

Journal

NEWS

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SIU Probes Mismanagement at Siyathemba Municipality



Mayor, Johan Andrew Phillips. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has launched a probe into alleged maladministration and mismanagement at Siyathemba Municipality in the Northern Cape. The investigation aims to uncover irregularities in financial management, service delivery, and governance, as concerns grow over the municipality's accountability and operational practices.

This follows a proclamation signed earlier this week by President Cyril Ramaphosa, authorising the SIU to thoroughly investigate the municipality amid allegations of irregular procurement of printers, photocopiers, and other office equipment, with the aim of recovering any losses suffered by the state.

"Proclamation 295 of 2025 covers allegations of unlawful and improper conduct that occurred between 1 January 2016 and 31 October 2025, as well as any related activities before 1 January 2016 or after the date of the proclamation that are pertinent to the matters under investigation or involve the same persons, entities, or contracts," said SIU spokesperson Kaizer Kganyago.

Kganyago further confirmed that the SIU has presidential authorisation to investigate any unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, or wasteful expenditure incurred by the municipality or the state. The **Continues on Page 4**



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Power of Life

Barber Gets Four Life Terms for Raping Boys



By: JN Reporter

A Free State man who operated a hair salon from his rented shack in Malebogo township has been sentenced to four life terms for the rape of four minor boys.

The Wesselsbron Regional Court handed down the sentence on Wednesday, 30 October 2025, after finding the accused guilty on four counts of rape involving boys aged 12, 13, and two aged 15.

According to police, the incidents occurred in May 2024 at the accused's shack, which doubled as both his residence and a barbershop.

Free State police spokesperson Sergeant Mahlomola Kareli said that the rape incidents occurred at the accused's rented shack, when the first two victims were lured into the premises after school under the pretense of receiving haircuts. Once inside, they were sexually assaulted in a back room.

The third victim was brought to the shack by the first two boys and was also assaulted.

"The fourth victim, a 12-year-old relative of the accused (his nephew), was visiting the premises and was also sexually assaulted in the shack," says Kareli.

He said none of the victims initially reported the assaults.

The crimes only came to light after one of the boys confided in a teacher, prompting a police investigation.

Initially, four cases of rape were opened against the suspect, and investigations on the matter were carried out by Warrant Officer Ntomzoto Sele-mogo from the Bulfontein Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit with support from National Prosecuting Authority representative Mr Masisi. Their efforts resulted in a conviction and a sentence of four life terms, which will run concurrently.

"The suspect was sentenced to four life sentences and all sentences are to run concurrently," he added.

Inside SA's R75-Billion Gambling Habit

...As poverty and joblessness drive more South Africans to the betting table, gambling has become both an escape and a costly trap

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

As South Africa's economy continues to tremble and households struggle to make ends meet, many citizens are turning to gambling—hoping to find relief in a game of chance. What began as casual entertainment has grown into a multibillion-rand industry, one that, for some, has become as routine as a monthly debit order.

Gambling Becomes a National Habit

According to a report by Eighty20 Consulting, about 42% of South African adults are active gamblers, the majority of whom are men.

The industry reportedly generates R75 billion in revenue annually, even after paying out more than R1.4 trillion in winnings to players. Analysts warn that gambling feels deceptively harmless because "winners are visible," creating the illusion that profit is just one bet away.

"A Walking Debt Magnet"

Mark, a 32-year-old gambling addict from Gauteng, said his struggle began in his teens with a simple game of cards among friends.

"Some people gamble for fun or to pass time, but for others like me, it's a way of trying to provide for our families. There's no peace in gambling—you keep thinking about the money you could win, and that blinds you. Even when I win, I want to play again because I want more," he said.

Mark admitted that his addiction has left him drowning in debt, constantly borrowing money without knowing how he will repay it.

"If I had a choice, I'd quit and focus on my job, but I don't earn enough. Gambling feels like my only op-



South Africa dealing with a gambling crisis. Picture: Supplied

tion," he added.

Gambling Is Not a Source of Income, Warns NGB

Koketso Makopo from the National Gambling Board (NGB) stressed that gambling should never be viewed as a source of income.

"South Africans must understand that gambling is not a way to make ends meet. It's a risk, not a guarantee. Gambling should be treated as a leisure activity—like going to the movies or dining out—and only done with money set aside after covering all essential

expenses," said Makopo.

She cautioned that when gambling behaviour spirals out of control, it can severely impact financial stability and mental wellbeing, not only for the gambler but also for their family.

The Digital Shift and the Rise of Online Gambling

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transformation across many industries—including gambling. With more people confined to their homes, online betting platforms and casino apps flourished.

Makopo said the proliferation of gambling advertisements in South Africa has normalised the habit, particularly through sports sponsorships, which have made gambling seem glamorous and harmless.

"This trend is fostering harmful gambling behaviours. Illegal online gambling, driven by economic pressures and easy access to offshore and unlicensed platforms, undermines the regulated industry, deprives the state of revenue, and heightens risks of addiction and financial distress," she warned.

The NGB has urged gamblers and their loved ones to seek help from the South African Responsible Gambling Foundation (SARGF), which offers free counselling and support services.

A Growing Social Cost

The Eighty20 report concluded that gambling has now become so common that it "ranks alongside medical aid and internet access as a standard monthly expense."

However, unlike those essentials, the R75 billion flowing into the gambling industry each year comes at a high social cost—representing money diverted from more productive sectors and deepening financial strain on already vulnerable households.

Drug Bust in Heidedal Sparks Concern Over School Safety

Heidedal drug raid exposes growing substance abuse threat around Bloemfontein schools, sparking calls for urgent community-police cooperation

By: Abigail Visagie

A recent drug bust in Murison, Heidedal, Bloemfontein, has reignited concerns over the safety of schoolchildren in the area.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) confiscated 353 rolled cannabis-laced substances weighing 400 grams, along with 66 zip-lock bags containing Mandrax tablets, eight zip-lock bags of Methcathinone—commonly known as "Cat"—and one additional bag of Crystal Meth.

