

Moqhaka MM Faces Imminent Arrest



IN HOT WATER: Moqhaka Local Municipality Municipal Manager, Portia Tshabalala. Picture: Moqhaka Facebook

By: JN Reporter

The Municipal Manager of Moqhaka Local Municipality, Portia Tshabalala, is reportedly facing imminent arrest following serious allegations of financial misconduct involving more than R221 million unlawfully paid to a security company that allegedly did not qualify for the tender.

Law enforcement agencies are said to be finalising the case, with an arrest expected soon as investigations have been completed.

This development follows President Cyril Ramaphosa's signing of Proclamation 163 of 2024 in April last year, authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to probe the Moqhaka Municipality's contracting of Isidingo Security Services.

According to a confidential referral affidavit dated September 2025, which contains the full SIU investigation report and is in the possession of Journal News, Tshabalala unlawfully appointed Isidingo Security Services, a KwaZulu-Natal-based company, that allegedly failed to deliver the physical armed security services for which it tendered.

The municipality ultimately paid the security company more than R221 million. **Continues on Page 2**

MAQUEEN COMMITS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION

Dealing with one department at a time, the Premier said her administration will not focus solely on eradicating corruption at senior levels of government but will also extend efforts to include junior employees

Page 2

Free State Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae vows to take a tough stance against corruption. Picture: Supplied



UFS Bows to Student Demands

Page 3



Crafting the Bassline with Miss Kay

Page 10



Runners Ready for Historic Harrismith Race

Page 12



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Power of Life

Mbalula to launch
October Transport
Month campaign



Free State MEC for Community Safety, Roads and Transport, Jabu Mbalula. Picture: Supplied

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

Free State MEC for Community Safety, Roads and Transport, Jabu Mbalula, is set to launch the provincial October Transport Month (OTM) campaign aimed at raising awareness and promoting a safer, more affordable, and reliable transport system.

The launch will highlight the department's ongoing initiatives to improve road safety, upgrade transport infrastructure, and enhance mobility across the province.

Mbalula is expected to outline key projects and partnerships supporting the province's vision for an integrated and sustainable transport network that benefits all road users.

According to departmental spokesperson Hillary Mophethe, the event — set to take place today at Mphatlalatsane Special School in Viljoenskroon — will underscore the government's commitment to "improving transport infrastructure, road safety, and the economic benefits of the sector, including job creation and reduced inequality."

The event will also mark the official reopening of the R30 Viljoenskroon–Orkney road, which was recently repaired and reopened to traffic following severe flood damage in 2022.

More than R150 million was invested in the rehabilitation of the 36-kilometre stretch, ensuring safer and smoother travel for motorists and improved connectivity for surrounding communities.

MaQueen Commits to Combat Corruption

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae has reaffirmed her commitment to tackle corruption in the Free State by uprooting it in all levels of employment in government.

In an interview with lifestyle magazine, Ignited Woman, Letsoha-Mathae declared that her administration will not focus on exclusively eradicating corruption at senior levels of government, but also expand it to junior employees who are involved in government procurement procedures.

"If they think I am coming for senior managers, I am even coming for those clerks who are requesting quotations. Today I am dealing with one department, I am moving one person from the other department to the other, even HODs," said Letsoha-Mathae.

She also hinted at the possibility of scrupulously rotating government staff to remove them from their comfort zones, where they can casually be tempted to take part in illicit procurement practises.

Said Letsoha-Mathae: "This is what we are going to do as the province...you can't say you are going to change the lives of the people (and) empower the Free Staters, when the same supply chain managers are the ones in the same positions."

The Premier further queried why service provider from outside where being prioritised in lieu of local businesspersons.

She firmly stated that the latter approach is flawed, highlighting abhorrent incidents that are being perpetrated in other provinces, where bidders some-

times find themselves being at the mercy of gun-toting assailants during tender briefing sessions.

"I want to tell you seated here that what is happening in other provinces, when there is a briefing session and people just come in with guns and say: those who are not from here (get) out. We must address that before we reach that stage."

"Let us address this issue and empower the people of the Free state," stated Letsoha-Mathae.

The Free State has indeed not been spared in the nationwide scourge of procurement corruption. According to the 2023/2024 financial year annual report from the office of the Premier, in March 2022, a service provider was appointed to investigate irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure identified by the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) during the financial years 2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20. In this investigation, 144 audit findings were related to irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure; 25 of them were finalised and acknowledged by the accounting officer on 25 May 2023.

It was through this investigation that additional irregular expenditure was discovered to have been incurred during 2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20, amounting to R28 768 000. By 31 March 2024, 49 more investigations were finalised, but not acknowledged by the accounting officer.

Excerpts from the report read: "The disciplinary recommendations contained within these investigation reports have not been implemented, as required by PFMA 38(1)(h)(iii). Management expects that the remaining investigations will be completed by 31



Free State Premier, MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae. Picture: OTP

March 2025."

The report indicated that no independent service provider was appointed to investigate instances of irregular and fruitless, and wasteful expenditure incurred during the period 2021 to 2023 and further states that no internal investigations have been per-

formed by management to determine if disciplinary steps need to be taken against liable officials," the report mentioned.

Noting that Letsoha-Mathe only assumed her duties as Premier in June 2024, the annual report covering her tenure as Premier is yet to be released.

Moqhaka MM Faces Imminent Arrest

Continues from Page 1

over three years for a tender originally valued at R87 million. This expenditure exceeded the contract value by 66%, significantly higher than the 15% provision allowed for in the municipality's 2018/2019 supply chain management policy.

Journal News has been reliably informed that the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has submitted its report to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), recommending criminal prosecution against Tshabalala.

"The matter has been handed over to the NPA for prosecution. I can confirm that the NPA is currently in possession of the report, and the arrest of the Municipal Manager can be expected soon," said a source close to the investigation.

The SIU report has flagged several irregularities in the appointment and management of the contract. Key findings include that Isidingo Security Services' firearm licence had already expired at the time of appointment on January 17, 2020, this means they couldn't legally deliver the required armed security.

Furthermore, as a Durban-based company, Isidingo didn't meet the requirement for locality preference.

The SIU report also highlights a conflict of interest: on October 17, 2019, Tshabalala, as a member of the Bid Adjudication Committee (BAC), recommended Isidingo as the preferred bidder, and then proceeded to appoint the company in 2020 when she became the acting Municipal Manager (MM).

Although she declared her prior involvement with the BAC, the report states this constitutes a conflict of interest under the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000.



Additionally, Tshabalala didn't seek council approval for the contract extension, which ran for over a nine-month period, and she continued to renew the contract until February 28, 2023.

The tender's validity period of 90 days had also expired at the time of Isidingo's appointment, and an uncertified lease agreement submitted by Isidingo was accepted, even though two other service

providers were disqualified for failing to submit a compulsory certified lease agreement.

The SIU report concludes that the appointment of Isidingo constitutes irregular expenditure, and the contract extension amounts to unauthorised expenditure.

"Evidence reveals that the appointment of Isidingo by the MM for the provision of physical armed security awarded was irregular and unlawful and in contravention of Section 217 of the Constitution of South Africa," the report states, adding that the MM's conduct is "unacceptable, unethical, unlawful, (and) irregular".

The report also suggests that the NPA should consider instituting criminal charges against Tshabalala for contravening the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), stating that the MM's conduct is a criminal offence in terms of the MFMA.

However, Journal News contacted the NPA spokesperson in the Free State, Mojalefa Senokotsoane, who clarified the NPA's mandate.

"Unfortunately, the NPA does not make arrests. Our mandate, as guided by the NPA Act and the Criminal Procedure Act, is to prosecute cases brought before the courts."

Senokotsoane stated that the NPA is "not in a position to comment on any matter until a suspect has been charged, arrested, processed, and has made their first appearance in court."

He advised that the appropriate law enforcement agency to engage is the South African Police Service's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI/Hawks), as they are "best placed to confirm whether there are any pending arrests".

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UFS Bows to Student Demands



University of the Free State (UFS), Qwaqwa campus Picture: Baagedi Sethora

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

The University of the Free State (UFS) has agreed to meet several demands made by protesting students, following days of unrest and disruptions across its campuses.

The decision comes after tense negotiations between student representatives and university management, centered on issues such as financial exclusions, accommodation shortages, and delayed allowances. The agreement aims to restore stability and ensure the resumption of academic activities.

This follows a week-long violent protest that left university buildings torched, infrastructure damaged, several students arrested, and others hospitalized. The unrest began at the institution's Qwaqwa campus before

spreading to the main campus in Bloemfontein.

The demonstrations erupted in response to the university's announcement that its new debt policy would take immediate effect. However, following negotiations, the University of the Free State (UFS) acceded to student demands and agreed to postpone the implementation of the policy for two years.

