

Journal NEWS

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DARK DEATH TRAIL HAUNTS CENTLEC



**Two more senior officials dead,
fuelling suspicions of a deadly
pattern within the troubled
Mangaung power utility**



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New School Bears Makgoe's Name



Former MEC for Education Tate Makgoe. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

The Free State Department of Education has renamed a newly built R56 million primary school in Lakeview, Bloemfontein, to honour the late MEC Dr. Tate Makgoe, recognising his lasting contribution to the province's education system.

Makgoe, who passed away in March 2023, was widely respected for his dedication to improving education outcomes, with the Free State consistently achieving top matric results under his leadership.

Completed in 2024, Arbeidsgeot Primary – now Dr. Tate Makgoe Primary – was first established in 1952 to serve children from poor families and farm labourers. In July 2023, the school relocated to Bergman, carrying 70 years of resilience and hope, reflecting Makgoe's belief that education is key to lifting communities out of poverty.

Speaking at the renaming ceremony, Education MEC Dr. Mantlaka Maboya, joined by Free State Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae, praised Makgoe for dedicating his life to uplifting schools such as Arbeidsgeot.

"He carried in his heart a fierce conviction that no matter where a child comes

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The deaths of two senior Centlec officials, Mbuselo Sarel May and Okert "Ockie" Faber, have fueled suspicions of a deadly pattern within the Mangaung power utility. Picture: Supplied

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Power of Life

New School Bears Makgoe’s Name



xxx. Picture: Baagedi Sethola
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from, they deserve the best education this province can offer. It is no coincidence – it is destiny – that we rename this school in his honour on the day we open these new facilities,” Maboya said. Maboya described the renaming as a deliberate effort to embed Makgoe’s values – service, integrity, courage, and humility – into the daily life of the school. “As Julius Nyerere once reminded us: ‘Education is not a way to escape poverty, it is a way of fighting it.’ Dr. Makgoe understood this truth deeply. His leadership was about collective vision and achievement. Let this school embody that spirit of togetherness.” Dr. Tate Makgoe Primary houses over 1,200 learners and 35 educators, supported by parents committed to breaking the cycle of poverty through education. Appointed as MEC without formal teaching experience, Makgoe championed education for rural and informal communities, believing it to be the most powerful tool to change the world. He also promoted mathematics and science through the Promaths initiative, partnering with Investec and the Department of Education to encourage learners from underprivileged backgrounds to excel. Makgoe intentionally focused on areas like QwaQwa, one of the province’s most impoverished towns, and provided bursaries for tertiary education to ensure public school learners received education comparable to former Model C and private schools. The new school features state-of-the-art facilities, including administration and ablution blocks, a media centre, science and computer labs, and a hall that can seat up to 920 learners. The completion of these facilities reflects the Free State government’s ongoing commitment to quality education for all.

Dark Death Trail Haunts Centlec



Centlec rocked by fresh tragedy as two senior officials dies. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

Centlec rocked by fresh tragedy as two senior officials die, fuelling fears of a rising death toll at the Mangaung power utility. The back-to-back deaths have sent shockwaves through Mangaung, with insiders describing a climate of fear and uncertainty at the embattled power distributor, already under scrutiny for financial mismanagement and governance failures. It is alleged that Centlec’s health and safety manager, Mbuselo Sarel May (51) from Grassland in Bloemspruit, was brutally gunned down in his car on Sunday. Police confirmed that a manhunt has been launched for three suspects linked to the gruesome killing. According to spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Thabo Covane, the trio fled on foot towards George Lubbe Street after the attack. One suspect was dressed in black with a balaclava, another in a grey or white jacket, and the third in a brown jacket. “Witnesses reported that the deceased was shot

around 04:00 while seated in a white Toyota Vitz. He was in the company of three men when the gunfire erupted. On arrival, officers found the victim slumped behind the steering wheel with gunshot wounds to the back of his head. He was rushed to the hospital, where he was declared dead,” Covane said. May’s murder follows the sudden death of his colleague, Okert (Ockie) Faber, a SCADA specialist in Network Optimization, who collapsed and died of a heart attack at his home last Thursday. Their deaths are the latest tragedies in what many describe as Centlec’s dark and unsettling death trail following the former Centlec CEO, Andries Mgoqi, who was also shot and left dying in cold right in front of his business premises, Koffi tavern in Bergman Square, last year. May was allegedly involved in a court case settled in May 2022, in which the defendants were held liable for R34,245.53, an amount Centlec claimed for tampering with an electricity meter box at a leased property. The dispute dates back to May 2014, when Centlec

alleged that a meter box had been tampered with, potentially enabling illegal connections, and subsequently disconnected the defendant’s electricity. May, who had been employed by the utility for over 14 years in various roles, presented evidence showing that Centlec had quoted the plaintiff approximately R34,000 for installing three-phase power at the rented property—a sum that was never paid. According to the court record, a random inspection by Centlec in 2014 revealed an illegal three-phase connection, prompting the utility to remove the meter box and cut the electricity. May testified that he could not confirm who tampered with the meter box, but suggested that the tenant stood to benefit. He also could not explain why Centlec had removed the meter box again in 2016, noting it might have been another instance of illegal connection. This testimony ultimately concluded the case in favour of Centlec. The murder of Mgoqi previously made headlines amid rumours that he was entangled in a scandal that nearly cost the utility over R23 million.

Sources allege that Mgoqi signed off on a deal with Vodacom after his contract had already expired, a move reportedly not sanctioned by then-board chairperson Kenosi Moroka. The execution styles of both killings have fuelled speculation that a sinister web of death is being spun around Centlec’s high-ranking officials. Two suspects, Nkwebe Seatile and Tlotlisang Monyane, were arrested in connection with Mgoqi’s murder in February 2024, while a third suspect – a 41-year-old Lesotho national – was arrested two months ago. Seatile and Monyane are expected to stand trial in the Bloemfontein High Court in January 2026, while extradition proceedings for the Lesotho national are still underway. Contacted for comment on May’s killing, Centlec spokesperson Tseliso Leba declined to be drawn into the matter, citing sub judice. “Since this incident occurred outside Centlec, the utility will leave it in the capable hands of the SAPS. We will, however, visit the bereaved family to extend our deepest condolences,” said Leba.

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Mystery Shrouds Mthethwa’s Death in Paris

By: Abigail Visagie

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation has confirmed the untimely passing of South African Ambassador to France, Nathi Mthethwa, who was discovered lifeless following a fall from the 22nd floor of a hotel in Paris. French news reports indicate Mthethwa’s body was found at the Hyatt Regency Paris Étoile. Mthethwa had held various governmental roles, notably serving as Police Minister from May 2009 to May 2014, and as South Africa’s Ambassador to the French Republic since December 2023, tasked with strengthening the vital partnership and bilateral ties between the two nations. “I do not doubt that his passing is not only a national loss but is also felt within the international diplomatic community,” Minister of International Relations, Ronald Lamola, stated. DIRCO confirmed that French authorities are currently investigating the ambassador’s death. Meanwhile, sources in France have reported that the incident, which might initially have appeared to be an accident, could probably be a suicide. The first District of the Judicial Police in Paris (DPJ) has stipulated that initial investigations suggest the

act was deliberate, “without third-party intervention,” according to the prosecutor’s office. This was further complicated by the fact that the South African Embassy to France was reportedly unreachable on Tuesday morning when Mthethwa’s death was announced. Shocking news also revealed that Mthethwa might have left cryptic messages to his wife and a final farewell message resembling a suicide note. Mthethwa’s wife had reported him missing a day prior to the discovery, claiming she last saw her husband in the afternoon as he left their Paris home to attend a cocktail party. However, the prosecutor’s office confirmed that Mthethwa had booked himself into the Hyatt Hotel ten days in advance. The prosecutor’s office further detailed the sequence of events. “That same evening, Mthethwa sent a final worrying message to his wife. He offered her his apologies and expressed his intention to end his life.” A Hyatt Hotel security guard made the gruesome discovery around 11:10 on Tuesday morning in the interior courtyard of the establishment. The room, located on the 22nd floor, showed signs that the window’s anti-opening safety mechanism had been forced with scissors left at the scene;



South Africa’s Ambassador to France, Nathi Mthethwa, has been found dead in Paris. Picture: Supplied
no signs of a struggle or consumption of medication or narcotics were found. Speculations have also surfaced connecting the diplomat’s death to the Madlanga Commission. Mthethwa was reportedly mentioned during the commission by KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner, Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, who alleged that during his tenure as police minister, Mthethwa had forced former Inspector-General of Intelligence, Faith Radebe, to withdraw a criminal case against former Intelligence General, Richard Mdluli. Mthethwa was allegedly on the witness list of the Madlanga Commission before his tragic death. This revelation and the suddenness of his passing have raised questions that Mthethwa could have allegedly committed suicide in fear of facing the commission, a possibility the Commission’s spokesperson, Jeremy Michaels, refused to comment on to various media outlets.

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MATJHABENG STEPS UP SERVICE DELIVERY DRIVE

Matjhabeng Local Municipality is accelerating service delivery, proudly showcasing a renewed commitment to excellence, integrity, and tangible results for its communities.

With urgency and sharper focus, the municipality has rolled out initiatives to upgrade infrastructure, streamline service provision, and directly engage residents to ensure their needs are met.