A 33-year-old man was arrested, and a case of drug dealing was opened at the Heidedal Police Station. The suspect is expected to appear in the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court soon.

In an exclusive interview with Journal News, Colo-



District Joints Youth and Social Responsibility Priority Committee co-chair, Colonel Isak Francis. Picture: Supplied

nel Isak Francis, co-chair of the District Joints Youth and Social Responsibility Priority Committee and acting station commander at Mangaung Police Station, emphasised the critical role parents play in combating drug abuse among youth.

"Charity begins at home. Parents should be aware of their children's behavioural patterns and not lose

hope when they suspect negative influences. Instead, they should strive to understand and educate their children about the dangers of gangsterism and drugs," said Francis.

He explained that while school safety officers have been appointed to educate learners about drugs, gangsterism, school safety, and human trafficking,

parental involvement remains key.

Francis also reflected on the effectiveness of community policing programmes before 1995, which helped combat crime through visible police presence and community engagement. However, he noted that rising living costs and poverty have worsened the situation.

"Children from impoverished households often resort to selling drugs among their peers just to afford a meal. Some drug lords exploit this by offering food and support, eventually recruiting them as foot soldiers," he added.

Francis urged community members to cooperate with police, report drug-related activities, and refrain from interfering during arrests.

Meanwhile, Basie Kok, chairperson of the Greater Mangaung Neighbourhood Watch, expressed concern that community patrols often face danger and backlash when responding to drug-related incidents.

Kok proposed increased after-hours patrols and the establishment of school safety committees to strengthen prevention efforts.

"We've seen positive results at Heatherdale Secondary, Olympia, and Credence Primary, where neighbourhood watch members patrol school premises after hours.

If more schools adopt this initiative, we can gradually reduce drug distribution and use among learners," concluded Kok.

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Free State Ignites Summer Spirit at Gariep Dam

MEC Ketso Makume launches the Free State Summer Campaign, highlighting tourism as a driver of jobs, growth, and community empowerment



MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Ketso Makume unveiled Free State Summer Campaign in Xhariep Picture: Facebook

By: JN Reporter

The majestic Gariep Dam, often described as the heartbeat of the Free State's tourism landscape, provided a fitting backdrop for the official launch of the Free State Summer Campaign on Thursday.

MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Ketso Makume, unveiled the campaign with a message that resonated beyond leisure and travel — positioning tourism as a vital pillar of livelihood and local empowerment.

"Tourism is more than leisure; it is a livelihood," said Makume. "Gariep Dam was chosen because it is a place where adventure meets tranquillity — where families, nature lovers, and water sport enthusiasts find joy and inspiration. It connects the essence of what the Free State has to offer: natural beauty, boundless opportunity, and a spirit of togetherness that defines our people."

The MEC emphasised that tourism continues to stand among the most powerful drivers of job creation, local economic growth, and the celebration of the province's unique character.

"Every visitor who books accommodation, enjoys a meal at a local restaurant, or purchases a handmade craft contributes to a chain of opportunities that support families, sustain small enterprises, and strengthen communities," he added.

Makume further explained that the Free State Summer Campaign seeks to reignite tourism activities across the province by

promoting it as a safe, affordable, and family-friendly destination. Through this initiative, the provincial government aims to draw more visitors to its hidden gems, scenic routes, and diverse hospitality establishments.

He concluded by reaffirming that the overarching goal is to boost visitor numbers while fostering inclusive participation across the entire tourism value chain — ensuring that the benefits of a thriving tourism sector reach every corner of the province.

Visitors to the Xhariep District were also encouraged to explore the Gariep Dam Nature Reserve, which offers a range of accommodation options and scenic camping areas. Just a short walk away stands the impressive Gariep Dam wall — South Africa's largest dam — rising 88 metres high and stretching 914 metres across.

This vast expanse of water spans more than 370 square kilometres when full and has a storage capacity of nearly 6 000 million cubic litres, serving as a vital source of water supply and hydroelectric power for the region.

Local tourism officials welcomed the campaign's launch, expressing optimism for the months ahead. "Gariep Dam is more than just a destination — it's a symbol of what the Free State can offer the world," said a representative from the Free State Tourism Authority.

"We're confident this campaign will inspire travellers to rediscover our province, support local businesses, and experience the warmth and hospitality our communities are known for."

Toddler Katleho Laid to Rest

...Suspect Remanded in Custody



Murdered Toddler Laid To Rest. Picture: OTP Facebook

By: Mogomotsi Selebi

Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae joined hundreds of mourners on Tuesday, 4 November 2025, at the IPL Hall in Glen College of Agriculture, Glen — a small, close-knit community outside Bloemfontein — to bid farewell to three-year-old Katleho Joy Leeuw, who was allegedly raped and brutally murdered by her uncle.

Katleho's lifeless body was discovered on 25 October 2025 following an intensive search after her disappearance two days earlier. She was last seen playing with other children in the area before she went missing.

Her mother, Vuyiswa Leeuw, reported her disappearance, prompting a community-wide search effort. Unbeknownst to her, the alleged perpetrator was a close family member.

The tragedy has left the Glen community reeling, with residents expressing shock and grief over the brutal killing. Premier Letso-

ha-Mathae was joined by the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs, Elzabe Rockman, to pay their respects.

Addressing mourners, Premier Letsoha-Mathae commended law enforcement officials for their swift response and progress in the investigation. However, she also raised concern about the lack of community cooperation with police during criminal investigations.

"Too often, our people turn a blind eye to criminal acts and fail to report them," she said. "In some cases, they even protect those responsible. We must break this silence if we are to protect our children and our communities."

Following the funeral service, Premier Letsoha-Mathae and MEC Rockman attended proceedings at the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court, where the 29-year-old suspect, Kholisile Leeuw, made his first appearance. He has been remanded in custody until 4 December 2025 and will undergo psychiatric evaluation.