The policy, which had drawn widespread criticism, would have prevented students with outstanding fees from registering provisionally. After discussions on Wednesday, the university confirmed that indebted students will still be allowed to register in 2026, providing additional time before the new rule is enforced.

Under the agreement, the institution will only implement the policy in 2027, allowing continued dialogue between management and student leaders.

University spokesperson Lacea Loader said academic activities would resume in phases according to programme requirements, with faculty deans responsible for coordinating and communicating the return process to students.

While staff have started returning to the Bloemfontein and South campuses, the Qwaqwa campus remains closed as investigations into property damage and arson continue.

A total of 23 students were arrested and charged with contravening the Criminal Matters Amendment Act and with public violence. They have appeared in court and were released on warning pending their next appearance.

In the meantime, students will continue their studies through online learning.

Pharmacies permitted to sell and prescribe ARVs



Mogologo Phasha, president of SAPC. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

Reputable and accredited pharmacists in South Africa have officially been given the green light to prescribe antiretroviral (ARV) medication, a move aimed at improving accessibility and reducing the country's high HIV infection rate.

The South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC), which regulates the pharmacy profession, has welcomed the Supreme Court of Appeal's decision upholding the legality, rationality, and necessity of the Pharmacist-Initiated Management of Antiretroviral Therapy (PIMART) programme.

When the SAPC was established in 1995, accredited pharmacists were permitted to provide limited services such as HIV testing, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, urine analysis, sexual health advice, and occupational post-exposure HIV prophylaxis for healthcare workers.

By 2000, antiretrovirals were introduced in the private sector for people living with HIV, but only medical specialists—mostly hospital-based—were authorised to prescribe them.

Later, the Nurse-Initiated Management of Antiretroviral Therapy (NIMART) programme expanded treatment

access by allowing trained nurses to prescribe ARVs in clinics.

Despite these efforts, HIV infections continued to rise—from 5.7 million to 8.2 million by 2010. By the 2019/2020 financial year, the national ARV budget had exceeded R20 billion, underscoring the urgent need for broader treatment access.

In 2020, the Department of Health authorised nurses in private pharmacies to prescribe ARVs at pilot sites, provided they had completed NIMART training. This development paved the way for pharmacists to take a more active role in HIV care through PIMART.

The PIMART initiative enables specially trained pharmacists to prescribe first-line antiretroviral therapy to patients who test positive for HIV, and to refer complex cases to medical specialists.

On 9 October, the Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by the Independent Practitioners Association (IPA) that sought to block the implementation of PIMART.

"The ruling confirms what has been our long-held view—that PIMART is a necessary and competently designed intervention to support South Africa's fight against HIV and AIDS," said SAPC President Mogologo Phasha.

He emphasised that only pharmacists who have re-

ceived specialised training will be authorised to provide the service.

"PIMART will offer access to much-needed HIV prevention and treatment care, with the immediate benefit of improved quality of life and increased life expectancy for more people living with HIV and AIDS," Phasha added.

He further warned that delaying PIMART would hinder efforts to identify undiagnosed individuals and start them on treatment.

The government's national goal—to ensure that 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 95% of those are on treatment, and 95% of those on treatment achieve viral suppression—will be more attainable through PIMART's implementation.

"The SAPC, together with stakeholders and the Department of Health, will move swiftly to ensure that PIMART-trained pharmacists join other primary healthcare practitioners in providing HIV and AIDS services," concluded Phasha.

Although no date has been confirmed for the full roll-out, it is estimated that over the past five years—since PIMART was first proposed—about one million new HIV infections and 395,000 HIV-related deaths have occurred in South Africa.

Police raid Brown Mogotsi's North West business premises



North West Businessman Brown Mogotsi. Picture: Supplied

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

Yesterday the police raided the premises of businessman Brown Mogotsi in Seweding village in Mahikeng, North West.

National police spokesperson, Athlenda Mathe, said police went to Mogotsi's premises as part of an ongoing investigation that has already been discussed before the Ad hoc committee and the Madlanga commission.

Mogotsi, an alleged associate of embattled Police Minister Senzo Mchunu, has been widely accused of siphoning money from businessman Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala to bankroll the ANC's activities.

He has been implicated in the alleged unlawful interference at the South African Police Service (SAPS). Mogotsi has been a central figure during the Madlanga Commission's early testimony, with multiple witnesses pointing to his proximity to high ranking SAPS officials, being an information peddler and his alleged role in corrupting the integrity of law enforcement.

Mogotsi's name featured prominently through WhatsApp messages at the Madlanga Commission which showed how he used his ties to the ANC to get money from criminals for his benefit. Some monies were used to fund ANC activities.

Last week, IOL reported that the ANC had dis-

tanced itself from allegations of organised criminal activity levelled against Mogotsi, stating that he was not a registered member of the party.

However, Mogotsi struck back, maintaining that his membership remains valid and that he can prove it.

"I am a member of the ANC and I shall remain a member, a volunteer of the African National Congress. That is the status," Mogotsi said in an interview with broadcaster Newzroom Afrika.

In contrast, Mbalula told journalists that Mogotsi's ANC membership had expired, meaning the North West businessman was no longer part of the movement.

Mogotsi rubbished the claims, accusing Mbalula of acting prematurely and relying on untested information presented to the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry.

"He is relying on messages presented to the commission. I thought as a secretary-general of the oldest movement on the continent, he would allow the rule which he mentioned, the audi alteram (partem principle, to state his side of the story)," said Mogotsi at the time.

He dismissed Mbalula's assertions as "immaterial."

Mogotsi added that he would not contest any decision by the ANC to terminate his membership.- IOL

A Night of Stars: North West Educators Shine at National Excellence Awards



Educators posing for pictures at the National Excellence Awards. Picture: Supplied

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

The Department of Basic Education kicked off October by declaring it Teacher Appreciation Month, coinciding with the launch of the National Teaching Awards (NTA). The initiative celebrates and honours exceptional educators across the country.

At the 2025 ceremony, held on Thursday, 9 October at the Birchwood Hotel in Kempton Park, the North West province stood out — proudly collecting seven national awards.

"No basic education system can succeed without competent, motivated, and empowered teachers in well-resourced classrooms. The future of education is not just about what we teach, but how we support those who do the teaching," said Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube.

The North West delegation sent 15 finalists to compete nationally and returned home with seven accolades, including several top positions:

- Tlhabane West Primary School (Bojanala District) – 1st place in Primary School Leadership
- Thuto Neo Primary School (Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District) – 1st place in Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (GET)
- Reabona Secondary School (Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District) – 2nd place in Excellence in Teaching Natural Sciences
- Bolokang Secondary School (Ngaka Modiri Molema District) – 2nd place in Excel-

lence in Teaching Physical Sciences (FET)

- Ngaka Modiri Molema District – 3rd place in Excellence in Primary School Teaching
- Noka ya Loroto Primary School (Bojanala District) – 3rd place in Technology-Enhanced Teaching
- Tebogo Special School (Bojanala District) – 3rd place in Excellence in Special Needs Teaching