The administration says it is determined to restore hope, drive progress, and secure a brighter future for all.

Officials emphasise that these steps form part of a broader strategy to build trust, enhance efficiency, and create a municipality that delivers visible results.

Clean Governance and Accountability

Recent developments have reinforced Matjhabeng's reputation for integrity. The Department of Public Works cleared the municipality of any wrongdoing in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), confirming full compliance with national guidelines.

This follows Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Dean Macpherson's investigation into allegations that EPWP funds for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were misused to inflate salaries for councillors and political office bearers.

His findings dismissed the claims, confirmed there

was no mismanagement, and ordered the release of withheld funds so projects can continue, while the municipality accounts for its support unit decision.

Lawful and Transparent Processes

The Welkom Airport project demonstrates Matjhabeng's lawful, transparent, and Council-directed approach. Beyond infrastructure, it represents a bold step to unlock underutilised land, diversify the economy, and create jobs.

Linked to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the Welkom Cargo Airport is being developed into a cargo and customs-controlled hub. Investors are already on site, with early inspections showing strong potential for the site to become a logistics node supporting exporters of food, fuel, and manufactured goods.

This is not a sudden shift, but part of a deliberate diversification plan. Alongside the Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) in Virginia, the airport redevelopment and other land proposals mark a consistent strategy to reposition Matjhabeng's economy and attract long-term investment.

Strengthening Partnerships and Investor Confidence

This momentum will be showcased at the second Matjhabeng Investment Summit on 16–17 October 2025. Supported by leaders including Deputy President Paul Mashatile, Minister of Electricity and Energy Dr. Kgosisentso Ramokgopa, and Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana, the summit aims to highlight opportunities, strengthen partnerships, and inspire investor

confidence. The message is clear: Matjhabeng is open for business.

At the same time, Operation Patala — the municipality's credit control and debt collection campaign — is being intensified to recover millions in unpaid services.

Targeting rental properties, student housing, and households bypassing meters, the campaign has already led to disconnections, fines, and inspections. Illegal reconnections are being penalised. The goal is simple: every rand collected is reinvested into reliable service delivery.

Vision and Intensified Commitment

Matjhabeng's vision goes beyond pipes, roads, and electricity — it extends to building stronger communities. Programmes such as the Men's Dialogue, which tackles gender-based violence, fatherhood, and youth empowerment,

reflect a municipality that cares about both social and physical wellbeing.

Infrastructure upgrades, clean-up campaigns, smart meters, and social interventions are being pursued together in a holistic approach to development.

Matjhabeng is not reinventing itself; it is reinforcing and intensifying the work it has always done. From service delivery to clean governance, from attracting investment to uplifting communities, the municipality is proving that effective governance means consistency, urgency, and results.



Mmoho - Together - Sisonke - Tesame

Jagersfontein Disaster Victims Reject New Houses



Jagersfontein mudslide victim Seisa Pakisa fears his newly built house could collapse on him. Picture: Baagedi Sethlora

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

New house beneficiaries in the small Free State mining town of Jagersfontein claim that the structures built for them after the 2022 mine wall collapse disaster are not fit for occupation. The recipients claim the new structures are too small and have been poorly constructed. Some of the pain-points raised by them include weak window frames, flawed electricity connections, while flagging the emergence of visible cracks on the walls as some of the major safety concerns. Joyce Tsotetsi, whose house was wiped away by the mudslide, expressed her dissatisfaction after moving into one of the new houses “These houses are small, and some of us are cramped in there with our furniture. My previous house was not big, but it was spacious and safe. I am not happy at all, and they must come back and fix these houses,” Tsotetsi told Journal News. “My children even had to put burglars on my windows because I live alone with young children,” she said. Tseko Ntelele echoed Tsotetsi’s sentiments, highlighting faulty electricity connections as his major point of contention. “I use candles because the new houses don’t have

a proper electricity connection. I (also) take medication every day, and always have to make fire to cook, because the electricity breaker they put for me is not working.” Another disgruntled house recipient, Thabo Mosala, told Journal News that he feels the houses were hastily constructed without any prior proper planning. He also claims the house he moved into was not fully completed. “We don’t feel safe living with our children in these houses because any day now they will fall on us. I even had to move my younger children,” who further claimed his house was not fully completed. The mine collapse incident is regarded as one of the worst mining-related environmental disasters in democratic South Africa. Around six million cubic meters of contaminated waste was released into the community creating a catastrophic mudslide. Hundreds of homes were destroyed; five people lost their lives, while over 300 people were injured as a result. According to the Kopanong Local Municipality all protocols were apparently followed to ensure that all the victims receive decent homes. Solly Phama, the municipality’s spokesperson, has attempted to allay the recipients’ fears, stating that a competent housing inspector was appointed to guaran-

Recipients claim new structures are dilapidating despite being recently built

Grannies’Welcome R10 SASSA Increase



Sisters Grace Tlatli (72) and Dorcus Kopane (74) say the SASSA grant increase brings relief to their household. Picture: Baagedi Sethlora

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Elderly pensioners have welcomed the R10 increase in SASSA’s old-age grant, saying that while the amount is small, every bit helps in easing their daily struggles. The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) confirmed that the adjustment took effect this month, raising the old age grant from R2310 to R2320 for beneficiaries under 75, and from R2330 to R2340 for those over 75. The increase is set to start this month in line with the announcement made by the Finance Minister, Enoch Godongwana, in the Budget Speech earlier this year. Despite ongoing socio-economic challenges, many elderly people have expressed appreciation for the government’s support. Grace Tlatli (72) from Capestance Location in Bloemfontein said she is thankful for the increase, even as living costs continue to rise. “We have to be grateful for everything we get. The money may be little for our daily survival, but we are able to manage,” said Tlatli, who lives with her sister, a daughter, and grandchildren. Her sister, Dorcus Kopane (74), added that their combined grants help keep the household afloat. “We are living with our unemployed daughters, each with children who are still in school, and every cent we get makes a difference in the house,” she said. SASSA confirmed the new grant amounts for the October payment cycle in a statement issued on Thursday. “The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) wishes to inform all social grant beneficiaries that social grant amounts will increase

in the October payment cycle. This is in line with the announcement made by the Minister of Finance earlier this year when he tabled the Budget Speech for the 2025/26 financial year,” read the statement. In tabling the Budget Speech, Godongwana announced a considerable social grant increase from 01 April 2025 and a slight increase on 01 October 2025. The social grant amounts will be increased by R10 in October as follows: • Old Age Grants will increase from R2310 to R2320 • Old Age Grants (older than 75 years) will increase from R2330 to R2340 • War Veterans Grant will increase R2330 to R2340 • Disability Grant will increase from R2310 to R2320 • Care Dependency Grant will increase from R2310 to R2320 SASSA CEO, Themba Matlou, welcomed the social grant increase noting that the adjustment is crucial. “This reaffirms government’s commitment to protecting the most vulnerable in society, easing financial burden and cushioning them against economic hardships,” said Matlou. He further reiterated that it is all systems go for the October payment cycle and that all eligible social grant beneficiaries will receive their grants without any interruption. Social grant payments for October 2025 will be processed as follows: • Old Age Grant will be paid on 02 October • Disability Grants will be paid on 03 October • Children’s Grants will be paid on 06 October

Ditsobotla on the Road to Renewal

Ending months of chaos that saw two mayors, two speakers, and two municipal managers claiming office simultaneously, the council has re-elected ANC’s Morutse as mayor and the EFF’s Bogatsu as speaker



Re-elected mayor of Ditsobotla Local Municipality Molefe Morutse. Picture Supplied

By: JN Reporter

The re-election of Molefe Morutse as mayor of the embattled Ditsobotla Local Municipality is being hailed as the start of a turnaround aimed at restoring stability, improving service delivery, and rebuilding public trust after years of dysfunction. His return follows national government intervention, led by former Free State Director-General Kopung Ralikontsane, to address deep-rooted governance failures, financial mismanagement, and service delivery breakdowns. Earlier this month, the Department of Cooperative Governance ordered the election of a new mayor and speaker within 14 days. At a Special Council sitting last week, councillors re-elected Morutse as mayor and Manana Bogatsu as Speaker. The move is intended to end months of chaos that saw two mayors, two speakers, and two municipal managers reporting for duty simultaneously. Morutse was initially elected in March with support from ANC and EFF councillors, even as Mazwi Moruri was still holding the mayoral chain. Ralikontsane, serving as the National Cabinet Representative, welcomed the outcome, noting councillors’ “good cooperation” in consolidating leadership. “We called this meeting to ensure that we demobilise the two mayors and two speakers. The council supported us in finalising that process. Having a stable council will now allow us to focus on delivering sustainable services to the people of Ditsobotla,” he said. North West Premier Lazarus Mokgosi also welcomed the election of the new mayor and speaker, describing it as a crucial step forward for the municipality. The municipality was last month placed under administration for the ninth time.