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TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER
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SUBCONTRACT SANRAL X.004-146-2025/1 FOR THE EMERGENCY ROUTINE ROAD MAINTENANCE ON NATIONAL ROUTE R59 SECTIONS 2 TO 3, AND NATIONAL ROUTE R30 SECTIONS 4 TO 6 IN THE LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER (SBD1)

Down Touch Investments (Pty) Ltd invites tenders from experienced EME/QSE subcontractors/suppliers for Contract
SUBCONTRACT SANRAL X.004-146-2025/1 FOR THE EMERGENCY ROUTINE ROAD MAINTENANCE ON NATIONAL
ROUTE R59 SECTIONS 2 TO 3, AND NATIONAL ROUTE R30 SECTIONS 4 TO 6 IN THE
LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

endorsed by The South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited (SANRAL). This project is in the province of the Free State and in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality and consist of the Matjhabeng, Nala, Tokologo and Tswelopele Local Municipalities. Subcontractors are required for the following work packages:

Sub-Contractor Package	Description	Route Section	Proposed CIDB Grading	Target Area
SC01	Monthly Maintenance	R30/4 and R30/5	1CEPE - 2CE	Matjhabeng Local Municipality
SC02	Monthly Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 0.0 to 22.4	1CEPE - 2CE	Matjhabeng Local Municipality
SC03	Monthly Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 22.4 to 44.8	1CEPE - 2CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC04	Monthly Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 44.8 to 67.2	1CEPE - 2CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC05	Monthly Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 67.2 to 89.48	1CEPE - 2CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC06	Monthly Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 0.0 to 21.4	1CEPE - 2CE	Tswelopele Local Municipality
SC07	Monthly Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 21.4 to 42.8	1CEPE - 2CE	Tswelopele Local Municipality
SC08	Monthly Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 42.8 to 64.2	1CEPE - 2CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC09	Monthly Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 64.2 to 85.79	1CEPE - 2CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC10	Monthly Maintenance	R59 Sec 2 km 0.00 to 25.9	1CEPE - 2CE	Tokologo Local Municipality
SC11	Monthly Maintenance	R59 Sec 2 km 25.9 to 51.81	1CEPE - 2CE	Tswelopele Local Municipality
SC12	Pavement Layer Construction/Surface Treatment - Texture Correction	R30/4, R30/5 and R30/6	4CEPE-5CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC13	Pavement Layer Construction/Surface Treatment - Texture Correction	R59/2 and R59/3	4CEPE-5CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC14	General Maintenance	R30/4 and R30/5	2CEPE - 3CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC15	General Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 0.0 to 22.4	2CEPE - 3CE	Matjhabeng Local Municipality
SC16	General Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 22.4 to 44.8	2CEPE - 3CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC17	General Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 44.8 to 67.2	2CEPE - 3CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC18	General Maintenance	R30 Sec 6 km 67.2 to 89.48	2CEPE - 3CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC19	General Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 0.00 to 21.4	2CEPE - 3CE	Tswelopele Local Municipality
SC20	General Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 21.4 to 42.8	2CEPE - 3CE	Tswelopele Local Municipality
SC21	General Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 42.8 to 64.2	2CEPE - 3CE	Tswelopele Local Municipality
SC22	General Maintenance	R59 Sec 3 km 64.2 to 85.79	2CEPE - 3CE	Nala Local Municipality
SC23	General Maintenance	R59 Sec 2 km 0.00 to 25.9	2CEPE - 3CE	Tokologo Local Municipality
SC24	General Maintenance	R59 Sec 2 km 25.9 to 51.81	2CEPE - 3CE	Tokologo Local Municipality
SC25	Road Marking/Roadstuds	R30/4, R30/5 and R30/6	3CEPE-4CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC26	Road Marking/Roadstuds	R59/2 and R59/3	3CEPE-4CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC27	General Mow/Vegetation Control	R30/4, R30/5 and R30/6	4CEPE-5CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC28	General Mow/Vegetation Control	R59/2 and R59/3	4CEPE-5CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC29	Shoulder Repairs	R30/4, R30/5 and R30/6	4CEPE-5CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC30	Shoulder Repairs	R59/2 and R59/3	4CEPE-5CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC31	Accommodation of Traffic	R30/4, R30/5 and R30/6	3CEPE-4CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC32	Accommodation of Traffic	R59/2 and R59/3	3CEPE-4CE	Lejweleputswa District Municipality
SC33	Supply - Asphalt and Bitumen Products	R30/4, R30/5 and R30/6	N/A	Lejweleputswa District Municipality

- The approximate duration of the Monthly Maintenance package(s) SC01 to SC11 is 6 months
- The approximate duration of the Pavement Layer Construction/Surface Treatment Texture Correction package(s) SC12 to SC13 is 3 months
- The approximate duration of the General Maintenance package(s) SC14 to SC24 is 6 months
- The approximate duration of the Road Marking/Roadstuds package(s) SC25 to SC26 is on a as-and-when basis.
- The approximate duration of the General Mow/Vegetation Control package(s) SC27 to SC28 is 6 months
- The approximate duration of the Shoulder Repairs package(s) SC29 to SC30 is 3 months
- The approximate duration of the Accommodation of Traffic package(s) SC31 to SC32 is 6 months

Only tenderers who are registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database at the closing date for tender submissions and who comply with the definition of Targeted Enterprise under clause C.2.1.1 and are at least 51% Black owned and who is an EME or QSE or cooperative, are eligible to tender.

Only tenderers that meet all the eligibility criteria under clause C.2.1.1 of the Tender Data will be considered.

Only tenderers who meet the minimum functionality score as stated in clause C.3.11 will be evaluated further on price and preference.

The tenderers attention is drawn to clause C.3.11 of the Tender Data for each work package when submitting their tender.

Only locally produced or locally manufactured products and components for construction will be considered.

Preferences are offered to tenderers who comply with the criteria stated in the Tender Data.

SUBCONTRACT TENDER DOCUMENTS

- Tender documents are available: The Tender Document will be made available at the Tender Briefing where the prospective bidders have the choice to either receive a hard copy or an electronic copy.

TENDERERS' BRIEFING AND TRAINING

A compulsory tender clarification briefing and training session(s) with representatives of the Contractor and Engineer will take

place on the 13th of November and 14th of November 2025.