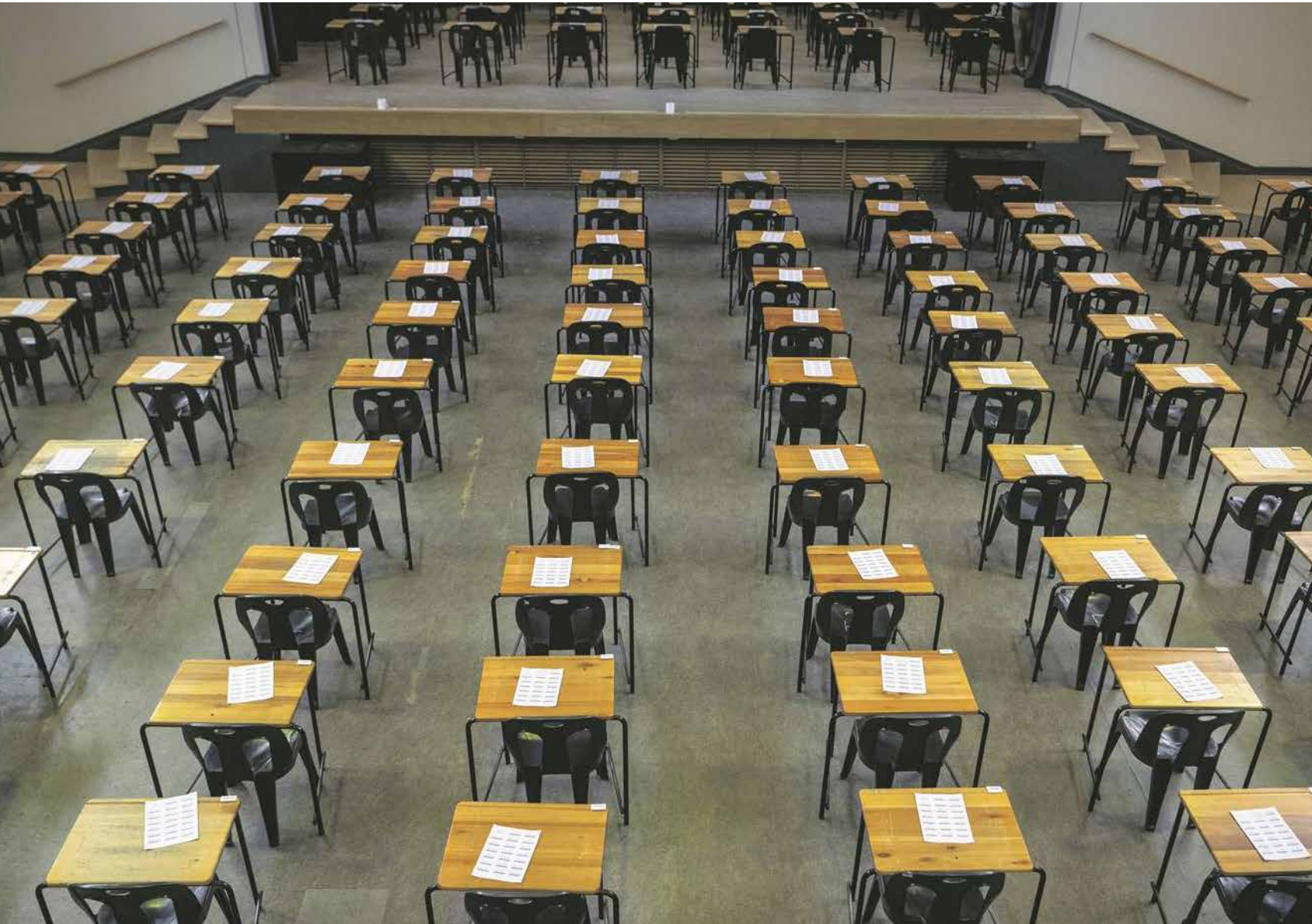
North West MEC for Education, Viola Ntsetsao Motsumi, praised the educators' achievements and the province's consistent performance at national level.

"On behalf of the entire Department, I would like to congratulate Team North West. We are proud of all our candidates. For two consecutive years, we have dominated the top positions nationally. This achievement shows that our Department is moving in the right direction," said Motsumi.

She added that the awards would inspire learners as they prepare for final examinations. "We have taken seven awards home — a true reflection of our dedication and excellence as a province."

The evening ended on a high note, filled with pride and celebration. Beyond individual recognition, the event reinforced a shared sense of purpose and commitment within the education fraternity, setting a positive tone for the academic year ahead.

Over 16,000 Candidates in the Northern Cape to Sit for This Year’s Matric Exams



Class of 2025 to sit for their final exams. Picture: Supplied

A total of 16,056 candidates have registered in the Northern Cape for this year’s National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

When the NSC examinations commence on Thursday, 23 October, 14 210 full-time candidates and 1 846 part-time candidates from the province will sit for this important examination. It concludes on 27 November.

In a statement, the Northern Cape Department of Education said it is fully prepared to administer the 2025

NSC examinations.

In 2024, the Northern Cape achieved a pass rate of 84,2%, representing an improvement of 18,2% over the past five years and up from 66% in 2020.

“The Class of 2025 now carries the responsibility of building on this achievement, with the aim of not only improving on last year’s performance, but also exceeding the national average,” the department stated.

The department has implemented a range of targeted interventions to support all learners, with particular fo-

cus on progressed and borderline candidates to maximise their potential.

These interventions include curriculum roadshows and subject clinics; broadcast lessons and digital content (both online and offline); Saturday classes, weekend intensive sessions, and psychosocial support; and differentiated subject support for high-enrolment and problematic subjects, led by subject advisers. Furthermore, additional learning support materials were provided, and holiday school camps were organised.

Life imprison for two raped charges

A 25-year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment for the rape of two minors in February 2022 at Manyatseng, Free State. The Ladybrand Regional Court convicted and sentenced Ntsikane Sani for the rape of two girls aged 11 and 13. Free State police spokesperson Warrant Officer Mmako Mophiring said the first victim was accosted outside her home while using the toilet. “The accused grabbed and forcefully dragged her from her home to a local dumping field, threatening to kill her with a knife in his possession, and raped her.” In the second incident, the 13-year-old girl was walking home from school with a group of friends when she kidnapped by the accused.

The accused was found guilty in both cases and sentenced to life imprisonment for the first case and 15 years imprisonment for the second case.

Two Orkney Men Die After Inhaling Toxic Sewer Fumes



Two men died in Orkney in the North West earlier today after they seemingly inhaled toxic gasses while unblocking a sewer pipe.

According to the Matlosana Local Municipality, the men were not employees of the municipality, neither were they contracted by the municipality to provide such services. Executive Mayor Fekile Mahlope says investigations are currently underway into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

An inquest docket has been registered by the police.

In a similar incident reported in February, two employees of the Tswaing Local Municipality in the province died on duty while attempting to unblock a drainage system in Agisanang Township outside Sannieshof.

The pair aged 38 and 53 perished inside a sewage manhole.

ActionSA wins its first by election in North West

The party now has a seat in the Ramotshere-Moiloa Local Municipality after it beat the African National Congress (ANC) by just two votes



By: JN Reporter

ActionSA has won its first-ever by-election, five years after it was formed.

The party now has a seat in the Ramotshere-Moiloa Local Municipality after it beat the African National Congress (ANC) by just two votes.

The by-elections took place on Wednesday across six wards in Gauteng, North West, Limpopo, Eastern Cape, and the Western Cape.

Moses Moumakwa is the new ward 7 councillor, replacing the ANC’s Petrus Mokgathe, who vacated the seat after being fired by his party for ill-discipline.

Ramotshere is an ANC stronghold, with the party having won all of its 19 wards since 2006.

Earlier this year, ActionSA merged with Forum 4 Service Delivery, which has a strong support base in some North West municipalities.

ActionSA national chairperson, Michael Beaumont, said the latest round of by-election results has been encouraging for the party’s growth.

“Results of last night’s by-election demonstrate that ActionSA is one of the few parties in SA growing at the expense of the ANC, at a time when we need to rescue a broken local government system.”

Meanwhile, the Patriotic Alliance (PA) making has made inroads, including a surprise victory in Soweto — long considered an ANC stronghold.

The PA’s breakthrough came in Johannesburg’s Ward 29, covering the older Soweto townships of Diepkloof and Noordgesig.

Notably, Noordgesig Primary School accounted for nearly 70% of the PA’s votes. The ward became vacant

after the death of ANC councillor Brenda Dammie, 56, earlier in 2025 due to ill health.

PA candidate Ismael Steenkamp won the ward with 1,756 votes — just over 30% of the total. The ANC’s share collapsed from about 40% in the 2024 provincial elections to 22%. The EFF rose to 16%, and ActionSA garnered nearly 10%. Smaller parties, including MK and Operation Dudula, polled poorly, with the latter earning just 3%. In the Western Cape, the PA secured a historic win in Ward 6 of Swellendam, taking 811 votes. The ANC dropped to 486, and the DA to 303. The winning PA candidate, Julian Alan Matthysen, is a former ANC councillor who reclaimed his seat under the PA banner.

Elsewhere, the ANC regained Ward 4 in the Langeberg Municipality’s Happy Valley, Bonnievale, with 47% of the vote. The DA followed with 28%, and the PA came third with 21%. ANC candidate Daniël Baadjies, a former Freedom Front Plus member, was credited with the party’s recovery in the area.

In the North West’s Ramotshere Moiloa Municipality, ActionSA’s Moses Moumakwa narrowly defeated ANC rival Ben Kabelo Malefo by two votes — 837 to 835. The EFF came third with 214 votes, and the PA had 123.

The ANC held onto Ward 15 in the Eastern Cape’s Dr AB Xuma Local Municipality, with 1,269 votes (69.4%). The EFF took 332, while the UDM and ATM received 115 and 112 votes respectively.

In Limpopo’s Musina Municipality, Ward 2 went to the ANC’s Raymond Mashudu Nyathi, who took 761 votes (62.74%). The DA’s Mashudu Malakia Phupheli came second with 170 votes, the EFF third with 78, and Build a Better South Africa received 72. **Additional reporting by EWN and IOL**

Mhlauli inspires youth at G20 dialogue



Deputy Minister Nonceba Mhlauli. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Nonceba Mhlauli, engaged students and stakeholders during the G20 TVET College Community Dialogue held at Motheo TVET College in Bloemfontein on Thursday.

The dialogue served as a platform for Motheo TVET students to discuss global issues and share their views on policy advocacy.