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa confirmed the appointment of a six-member intervention team, citing the municipality’s inability to fulfill its constitutional obligations to residents. “This is the first time a team of people has come together, bringing a range of expertise. In the past, it was one person at a time. This time, it’s a team effort, and that’s what gives us confidence. It’s what led us to recommend an intervention to cabinet, rather than a dissolution, because never before has a team of experts stepped in to support the municipality,” said Hlabisa. During his visit to the region, Hlabisa stressed that no appointments or tenders will proceed without oversight from the national representative. The drastic intervention, carried out under Section 139(7) of the Constitution, comes after numerous failed attempts by provincial authorities to stabilise the municipality, which serves thousands in and around Lichtenburg. A specialised task force - including the SAPS, State Security Agency, and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) - will probe longstanding allegations of fraud, corruption, and misconduct. “Cases previously ignored will be reopened. If arrests are needed, they will happen,” added Hlabisa. The municipality’s senior leadership, including a municipal manager accused of mismanagement, will now face investigation, with the intervention team tasked with enforcing compliance, restoring governance, and re-establishing essential services. Ditsobotla’s collapse mirrors a national crisis in service delivery. According to the Auditor-General, more than 80% of South Africa’s 257 municipalities are financially distressed or plagued by poor governance.

FS ANCYL Demands Premier’s resignation, Slams ANC Leadership

By: Refilwe Mochoari

The ANC Youth League in the Free State has issued an audacious call for Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae and her entire cabinet to resign immediately accusing them of failing the province and its youth. This demand was part of a series of resolutions adopted during the league’s three-day Provincial Executive Committee (PEC), which took place in Welkom over the weekend. The league said this in a media statement released on Thursday afternoon. The league also urged the ANC’s National Executive Committee (NEC) to disband the ANC provincial leadership accusing them of suffocating the movement with mediocrity, timidity, and contempt for the youth. “The ANCYL declares without hesitation that Letsoha-Mathae must resign. She has failed the youth, failed the province, and trampled upon the principles of consultation and accountability. “She presides over collapse, corruption, and decay. She is dishonest, incapable, illegitimate, and unfit to govern. She is the enemy of youth and an enemy of the people, said the spokesperson Sinazo Hafula in the media statement. The league further announced that they have also resolved to register a motion of no confidence against the PEC saying that they are acting like irresponsible parents who almost a year later after their provincial congress still have not met with the elected leadership of the youth league. “They carry themselves as though the youth league is an afterthought despite repeated attempts by the league to secure a meeting, she said. Although the ANCYL later issued a second statement distancing itself from the initial release, Hafula confirmed in an exclusive interview with Journal News that the contents of the first letter reflect the resolutions that were passed at the PEC meeting. “Yes we did write the letter, but it was leaked by someone in our PEC before it could be approved for release to the media, she said. When asked if she would like to explain the confusion, she declined and said she is not at liberty to disclose the dynamics yet. Some of the resolutions that were taken at the meeting are that the PEC rejects the propaganda that the state is broke and said that South Africa has one of the strongest public balance sheets in the developing world. “The crisis is not a lack of resources but it is deliberate sabotage to protect financial capital. “Over two hundred billion rand sits idle in government reserves while schools lack textbooks and clinics are running out of medicine, said the statement. The meeting also concluded with the disbandment of the Xhariep ANCYL region.

Hauweng Bus Commuters Hit by Fare Hike



Mangaung Metro municipality has announced a 2% hike in Hauweng bus fares. Picture: Supplied

By: JN Repoter

As of Wednesday, Mangaung Transit’s Hauweng bus commuters were forced to dig deeper in their pockets following the municipality’s implementation of new travel tariffs. The Mangaung Metro municipality has announced a 2% hike in Hauweng bus fares, citing escalating operational and service costs. In a notice issued last week, the City said bus fares are reviewed annually in July as part of the municipal budget process. This year’s increase, approved by Council, is the first annual fare adjustment for the Hauweng Bus Service operating along the Brandwag corridor. According to the municipality, single-trip tickets have risen from R10 to R12, return-trip tickets from R20 to R24, while multi-journey tickets now cost R120, up from R100. “This increase is justified as a measure to balance escalating operational and service costs

while keeping fares affordable for users to ensure long-term sustainability of the project and revenue collection for the City,” the notice read. Launched in July 2024 after years of delays since its 2016 inception, the Hauweng Bus Service has faced controversies and allegations of mismanagement. It currently operates on Phase 1C along the Brandwag route. In his State of the City Address last week, Mayor Gregory Nthatisi said phases 1A and 1B of the project will soon be rolled out, extending services to the Moshoeshoe and OR Tambo routes. These expansions will be supported by the Public Transport Network Grant (PTNG). The municipality reminded commuters that tickets do not expire and encouraged frequent users to buy the 10-trip multi-journey ticket for convenience and weekly budgeting. The City maintains it is committed to providing an affordable, reliable, and safe transport system for Mangaung residents.

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February 23 2022 Unemployed People queue for R350 grant in Braamfontein, Johannesburg. Picture Sowetan

By: JN Reporter

South Africa’s labour market has taken a heavy knock, with Stats SA reporting a 0.8% drop in total employment, amounting to 80,000 jobs lost in just three months.

The latest Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES) show that job losses were most pronounced in the trade, manufacturing and construction sectors, raising concerns of deepening strain on an already fragile economy.

The latest data from Stats SA’s Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) shows that formal employment in the country is under severe strain, particularly in the community services sector.

Total employment decreased by 80,000 or 0.8% quarter-on-quarter, from 10,589,000 in March 2025 to 10,509,000 in June 2025.

This was largely due to a decrease in the following industries: community services (-53,000), trade (-10,000), manufacturing (-9,000), construction (-7,000), transport (-2,000) and business services (-2,000).

However, there was an increase in mining (+2,000) and electricity (+1,000).

Total employment decreased by 229,000 or 2.1% year-on-year between June 2024 and June 2025, down from 10,738,000 last year.

Year-on-year job losses were mostly recorded in community services (-225,000), followed by manufacturing (-18,000), mining (-6,000), transport (-3,000) and trade (-1,000).

Job gains year-on-year were recorded in electricity (+1,000) and business services (+23,000), with a flat result for construction.

The QES is an employer survey that tracks the number of formal jobs in the country, excluding agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing and private households.

This differs from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), which is a broader household survey that captures various employment types, including informal and domestic work, and unpaid family workers.

The QES gauges the health of South Africa’s formal business environment, while the QLFS focuses on the labour side, and is used to determine the official unemployment rate.

That said, the QLFS for the second quarter of the year also recorded a 140,000 more workers becoming unemployed in the quarter, with the official unemployment rate ticking up to 33.2%.

Both data sets point to a deepening jobs crisis in the country, with the QES in particular pointing to a worrying trend, marking the third consecutive quarter of declining numbers.

Prospects for the remaining quarters of the year are also dim, with South African businesses facing increasing risks due to internal and external pressures on the economy.

While thousands of jobs were lost over the quarter, those who remained employed and on payrolls would have seen higher earnings.

The QES covers eight key industries or sectors in South Africa, which is split further into 20 sub-categories, mainly made up of various manufacturing sectors, as well as a split between government and non-government community and social services.

The average monthly earnings paid to employees increased by 3.4% from R28,322 in February 2025 to R29,290 in May 2025.

Year-on-year average monthly earnings paid to employees increased by 6.5% between May 2024 and May 2025, Stats SA noted.

Gross earnings increased by R2.2 billion or 0.2% from R984.7 billion in March 2025 to R986.8 billion in June 2025.

This was largely due to an increase in community services, trade, construction, transport, mining, electricity and manufacturing—despite the jobs shed.

However, there was a decrease in earnings the business services industry.

Basic salary/wages increased by 2.5% over the quarter, while bonuses decreased by 25.4%. This reflects the expected change in seasonal bonus pay. Overtime, however, also declined by 1.0% over the period.

Year-on-year, basic earnings paid increase by 3.6%, in line with inflation, while bonuses paid increased by 5.1% versus the same time last year. Overtime paid decreased by 4.5%.



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Election Talks with Xhariep Distric
Municipality Executive Mayor, IRENE
MEHLOMAKULU

As the 2026 municipal elections approach, the Executive Mayor of Xhariep District Municipality, Irene Mehloimakulu sat down with Journal News to unpack the challenges, progress, and priorities that shape the region’s political landscape. The mayor discussed service delivery, youth unemployment, infrastructure development, and the municipality’s plans to improve transparency and community engagement.

By: Abigail Visagie

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to speak to you, Mayor. How long have you been serving the Xhariep District Municipality?

I was appointed in 2021, during this executive council term, as the executive mayor of the Xhariep District Municipality. So, I have been serving my community for four years. It is a challenging role, given that funded district not in the province—if entire country. Correct me like in other and across municipalities the country,



unemployment seems to be the biggest challenge in the seventeen towns under your leadership. How are you dealing with it?

You are correct. Unemployment is the biggest challenge in Xhariep, and it is closely linked to poverty. In addition, we face serious issues such as teenage pregnancy and substance abuse among our youth. These problems are often fueled by the lack of activities and opportunities within our communities. I believe that if we can create more activities and job opportunities, we will see a decline in substance abuse and other related challenges facing our young people.

As the district municipality, what kind of support do you provide to local municipalities in dealing with unemployment, or rather, how are you addressing it?

We are doing everything we can to secure assistance not only from the provincial and national government but also from the private sector to help create job opportunities for our youth. While I cannot share full details at this stage, I can assure you that we are working hard to open doors that will make it possible for young people to access employment opportunities.

