacy.

Most notably, he has become a vocal champion for youth empowerment, spearheading the vital "Men Against GBV" (Gender-Based Violence) campaign.

By using his visibility to challenge toxic mindsets, he is rewriting the script on what it means to be a male role model in modern South Africa.

While many know him from the flashbulbs of the runway, Mofokeng operates heavily behind the scenes as a shrewd entrepreneur, talent manager, and model coach. By collaborating with prominent regional talent networks like YEZ Models, he runs runway master-



classes and pageantry clinics, passing his hard-earned expertise down to the next generation of aspiring stars.

His digital footprint reflects this multifaceted hustle.

Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu's Historic Photo Shoot



By Katlego Mashwabi

Music icons and legends Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu have been photographed together for the first time in history.

Shot by Outlander Magazine, this historic portrait session marks an iconic milestone in the archives of contemporary music.

For generations of hip-hop and neo-soul listeners, a collaborative feature of this magnitude has been a long-standing dream.

The historic moment might have remained a far cry from reality if kismet had not intervened following a dawn-breaking performance by the duo at the Diaspora Calling! festival.

To capture this momentous occasion, a dedicated crew transformed a vacant field at the Milton Keynes National Bowl into a high-fashion set, fulfilling the decades-long anticipation of millions of global fans.

The historic photoshoot deserves a dedicated place in a museum of artistic and influential music culture. Captured by photographer Elliot Hensford, directed by TJ Saw, and produced by Marvellous Last Night, the session yielded a stunning series of black-and-white portraits, with a preview that took the internet by storm.

Outlander Magazine shared their excitement, stating that the shoot captured pure music history by bringing together two of the world's most iconic women who defined a golden era.

The publication extended immense gratitude to the artists for allowing them to act as the vessel for this gift to the world, while praising the production team for building an outdoor set from scratch on a field in Milton Keynes to pull off the incredible shots at 1:00 am.

The extraordinary shoot took place immediately after the UK debut of the "Diaspora Calling!" festival, an arts and music platform originally launched by Lauryn Hill in Brooklyn back in 2016. The August 2026 event drew over 35 000 enthusiastic fans to the legendary open-air venue in Buckinghamshire, England, where Badu joined Hill on stage for a monumental live performance of the hit record "Doo Wop (That Thing)."

Curated by lead stylist Raheem Robinson, the subsequent editorial serves as a high-fashion celebration of Black creativity, individuality, and maternal power. The styling masterfully blends elite contemporary streetwear with dramatic, custom avant-garde silhouettes, mirroring the boundary-pushing aesthetics that both women have championed for three decades.

LUCILLE SLADE THE KIMBERLEY DIAMOND CELEBRATES HOME WITH "DIE Y" MUSIC VIDEO



By JN Reporter

South African Music Awards (SAMA) Nominee, Lucille Slade also known as the "The Kimberley Diamond", celebrates her hometown with "Die Y" music video, a love letter to Kimberley, its culture and the people who continue to make the city shine.

The song blends Slade's signature sound with Kwati, including the intro from Sip 'n Kwati, giving listeners an authentic connection to her hometown while remaining universal enough to invite anyone into the story of Kimberley.

The music video showcases Kimberley Diamonds across different industries, including Thebe Magugu, Unathi Batyashe of SABC News and Boipelo Mooketsi of 5FM, a Basadi in Music Award winner for Best Radio Presenter.

"Die Y" music video celebrates what it means to be a Kimberley Diamond, not only because of the city's diamond history, but because of the excellence of the people it produces.

Through "Die Y," Lucille shines a light on the talent, culture and excellence that comes from Kimberley, reminding audiences that some of the diamonds they already know may have Kimberley roots. You see the 053 Kimberley code all over the video and in hear it in the song.

The "Die Y" music video premieres on YouTube today, at 9AM.