Mhlauli emphasised the importance of solidarity, equality, and sustainability among the youth, urging them to be vocal and intentional in building a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Driven by her passion for youth involvement in politics and policy development, Mhlauli provided insights into existing programmes aligned with G20 priorities and designed to empower young people. She engaged robustly with the student community, responding to their concerns and reflecting on her ongoing outreach work to promote public participation.

Given the G20’s influential role in shaping global economic governance, the Department of Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) has taken the lead in youth-focused outreach initiatives—ensuring that no one is left behind, with a strong emphasis on Africa’s development.

GCIS spokesperson Yolisa Manxiwa highlighted that the G20 agenda has major implications for

South Africa and the continent.

“The G20 seeks to harness global cooperation to forge mutually beneficial solutions, face challenges, and create opportunities for all humanity,” she said.

Manxiwa added that the summit’s main focus is to strengthen multilateral cooperation, promote long-term sustainable growth, stabilise the global financial system, and enhance global economic governance. These goals align with the department’s priorities of inclusive growth, employment creation, and reduced inequality.

She further noted that food security and artificial intelligence remain key areas within the department’s priorities.

Mhlauli inspired hope among the students, noting that South Africa’s young population presents an opportunity for economic growth—provided young people are educated, skilled, and employed.

“Young people bring fresh ideas, adaptability, and technological skills. Many start-ups and innovations globally are youth-driven. In South Africa, youth entrepreneurship is increasingly seen as a solution to unemployment and a driver of economic diversification,” she said.

She encouraged that more sessions of this nature be hosted to address digital inclusion, sustainable development, and career opportunities—all of which support South Africa’s role in the G20 and beyond.

Commuter bus services resume in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District



Commuter bus services have resumed in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District in the North West. This was after an eight-month-long disruption that left thousands of residents without transport. A new service provider, Ikhwazi Tasmica Joint Venture, started operating on some routes today after a court ruling that cleared the way for a new provider to be appointed.

The previous operator, Atameleng Bus services, interdicted the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management from appointing a new provider, leaving residents in areas like

Mahikeng, Zeerust, and Lichtenburg without subsidised transport.

These commuters say they are glad that there is a new service provider.

“We are happy now that buses are back, as a resident from Setlopo village, we will inquire about other routes and their fares to get to other areas” a commuter said.

“Now, we will be able to get alternative transport. Also, when taxis are not available, we will be able to use buses again,” another commuter said. **SABCNews**



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Opinion

Annah Lelimo

Founder of Thabong Bakery



The “Silly Season” Is Upon Us

It is not a coincidence that the months spanning the end of year period are called the “silly season”. It is marked by workplace year end parties, family gatherings, social engagements and holiday festivities. There is just a lot of activities happening around us.

Unfortunately this period poses challenges for workplaces trying to meet year end deadlines or workplaces that experience low turnover due to low product demand during this season.

In most cases, we tend to experience mental and physical fatigue. Productivity become lost as we become distracted by the holidays. The relaxed manner of doing things can have disastrous consequences. Though it is not easy to turn down all the party invites coming our way, or wishing we could take a break because of the hard work we put since the beginning of the year, it is important to encourage ourselves to push once more. To use this time to take stock of how far we have come, what we achieved and where we can improve. Chances are that a lot of good that has happened can go unnoticed when thorough review is not done. Imagine how great it will feel if during the year end party everyone that contributed positively gets proper recognition, this will be a game changer and enough motivation to come back with a winners mindset.

For businesses that experience low sales during this season, this time can be used to capitalize on the festive spending behaviour and offer complementing products to boost the company's income or use this period to reward their employees with working reduced hours or flexible times.

This might sound easier said than done but we



owe it to ourselves if we want to build businesses that will outlive us. We might not get it right the first, second or hundredth time but we keep trying. We keep reminding ourselves we just need

one more push. Before we know it the “Silly Season” will be over, we will look back and celebrate wins, big or small and things will be back to normal.

The deadly cost of whistleblowing in South Africa

SOUTH Africa’s long history of wrongdoing spans from Willem Adriaan van der Stel’s days of running a corrupt trading monopoly to present-day South Africa. Van der Stel was the second Governor of the Cape Dutch Colony, from 1699 to his removal in 1707.

Whistleblowers have been at the core of exposing these instances of corruption.

Public whistleblowing was rare under apartheid (1948-1994). But with the transition to democracy, the reporting of wrongdoing increased. This can largely be attributed to a new constitution that caters for all the country’s citizens, and new laws that reinforced their rights.

One such law is the Protected Disclosures Act No. 26 of 2000, amended by way of the Protected Disclosures Amendment Act No. 5 of 2017. The law was designed to protect individuals who expose perceived wrongdoing to an authority that has the capacity to remedy the wrongdoing.

Yet, it has offered inadequate protection. South African whistleblowers have been overwhelmingly subjected to reprisals – from murder to social, work-related, and legal retaliation.

Our academic expertise is concerned with exploring the experiences of whistleblowers in South Africa, and making meaning of their plight.

In a recently published paper we give an account of the stories of a selection of whistleblowers spanning five decades. We selected a few stories that have set precedents in South Africa.

These cases offer only a glimpse into the experiences of South African whistleblowers. But what is clear is that, by fulfilling their public duty, they place themselves at great personal risk. - IDL

MEC Motsumi visits under performing schools

MEC Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi attended Khayaletu Secondary School Parents Meeting in Phatsima Village, immediately after having an interactive session with underperforming schools in Rustenburg. MEC Ntsetsao Viola Emphasized that the Matriculants are going to to continue with their yearly incubation camps supported by parents, SGB and Local ward Councillor. The last push campaign aims to archive the departmental set target of which 95% for the year 2025 , SILALA LA programme will also continue as our candidates are only left with 05 days to start with their National Senior Certificate. “Ngwana Sejo Wathakanelwa”

Celebrations in the Midst of Adversity



Refilwe Mochoari
Editor-in-Chief

As I sit down to write this article, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and joy.

The fact that Bafana Bafana has qualified for the 2026 FIFA World Cup has sent shockwaves of excitement throughout the nation.

As they always say, South Africans are indeed united by sports.

Amid the violent student protests, the big five criminals, the Madlanga commission, the Parliament’s ad hoc committee, the drugs and the killings, we finally have something to celebrate.

I hope you have your passports ready because we are going to America.

Hi everyone, my name is Refilwe Mochoari, let’s talk about Team Bafana Bafana, who will be representing South Africa on football’s biggest stage.

We finally have something to celebrate.

Bafana Bafana qualifying a spot in the Fifa World Cup is the excitement we have not experienced in a long time.

Sports has a unique ability to bring people together, and South Africa is no exception.

In 2023, The Springboks triumph in the Rugby World Cup was a testament to this.

Now, it’s Bafana Bafana’s turn to unite the nation once again.

When the boys were playing on Tuesday evening, I could not help but feel a sense of nostalgia.

I was reminded of the 1998 Bafana Bafana soccer spirit.

It felt exactly the same, the era of Dr Khumalo, Bennie McCarthy, Phill Masinga, Mark Fish and Clive Barker gave me flash backs.

I was also reminded of how exciting it was in 2010 when tSouth Africa hosted the 2010 Fifa World Cup, and I had the opportunity to hold and touch the Jules Rimel Trophy with my own hands when it was in Bloemfontein at the Toyota Stadium – a moment engraved in my heart.

The Era of Teko Modise and Simphiwe Tshabalala, oh what a time to be alive.

For a country facing numerous challenges, this moment is a breath of fresh air.

Although our country is bleeding, and the ongoing investigations may have dampened our spirits, this is a reminder that we are a proud nation, capable of achieving greatness when we come together.

Sports has a way of uniting us in a shared passion. Whether you are a die-hard fan or someone who hardly catches a match like myself, the excitement of watching our national teams compete is undeniable.

Bafana Bafana’s qualification is not just a victory for the team; it’s a victory for the entire nation.

The current squad has reminded us of the power of teamwork, dedication, and perseverance.

These young men are not just talented footballers; they are ambassadors for our nation.

They have shown us that with hard work and determination, we can achieve anything we set our minds to.

As we look to the future, we cannot help but feel a sense of excitement.

It is going to be an incredible experience, and we are honoured to be a part of it.

In the midst of adversity, Bafana Bafana’s qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup is a much-needed boost.

It is a reminder that we are a proud nation, capable of achieving greatness when we come together.

They have reminded us that we are a proud nation, a nation with a passion of South African spirit.

We are proud of the boys, and they too will be remembered as the heroes of our nation. Our national sports teams have been making us very proud.

The Netball Proteas, the Rugby Springboks, the Cricket Proteas, and Banyana Banyana are truly our pride and joy.

I would like to dedicate this article to the sports stars who have consistently brought us joy and kept us glued to our television screens.