Please share with us—what are your roles and responsibilities as a district mayor?

Our responsibility as a district municipality is to coordinate and support the three local municipalities under our jurisdiction, mainly through intergovernmental coordination.

Local government elections are on the way. How prepared are you, and what are your top three priorities?

We are fully prepared for the upcoming local government elections. One of our top priorities is advocating for female councillors, particularly in Xhariep. Out of 22 wards in the district, only two are led by women, and we want to change that narrative. We strongly believe that wards led by women tend to perform better than those led by men.

How do you plan on improving the overall state of the Xhariep District?



The Executive Mayor of Xhariep District Municipality, Irene Mahlomakulu. Picture: Baagedi Sethora

For the past four years, we have consistently received unqualified audits as a district municipality. Our goal now is to achieve a clean audit before the next financial year ends—something we are optimistic about. While funding constraints prevent us from always delivering the level of service our communities deserve, we are determined to ensure our Auditor-General reports reflect sound governance and accountability.

You are an avid gender equality activist. What are you doing to curb GBVF in your district?

GBVF is a deeply painful issue in Xhariep. As we speak, a woman was recently murdered by her partner, and I am preparing to visit her family. Sadly, they are considering withdrawing the case because the perpetrator was their breadwinner. This illustrates

how complex and heartbreaking the situation is. We are working closely with our Premier, Maqeen Letsoha-Mathae, who has visited our communities multiple times to plead with men to stop this cycle of violence.

We have also begun engaging directly with men in our communities, believing that if men themselves take the lead in confronting GBVF, we may finally see a decline in this scourge that continues to claim the lives of our sisters.

Do you think you are ready to serve another term as district mayor?

If the organisation that deployed me deems it fit for me to continue in this role in the next executive council term, I will gladly avail myself. Ultimately, the decision rests with the organisation.

UFS Caught in ‘Bogus’ Qualification Row

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

A quiet crisis is unfolding at the University of Free State School of Nursing with about 50 post graduate students trapped and stuck with “fake” qualifications.

The class of 2023 Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Health Nursing and the Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Care Nursing at the UFS nursing school who attended a year long programme with the hopes and aspirations of improving their lives and careers have turned into a nightmare as their qualifications are not valid to be registered by the South African Nursing Council.

After graduating the students received the shock of their lives when SANC declined to register their qualifications saying that their diplomas are invalid.

SANC is the official body responsible for setting and maintaining high standards for nursing education and practice across South Africa, if not registered, nurses may not practice.

Their dreams were shattered when they received an email from the school on 13 December 2023 stating that there is a delay in the registration process due to pending matters with SANC concerning their status as learners.

According to SON, the OHN and PHC programmes were only registered by the Higher Education and South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) before commencement.

A professional nurse in private sector and one of the Nursing students, Karabo Thatlogi explained that in 2022 the UFS advertised then post graduate diploma programmes in Primary Care Nursing, Occupational Health and Nursing Education.

He says these programmes were listed on the SANC website as accredited offerings, but at onset during the registration of their studies were they informed that the programme was not fully accredited. “This lack of transparency denied us the right to make informed decisions about our education and professional futures.

“Despite numerous attempts to engage with the school of nursing, our concerns have been met with silence, delay and inadequate responses. While oth-



xxx. Picture: Supplied

er students from other cohorts have been registered and employed, our applications remain unresolved.

Journal news is in possession of all the letters that were sent to students about the matter since 2023, and the message is that the the nursing school is still trying to resolve the matter.

The first letter dated 13 December 2023 from Programme Director Dr LJ Magakwe “...There may be some delays with the registration of your additional qualification at SANC due to challenges that were experienced during your registration and n as learners....”

The second letter dated 02 May 2024 from nursing school head Dr Jeanette Sebaeng “.....The two programmes commenced on conditional accreditation...” Third letter dated 10 October 2024 from Seabeng “.....No formal feedback has been received yet...” Fourth letter dated 20 March 2025 from Seabeng “...SANC only accredited this qualification in the cause of 2023, meaning this qualification was not registered by SANC at the time UFS registered students in this programme at the start of 2023...”

The same letter was sent again in November 2024 by Seabeng The final letter dated19 September 2025 from UFS spokesperson Lacea Loader “....UFS received feedback from appeals panel of SANC....we will inform you soon of our response to the feed-

back from the appeals panel....”

These students have expressed their frustration saying that they feel betrayed by the University for giving them a qualification that they cannot use, and it has become a nightmare.

Thatlogi says this has been a stressful and depressing experience.

He says he has invested money, time an effort to do his postgraduate on Occupational Health and now 18 months later he is unable to be a specialist in his nursing career.

“We have been fighting this matter, but we are not getting a clear message. All we are getting from then university is that they are in talks with SANC.

“When we contact SANC, they say that the issue is not within SANC’s scope to resolve and directed the matter back to the university, which added further confusion and concern to us.

“Eighteen months after completing our qualification, we remain unregistered with SANC, leaving us professionally stranded.

Thatlogi says he has missed four opportunities as a nursing specialist, but he cannot get the promotion because his qualification is not recognised.

Samantha Drury from the Eastern Cape studied a Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Care Nursing. She said that she enrolled in this qualification

to empower herself and upgrade her salary, as her current salary is not enough.

“I am stagnant in a facility that I do not want to work in because I had an agreement with HR that I would take a transfer to a closer facility after graduating, because they had a vacant post which needed this Primary Care Nursing qualification, now 18 months later, I’m stuck in this facility as a general nurse,” she said. “I spend triple the petrol I used to because I had an injury on duty after being assaulted by a patient, thus we had the agreement with my HR department that I’d move to one of the two facilities next to my home because my sight was reduced after the injury.

She says going to work is a nightmare and that she is on depression medication because of this whole situation.

“I have never felt so betrayed in my life. I was handed over to attorneys for fees of a qualification that is invalid.

“I will never recommend anyone to go to UFS, to think this was one of the reputable universities”

Another occupational health student, Azola Nyamfu says she is tired and emotional.

She says that this year alone, she had three offers from three occupational health clinics but was turned down after disclosing that she didn’t have SANC documents.

Due to frustration, the group even approached the UFS Law Department in June 2024 with requests for assistance in resolving the matter, but no effective support or resolution was offered.

Journal News approached Loader about this matter and she explained that the university is committed to finding an amicable solution.

“The university is engaging relevant stakeholders, including the South African Nursing Council (SANC), and will liaise with the students imminently regarding the professional registration of their Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Health Nursing and the Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Care Nursing which they completed in 2023.

“The UFS recognises that this has been a lengthy process and remains committed to finding an amicable solution, said Loader.

Dignity Restored in Mothotlung Township

Hlalele Declares War on GBV in 90-Day Campaign



Minister of Human Settlements Thembisile Simelane handed over 400 title deeds in Noth West. Picture: Supplied

By: Refilwe Mochoari

On Wednesday, the Minister of Human Settlements Thembisile Simelane handed over 400 title deeds to the residents of Mothotlung in Madibeng Local Municipality in North West province.. This handover is part of government’s ongoing Title Deeds Restoration Programme which aims to issue over 6000 title deeds during this financial year and 80 000 title deeds across the country by 2029. The programme is aimed at promoting social justice, stability and economic development in Mothotlung area. During the handover, Simelane emphasised the importance of having a title deed to all the beneficiaries saying that they are now guaranteed security and economic empowerment.

“ This house and title deed is the ultimate security for you and your grandchildren. Love it and take care of it to the best of your ability, she said. According to Simelane, eliminating the nationwide title deed backlog could unlock over R200 billion in asset value for fully subsidised government houses across the country. Accompanying the minister was MEC for Cooperative governance, Himan Settlement and Traditional Affairs Oageng Molapisi who urged residents to look after their title deeds as they not only define proof of ownership to property but also means restoration of dignity, human rights and self esteem. “These are not just any documents, they are a testament that the house you have lived in for years is officially yours, he said. One beneficiary, Pauline Maleka (64), said she is

extremely happy. Maleka is unemployed and lives with her three children. They all rely on the South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA) grant. “ I feel so happy. I could jump on top of my roof and scream with excitement. I am very grateful to our government, she said. Another beneficiary is Catherine Monareng (65), who has been living in her house since 2010. She is blind and unemployed and lives with his son. They rely on the disability SASSA grant. “I am happy because my title deed was delivered by the minister herself. This is proof that the house indeed belongs to me, Monareng said.