- at 10:00am
- the 13th of November 2025 the tender briefing will be held at Bothaville Council Chamber and
- on the 14th of November 2025 the tender briefing will be held at Boshof Town Hall.

PROSPECTIVE TENDERERS MUST PRE-BOOK FOR A SPECIFIC PACKAGE CLARIFICATION BRIEFING AND TRAINING SESSIONS, DUE TO VENUE SIZE LIMITATIONS AND ADMIN.

A request or pre-booking for a clarification briefing and training session date and time is to be sent to the following email address te2@cgoc.co.za

TENDERS FROM TENDERERS WHO ARRIVED LATE AT THE CLARIFICATION BRIEFING SESSION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED, AND THEIR SUBMISSIONS SHALL BE DECLARED NONRESPONSIVE.

A tenderer's representative cannot represent more than one tenderer at the clarification briefing session.

Only one representative per tenderer will be allowed at the clarification briefing session venue.

COMPLETION AND DELIVERY OF TENDERS

The closing time for receipt of tenders is 11:00am on the 1st of December 2025. Submission venues will be Bothaville Council Chamber and Boshof Town Hall. Please note Closing date is the same for both selected mentioned areas.

Only tender offers submitted in Hardcopy and Delivered to the address specified in the Tender Data will be accepted.

Requirements for sealing, addressing, delivery, opening and assessment of tenders are stated in the Tender Data.

Tenders may only be submitted in the format as stated in the Tender Data.

Queries relating to issues arising from the tenderer's clarification briefing presentation/these documents may be addressed to the following:

Enquiries	
Contact Person:	Rethabile Matsotsa
E-mail:	te2@cgoc.co.za

Khumalo, Co-Accused Back in Court for Corruption



Crime Intelligence boss, Dumisani Khumalo, testifying at the ongoing Madlaga Commission. Picture: Supplied

The country's top spy, Lieutenant General Dumisani Khumalo, and six other police officers on Thursday returned to the Pretoria Magistrate's Court, on charges of fraud and corruption — a case that has reignited controversy surrounding the widespread allegations of corruption and infiltration within the South African Police Service (SAPS) ranks.

Khumalo is charged alongside six other senior police officials — crime intelligence chief financial officer (CFO) Philani Lushaba, crime intelligence technical support system manager Brigadier Dineo Mokwele, Gauteng crime intelligence boss Major-General Josias Lekalakala, head of the analysis centre Major-General Nosipho Precious Madondo, Major-General Zwelithini Gabela of the police's technology services, and head of the vetting office Brigadier Phindile Ncube.

They were arrested in June in a wide-ranging corruption probe involving the alleged irregular appointment of a civilian, Mokwele, to a senior post at the rank of a brigadier within Crime Intelligence.

They were arrested by the Investigative Directorate

Against Corruption (IDAC).

The accused were each granted bail of between R10,000 and R20,000, but under strict conditions that now sit at the heart of the legal fight. The officers are barred from entering any Crime Intelligence premises anywhere in South Africa, among other strict bail conditions.

Khumalo and his co-accused are fighting these bail restrictions, arguing that the conditions are crippling the division's work — and, for Khumalo, effectively suspending him from duty without a formal process.

His legal team says the bail terms are "unreasonable and unconstitutional", preventing him from performing his role as national head of Crime Intelligence.

At the previous appearance last month, what was meant to be a routine bail-variation hearing under a new presiding officer became tense when Advocate Malesela Tefo intervened and addressed the court.

Tefo, who previously made headlines in the Senzo Meyiwa murder trial, told the magistrate he was appearing amicus curiae ("friend of the court") to warn that

Khumalo and his co-accused were "very dangerous people" whose release from strict bail conditions "posed a risk to state security."

The magistrate allowed Tefo to make his submissions.

Tefo began: "Good morning, Your Worship. My name is advocate Malesela Tefo. What brought me here is that I want to bring an application for amicus curiae to be a friend of court in this matter. The reason is that I am informed that the accused are here to apply for the relaxation of their bail conditions."

"Firstly, I am also the accused in another case where your brother (another magistrate) is appearing. The basis for me to bring this application is the fact that the applicants are very dangerous people. I was in jail. They are part of sending me in jail."

"When I was in jail, they were monitoring my communications in jail. Mr Khumalo, the divisional commissioner, appointed Brigadier Moyana ..."

At that stage, counsel for Khumalo and others, advocate Zandile Mshololo, interjected, telling the court that Tefo was flouting court processes.

Guilty but free:

Angelo Agrizzi pleads guilty in R1.8 billion Bosasa case, gets suspended sentence



Corruption accused, Former Bosasa COO, Angelo Agrizzi. Picture: Supplied

Former Bosasa chief operations officer Angelo Agrizzi has entered into a plea agreement with the State, admitting to charges of corruption and money-laundering linked to the company's controversial contracts with the Department of Correctional Services.

Agrizzi appeared virtually before the Gauteng High Court in Pretoria on Thursday, assisted by an oxygen machine due to his ongoing health problems.

The court accepted a plea and sentencing agreement that brings an end to the long-running case.

Agrizzi received a 10-year sentence for each count of corruption and an additional 10 years for money-laundering — but the sentences were wholly suspended for five years, effectively sparing him from serving time behind bars.

The court heard that Agrizzi's deteriorating health was a key factor in the decision to suspend the sentence. He has suffered several medical complications since his arrest in 2019, including a heart attack and a prolonged stay in intensive

care. Under the terms of the deal, Agrizzi is required to assist the National Prosecuting Authority and testify truthfully in any related proceedings. Failure to do so could see the suspended sentence enforced.

The plea agreement relates to tenders worth more than R1.8 billion that Bosasa and its subsidiaries secured from the Department of Correctional Services between 2004 and 2007. The company was accused of paying bribes and other "gratifications" to government officials in exchange for the lucrative contracts.

Agrizzi became a key figure in the State Capture Inquiry after giving explosive testimony to the Zondo Commission in 2019, where he detailed how Bosasa allegedly operated as a hub of corruption involving senior politicians and public servants.