These include the fastest female runner, Caster Semenya; Wayne van Niekerk; top cricket star Makhaya Ntini; champion swimmer Chad le Clos; and tennis star Lloyd Harris.

These athletes serve as role models for the new generation, and indeed, sports play a significant role in our country’s culture and diversity.

As we are preparing for that trip to the United States of America, lets save money, lets do those accreditations, lets enter those competitions, lets see which fan parks we will be visiting.

Lets have fun, in the spirit of Bafana Bafana.

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

Hire Right the First Time—Here’s How



Pastor
Motsamai Kareli

Empowerment Ministries International

Hiring may be the most overlooked leadership skill, but it’s essential for building lasting success.

As Zig Ziglar said, “You don’t build a business. You build people, and people build the business.”

The potential of your organization rests on the strength of those you hire.

2 Principles for Higher Hiring

Here’s the bottom line: We don’t just need to hire better—we need to hire higher.

Jim Collins puts it this way: “People are not your most important asset. The right people are.”

Higher hiring means bringing the right people into your vision, then helping them grow and lead.

Let’s look at two principles for higher hiring that can transform your organization’s future.

Begin With the End in Mind

It may seem obvious, but leaders need to be thinking about more than just filling a role.

Ask yourself:

What do I want this person to oversee?

What results should they consistently deliver?

In the job description, don’t list duties alone. Include oversight, values, and desired outcomes.

This isn’t nitpicking. It’s setting clear expectations for the kind of leader you want to bring on board.

And the clearer you are now, the easier it will be to spot the right candidate later.

Remember: You’re hiring for the future, not just for the present.

Hire for the Future

Hiring for the future means seeing a person’s capacity to grow beyond today’s circumstances.

In three years, will they still be a strong fit for the

position?

If we double in size, do they have the flexibility and resilience to grow as well?

If the role changes, can this leader adapt and still thrive? They need to fill the role today and have the capacity to excel tomorrow.

Be Ruthlessly Selective

The best time to fire is before you hire. Let me say it again: The best time to fire is before you hire.

No hire is always better than a bad hire. Why? Because bad hires don’t just cost you money. They cost you time, energy, and sometimes even your culture.

For business owners just starting out, a wrong hire hurts your ability to hire the right people later.

Here’s the truth: The right people won’t want to join a culture that tolerates weak or divisive players. And those weak players will cost you far more than the “expensive” hire you hesitated to make.

That’s why the best leaders refuse to hire out of desperation.

Every hire shapes your culture and the future of your organization. Don’t waste your time on the wrong people. Be ruthlessly selective.

What’s Next?

Here’s my challenge to you:

List your core values. What do you stand for and what will you refuse to tolerate?

List your top behavioral values. Look at the top performers around you and identify which behaviors they have in common.

To help you build your values lists, check out the next article on creating a value-driven culture.

Now, it’s up to you. Your mission is worth it, so make every hire the right hire.

Heartbreak on South Africa’s roads: safety of passengers should never be overlooked



The United Democratic Movement (UDM) is deeply saddened by the devastating loss of lives following the shocking bus accident that occurred on the N1 North, near Ingwe Lodge in Limpopo, yesterday, and the taxi accident that left 18 children injured on the N3 highway near the Mariannhill Toll Plaza in KwaZulu-Natal this morning.

Our thoughts and sincere condolences go out to the grieving families, survivors, and everyone affected by these painful incidents. These tragedies are a tender reminder of how fragile life is.

Moments of national sorrow such as these remind us of the ongoing challenges facing our transport systems. Every journey, whether short or long, depends on a transport network that must be both reliable and safe. Consequently, we must confront the conditions that allow some of these accidents to happen.

South Africa’s transport infrastructure and enforcement mechanisms must be strengthened

as a matter of urgency. It is imperative to have regular and consistent vehicle inspections to determine the roadworthiness of cars, buses, taxis, and scholar transport vehicles. Equally important is ensuring that drivers transporting passengers, particularly schoolchildren, hold valid Professional Driving Permits (PrDPs) and comply fully with all safety requirements. Regular vehicle inspections and strict adherence to roadworthiness standards are critical in preventing such tragedies. The safety of passengers should never be overlooked. As a country, we must continue to strengthen our transport infrastructure and promote a culture of safety and accountability. These tragic incidents should compel authorities to prioritise transport safety and to reinforce monitoring systems. Such measures are essential to a broader national commitment to safeguarding lives on our roads. **Opinion from Zandile Phiri, Acting Secretary General of the United Democratic Movement**

Business

Markets and Indicators			
Rand/Dollar	17.33	-0.04%	⬇️
Rand/Pound	23.27	-0.09%	⬇️
Rand/Euro	20.26	-0.08%	⬇️
Platinum	1 591.50	-3.19%	⬇️
Brent Crude	61.10	0.26%	⬆️
Gold	4 349.51	0.49%	⬆️
Etherium	67 326,11	-2,73%	⬇️
Bitcoin	1 874 035,92	-2,61%	⬇️

SANParks Hits R4-b Revenue Mark... For The First Time



By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

South African National Parks (SANParks) presented an overall positive overview of the entity’s operational and financial performance for the past financial year.

Addressing the Portfolio Committee on Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment, SANParks Chief Executive Officer, Haplooe Sello, reported a 11 % increase in revenue from 3.67-billion to R4.1-billion in 2024/25. This is the first time that SANParks revenue exceeds the R4-billion revenue mark. Notably, 75% of this revenue was generated from commercial activities, underscoring the effectiveness of the organisation’s commercial strategies.

Sello also drew attention to the fact that SANParks has a net cash balance of R2.7 -billion and maintains a positive solvency position with total assets exceeding total liabilities by a margin of R3.7-billion.

These results demonstrate that SANParks possesses strong financial health, underpinned by solid revenue growth, healthy liquidity, and a resilient balance sheet, confirming that it is a financially sound and well-managed institution.

SANParks also received an unqualified audit outcome for the past year, affirming the strength of its financial governance and management practices.

The entity continues to improve its internal controls, and these efforts have yielded positive results, as reflected in the Auditor-General’s report.

According to Sello, the report highlighted areas of improvement, particularly in the quality of the Annual Financial Statements and in Supply Chain Management, where no material findings were identified, an improvement from the prior year. Work continues to strengthen the control environment, with optimism that this will bring further improvements in the coming period.

“On the operational front, SANParks achieved 86% of its performance targets – meeting 24 out of 28 goals. Notably, 18 of these targets that were met are also exceeded underscoring the organisation’s commitment to excellence,” said Sello.

He also emphasised that SANParks’ exceptional financial and operational performance in the 2024/25 financial year demonstrates its unwavering commitment to conservation, sustainable development, and community empowerment.

“With a landmark revenue milestone, a robust financial position, and an impressive 86% achievement of performance targets, SANParks continues to strengthen its role as a cornerstone of South Africa’s environmental and socio-economic landscape,” he said.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our team and stakeholders’ efforts to sustainably manage our national parks for future generations while fostering inclusive growth and transformation.

Warning about Walmart prices in South Africa



Former Shoprite chief executive, Whitey Basson, warned that it would be difficult for Walmart to beat Checkers and Pick n Pay’s prices.

Walmart, the world’s largest brick-and-mortar retailer, will open its first branded stores in South Africa later this year with an aggressive pricing strategy.

Kath McLay, Walmart International President and CEO, said their South African stores will offer a wide range of merchandise.

The products will include fresh groceries, household essentials, apparel and technology. It will offer a variety of locally sourced products.

“By partnering with South African suppliers and entrepreneurs, Walmart will bring its signature Every Day Low Prices and global standards to the market,” McLay said.

The new Walmart stores promise affordable groceries and a selection of family, home and entertainment items.

“With sites already in development, these new stores are set to open before the end of the year, with official opening dates to be announced in October,” McLay said.

“Every rand matters when it comes to price. This balance of quality and everyday low prices enables us to build customer trust,” said Massmart CEO Miles Van Rensburg.

When Walmart enters a new country, it focuses on low prices, supply chain mastery, and local adaptation to gain market share.

A cornerstone of this strategy is Walmart’s Every Day Low Price (EDLP) philosophy, which aims to attract cost-conscious consumers.

“At Walmart, our Every Day Low Prices mean you can count on low prices today, tomorrow, next week, and the week after that,” it said.

“As we open stores later this year in South Africa, we’ll bring that same price discipline to the market.”

“In a country where food security is a challenge for so many, we give customers an opportunity to take charge of their food choices,” it said.

Whitey Basson’s comments about Walmart’s launch in South Africa

Although Walmart did not explicitly promise to offer lower prices than its competitors, like Pick n Pay and Checkers, many people expect this.

Walmart said it was working to keep prices low so customers could save money when shopping with them.

Simply put, Walmart indicated that its store’s basket of products would be lower than that of its competitors.