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

Free State MEC for Social Development, Mathabo Hlalele, has vowed to confront Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) head-on, launching a bold 90-day campaign to tackle what she described as a scourge terrorising communities. Addressing residents, Hlalele warned that GBV had reached crisis levels, with women and children bearing the brunt of relentless abuse. She stressed that silence was no longer an option in the face of rising femicide cases. She said the programme was designed to confront the apartheid legacy of broken family structures caused by the migrant labour system. “A special JCPS Ministerial meeting reflected on the magnitude of GBV in South Africa and reaffirmed government’s strategic posture in dealing with it through increased communication, awareness, and community mobilisation,” Hlalele said. “Despite the President’s declarations, the country continues to see an unprecedented rise in brutal violence against women and children in our province, with Mangaung Metro identified as a hotspot — recording 504 cases.” Hlalele painted a grim picture, citing the killing of 19-year-old Puleng Motlodi of Thaba Nchu, whose body was dumped in a pit latrine. “From deep inside her grave, Machaka Radebe is crying out against Gender-Based Violence, which stole her precious life. So too are Mpho Moalusi, Olorota Mongalo, Bongiwe Phulampa, and countless others. These poor women lost their lives because some cowards believed they had the power to decide their fate,” she said. An urgent meeting of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster in April culminated in the adoption of a 90-day acceleration programme to intensify the national response and fast-track implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF. According to the latest police crime statistics, the Free State has seen spikes in rape, attempted murder, sexual assault, and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm between October and December last year. Attempted



MEC for Social Development, Mathabo Hlalele Picture: Supplied murder cases rose by 9.3%, while sexual assault increased by 4.4%. Thabong Police Station in Welkom remains one of the province’s biggest hotspots.



MATJHABENG

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



national treasury

Department: National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Public Notice

NATIONAL TREASURY: MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY SERVICE

NOTICE TO INVITE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR MATHJABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY REQUIRED IN TERMS OF SECTION 141(3)(C)(ii) OF THE MFMA

The Free State Provincial Executive resolved to intervene in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality in accordance with the requirements of section 139(5)(a) and (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 read with section 146(3)(b) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) to respond to a financial crisis and persistent service delivery failures in the municipality.

The National Treasury Municipal Financial Recovery Service prepared the Mandatory draft Financial Recovery Plan (FRP).

In line with the requirements of Section 142 of the MFMA, the Mandatory draft FRP has been designed for use as an instrument to secure the municipality’s ability to meet its obligations to provide basic services and its financial commitments, and to place the municipality in a sound and sustainable financial condition as soon as possible.

Any person or organisation wishing to comment on the draft FRP is requested to lodge the comments in writing within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice, by –

(a) Posting the comments to:
Kavitha Ruplal
Head: Municipal Financial Recovery Service
National Treasury
Private Bag X115, Pretoria, 0001

(b) e-mailing the comments to:

Kavitha Ruplal
Head: Municipal Financial Recovery Service
National Treasury
mfrs@treasury.gov.za

(Mark the subject box clearly as: **COMMENTS ON DRAFT MANDATORY FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN – MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**)

(c) Delivering the comments to:
The Acting Municipal Manager, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Office Number 203, 319 Corner Ryk & Stateway, Welkom, Free State.

The following must be indicated by the person or organisation submitting the comments:

- Name;
- Telephone number;
- E-mail address and/or fax number; and
- Postal address.

Matjhabeng Local Municipality

Mmoho - Together - Sisonke - Tesame

METRO MUNICIPALITY

METRO MUNISIPALITEIT

LEKGOTLA LA MOTSE

MANGAUNG

AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality is embarking on the process of alienating/ disposing off and entering in the long-term leases for various immovable properties within its jurisdiction.

Section 14(2)(a) of the Municipal Finance Management Act no 56 of 2023 DISPOSAL OF CAPITAL ASSETS: requires that the public has to be consulted before any decision can finally be taken regarding capital assets or all immovable properties as listed to this notice.

It must further be noted that the list of immovable properties or capital assets will be disposed or leased through long-term leases on market-related costs that are or will be confirmed by the municipal valuer.

All inputs and objections can be submitted to the following

municipal offices during office hours (07:15 am – 16:15 pm), within 30 days from the publication of this notice:

- Bram Fischer Building.
- Thaba Nchu Regional Office.
- Ikgomotseng Municipal Office.
- Naledi Regional Office.
- Botshabelo Regional Office.
- Fichardt Park, Trevor Barlow and City Libraries.

Important requirements for objections/inputs:

- All Regional Offices addresses to be indicated where objections or inputs are given
- List of contact persons
- Reference to the properties and factories relating to objections/inputs must also be included

PROPERTIES

#	BIDS PROPOSALS / PLEDGES	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
1	TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT (MIXED DEVELOPMENT)	CECELIA PARK: ERF 24720
2	TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT (MIXED DEVELOPMENT)	N8 AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT NODE: ERF 40996 AIRPORT NODE DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2: ERF RE/2620
3	TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT (MIXED DEVELOPMENT)	VISTA PARK 2: ERF 412/65
4	TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT (MIXED DEVELOPMENT)	ESTOIRE: ERF 55- 56; ERF 1/56; ERF 72-74; ERF 80-87; ERF 92-93; ERF 1/94; ERF 2/94; ERF 3/94; ERF 95-96; ERF 98-100; ERF 106-113; ERF 116-117; ERF 119-127; ERF 135-139; ERF 142-143; ERF 145.
5	RESTORATION OF THE WAAIHOEK PRECINCT; FILM PRODUCTION	WAAIHOEK PRECINCT
6	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT; SOLAR PLANT	BLOEMDUSTRIA ERF 2936 HAMILTON: ERF 27836 – 27843; ERF 72846 – 27851; ERF 27853 – 27898; ERF 27860 – 27862; ERF 29002; ERF 29401; ERF 23404; ERF 23410 – 23421; ERF 23424 – 23433.
7	CONSERVATION PROPERTY AND OR AMUSEMENT PARK	NAVAL HILL: ERF 447/6545
8	ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	TEMPE AIRPORT ERF 2/2312 & ERF 3/2312 & ERF 6/2844
9	RECYCLED POWER ENERGY GENERATION	OLD CENTLEC POWERSTATION: ERF 424/654
10	STUDENT ACCOMODATION	ERF 17435
11	CONTAINER PARK DEVELOPMENT	ERF 1156 LOVEDALE (BATHO)
12	GREEK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	ERF 140 BOTSHABELO Re/826 5191 THABA NCHU PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FREE STATE
13	EXTENSION OF LEASE AGREEMENT	FARM HILLSIDE 2830
14	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	PORTION 826 NEXT TO KAIZER SEBOTHELO STADIUM

For more information kindly contact: Mr Tlfred Mabuza at tlfred.mabuza@mangaung.co.za or 051 405 8076

CITY MANAGER

- SELLO MORE

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Mangaung Metro Municipality

Call Centre: 0800 111 300



Kelebogile Boleu

Lecturer in the Department of Criminology, University of the Free State

Parenting and Advocacy: The Drivers of Change in Education for Deaf Children

September was the International Month for Deaf People. The World Federation of the Deaf declared September as Deaf Awareness Month.

The aim of this month is to promote the positive aspects of deafness, as well as social inclusion. As a hearing parent I had little to no tools to help me navigate deafness in my child and ultimately the Deaf community and culture.

I struggled to find my feet and make the choices that would be best for my child's future, I simply did what I could and what health practitioners had hurriedly told me to do.

I lacked support and access to parents who had been through the same thing or just a space where I could share my journey with people that would enlighten me further than the health practitioners had. Eventually my son entered school, though he thrived with his sign language and his deaf identity formation, the schooling environment itself was simply not a comfort to me.

I experienced various challenges and though I finally met parents who could relate to my journey I was quickly disappointed at the level of a positive school experience the learners have.

Their reading and writing development were extremely underdeveloped and they struggled to keep up, even those in higher grades than my son.

The importance of encouraging reading

The South African segment of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study 2021 (PIRLS 2021), conducted by the University of Pretoria, reveals a concerning statistic: 81% of South African Grade 4 learners struggle with reading comprehension at the age of 10.

This issue is exacerbated among children with learning challenges, particularly Deaf children. Research indicates that only one in three Deaf adults proficient in South African Sign Language (SASL)



are functionally literate, and the average literacy level of Deaf school leavers corresponds to that of an eight-year-old hearing child.

Contributing factors to these challenges include a lack of a reading culture, insufficiently resourced educational institutions, and inadequate emphasis on early childhood development.

Finding solutions

I had multiple engagement with the stakeholders in the inclusive education space, including the Department of Basic Education (DBE) as well as the school for the Deaf.

However, I eventually realised the only solution might need to come from us as parents.

I wrote a proposal and consulted possible par-

ties, the University of the Free State (UFS) library, as well as the UFS Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies both heard my cry and this project was supported.

We formed a project called the HEARTS project. It is not an acronym, but simply means the children are the heartbeat of the project and everyone involved has taken their roles wholeheartedly. Parents in the project get SASL training and support each other in navigating parenting and educating their deaf children.

The children get extra reading classes, where we support their development through a positive reading culture and reading for fun activities.

In the short time that we have had this project

both parents and schoolteachers have seen a difference in this small group of children.

The HEARTS project is close to the people involved, purpose driven and valuable to each individual no matter how they've contributed and gained from the project.

We hope more parents and children can benefit from this over the years, but our greatest hope is to create a world where being deaf does not equate to a second-class education, where inclusivity doesn't look like marginalisation and isolation. It is important to note that this project cannot be successful without the commitment of all parents ensuring that the work is done beyond the classroom, incorporating a reading culture at home and improving their sign language skills through constant communication and engagement with their child.

Way forward

We see this initiative as a small start to what we hope will be a bigger project, one where parents can get support as soon as their child is diagnosed. To understand fully their non-medical options before they make big decisions.

We would like to see more schooling opportunities closer to home.

For the DBE to foster true inclusivity, and encourage not only academic success, but sports and arts and culture as avenues for success.