The plea deal formally concludes the criminal case against Agrizzi but ensures his continued cooperation with the State in ongoing investigations linked to the Bosasa network.

Several Arrested For Farm Murder, Rape

A deadly farm attack in Heilbron has shaken the Free State farming community. Thirteen suspects were swiftly arrested after a joint police and community operation recovered stolen livestock, weapons, and property



Lesego Makole and his children on his farm. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

Free State Acting Provincial Commissioner, Major General Solly Lesia, has praised the South African Police Service (SAPS), the farming community, private security, and other stakeholders for their swift response in the fatal shooting of a farmer and sexual assault of his wife in Heilbron this past week.

The farmer was attacked on his property, and his 34-year-old wife was rushed to a local hospital for medical treatment.

Lesia commended the coordinated search operation that led to the arrest of 13 suspects — 11 men and two women. Police also recovered 22 stolen sheep, a firearm, a minibus, and several household items believed to have been taken during the attack.

"This rapid response and the successful arrest of the suspects demonstrate what can be achieved when the police and the community work together. We will continue to act decisively against any form of violent crime," said Lesia.

The suspects have been charged with murder, attempted murder, rape, robbery, and stock theft — crimes that have left the Free State farming community shaken and fearful. In a related case, Lesego Makole, a

livestock farmer from Botshabelo, shared his frustration after losing 25 sheep to theft. Despite knowing where the animals were taken, the livestock was never recovered.

"Since we had not yet opened a case, a warrant officer from Botshabelo told us they couldn't help. Later, another incident happened where 12 cows with calves were stolen. We opened a case and managed to retrieve our livestock from a farm in Thaba Nchu, but the perpetrators fled before police could catch them," said Makole.

Makole alleged that some perpetrators are foreign nationals who rent vacant farms and use them for illegal livestock operations.

"These farms were meant for agricultural development, but instead they're being misused. Even with patrols and cameras, theft continues. The government should repossess these vacant farms," he added.

Makole urged SAPS to strengthen its stock theft units and called for better coordination with Home Affairs to deal with undocumented foreign nationals allegedly involved in rural crimes.

"Stock theft in Botshabelo is a nightmare. If I didn't know better, I'd say some police work with the thieves because nothing ever happens to them. Everyone in the livestock community knows who's behind these thefts—

so why can't the police act?" he asked.

Jakkals Le Roux, chairperson of the Free State Farmers Association, said while SAPS's quick responses are appreciated, farmers must remain vigilant.

"We know the police can't be everywhere, so we urge our members to stay alert, install alarms, and join safety groups. Community cooperation is key to protecting our livestock," said Le Roux. In another breakthrough, members of the Bloemfontein Crime Prevention Unit arrested two foreign nationals, aged 34 and 37, and a 25-year-old woman after receiving a tip-off about cheap meat being sold in Bergman Square, Bloemfontein.

According to Lieutenant General Thabo Covane, police acted after a prospective buyer contacted the sellers.

"A deal was struck, but the buyer insisted on live sheep. The police were alerted and found the suspects with eight carcasses and one live sheep. The three were immediately arrested, and our visible policing team processed the scene," said Covane.

The suspects were also linked to a robbery in Martin Dale, where a 36-year-old victim was tied up and robbed of 21 sheep and ammunition.

Covane warned that livestock-related crimes tend to increase during the festive season, urging farmers to step up security patrols and report suspicious activity.

SIU Probes Mismanagement at Siyathemba Municipality



Continues from Page 1

probe will also focus on the contracting of goods and services, examining whether contracts were awarded fairly, competitively, transparently, equitably, and cost-effectively, in line with applicable legislation and treasury guidelines.

"Beyond investigating maladministration, corruption, and fraud, the SIU is committed to identifying systemic failures and recommending measures to prevent future losses. Protecting the public interest and assets through preventative and systemic investigations is central to eradicating fraud, maladministration, and corruption," Kganyago added.

In line with the SIU Act (Act 74 of 1996), any evidence of criminal conduct uncovered during the investigation will be referred to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

The SIU is also authorised to pursue civil action in the High Court or Special Tribunal to address wrongdoing resulting from corruption, fraud, or maladministration.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Siyathemba Municipality welcomed the SIU's probe, which targets misconduct dating back to 2016.

"Over the years, the DA has fought to address the critical lack of financial oversight in the municipality, particularly the dysfunctionality of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC). The committee is responsible for examining fi-

nanial statements and audit reports, making recommendations, and investigating irregular expenditure," said DA councillor Wiida Pelster.

Pelster alleged that MPAC's dysfunction contributed to irregular expenditure exceeding R360 million over the past 15 years, citing lack of financial competence, withheld financial statements, and insufficient political will to expose irregularities.

The DA previously tabled motions of no confidence (MONC) against municipal officials, including the speaker and MPAC chairperson, but these motions were unsuccessful due to council opposition.

Pelster also highlighted unfinished legacy infrastructure projects in Prieska and Marydale, which remain incomplete despite significant spending. These include bulk sewer lines, pump stations, reservoirs, and sewerage networks, with progress ranging from 40% to 99%.

"The Prieska Waterborne Gravitational Sewer Network for 472 erven in E'thembeni Plakkerskamp remains incomplete, with millions spent but open trenches left and some trenches filled without pipes," Pelster said.

The DA hopes the SIU probe will encourage municipal employees to whistleblow and ensure those responsible for misappropriating taxpayers' money are held accountable.

Mogotsi's Gadgets Finally Seized



Brown Mogotsi was alleged shot at on Monday night in what is believed to be an attempt on his life. Picture: Fabebook

By: JN Reporter

In a dramatic turn of events, police have finally seized the digital devices of controversial businessman Brown Mogotsi — just as he was expected to provide a statement on an alleged assassination attempt that took place on Monday night.

Mogotsi, accompanied by his lawyers, met with police on Wednesday to give his account of the incident. It is alleged that unknown gunmen ambushed him while he was driving a red Chevrolet sedan in Vosloorus around 10pm on Monday.