Former Shoprite CEO and retail expert, Whitey Basson, told Netwerk24 it will not be easy for Walmart to undercut large retailers like Checkers and Pick n Pay.

He explained that you need high volumes to reduce prices. As a new entrant, Walmart will not have the same volumes as the large retailers.

Basson said it is good for the South African retail market to get new blood in the form of Walmart’s imminent launch.

“It is great for the young professionals at Shoprite to face real competition from Walmart, especially as Pick n Pay was struggling,” he said.

“Walmart will implement the best practices of the retail sector in South Africa. This is good for the sector,” he said.

However, Basson cautioned against people expecting Walmart to offer better prices than the existing players.

“Between Shoprite, Pick n Pay, and Food Lover’s Market, the price of food is very low compared to international standards,” he said.

“Our profit margins are half what I have seen in Europe and the United States. This should not be the case.”

Basson added that it would not be easy for Walmart to take on established food retailers in South Africa. “The young professionals at Shoprite are skilled and hardworking, and are using technology to their benefit,” he said.

**This article was first published by BusinessTech*

Kganyago warns surging global debt threatens financial stability

The Financial Stability Board has elevated debt concerns to a top-tier issue, says SA Reserve Bank governor



SA Reserve Bank governor Lesetja Kganyago warned on Wednesday that rising global debt poses a risk to financial stability.

The Financial Stability Board, which reports to the G20, has elevated debt concerns to a top-tier issue, Kganyago said on the sidelines of the IMF and World

Bank annual meetings in Washington.

According to IMF projections, global public debt is expected to surpass 100% of global output by 2029, with the organisation cautioning that under an “adverse but plausible” scenario, debt could reach 123% of GDP by the end of the current decade — levels not seen since the aftermath of World War 2.

“The issue of debt is not an emerging market problem,” Kganyago said.

While African nations face liquidity and fiscal challenges related to debt, “the debt is now a global issue, and it is a problem in the developed economies as well”, he added.

Debt concerns are expected to be a focus of the G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bankers, which ends on Thursday.

It is expected to issue a declaration addressing global debt as SA prepares to hand over its presidency to the US.

Kganyago said SA has focused on continuity during its presidency, including elevating cross-border payments within the G20 framework.

Civil society groups have criticised SA for slow progress on debt sustainability during its leadership. In a

letter signed by 165 organisations, including Eurodad and the Malala Fund, campaigners called for deeper debt relief and reforms to global restructuring processes.

IMF fiscal chief Vitor Gaspar warned of a potential fiscal-financial doom loop triggered by sustained borrowing and high interest rates, urging governments to rebuild buffers.

Kganyago said discussions were ongoing regarding how the incoming US presidency would continue the African agenda on debt and financing costs.

“Tomorrow, at the end of the meeting, we will know exactly what they are taking off, because in their accepting the chair, then they will state what they are carrying from the previous presidency and what they are bringing in their presidency,” he said.

Highlighting achievements under SA’s leadership, Kganyago pointed to the elevation of cross-border payments within the G20 framework.

“It had proved to be a very good proposition, because that is something that everybody had signed off on, including the US, which is a very important participant in that cross-border payment committee,” he said.**This article was first published by Business Day*

Government Unveils Plans to Re-industrialise NW Economy

The Minister for Small Business Development, Stella Ndabeni, says the national government will implement several interventions to re-industrialise the economy of the North West to drive job creation.

Ndabeni made these remarks during the handover of the Mahikeng Digital Innovation Hub.

The North West is the province with the highest unemployment rate, with more than half of its population without jobs.

Ndabeni says the government will continue with its efforts to drive inclusive economic growth and unlock new opportunities.

“When we build factories now to process the mines that are found here, it means we will be able to assist them to get the jobs. That’s why at the centre it’s not only the incubations that we are putting in, but also the partnership with the Department of Education and higher training to say there should be skills that are relevant to open those factories. That’s one intervention. We will also be providing a

township hub in one of the townships identified by them; there, we are going to have different groupings of entrepreneurs now being able to have access to the market,” says Ndabeni.

Meanwhile, the launch of the hub is expected to assist communities and entrepreneurs with skills development, adapting to the changing technological world and creating jobs.

Some local entrepreneurs are equally excited about the initiative.

“I have gained knowledge of what my business requires to be able to do, and also market exposure. I have been able to understand what a businessman is and what’s needed from me, and it has also given me the opportunity to have resources,” says one local entrepreneur.

“One of the things that I am getting here is the knowledge of how to navigate the business here in Mahikeng because it’s a tech hub as well. I have a tech business, so it’s helping me with resources,” says another local entrepreneur. *SABCNews*

GET TO KNOW YOUR DJ



By: Lerato Mutlanyane

For Miss Kay, a DJ set is not just a playlist; it’s a form of time travel that transports you to a seismic moment of phenomenal music.

With five thriving years in the music scene, Karabo ‘Miss Kay’ Ratebe from Bohlakong, Bethlehem, has made it her mission to penetrate the industry. Her deep love for music, which began with her involvement in tap and clap music, has given her the ability to navigate various genres, though she has a true passion for Private School Piano.

Throughout her music career, Ratebe has shared stages with top-charting artists such as Boohle, Russells Zuma, Pabi Copper, Soulful G, and many more. She proudly represents the Free State.

Despite facing notable challenges in the industry as a woman, Ratebe continues to thrive.

“My journey has not been easy at all,” she shares. “It requires a lot of connections; you have to know people in the right places to reach a certain peak in your career. But by the grace of God, I believe I will achieve everything I want in this industry! I see myself premiering on big screens, and I’m going to make it with or without connections.”

She has had her mixtapes featured on national radio stations like Lesedi FM.

Her sound is a time-warp, weaving the raw, analog warmth of piano with the spatial soundscapes of modern melodic soul.

Ratebe is not just a DJ, she is also the founder of the Miss Kay Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support for the less fortunate and uplifting disadvantaged youth in her community.

She also mentors the Shesha Baba (SB) modeling agency, which represents plus-size models.

With her unique sound, the echoing waves of Miss Kay’s music continue to make an impact, and she remains dedicated to refining the equalizer.

Do you want to be featured in the next Journal News DJ edition? If so, please email Lerato@journalnews.co.za

GIG Guide

Friday 17 October 2025
Qoai Fashion Show (Art & Comedy)
Lemo Fest
Bloemfontein

Friday 17 October 2025
Finest China’s Birthday Celebration
Sechaba Lounge
Bloemfontein

Saturday 18 October 2025
Spin Explosion
Bochabela Arena
Bloemfontein

Sunday 25 October 2025
Free State Kota Festival
Botanical Garden
Bloemfontein

Phaphama Book Festival to Launch Highly Anticipated Read, “Witness to Power”

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

The highlight of this year’s Phaphama Book Festival, which will take place from 22 to 25 October, is the book launch by prominent businessman and political stalwart Dr Mathews Phosa, *Witness to Power*.

This four-day festival will feature some of the greatest authors, with book exhibitions, masterclasses, literary tours, the Phaphama High school debate competition, and a 150-year celebration of the Adelaide Tambo Public Library.

Phosa will be one of the keynote speakers at the book festival and will read from his new book to attendees.

Phosa is recognized for his political career. He is a former Premier of Mpumalanga province and the Treasurer General of the African National Congress (ANC), he has chaired the Jubilee Metals Group, Special Olympics South Africa, and was once a chairperson of the UNISA council, and also headed Paramount’s South African arm in defense and aerospace.

According to the founder of St Francis Productions, led by Dr Maboreng Maharaswa this year, the Phaphama Book Festival is not just about celebrating literature, arts, and ideologies – they will be launching new books and the scent of fresh pages.

She says Phosa will provide a subtle glimpse into the world of politics.

“This journey navigates the history of the Republic of South Africa and the leaders (both Black and White) who shaped the democratic South Africa we inhabit today.

“He will have an intimate in-conversation where the memoir will be thoroughly probed.

Attendees must expect top hospitality, with live music performances, dinner, and much more.

“We exist to help organizations and communities communicate more powerfully, operate more efficiently, and engage more meaningfully with their audiences in the digital age.

Whether it’s through film, strategic communications, publishing, or tech-enabled learning, our work reflects a commitment to uplift, empower, and innovate,” Maharaswa.

Unpacking ‘Slay Queens’: inside South Africa’s most controversial lifestyle



By: Lerato Mutlanyane

If you’ve been hearing the term “slay queen” tossed around on TikTok, Instagram, or local chat shows, here’s the lowdown.

The term originally emerged in South African popular culture to describe women who use fashion, social media, and charm to navigate the social and economic landscape, often flaunting designer clothes, hairstyles and lifestyles to make an impact. You know, slaying!

Now, Showmax brings this phenomenon to the screen. The original series “Slay Queens”, premiering on October 31 with new episodes every Friday, dives deep into the lives behind the label.