We hope for a schooling system that recognises the Deaf's need for empowerment, a school that sees them as future contributors to the economy and leadership of the country, a schooling system that doesn't create limitations but ensures extended possibilities.

If you know a parent of a Deaf child or if you yourself would like to support this initiative you can contact the programme conveners, KP Boleu at boleukp@ufs.ac.za A le Roux at vanasa1@ufs.ac.za

Using the K-word will never be funny, no matter what the color of your skin looks like...



Refilwe Mochoari
Editor In Chief

South African actress and fashion designer Enhle Mbali loosely used the K-word to describe her hair in a room full of white people during a brand partnership launch of the renowned hair brand Carlton Hair.

Quoting her verbatim Enhle said, "I am the only one allowed to use this word, I have k**fir Hare and black people know what I mean, colored people know what I mean.."

For some reason, everybody in that room laughed and downplayed the insensitivity of the word making it seem like it's okay to use that word.

Hi, everyone, my name is Refilwe Mochoari, let's talk about the legal implications of using the K-word in South Africa and why black people in general think it's okay for them to use the word when the South African historical background has such bad memories of the usage of this word.

Is it acceptable for black people to use the K-word but white people are not allowed to use it?

Not so long ago, Minister of Sport Art and Culture Gayton McKenzie used the K-word during a live video and some of his social media posts which were published between 2011 and 2017.

The minister also did not see anything wrong with using the word or rather he denied ever using the word.

The minister faced some social media slurs with many saying that he should be removed from his position as minister.

K**fir is a word that was commonly used in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as a non-pejorative reference to black people.

During the apartheid era, this word acquired powerful, negative connotations with not only the black community but also across the racial spectrum.

This word is widely recognised as inherently racist and unequivocally unlawful.

The usage is viewed as a deliberate act of inflicting harm, impairing dignity, and causing humiliation to black South Africans.

In 1996, the South African constitution adopted this when South Africa gained democracy the K-word was criminalized because of the historic background of the Apartheid era where the word was used as an insult to black people when they were killed, abused, and tormented by the apartheid government.

The fact remains, usage of the K-word will always be referred to as hate speech no matter what the skin color of the perpetrator looks like.

As South Africans we have been taught that this word may not be used by anyone or else there are some consequences to be faced.

Now Entle has found herself in hot water after she referred to her hair type as being "K**fir Hare" She said this during her welcome speech at the launch event and this has resulted in an uproar from social media followers criticizing her for her language usage.

Both Enhle and Carlton posted their speech but after the social media heat, the videos were removed.

Why did they remove them?

Enhle was announced brand ambassador for Carltons Hair's new black hair range, but that did not last long because now thensame the company has paused all related promotional content which features her and are conducting a full review of their partnership guidelines to ensure that alignment their inclusivity standards, adding that they will prioritise collaborations with voices that authentically amplify empowerment and cultural pride in the future.

She also issued an apology stating that she spoke in the language terminology that is commonly used where she grew up.

"My intention was not to dismiss or demean any community while sharing my personal experiences"

Why would Enhle use the word in such a public platform? Does she know that the word is categorized as hate speech?

But apart from Enhle, how many other people of color use the word as loosely as Enhle did?

Now what irks me the most is how loosely black people generally use the word. How does Enhle think that it is okay to use the word just because she is black?

How did everyone in that room who laughed though that this was funny?

The word was created with malicious intent, but why do black people think it's okay to use the word? This is a word that was used to kill our forefathers during the apartheid era.

These are the kinds of jokes that must never be accepted, never accept any derogatory speech as a joke. It is not funny.

If we were to turn the tables and a white person said what Enhle said, would that then show how insensitive it is to use the word?

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. Writte to: editor@journalnews.co.za

Transformation Begins With What We See and Hear

Pastor
Motsamai Kareli
Empowerment Ministries International

So many of us wish to transform our lives and live our dreams. But despite our best intentions, many of us will also trip ourselves up along the way. Why? Because we haven't been intentional around two crucial aspects: what we see, and what we hear.

By deliberately choosing what we see, we influence our mindset and, by extension, our reality. Similarly, what we choose to hear regularly conditions our minds to believe and act on those messages. Consider the following:

- * 82% of small business owners who used vision boards from the beginning succeeded in more than half of their stated goals (TD Bank, 2016).
- * Children who frequently watched violent TV shows between the ages of 6 and 10 were more likely to exhibit aggressive and violent behaviors in young adulthood (Huesmann, L. R., Moise-Titus, J., Podolski, C.-L., & Eron, L. D., 2003).

Simply put, what goes into our minds often comes out as life experiences — some good, some not so good.

By developing the practice of intentional attention around what we see and hear, we set the stage for the next steps in our leadership evolution, enabling our goals, dreams, and visions to become reality, and driving our journey toward personal and professional success.

As an Executive Mentor who has worked with CEOs and other high-performing professionals, I can assure you that being intentional about what you see and what you hear is essential for making powerful shifts in your life. In fact, they are the first two steps — and potentially the two most important ones — the SHIFTS process model:

- * See: You are the sum of what you repeatedly

- See.
- * Hear: You are the sum of what you repeatedly Hear.
- * Insight: Your insights and feelings anchor your beliefs about yourself and the world.
- * Formulate: Your belief system Formulates your decisions and creates habits.
- * Transform: Your decisions Transform your actions for making those big, bold moves!
- * Succeed: Your actions lead to Success.

I have learned about this model at length in Sam's book "SHIFTS: 6 Steps to Transform Your Mindset and Elevate Your Leadership," and I teach it to our church and our leadership community at the Empowerment Leadership Summit. I'm proud to say that more than 5,000 leaders have attended and been impacted since its inception in 2013. I truly believe that if the SHIFTS model was taught in more educational institutions, many more of our young people would be empowered to make stronger choices, pursue more positive paths, and set more ambitious goals — not only for themselves as individuals, but for their communities, countries, and our planet as well.

At the heart of the SHIFTS model is self-leadership and self-mastery. You cannot lead others until you desire to make SHIFTS in your own mind and choose to lead yourself first. And the first step towards doing so is becoming intentional about what you consume visually and auditorily.

So that begs the question: What will you consume? When you read a book by a successful entrepreneur, civic leader, teacher, or prophet? Or will you doom scroll on social media? Will you listen to music that inspires your soul? Or will you tune into the latest celebrity gossip? What we consume

makes us who we are. Or, as I once saw written on a banner at a booksellers convention: What goes into a mind comes out in a life.

Ideas for Curating What You See and Hear

- * Books: When I set out to transform my life from the inside out, books became an invaluable part of my journey — and they still are! Books are one of humanity's greatest inventions — if not the best — as they provide a hand-held vehicle for absorbing others' wisdom. A book is an easy way to transport you directly into the mindset of some of history's greatest statesmen, philosophers, entrepreneurs, athletes, and academics. Books, therefore — whether physical copies, e-books, or audiobooks — are always a wise investment.
- And let's not be mistaken: Books are not simply for beginners — they're for the über-successful as well! Billionaire Warren Buffett spends about 80% of his day reading: "Read 500 pages like this every day. "That's how knowledge works. It builds up, like compound interest".
- * TV & Films: Movies shape our minds, whether we realize it or not! My daughter once had a friend from overseas who spoke English fluently. When asked how she became so proficient, she stated that she had become adept by watching American movies! Similarly, a study by de Leeuw, R. N. H. & van der Laan, C. A. (2018) showed that when children were shown a film clip in which the main character helped another character, the children modeled the behavior.
- How are the movies, TV programs, and documentaries you're watching influencing you? Which ones have caused stress, anxiety, or questionable behavior? Which ones cause your heart to soar and expand your ability to feel hope, love and gratitude?
- * Music: The South Sudanese-Canadian actor, rapper, singer, and activist Emmanuel Jal once said: "Music — it's the only thing that can enter your system, your mind, your heart, without your permission." We each know that music can both make us feel happier, as well as incite dark and aggressive thoughts. Based on where you want to

go in life, which music will you use as your mental and emotional fuel?

Take some time to write down your life's playlist. Some of our favorite songs and pieces of music come and go with time, but others have longevity in our lives. Which songs shift your mood when you're down? What music reminds you of your best attributes?

- * Education: Whether formally pursuing a BA, MBA or PhD, or attending an online or in-person conference or seminar, education is a powerful transformation platform. It's no surprise that organizations such as UNICEF and UNESCO conclude that education is a key strategy for reducing global poverty. It is important, therefore, to dedicate oneself to becoming a lifelong learner. But when making SHIFTS in our lives, of greater importance than education is the practical application of what we learn. Yes, knowledge is power, but competency is crucial.
- * Association: The people we associate with — the ones in our immediate orbit — influence us the most. Why? Because they're the ones we see and hear the most! The company we keep will propel our SHIFTS or sink them — it's that simple. Of course, we should never callously sever bonds, but at the same time, elevating our leadership and making SHIFTS in our lives sometimes calls for making difficult choices. Always remember the following quote, often attributed to motivational speaker Jim Rohn: "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with."
- * Exposure: The human mind is much like a camera — your eyes the aperture, your memory the film. My family and I once took a trip to Athens and Milan, knowing that what we were to see and hear in those beautiful places was to stay with us and SHIFT our minds for a lifetime. Depending on your circumstances, consider investing in inspiring locales, regions, and environments — even if they're only a few miles away.
- Doing so helps create a vision of what is yet to come.
- Transform your life it is your duty.