WEEKEND

Gig Guide

ALL OVER BLOEMFONTEIN FROM
22 - 23 AUGUST 2026

IZA SATURDAY
SATURDAY - 22 AUGUST 2026
IZA - BLOEMFONTEIN

SATURDAY SHOWDOWN
SATURDAY - 22 AUGUST 2026
VIBE LOUNGE

DEEHOUSE VS AMAPIANO
SATURDAY - 22 AUGUST 2026
PARLIAMENT LOUNGE

SUNDAY SIP & CHILL
SUNDAY - 23 AUGUST 2026
NEWS CAFE

SUPREME SUNDAYS
SUNDAY - 23 AUGUST 2026
VEGAS CLUB

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HEALTH

Better teamwork can improve maternity care in SA

Every woman has the right to be treated with dignity, compassion and respect when giving birth. Yet for many South African women, childbirth in public health facilities can be marked by poor communication, neglect, lack of privacy and, in some cases, verbal or physical mistreatment from health workers.

In a few cases, exposure to severe, disrespectful and abusive behaviour can lead to long-term psychological distress, affecting women and their families.

Efforts to improve respectful maternity care in South Africa have focused mainly on training individual healthcare workers through short courses. Training is important. But it often overlooks a crucial factor: the organisational culture in which health professionals work.

Health workers don't operate in isolation. Their behaviour is influenced by heavy workloads, staff shortages, workplace hierarchies, team relationships and leadership practices. Providing more respectful care means addressing these underlying organisational factors.

We have spent more than two decades designing and implementing health systems research to improve care for women, newborns and children. Our recent study, conducted in nine rural district hospitals in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, explored whether improving teamwork, learning and workplace culture could improve women's experiences of maternity care.

This is the first study to assess the feasibility and effects of an intervention addressing both organisational culture and women's experience of care.

After the intervention, we found improvements in key aspects of care: particularly in communication, autonomy and supportive care experienced during childbirth. Importantly, the largest gains were observed among women from poorer households and those who had attended fewer antenatal visits, who may be more vulnerable. It also improved organisational learning culture and health worker teams.

A different approach

We developed and carried out an intervention called Strengthening Teamwork and Respect (STAR) over a one-year period. The intervention did not focus solely on how staff treated women. It also encouraged teams to examine their own working environments, communication patterns and professional relationships.

The approach involved:

- Participation: multidisciplinary teams of nurses, midwives, doctors, managers and non-clinical staff met approximately monthly. They reflected on challenges in their maternity units and developed locally relevant "change projects".
- Leadership by local staff champions selected from within each maternity unit. The champions received a two-day training.
- The use of structured activities to encourage reflection, dialogue, teamwork and problem-solving.

What we found

We surveyed more than 1 800 women who had recently given birth, as well as over 200 maternity healthcare workers, before and after the intervention.

Our main findings included an improvement in overall person-centred maternity care. Scores increased from 61.5 out of 100 before the intervention to 65.7 afterwards.

The greatest improvements were in areas relat-

ed to communication and autonomy. More women reported that healthcare providers explained procedures, sought consent before examinations, involved them in decisions about their care, and allowed them greater choice during labour.

Supportive care also improved. Women reported shorter waiting times, greater trust in healthcare providers and a more positive overall experience.

Many of the participating hospitals had chosen to make birth companionship one of their change projects. STAR teams developed ways to make it possible to have birth companions – things like name badges for companions, written confidentiality agreements, and informing security staff.

Perhaps the most encouraging finding was that the largest improvements occurred among women who often face the greatest barriers to good care. Women from the poorest households experienced greater gains than women from wealthier households. Similarly, women who had attended fewer antenatal visits showed larger improvements than those with more frequent antenatal care.

Our research also measured changes in organisational learning culture. We measured the extent to which workplaces encouraged learning, dialogue, innovation and shared problem-solving.

Healthcare workers reported stronger continuous learning cultures, greater openness to feedback, better systems for sharing lessons, and stronger leadership support. One of the greatest improvements was staff feeling more empowered to initiate positive changes.

In highly hierarchical healthcare environments, this can be transformative. When staff feel empowered, they are more likely to identify problems and work collaboratively to solve them.