It explores the glamour, ambition and grit of slay queens themselves, alongside the men who orbit this world.

Ballers, as they’re sassy-ly known, give audiences a full picture of the social, cultural and economic ecosystem that fuels this lifestyle.

DJ and influencer Cyan Boujee is one of the standout figures in “Slay Queens”. Known for her unapologetic personality and viral social media moments, Boujee has amassed a significant following on platforms like Instagram and TikTok.

Her content often showcases a glamorous lifestyle, sparking both admiration and controversy. Recently, she faced backlash after promoting a Russian “fresh start programme” that was later linked to human trafficking and labour exploitation.

Boujee swiftly removed the video and issued a public apology, acknowledging the severity of the issue and vowing greater caution in the future. Her inclusion in the documentary is fitting, as she embodies the complexities of the “slay queen” phenomenon.

Multi-award-winning amapiano star Mr JazziQ, owner of Jozi nightclub Vibes on Main, adds a key perspective on the nightlife ecosystem where slay queens are both a presence and a force.

His insights show how this lifestyle doesn’t exist in isolation; it shapes trends, drives social energy, and even influences economic activity in nightlife and entertainment spaces.

In June 2024, Mr JazziQ was also recognised as the most-streamed South African artist among Gen Z listeners on Spotify.

Author and media personality Jackie Phamotse, a self-proclaimed former slay queen, brings lived experience to the conversation. Her bestselling book “Bare” explores vulnerability, societal pressure and the consequences of chasing the high life.

Phamotse reflects on the emotional and social toll

of living in the spotlight, providing audiences with a candid, nuanced understanding of what it means to walk away from a persona that’s glamorous on the surface but demanding underneath.

Adding an academic lens, Lebohang Masango, an anthropologist and the author of “The Soft Life: Love, Choice and Modern Dating”, explores the economic and cultural dynamics behind the slay queen phenomenon.

Drawing from her Master’s research, she unpacks transactional relationships, societal pressures, and the pursuit of financial independence, showing how these factors combine to create a lifestyle that is both aspirational and contested.

Other voices in the series include a Sangoma, an Uber driver, and a promoter, offering perspectives from the spiritual, economic, and logistical corners of this world.

Their inclusion ensures the documentary captures the full ecosystem surrounding slay queens, highlighting the everyday realities behind the headlines.

“‘Slay Queens’ was born from a need to hold up a mirror to a world we often speak about in whispers, memes or judgement, but rarely listen to directly,” says executive producer Vusi Zion.

“I was inspired by the courage of women who live these realities every day, by the men and communities affected, and by the silence surrounding their truths.”

DJ Zinhle uplifts young creative Moghelingz in ‘Woza’ music video



DJ Zinhle is once again capturing hearts for her unwavering support for young creatives in the industry.

The award-winning DJ recently dropped the music video for her song, “Woza”, which was released earlier this year.

The video showcases a compilation of moments from the Woza Summer events she hosted, featuring guests enjoying themselves and giving fans the chance to spot their friends or themselves in the scenes.

Taking to Instagram, DJ Zinhle shared a snippet of the music video with the voice over: “My favourite part of the music video is not actually what’s in the music video, it’s who directed the music video.

“The part I like the most is that Moghelingz actually creatively directed the music video, which is quite iconic.

She praised Moghelingz for his expertise, adding, “I think it was his first project, and he hit it; it was amazing. It was everything it needed to be, and I’m glad we got direction from someone like Moghelingz who knows exactly what they doing, visually on a normal day. That’s dope.”

Moghelingz, whose real name is Banele Ndaba is well-known on social media for creating content that includes dance, comedy advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights and make-up transformations, especially on TikTok.

Their work is recognised for pushing creative boundaries and striving for representation in digital spaces. They have even co-hosted the TikTok Awards for Sub-Saharan Africa. - **10L**

Khanyi Mbau nominated for Best Actress at the National Film & TV Awards



By: Lerato Mutlanyane

The National Film & TV Awards South Africa features a strong lineup of contenders for the Best Actress in a Film category. From “Meet The Khumalos” stars Khanyi Mbau and Ayanda Borotho, to “Disaster Holiday” actress Lunathi Mampofu, the competition is stiff.

Mampofu’s “Disaster Holiday” co-star Kenneth Nkosi has been nominated for Best Actor in a Film, alongside “Umjolo: My Beginning, My End” actor Yonda Thomas and “Khaki Fever” actor Christopher Jaftha.

The National Film & TV Awards South Africa now in their third year are on a mission to honour the country’s screen legends and those deserving for their contributions to film and television.

South Africa’s veteran actor, director and playwright Dr John Kani will be honoured a Lifetime Achievement Award for his exceptional contribution to cinema and theatre.

The legendary actor recently joined the prestigious Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voting body and last year he was honoured with the esteemed Order of the British Empire (OBE) by His Majesty King Charles III for “services to drama”.

Filmmaker, comedian, actor, prankster Leon Schuster along with his longtime co-star Alfred Ntombela, and legendary thespian Dr Jerry Mofokeng Makhetha will receive the Outstanding Contribution to Film and TV Award, celebrating their immense cultural impact across generations.

Audience favourites Minnie Dlamini, Katlego Maboe, Lasizwe Dambaza, and Carissa Cupido are among nominees across the personality and presenting categories.

The winners for the National Film & TV Awards South Africa are determined by public voting via the official academy public voting platform close at 12:00 on November 20, 2025.

Casper Nyovest Questions Travis Scott’s Concert Attendance



In the build up to his #FillUpToyotaStadium taking place on 6 December in Bloemfontein, award winning rapper Casper Nyovest has stirred up a conversation among fans by questioning the reported attendance numbers from Travis Scott’s recent concert in Johannesburg.

Claimed to be the largest attended rap concert in South Africa, Scott’s “Circus Maximus” tour reportedly attracted 75 000 fans. However, Nyovest, who has built a reputation for his own impressive concert feats, seems a little sceptical about the figures.

He took to Instagram to post a video alongside the caption: “Did Travis sell 75 000 tickets?”

“I’m seeing the headlines about Travis Scott’s concert being the biggest solo concert in South Africa. Apparently, they sold 75 000 tickets, they said 60 000, but now it is 75 000, and I also see the conversation around me having 68 000 people and that actually being the biggest rap solo concert in Africa,” he says.

He added, “I’m just glad we could push the envelope to a point that we are in the conversation in our land. How crazy this is. How far we’ve come. I can only give the glory to God for that.”

“Your local champion is calling me because, clearly, the Americans are better than us, in your mind. We out in Bloemfontein doing Fill Up Toyota Stadium. I am very excited about this,” he said.

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Runners Ready for Historic Harrismith Race

The 'toughest trail in the world' awaits running enthusiasts from all over the country

By: Mpho Sekharume

This Saturday, the tranquil town of Harrismith is set to transform into a testing ground of grit, endurance, and sheer willpower for the 103rd staging of its legendary annual Mountain Race.

Far from a standard weekend jog, this trail race competition has earned the audacious - yet, by all accounts, accurate - title of the 'toughest race in the world' by its organisers. It is an assertion that speaks volumes about the punishing terrain awaiting the hundreds of athletes ready to tackle the infamous slopes of the Platberg mountain.

The event, steeped in over a century of history, offers three distinct categories this year, catering to various levels of masochistic enthusiasm. The bedrock of the competition is the 15km Mountain Race, a storied event that has been an annual fixture for an astonishing 102 years, tracing its origins all the way back to 1922.

For those seeking an even more profound challenge, the 30km Trail Run pushes the limits of ultra-endurance athletes, a category that is now entering its seventh year. But the 2025 event marks a significant evolution, as a new 10km trail is incorporated for the first time.

Vusi Mazibuko, the race's Marketing Manager, and a Harrismith native who works as an engineer for Eskom in Cape Town, highlights the lineage of the competition and the excitement around its expansion.

"The main race, the Mountain Race, which is 15km, has been run for 102 years since 1922 and the 30km Trail Run has been run for 7 years, while the mini mountain trail run, which is 10 km, will be run for the first time this year," Mazibuko explains.

The incorporation of the 10km distance, though new, is expected to draw a significant number of participants, adding to the electrifying atmosphere.

"We are hoping to have around 500 runners for the mini race. For the Trail Race, which is much tougher, we are expecting around 200 entrants and for the main race we are expecting 600 to 800 runners," added Mazibuko.

But the true legend of the Harrismith Mountain Race lies in the challenge itself. This is a raw, unforgiving encounter with the natural world. The Platberg's ascent is characterised by a brutal combination of altitude gain and treacherous footing - making it a true

test of physical and mental fortitude.

Mazibuko pulls no punches when describing the obstacles facing the runners, giving context to the race's self-declared title.