Business

Markets and Indicators			
Rand/Dollar	17.29	-0.03%	⬇️
Rand/Pound	23.23	-0.05%	⬇️
Rand/Euro	20.24	-0.01%	⬇️
Platinum	1 571.30	0.00%	➡️
Brent Crude	64.33	0.05%	⬆️
Gold	3 855.96	-0.01%	⬇️
Etherium	77 337,19	3,32%	⬆️
Bitcoin	2 080 559,24	1,89%	⬆️

Rooted in Resilience: Nkhoke’s Organic Empire Blooms



Lydia Nkhoke, showing off her spinach. Picture: iol

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

The first light of dawn spills across the fields of Ladybrand, a quiet Free State town where Lydia Nkhoke’s story begins.

What seemed like a family setback — her mother, Maria Nkhoke, breaking her leg while managing the Mantsopa Mothers Agricultural Primary Co-operative Limited along with other family ventures — became a turning point.

Stepping in to help, Lydia discovered both her passion and talent for agriculture, planting the seeds of what would grow into her own organic farming empire.

It was a far cry from the woman who, just a few years ago, would have hesitated at the touch of damp soil — seeing only dirt where she now sees life and possibility.

The turning point came with what the Nkhoke family first saw as a crisis. Lydia’s mother, Maria, broke her leg while running the family cooperative.

To keep things afloat, Lydia made a life-changing decision: she resigned from her administrative clerk position at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), a job she had held for nearly two decades, and

stepped into the world of farming.

The Mantsopa Mothers Agricultural Primary Co-operative, founded by Maria in 2002, had secured 60 hectares of land from the Mantsopa Local Municipality the following year. Slowly but surely, through applications for funding and sheer persistence, the cooperative began to grow.

Recognition soon followed. The team received provincial awards and even travelled across Africa, sharing in what Lydia describes as an “agricultural awakening.”

Today, the cooperative’s fields flourish with spinach, tomatoes, carrots, green peppers, beans, and potatoes.

Their fresh produce makes its way to major retailers such as Cambridge, Fruit & Veg, and Spar, as well as to school feeding schemes and local communities. Loyal clients — including the Department of Education — praise both the quality of the produce and the reliable service.

“I never thought agriculture would mean so much to me. I had no passion for it,” Lydia admits, “but it opened doors and gave me a new perspective on the industry.”

The cooperative now employs six full-time workers — four men and two women — with hopes of expanding the team as the business grows.

Their efforts have also caught the attention of the Free State government.

Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae praised Nkhoke’s leadership, saying: “We are committed to supporting people like Mme Nkhoke. They are equipped with knowledge and passion for agriculture, and we are going to ensure that they are empowered, but most importantly, supported in their growth.”

For Lydia, however, the vision extends beyond farming success. She dreams of turning the cooperative into a skills hub for young people.

“I want this to raise awareness, especially among the youth, that there are endless opportunities in agriculture. They shouldn’t overlook it,” she explains.

Already, she has taken her message into detention facilities, offering agricultural advisory services and skills development programmes.

The woman who once preferred concrete now finds her grounding in the soil — her passion growing as steadily and surely as the crops she tends.

Police Seize Counterfeit Goods Worth R260m in North West



Police seized counterfeit goods valued at more than R260 million. Picture: Supplied

By: JN Reporter

Police in the North West have seized counterfeit goods worth R260 million. This was done through the police’s operation aimed at dismantling the illegal trade in counterfeit and illicit goods across the country.

The integrated operations were led by the National Counterfeit and Illicit Goods Unit, in collaboration with Public Order Policing and Crime Prevention Units in the Province, and other role players such as SARS Customs Division and brand protec-

tors.

Police say more than 100 shops in and around Coligny, Klerksdorp, Lichtenburg, Mafikeng, Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Ventersdorp, and Zeerust were identified and targeted during the operation. That is where they confiscated over 86 000 counterfeit items that include designer-branded clothing, sports apparel, footwear, bags, caps, toys, and consumables.

Police also confiscated counterfeit medicines valued at more than R45 000, along with illicit cigarettes and liquor.

Hlabisa appeals to business to help fix problem in municipalities

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Velenkosini Hlabisa has called on businesspeople and society to pull South Africa’s metros out of the mire.

Hlabisa has told the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber that the country was facing a real problem.

He says the City of Johannesburg, which used to be the pride and joy of South Africa, is dilapidated and needs urgent help.

Hlabisa was addressing the Business Chamber in Gqeberha, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen local economic development and tackle service delivery issues.

The meeting aims to come up with plans to strengthen the local economy amidst a tough economic climate.

The Minister has attributed the loss of investors



Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Velenkosini Hlabisa. Picture: Cogta

in the country to the mismanagement of municipalities and poor service delivery. **SABCNews**

NW Agricultural Show Boosts Farmers and Local Economy

With strong support from local municipalities and the provincial agriculture department, the North West Agricultural Show 2025 showcased innovation, skills development, and farmer empowerment

The much-anticipated North West Agricultural Show 2025 made a triumphant return, attracting hundreds of passionate farmers, agri-business leaders, and enthusiasts to the vibrant farming town of Vryburg.

Held in partnership with the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality and Naledi Local Municipality, the show put the District Development Model (DDM) into action, highlighting the district’s dedication to agricultural growth, local economic development, and supporting new-era farmers.

The show attracted farmers of all levels, young people, and first-time starters eager for exposure and opportunities in the sector. Intense daily master classes provided expert guidance on the latest trends and challenges, while state-of-the-art machinery and ex-

hibitors from across the province and beyond showcased innovations, products, and services that reflected the breadth and dynamism of the industry.

Platform to help smallholders grow

According to the North West department of agriculture, the show also served as an important platform for sector-specific discussions, featuring a focused panel that explored critical topics such as genomics as a tool for livestock selection, effective farm financial management, budgeting, record-keeping and reinvestment strategies, market and value chain opportunities, and the importance of animal traceability.

“These sessions provided farmers with practical knowledge and expert insights, equipping them to make informed decisions and strengthen their operations. “In addition, the event offered an invaluable platform for smallholder farmers to display their produce, connect with industry leaders, and gain insights into market trends, financial tools, and modern agricultural technologies, making the North West Agricultural Show 2025 an unmissable gathering for anyone involved in agriculture,” the department stated.

“The support we received from the department and visitors over the past three days has been overwhelming, and it motivates us to continue growing our business and contributing to local agriculture,” Mbanxa said. Speaking on behalf of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality and all its local municipalities, executive mayor Motseokae Maje thanked the department of agriculture and rural development



In Taung, the North West department of agriculture and rural development held an agricultural show that brought together farmers and stakeholders. Picture: Food For Mzansi

for its partnership and leadership in making the North West Agricultural Show 2025 a success.

“This is an event that demonstrates the strength of the region, showcasing the talent, innovation, and resilience of our farmers while highlighting the potential of agriculture to drive economic growth and improve livelihoods,” Maje said.

A successful farming show

He further emphasised that farming is a key tool

in addressing poverty and creating opportunities for communities across the district.

As the North West Agricultural Show 2025 came to a close, the MEC Madoda Sambatha hailed the event as a resounding success. He said the next year’s edition promises to be even bigger and more impactful, featuring an awards element to recognise farmers for excellence, innovation, and outstanding contributions to the sector.

“The North West Agricultural Show 2025 has been a remarkable success, providing our farmers with a platform to showcase their products, share innovations, and connect with new markets.

This edition has set a high standard, and we are committed to building on this momentum to make future shows even more impactful and rewarding for our farming communities,” Sambatha said. **Food For Mzansi**

ChuffPlek.
Lounge

PRESENTS

ALL WHITE
Linen Street Bash

SATURDAY.01.NOV.2025

ADMIT ONE

COVER
R100

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VIP - TABLE
FOR 4
R3000

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NO COOLER BOX ALLOWED
ALCOHOL WILL BE SOLD AT THE VENUE

VENUE
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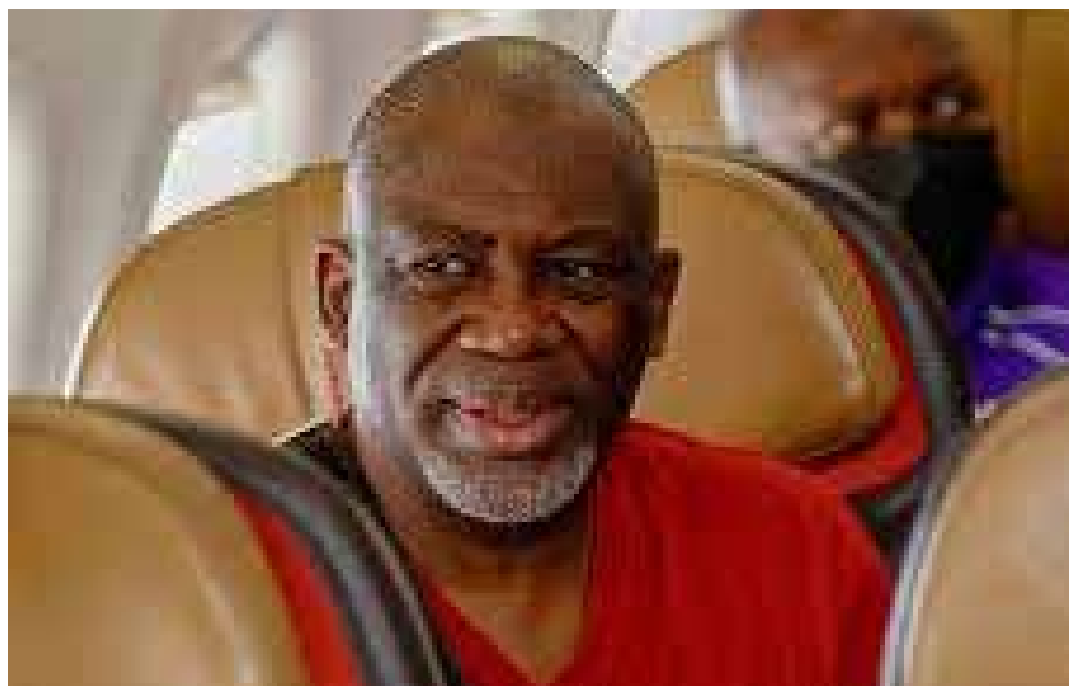
The Gauteng Times