BOOK REVIEW

5 Best Tummy-Control Underwear

When the best tummy-control underwear works, it really works—comfortably smoothing and sculpting under dresses, tight jeans, or leggings. When it doesn't, it squeezes, digs in, rolls down, and leaves you counting down the minutes until you can yank it off. Of course, no one needs "tummy control," but compression underwear can add a bit of definition under more fitted clothing. The right styles should feel close to a second skin, offering shape and support without visible panty lines or constant adjusting. The options vary, from high-waist cotton briefs and seamless thongs to mid-thigh shaper shorts and bodysuits.

To find the best ones, Glamour editors tested more than 20 pairs from top-rated lingerie brands. Below, find our favorites for compression, smoothing, and—above all—comfort.

What we love: Spanx is known for high-compression tummy-control shapewear, and its everyday briefs follow suit. "These are pretty much everything I want in a pair of tummy-control underwear," says Glamourcommerce editor Malia Griggs. "They're made of recycled nylon that feels silky and cool on my skin, and they slide on and off easily. The compression is medium-firm, so I never quite forget I'm wearing them, and they have an elastic waistband that pulls in and smooths my stomach." Compared with softer options, the leg openings have a bit more structure and can sit slightly higher on the back, but they stay put and offer reliable smoothing under everything from workwear to dresses.

What we love: Seamless construction and light-to-medium compression offer smoothing that feels close to regular underwear—just slightly thicker. "I wore these Quince undies beneath a fitted dress that usually shows every line, and they smoothed everything out while staying completely invisible," says Griggs.

"They also work well under high-rise leggings, since they hit below the belly button, and they're soft enough that I've even slept in them." At \$30 for a three-pack, they're a solid value for everyday wear.

What we love: These high-waisted shaping panties stood out for their combination of tummy compression, seamless construction, and a thong-effect back that enhances rather than flattens your butt. "I've tested a ton of tummy-control panties, and these were the only ones I wanted to wear multiple times a week," says Griggs.

"The moderate compression made my stomach look smoother and more supported without squeezing me, while the cut in the back gave my butt a subtle lift instead of flattening it. I wore them under tight, fitted trousers and leggings, and the flat seams stayed virtually invisible." Sheer, stretchy ribbed panels and no-dig leg openings keep the underwear breathable and comfortable, while the high waist offers extra hold through the stomach.

What we love: Honeylove's mid-thigh shorts deliver some of the strongest compression we tested, with targeted paneling that cinches the waist and smooths the stomach when you want more dramatic shaping under a fitted dress.

"This level of compression all up and down my waist is more than I want in my daily life, but for a special event, I appreciate how much definition the shorts give my waist," says Griggs, who's worn it to two weddings. "They keep my thighs from chafing, while their compressive panels crisscross across my tummy, effectively smoothing it without making me feel too sucked in."

The shorts lie flat under fitted and sheer dresses and offer a subtle lift through the back. The longer length may peek out under shorter hemlines, but Honeylove also makes girl shorts, briefs, and thong versions. These are pricier, but the stronger shaping

and added thigh coverage make them especially useful for occasions when you want more support.

What we love: "This ultra-high-waist tummy-control thong is a lot more comfortable than it looks, and I love that it provides a touch of shaping without committing to full-on shapewear," says Glamour commerce writer Alanna Martine Kilkeary. "The fabric is soft, stretchy, and incredibly smooth, and the thong cut disappears under leggings without creating visible lines."

The high rise offers light support through the stomach, while the seamless construction and barely there edges keep it virtually undetectable under fitted clothes. It's also flexible enough for walking or working out and comes in a wide array of skin tones, with sizing up to 4X.

Others we tested but didn't include

Wirarpa High-Waist Panties, \$20: These soft cotton briefs offer gentle compression through a wide, double-layered waistband and come in an especially broad size range. Our tester found them comfortable and supportive enough for all-day wear, though they don't provide as much shaping as most of our top picks.