According to reports, assailants in a white bakkie opened fire on his vehicle. Police later recovered 11 bullet casings from the scene. The car, which was found in poor condition with worn tyres, was riddled with bullet holes — two striking the driver's seat and one hitting the

passenger seat.

Police spokesperson Brigadier Athlenda Mathe confirmed that investigating officers successfully executed a search and seizure warrant nearly a month after it was issued.

"The SAPS has successfully executed the search and seizure warrant that was issued on 16 October 2025 for Mr Brown Mogotsi. The team investigating the fraud, corruption, and defeating the ends of justice case has also seized certain devices from him. The team met at Mr Mogotsi's lawyers' offices in Johannesburg," said Mathe.

Authorities had been searching for Mogotsi for several weeks amid allegations that he acted as a middleman between senior police officials and underworld figures.

He had initially agreed to present himself at the Vosloorus Police Station before 8am on Tuesday but

failed to do so. "He refused to open a case last night, citing fear for his life. So we are still waiting for him," Mathe said on Tuesday.

Mogotsi's name has repeatedly surfaced before the Madlaga Commission of Inquiry, which is probing alleged political interference in the criminal justice system. Parliament's ad hoc committee investigating KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner Nhlhla Mkhwanazi's claims of political interference and corruption has also discussed Mogotsi.

Mkhwanazi previously alleged that Mogotsi had insider knowledge of police operations — including the Political Killings Task Team (PKTT) disbandment — and referred to him as an associate of suspended Police Minister Senzo Mchunu. Witnesses have further linked Mogotsi to controversial businessman Vusumuzi "Cat" Matlala.

NW GOVERNMENT BRINGS SERVICES TO VENTERSDORP DOORSTEP



By: JN Reporter

The North West provincial government is rolling out the red carpet for residents of Ventersdorp with Phase five of the Accelerated Service Delivery Programme — Thunsha Lerole Reloaded.

Today the community of Ventersdorp in North West will benefit from a range of essential services, infrastructure projects, and handovers, all aimed at improving the quality of life for local residents.

The activities will be led by Premier Lazarus Mogosi together with his executive committee and mayors from both local and district municipalities.

According to Spokesperson of the Premier, Sello Tatai this phase of the programme forms a vital part of the provincial government's continued commitment to accelerating service delivery, improving conditions, and bringing government

services to the people.

"In accordance with government ongoing farming community development efforts, 20 beneficiaries will receive vegetable starter packs, gardening tools, and JoJo tanks.

"Five RDP houses will handed over to deserving beneficiaries out of 1500 houses that are currently under construction.

"Ten title deeds awarded to rightful owners, inspection of collapsed tuck-shops and hand-over of the Dunlop project site, animal feeds for subsistence farmers and food parcels for 100 beneficiaries," Tatai said.

He says there will be an introduction of new health personnel and EMRS staff, a clean-up initiative and tree planting to create a greener environment.

The event will culminate in a community feedback session at Buffelsvlei Farm.

Mogosi and other dignitaries will engage with residents and showcase the government's commitment to service delivery.

FS Education to reorganize the finishing school model



Free State is reorganizing its post-matric intervention approach from the Finishing Schools Model to the Second Chance Matric Support Programme. Picture: Supplied

By: Matshidiso Selebeng

The pressure is palpable as matriculants across the Free State sit for their final exams, with dreams of tertiary education and bright futures hanging in the balance.

But for some, the outcome is uncertain, and that's why the Department of Education is taking proactive steps to ensure that every learner has a second chance to succeed.

As of 2026, the department will be revamping its post-matric intervention approach, transitioning from the Finishing Schools Model to the Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP).

Before this change, the province had five Finishing Schools, one in each district.

Combined these schools supported around 5,000 learners annually who either did not meet the National Senior Certificate (NSC) pass requirements or wished to improve their results for entry into higher education.

The Finishing School model, unique to the Free State, provides full-time learning opportunities for learners re-writing up to three subjects.

The department stressed that the decision was driven by increasing financial pressure and the need to broaden access, which will now change to part-time instead of full-time, but increase the number of centres from five to possibly 12.

MEC for Education, Dr. Mamiki Maboya, said the re-organisation marks a strategic shift towards a more inclusive, cost-effective, and sustainable system that gives every learner a fair second chance to succeed.

"This reorganisation will ensure that more young people, even in remote areas, have access to quality teaching and learning support without financial barriers.

"Our focus is on broadening access to enhanced quality education, and empowering learners to re-enter the HEI sector with confidence," she said.

"To accommodate the growing number of post-matriculants seeking to complete or improve their results,

the Department will be in a position to identify and accredit more centres across all districts, ensuring that every qualifying learner has access to a facility within reasonable reach," she said.

Maboya put emphasis on broadening participation, for learners in rural and underserved areas, and said that learning materials will still be free.

"We are reconfiguring the Finishing Schools Programme to serve more learners and more efficiently.

"By realigning our approach, we want to ensure continuity, improved quality, and long-term sustainability that will help unlock the potential of thousands of future leaders in our province," she said.

Registrations for the 2026 academic year opened on 1 October and will remain so until 28 February next year. She says this will be standard for every year, at all district offices across the province.

Learners are encouraged to visit their nearest district office for registration assistance and placement at a Second Chance Matric Support Centre.

Hawks hunt victims of Free State housing scam

Victims of Bethlehem-based Blue Key Properties' housing scam urged to come forward as Hawks probe fraudulent sales and fake property deals



Are you a victim of a housing scam by Bethlehem, Free State-based company of brokers, Blue Key Properties?

If you are, the Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigation (the Hawks) is asking for your input.

Bethlehem Serious Corruption Investigation detectives are looking for victims of an alleged housing scam by the company.

Blue Key Properties' housing scam victims urged to come forward. Hawks spokesperson Lieutenant-Colonel Zweli Mohobeleli said Blue Key Properties allegedly placed newspaper ads to attract potential homebuyers. "Upon showing interest in buying, victims were taken to houses in Bethlehem and Phuthaditjaba for viewing, whereafter they would sign an offer to purchase and deposit money into the bank accounts of the accused," Mohobeleli said. However, victims received neither house keys nor a refund of their payments.