Sport



Carling Knockout Cup
LAST 16 WEEKEND

SAFA pressured to Fire Tseka



Bafana Bafana team manager Vincent Tseka. Picture: Sowetan

By: JN Sports Reporter

The journey of the South African national football team, Bafana Bafana's qualification towards the prestigious 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America, has been thrown into disarray not by the prowess of an opponent, but by a catastrophic failure of internal administrative duty.

The crisis, which threatens to invalidate hard-fought victories is now centred squarely on the office of the team manager, Vincent Tseka – whom the South African Football Association is being pressured to dismiss in effectively dealing with this mammoth blunder.

Tseka has been specifically identified as the primary individual responsible for the oversight involving the suspension of key midfielder Teboho Mokoena. This error initiated a formal process that saw South Africa officially being docked points in the fiercely contested 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers campaign, drastically compromising the team's standing and prospects of going to the global showpiece.

As team manager, Tseka's role is considered the linchpin of the national team's operational structure, and therefore requires immaculate attention to detail, precision, and proactive communication. His responsibilities encompass the vital duty of tracking and instantly informing the entire technical staff, including the head coach and his assistants, of any disciplinary rulings or player suspensions that could render an athlete ineligible for selection in an upcoming match.

Tseka further serves as the indispensable link be-

tween all internal departments and external parties, dictating that all crucial, non-playing information is reported directly to him. Therefore, the eligibility of any player is arguably the single most critical piece of pre-match documentation.

Tseka should have been the one to provide this non-negotiable warning to the technical team well in advance of the crucial match against Lesotho in March.

Previous incidents of incompetence attributed to Tseka include a remarkable instance of forgetting the team's kit behind prior to a scheduled international away match.

Additionally, he is reported to have once failed to book a match venue - a shocking sign of negligence in fundamental planning and a profound disregard for basic attentiveness. Most worryingly, his alleged conduct has extended beyond mere logistical errors to include having an unwarranted altercation with a match official.

These various repeated transgressions strongly suggest a systemic problem that precedes the Mokoena saga, therefore signalling a clear and deeply concerning precedent for negligence in a position that demands unwavering accountability.

Sections of the South African football society are united in their demand for accountability from SAFA, calling for Tseka's immediate dismissal from the role.

Consensus is that Tseka's actions have been so careless and negligent that they have irrevocably compromised Bafana Bafana's chances of potentially qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America. The national team is once again at the mercy of permutations that might not swing in its favour.

Efforts and sacrifices of the players and the technical staff on the field have been fundamentally betrayed by administrative incompetence off it.

According to other reports, the reluctance to remove Tseka seems to be anchored in yet to be disciplined or removed from his post due to his alleged closeness to certain influential individuals within SAFA.

In response to the mounting public sure and the looming FIFA's final ment, SAFA has

sought to defuse the situation by publicly confirming that they will take any decisive action against anyone deemed responsible for the Mokoena transgression, but only once the world football governing body, FIFA, imposes its full and final sanction.

As the entire nation awaits the final, conclusive ruling from FIFA, an outcome that will irrevocably determine the team's qualification fate, the Bafana Bafana administrative scandal persists, a stark reminder that even the loftiest sporting dreams can be extinguished not by a superior opponent, but by an unforgivable administrative oversight.



Bafana Bafana player, Teboho Mokoena during the FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Lesotho in Bloemfontein. Picture: Baagedi Sethora

Ox Nche returns for SA's Rugby Championship decider against Argentina



South Africa's Ox Nche in action. Picture: SABCNews

Loosehead prop Ox Nche was back for title-chasing South Africa against Argentina in their Rugby Championship decider at Twickenham this weekend.

Nche was a late withdrawal last weekend for an unspecified niggles. However, he and halfback Grant Williams would have played if they were needed, Springboks coach Rassie Erasmus said on Tuesday.

Nche was the only change to the starting XV from the 67-30 win over the Pumas in Durban last Sunday. Boan Venter dropped out of the matchday 23.

Williams, prop Bongki Mbonambi and centre Jesse Kriel — a combined 186 caps — were added to the bench.

The Springboks can win back-to-back Rugby Championships for the first time on Sunday. They lead the All Blacks by one point and will know what exactly they need to clinch the title, as their game in London follows the Australia-All Blacks match in Perth.

The Pumas fell out of trophy contention last weekend but Erasmus expected an even bigger effort this weekend.

"They may be out of the title race but they have beaten the All Blacks, Wallabies, and British and Irish Lions this season, and it would be a big target for them to defeat us as well, so it's going to be another hard grind," Erasmus said.

Springboks: Damian Willemse, Cheslin Kolbe, Canan Moodie, Damian de Allende, Ethan Hooker, Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, Cobus Reinach; Jasper Wiese, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Siya Kolisi (captain), Ruan Nortje, Eben Etzebeth, Thomas du Toit, Malcolm Marx, Ox Nche. Reserves: Bongki Mbonambi, Jan-Hendrik Wessels, Wilco Louw, RG Snyman, Kwagga Smith, Grant Williams, Manie Libbok, Jesse Kriel. stuff

Kimberley's Big Hole Marathon Gets Official Launch



Athletics South Africa President James Moloi, MEC for Health in the Northern Cape Maruping Lekwene, three-time comrades marathon champion Tete Dijana, nine-time Comrades Marathon winner Bruce Fordyce, Northern Cape Premier Dr Zamani Saul. MEC for Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Venus Blennis-Magage. Picture: Supplied

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

A whopping R1.2 million is up for grabs at the inaugural Diamonds and Dorings Kimberley Big Hole Marathon launched on Monday at the Mittah Sperepere Convention Centre by Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul.

The marathon is set to take place on 22 November and will feature several race categories, 5km, 10km, 21,1km, and 42,2km.

The Northern Cape Provincial Government, in collaboration with the Athletics Griqualand West Federation has come into partnership to form the second largest marathon in the country after the Comrades marathon.

Speaking at the launch, Saul, said that it is not a coincidence that the marathon is launched a day

before the end of Heritage Month.

"Sports has a unique ability to transcend our cultural, racial, and linguistic differences. It gives us a sense of belonging while serving as a common unifier.

"The only time you can see how united South Africans are is at a sports event, this is the only time we assert our South African-ness and forget about any other second identity," said Saul.

He said sports play a critical role in unifying the nation because it fosters cohesion, peace, and development which contributes to creating a vibrant heritage.

He also said the Diamonds and Dorings Kimberley Big Hole Marathon passes some of the iconic sites in Kimberley, which speaks to the province's heritage. Also attending the launch was Executive May-

or of the Sol Plaatje Municipality, Martha Bartlett, who said that the marathon is not just about kilometers and medals, but it is a celebration of the resilience of the heritage of a community and progress.

"From the 5km fun run to the grueling 42,2km marathon, every stride taken on this route will tell the story of our province's commitment to health and development," she said.

Amongst other guests was the President of Athletics South Africa, James Moloi who said that they will be there to support runners.

"I wish this could be an annual race, but we will do our best as the ASA to give our support, and we will also bring some of our top athletes.

"I would also like to give assurance that maybe after next year, this race will be a South African championship," he said.

Moloi said South Africa has 1.8 million registered athletes and that it shows that the country has support for good health.

The runners who will receive payments are those who will come in positions one to ten.

For the 42km both male and female will win R200 000 each. For 21.1km both male and female will receive R50 000, for 10km winners will receive R10 000, and for 5km winners will receive R5000 each.

Registration for all four categories, 5km, 10km, 21,1km, and 42,2km, opened on 1 October.

The starting point will be at Sol Plaatje University and passing landmarks such as the Monument of the Dead, the Oppenheimer Garden, and the Northern Cape Legislature, among others. The finish line will be at the university's sports ground.



Casper Krüger from Grey College Primary School in Bloemfontein represented the Free State Motocross team during the annual North versus South Interprovincial Motocross event that took place in Bloemfontein. He came second place out of 16 riders in his division. This boasting event is the biggest Motocross event in Africa annually. Picture: Supplied