Miraclesuit Instant TummyTuck Extra-Firm Briefs, \$53: One of the firmest styles we tested, these briefs use double front panels and crisscross seaming to noticeably smooth and cinch the midsection. Griggs found the shaping immediate, especially under jeans and workwear, but the thicker fabric and leg openings became less comfortable over time.

Shapermint Essentials All Day Every Day High-Waist Shaper Thong, \$23: This ultra-high-rise thong smooths nearly the entire midsection and creates a more defined waist. The tradeoff is that it takes some effort to pull on and can extend above the waistband or meet the bra line on shorter torsos. —Glamour Fashion

FOOD Recipes

Salmon with Basil Sauce and Tomato Salad



Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 lb. salmon fillet, cut into 2–3 pieces

Method:

Step 1: Make the Basil Sauce

Just blitz, blend, do your thing. I use this mini chopper (affiliate link) for nearly all my sauces these days!

Step 2: Rub The Salmon with Spices

It's a little bit satisfying, I'm not going to lie

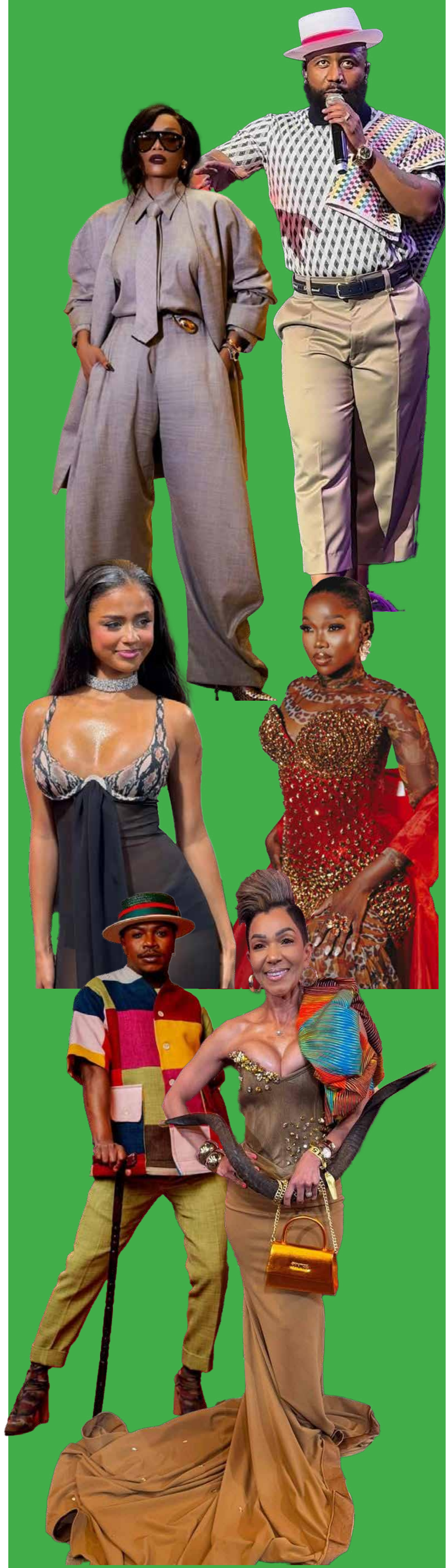
Step 3: Bake The Salmon

Ten minutes before it's time to eat, we pop this guy in the oven. I usually either use a meat thermometer, to check the temp (135–140 is a great benchmark) or I just sacrifice one end of one piece to check for doneness.

Step 4: Assemble and Serve

Everybody builds their own plate! We layer in rice and a simple tomato salad.

Only requirement: make sure everyone gets lots of basil sauce.





SPORT



Gallants on Resurgence Mission

By Gomolemo Winkel

Marumo Gallants will set their sights on a Betway Premiership home encounter against TS Galaxy on Tuesday next week, after suffering their second consecutive defeat of the new league campaign against Mamelodi Sundowns by two goals to nil at the Loftus Versfeld stadium on Wednesday evening.