According to the Hawks, the company sometimes sold the same house to multiple buyers. In other cases, it sold homes that belonged to deceased people or properties abandoned by their owners. Mohobeleli said these victims are facing eviction because the executors and house owners never received their money. Thus far, 66 victims have come forward.

One victim, named Bruce, complained on the

online review platform HelloPeter about the company's ethics. In a complaint seen by The Citizen, Bruce said he rented a house through Blue Key Properties. He was preparing to move in when the company called him. They told him the deal was off because the previous tenant wanted to extend the lease for another month.

He said this was after I had signed the contract, paid the deposit and paid the first month's rent.

"Now I am stuck in Bethlehem with a van full of dogs, furniture and a loaded, rented trailer and nowhere to go," Bruce wrote on 31 May 2021.

"It was very nicely suggested to me that I go camp in a fenced-off camp for a month. In a tent with no facilities." The victim advised other customers to be wary of the company because "contracts and honour mean nothing to them".

Mohobeleli confirmed that officers arrested Petrus Wilhelmus Viljoen (57) and Kamolase Sammy Mofokeng (47) on 30 August 2025. They were arrested on a warrant.

The pair appeared in the Bethlehem Magistrate's Court on fraud charges. They were denied bail and the case was postponed to 17 November 2025.

"Anyone who might have fallen victim to this scam is urged to call Detective Warrant Officer Dudu Mowware of the Hawks on 079 505 3288," Mohobeleli said. IOL

Silent but Deadly: Diabetes Cases Surge Across South Africa



Diabetes — often described as a silent killer — affects more than 2.4 million South African adults between the ages of 20 and 79. It remains one of the country's leading causes of blindness, kidney failure, amputations, heart disease, and stroke. According to the International Diabetes Federation, the number of people living with diabetes in South Africa has risen from 1.9 million in 2011 to the current 2.4 million. Diabetes is a chronic condition characterised by elevated levels of glucose (sugar) in the blood. There are three main types of diabetes, each with its own causes, symptoms, and treatment methods. Living with diabetes

For Tshepo Mofokeng (57) from Kroonstad, life took an unexpected turn when he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 2013 after waking up with a swollen face.

"My life changed after my diagnosis because it meant I had to be careful with everything I did," he said. "Little scratches would turn into big wounds that took time to heal. One of the hardest times was when a mosquito bite became a full-blown wound that landed me in hospital because it just wouldn't heal — it kept expanding."

As November marks World Diabetes Month, Associate Professor Chika Egenasi from the Department of Family Medicine at the University of the Free State is sounding the alarm on the growing diabetes epidemic in the country.

Understanding the three types of diabetes

"Type 1 diabetes usually appears in children, teenagers, or young adults," said Prof Egenasi. "It occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, leading to insulin deficiency. Treatment includes insulin injections, a healthy diet, and regular blood glucose monitoring."

"Type 2 diabetes develops when the body becomes resistant to insulin or fails to produce enough of it. It usually occurs in adults, but increasingly affects young people due to poor lifestyle habits and heredity. Treatment includes lifestyle changes, healthy eating, exercise, and oral medications such as metformin. Insulin may also be prescribed," she explained. Egenasi added that the third type, Gestational Diabetes, develops during pregnancy in women who did not have diabetes before. "It is caused by pregnancy hormones making the body less sensitive to insulin, but it usually disappears after childbirth," she said. She emphasised that World Diabetes Month serves as an important reminder to encourage early diagnosis and proper management, both of which can be life-saving.

Egenasi also debunked some common misconceptions about the disease — including the belief that only overweight people get diabetes. "Being overweight increases your risk, but people of normal weight can also develop diabetes," she said.

"Diabetes contributes significantly to heart disease, kidney disease, vision loss, and amputations. It is one of the fastest-growing chronic conditions in South Africa due to poor lifestyle habits, obesity, and genetic factors." Mofokeng says living with diabetes has taught him valuable lessons about self-care. "I've learned a lot since my diagnosis. I'm also part of a group of people living with diabetes — we share information and support each other."

Prof Egenasi concluded by stressing that diabetes is a serious but manageable condition.

"With early detection, good nutrition, physical activity, and treatment adherence, people with diabetes can live long, healthy, and fulfilling lives. The key is awareness, testing, and consistent follow-up," she said.

Thunderstorms and flooding expected across FS and NW, damaging winds for Western Cape

The South African Weather Service has issued a Yellow Level 2 warning for severe thunderstorms expected over large parts of the central interior on Thursday. Conditions are favourable for the development of intense storms across the North West, northeastern Northern Cape, and most parts of the Free State, excluding the southwestern areas. Residents in these regions should brace for localised flooding of roads, low-lying areas, and bridges, as well as possible damage to property, vehicles, and infrastructure.

Heavy downpours, strong, damaging winds, excessive lightning, and large amounts of small hail are expected to accompany the storms.

Rainfall is likely to be widespread in parts of the eastern interior, with an 80% chance of rain and thunderstorms over the Free State's northeastern areas extending into parts of KwaZulu-Natal.

Scattered showers of around 60% are forecast for central and eastern regions, including Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Durban, while isolated storms are expected in parts of the Northern Cape and Limpopo with about a 30 percent chance of rain.

Along the Western Cape coast between Cape Columbine and Cape Agulhas, a Yellow Level 1 warning for damaging winds remains in effect from Thursday evening through Friday afternoon. The winds are expected to make sea navigation difficult and pose a risk to small vessels. The Weather Service has urged residents to exercise caution, especially when travelling or engaging in outdoor activities, as conditions may deteriorate rapidly.

The one province in South Africa where most municipalities are bankrupt



The Free State is arguably the worst-run province in South Africa, with the Auditor-General, Human Rights Commission, and political parties highlighting the province's collapse through failures in governance, financial accountability, and service delivery.

The Auditor-General (AG) delivered a scathing assessment of Free State municipalities earlier this year.