"There is no (actual) road; there are big rocks and there is also a one-man pass where runners can't run past each other. You literally must run behind another runner with no opportunity to go past them," he adds.

This notorious "one-man pass" forces runners into a single-file procession, eliminating any possibility of strategic overtaking. The organisers' confidence in calling it the 'toughest in the world' is not merely promotional hyperbole, but a testament to the decades of sweat, tears, and triumph etched into the mountain's slopes.

As the sun rises over Harrismith this Saturday, the thousands of entrants won't just be racing against a clock or against each other; they will be taking on a living, breathing challenge - a mountain that demands respect, resilience, and an unwavering spirit.

This year's edition of the Mountain Race promises to be a spectacular display of human endurance, reminding both competitors and spectators alike that true glory is often found on the most difficult path.

All races will commence from the Harrismith Primary School sports grounds, with the first race starting at 08:00. A prize giving ceremony will take place after all races are completed with cash prizes also on offer to cap off another pending successful Mountain Race in the easter Free State.

RIGOROUS TRAIL RUN: Runners from all over the country are getting ready to navigate the challenging mountain terrain in Harrismith.
Picture: Baagedi Sethora



Bafana End 23-Year Qualification Drought



By: Mpho Sekharume

A wave of relief and euphoria swept across South Africa last night as Bafana Bafana finally booked their place at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

The 3-0 victory over Rwanda on the final matchday of the CAF qualifiers in Mbombela was the culminating moment of a campaign that broke a 23-year drought since the team last earned legitimate World Cup qualification through competition.

While the nation had proudly hosted the 2010 tournament, their last successful run through the gruelling African qualifying channels dated back to 2002 - making this achievement under coach Hugo Broos a profoundly significant milestone that reconnects a new generation of players and fans to the global stage.

The journey through Group C, which featured powerhouses like Nigeria and determined challengers such as Benin, was a rollercoaster of highs and near-disasters. The campaign started with cautious optimism, and Bafana Bafana often showed the tactical discipline instilled by the Belgian coach.

However, the path was dramatically complicated by an administrative oversight involving star midfielder Teboho Mokoena.

It was belatedly discovered that Mokoena had played in a key qualifier against Lesotho while suspended for accumulated yellow cards. The resulting FIFA disciplinary ruling was a devastating setback as South Africa was subsequently handed a 3-0 forfeit defeat, overturning an initial 2-0 win and stripping them of vital points.

This single technicality plunged the team from a comfortable first place to a precarious second, forcing them to rely not only on their final match but also on other results in the group.

The pressure coming from these permutations on the final matchday was almost unbearable, putting the national team in a situation where they needed a win against Rwanda and, crucially, required Group C rivals Nigeria to defeat Benin in a simultaneous fixture. The players, led by coach Broos, responded with a dominant performance following a disheartening 0-0 stalemate against Zimbabwe last Friday.

The early opening goal from Thabane Mbatha in the 5th minute, followed by a composed strike from Oswin Appollis, provided the necessary confidence boost. Evidence Makgopa sealed the 3-0 victory in the 71st minute, but the final confirmation was delayed, with the entire nation anxiously awaiting the result from the other crucial encounter.

While closely following the positive developments in Nigeria's concurrent fixture, News of the Super Eagles' decisive 4-0 win over Benin arrived shortly after the final whistle, confirming Bafana Bafana as Group C winners thus granting them automatic passage to the global showcase next year.

This achievement marks only the third time South Africa has legitimately qualified for the World Cup since their readmission to international football in 1992.

The first historic feat came in 1997 when they secured a spot for the 1998 World Cup in France under the tutelage of French coach Philippe Troussier, topping a group that included Congo, DR Congo, and Zambia.

Four years later, under Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz, Bafana Bafana earned their second consecutive qualification for the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan, again finishing top of their group ahead of nations like Zimbabwe and Burkina Faso.

The 2026 campaign now completes a trio of qualification successes built on merit - distinguishing it from the automatic entry they enjoyed as hosts of the 2010 tournament.

For coach Hugo Broos, who took responsibility for the administrative drama while maintaining faith in his squad, this qualification is the crowning achievement of a long-term building project. His disciplined approach, which saw him integrate a fresh generation of players, has restored Bafana Bafana's stature and reignited a passionate football culture that had long felt disconnected from the international pinnacle.

The drought is over, and the country looks forward to watching its national team compete against the world's elite in North America.

Molokwane Resigns from World Netball Board

By: Mpho Sekharume

In a significant development for the governance of international netball, World Netball (WN) confirmed yesterday, through a media statement, that Cecilia Molokwane has resigned from her position as a director on its board with immediate effect.

This announcement by the global netball body was coupled with a clarification regarding the serious and ongoing disciplinary process involving Molokwane.

She is accused of misusing Netball South Africa's (NSA) funds and resources, including funds related to the World Cup. Additionally, Molokwane is accused of bullying and intimidating staff members - allegations she has strongly denied.

WN further stated that its internal investigation has concluded, and that its findings have been forwarded to an independent arbitration service, which is in the process of convening a full disciplinary hearing to address the matters raised.

Molokwane also remains suspended from all netball activity while the hearing proceeds, to ensure that she cannot participate in any aspect of the sport as the arbitration service works to adjudicate the case.

She claims to be a victim of a smear campaign that is aimed at keeping her from contesting NSA elections.

"This is nothing more than a calculated plot to keep me out of the elections," she declared at press conference she convened in Polokwane, Limpopo, yesterday.

"I've been silent for too long, but silence will not defend the truth. I called this press conference to fight for fairness and transparency. I deliberately waited for the Telkom Netball League and the Under-21 World Cup to

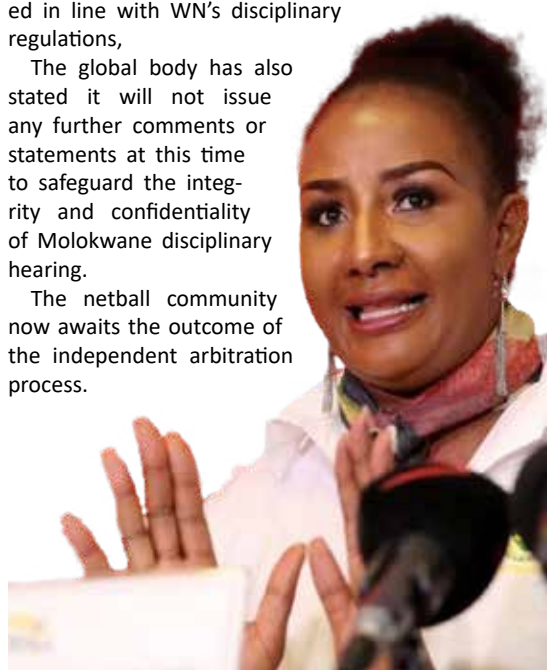
end, because I didn't want to harm the sport I love," added Molokwane.

WN has also clarified its position on NSA, confirming that the national body has not been suspended as a member of the international federation. This separation ensures that NSA's standing and involvement in global netball remain unaffected by the proceedings against one of its prominent former leaders.

To safeguard the integrity and confidentiality of the disciplinary hearing, which is being conducted in line with WN's disciplinary regulations,

The global body has also stated it will not issue any further comments or statements at this time to safeguard the integrity and confidentiality of Molokwane disciplinary hearing.

The netball community now awaits the outcome of the independent arbitration process.



Ntseki Appointed SAFA Technical Director



The South African Football Association's (SAFA) National Executive Committee (NEC) met in Mbombela on Tuesday 14 October where the Members engaged on several important matters.

The SAFA Technical Committee recommended to the NEC that Molefi Ntseki should be appointed as the Association's Technical Director and Desiree Ellis should be appointed as the coach of the South African senior women's national team, Banyana Banyana. The Technical Committee recommended that they both be appointed on four-year contracts and the NEC endorsed both recommendations.

Ntseki has already had several engagements with FIFA and the world football governing body has agreed to support his programmes. FIFA has appreciated the fact that the South African national teams are doing well with both the SA U17 and the U20 teams participating in FIFA World

Cup tournaments this year.

The NEC congratulated the South U20 Men's National team, Amajita, after they made history by becoming the first South African National team to win two matches at a FIFA World Cup. Coach Raymond Mdaka's team captured the imagination of the public as they flew the South African flag high at the FIFA Under-20 men's World Cup in Chile recently. It was also the first time since 2009 in Egypt (under Serame Letsoaka) that Amajita have progressed to the Round of 16 where they lost 2-1 to Ghana after extra time.

The NEC then went to support Bafana Bafana at the Mbombela Stadium after the conclusion of the meeting and were on hand to witness coach Hugo Broos' charges qualify for next year's 2026 FIFA World Cup to be held in the United States of America, Canada and Mexico in June 2025. Bafana Bafana beat Rwanda 3-0 to qualify for the global showcase. - SAFA