Gallants currently occupy position 15, with 1 point from their opening three matches in the new season. They began the season with a goalless stalemate against the newly promoted Kruger United, prior to enduring a 3-1 defeat to Stellenbosch, and their recent 2-0 loss to the Tshwane Giants. A record they hoped will change, after relocating from Bloemfontein to Rustenburg.

Gallants head coach Phuthi Mohafe believes the defeat to Sundowns was an important benchmark, ahead of a demanding stretch of fixtures.

"You remember at the launch of the Betway Premiership, I said I would have loved to start with Sundowns, because that was going to be the real test for us, to see where we are. And now we have played them, we have already played three matches, and I think this one is the match that I can say we have learned a lot of lessons from," he said.

Despite the defeats, Mohafe remains encouraged by several elements of his charges performance. Bahlabane ba Ntwa managed to register four shots on target, while remaining organised in their defence.

"So I think that is where we have done well, but also in playing with the flat terrain in the midfield. It also helped us because we minimised the attack through the middle. We did well on that one, and we also did well in cutting the supply from the midfield into the strikers," he said.

"The other thing was the chances that we have created with our minimal ball possession that we

missed, and I think that is what let us down," added Mohafe.

Additionally, Mohafe dismissed rumours linking Gallants with the signing of foreign players to the team, whereas the season had gone past.

He also dismissed claims that there are administrative issues pertaining to the arrival of new foreign players.

Despite the lacklustre start to the new campaign, Mohafe insisted that the record does not validate the team's performance, with resolving their finishing remains the priority.

"Starting from the first match, if you can go and check how Marumo Gallants played, and you reflect and you review on how we played, you will see that I think most of the matches we have possession," he said.

"But the main factor is putting the ball in the back of the net. That is the main factor. So that is not the true reflection," added Mohafe.

Ntsu Going for Glory

Bethlehem school chasing success at prestigious national football tourney



By Gomolemo Winkel

Ntsu Secondary School will be looking to take one step closer to the national finals, as they compete in the Kay Motsepe Schools under-19 Provincial Tournament on Saturday, 22 August 2026, at the University of the Free State (UFS) soccer fields in Bloemfontein.

The Bethlehem-based school secured its place in the provincial tournament after being crowned Thabo Mofutsanyana district champions. They defeated Sasamala Secondary School 3-0 in the final played at Ntsu Secondary School on Saturday, 15 August.

This is Ntsu's second consecutive appearance at the provincial tournament, after narrowly missing out on national final qualifications last year.

Co-coach, Kolotsa Mthimkhulu, insists that, despite celebrating another provincial qualification, the team's ambitions extend far beyond reaching this stage.

"It is a big achievement, but to us it is not an achievement anymore. We want to participate in the national finals. We are happy to qualify for the provincials, but our main target is to reach the national finals," he said.

The school boasts an impressive history in the competition. They reached the national finals in 2004, where they faced the Orlando Pirates Development School, Bophelo.

Their best finish came in 2010 when they reached fourth nationally, while their most recent appearance at the national finals was in 2018.

Mthimkhulu believes those achievements have strengthened the school's football reputation and at-

tracted talented players from neighbouring towns.

"Whenever we qualify for the nationals, it makes a huge impact. Everyone wants to be part of our school. We have players from places such as Paul Roux, Clarens, and other surrounding areas. The success of the football programme encourages more learners to join our school," he said.

Co-coach Mohlouwa, Johannes Moloi, said that the team has enjoyed an unbeaten run from local to district level, winning every match and maintaining a strong defensive record.

"Every team we played in Bohlakong failed to beat us. We have always scored goals while remaining solid at the back. At district level we won all our matches without losing one. The boys worked very hard to achieve that," said Moloi.

Moreover, Moloi revealed that the coaching department's biggest concern, ahead of the provincial tournament, is to preserve intensity after making substitutions.

"In our previous matches we were comfortably leading, but after introducing substitutes our momentum dropped and we conceded goals. We are working on the psychological aspect so that every player who comes on maintains the same intensity," he explained.

On account of matches lasting only 35 minutes, Moloi said that the team will focus on improving its attacking efficiency, while upholding its disciplined defence.

"Our defence is solid, but our biggest priority is converting our chances. We believe if we can improve our finishing, we can achieve our objective of reaching the national finals," Moloi concluded.

Saul Pledges R5 Million Towards NC Cricket



By JN Reporter

The Northern Cape Premier Dr Zamani Saul together with the MEC responsible for Sports, Arts and Culture, Mangaliso Matika this week met with a high level delegation from Cricket South Africa, led by its President, Rihan Richards and CEO Pholetsi Moseki.

During the meeting Saul pledged R5 million towards the refurbishment of the Kimberley Oval according to the requirements by the International Cricket Council.

He also pledged governments full support in ensuring that Kimberley is ready to host the thousands of spectators who will be coming to the city

to watch the matches.

The meeting was convened to brief the Premier on developments around Cricket SA both in the Province and the country.

Discussions centred around the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup which will take place from October to November 2027 in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"Although Kimberley is not scheduled to host any cricket games during the world cup in 2027, Kimberley will host three one day international matches which will be played during September and December 2026 as well as in March 2027, Saul said. Kimberley is also earmarked to host official Fan Parks for the World Cup.

Heymans' Throw Gets Gold

By Gomolemo Winkel

South African javelin icon Jan-Hendrik Heymans has introduced himself on the global stage, with a personal best throw of 80.50 metres, after winning the men's javelin gold medal at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon, United States.

The 19-year-old delivered South Africa's only gold medal of the championships, beating his previous personal best and cementing his level, as one of the country's brightest young athletics prospects.

The triumph was about far more than winning a gold medal, for the reigning champion. He hopes his journey inspires ordinary South Africans to believe that world-class success is possible without following a conventional path.

"I really hope that it creates a community to show people that it doesn't take a superstar to become a world champion. So I think firstly people must not think you have to be elite to become a champion. Any ordinary people can do that," he said.

He encouraged young athletes to discover their natural talents rather than forcing themselves into a particular sport.

"I never thought about javelin. And then all of a sudden, the javelin just fell into my arms. And I was like, okay, let me try this sport. And then everything just fell into order. And also you must not force something that is not there," added Hymans.

However, the road to world glory was anything but straightforward. After being a member of a full-time



training programme in Potchefstroom at the beginning of the year, the increased workload resulted in muscle spasms, before he suffered a Grade 2 hamstring tear at the South African Senior Championships.

Thereafter two months on the sidelines, another setback arrived in the form of a groin injury just days before an international competition in Italy.

Heymans said that medical scans later revealed that

his hamstring injury had still not fully healed, forcing him to rest for another month. Two weeks into his return to training, his groin flared up again, leaving him with just two weeks of intensive preparation before the World Championships.

"Technically, from the South African season to the Worlds, I actually just trained two weeks hard. And that's quite bad. But I made the best of it," said Heymans.

His coach, Terseus Liebenberg, who began working with Heymans at the start of the year. He never doubted his athlete's ability to rise on the biggest stage.

"In my heart, I knew he was going to do it, but you still have to go and do it. I was extremely proud, very happy. I mean that is, he just showed what big match temperament he has, he's a man for the big moments, and he can rise to the occasion.

Liebenberg revealed that Heymans' natural running mechanics and throwing technique immediately stood out. "His running ability, natural throwing ability. I just love the way he is running and throwing. It is just a thing that, you as a coach, immediately notice and realise. He is a little bit special; you can see that from the start. You get a lot of diamonds, but he's a real big diamond, very special," he said.

The experienced coach believes Heymans' success could have a lasting impact on South African athletics.

"He is going to be, most certainly, a role model for future javelin throwers. To know that his future lies ahead of him. He is still going to become a world beater. He is going to be one of South Africa's best ever javelin throwers," said Liebenberg.