The report painted a stark picture of municipal dysfunction. It shows that while there were small signs of progress in the past few years, any momentum has been lost.

The AG stated that municipalities in the Free State have become increasingly unstable, and their financial management has deteriorated to such an extent that many are no longer able to perform even their most basic duties.

Six municipalities failed to submit their financial statements in the 2023/24 financial year, reversing the earlier improvement where 83% had done so.

The Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality once again received a disclaimed audit opinion, reflecting chaotic leadership, weak controls, and an inability to present reliable financial records.

This collapse in administration is directly impacting daily life.

Municipalities are failing to maintain their infrastructure, update asset registers, manage billing systems effectively, or plan and budget realistically.

The result is a rapid decline in the quality of essential services.

In Mangaung, the incomplete Thaba Nchu wastewater treatment plant has meant that untreated sewage continues to flow into the environment, posing a growing health hazard.

Across the province, sewage spills, unsafe drinking water, and failing sanitation systems have become routine.

The AG noted that municipalities spent only 1.9% of their budgets on repairs and maintenance, far below the National Treasury's recommended 8%.

This chronic underinvestment has accelerated the decay of infrastructure, from water pipelines to electricity grids and road networks.

Even where funds exist, they are not being used effectively.

Despite increasing reliance on consultants, who cost municipalities over R66 million in 2023/24, financial statements still required major corrections.

The AG has warned that municipalities are outsourcing work not to build internal capacity but merely to mask incompetence, while internal audit committees remain ineffective.

Financially, most municipalities in the province are bankrupt. In 2023/24, they collectively recorded net losses of R745 million.

A staggering 81% can only sustain their operations for a month or less using their existing cash reserves.

Irregular expenditure has ballooned to R12.5 billion, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure has increased to R5.3 billion, largely due to interest accrued from late payments.

Unauthorised spending stands at R4.2 billion, while most councils adopted unfunded budgets despite clear warnings not to.

These failures are not merely administrative—they are violations of constitutional rights.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) launched a province-wide inquiry after being overwhelmed with service delivery complaints.

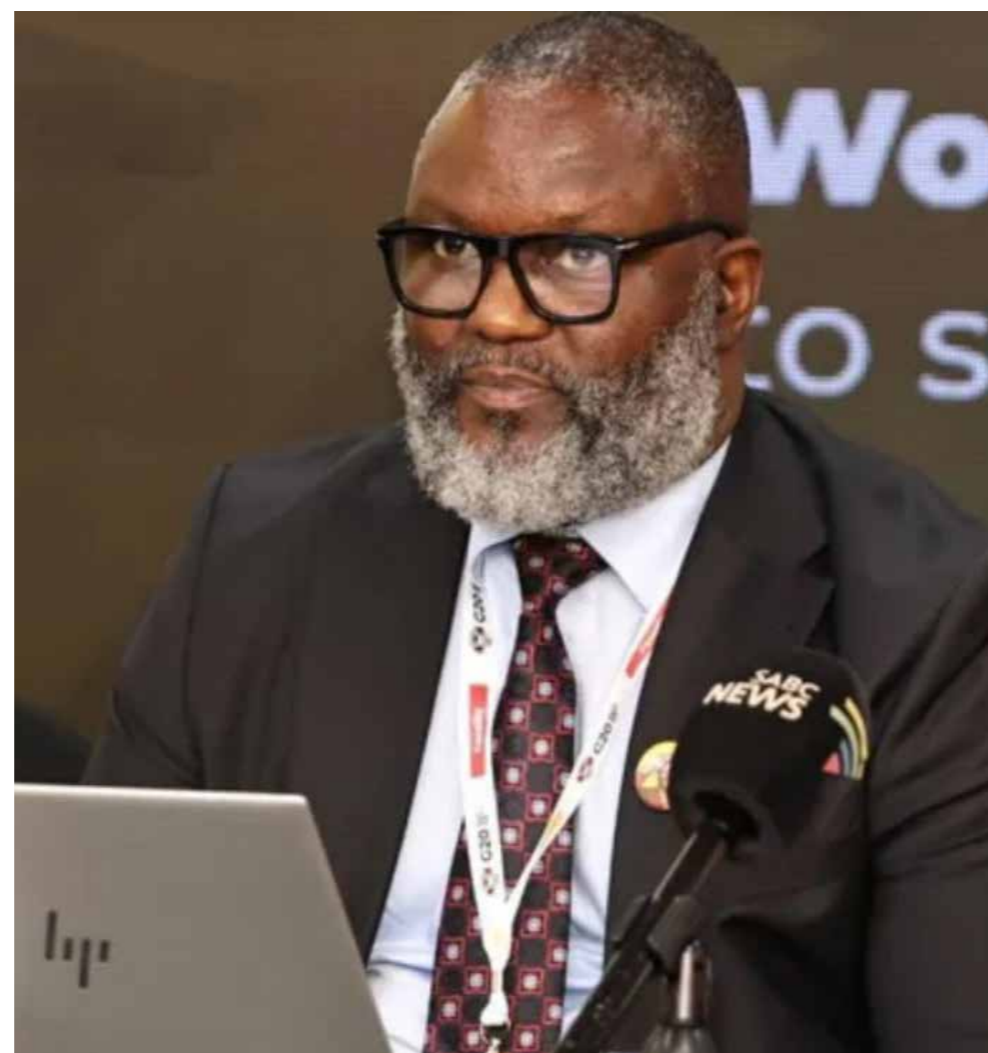
Commissioner Dr Henk Boshoff said the Commission receives roughly 16,000 complaints a year, with a significant number originating in the Free State.

What they uncovered was systematic neglect, crumbling infrastructure, severe water contamination, and widespread governance collapse.

At several municipalities, officials admitted that untreated sewage was being released into major rivers that supply water to millions of people.

Boshoff described this as a direct violation of constitutional and statutory obligations meant to protect the health and dignity of communities. — *Business Tech*

G20 South Africa 2025: a new chapter in international cooperation against corruption



As the first African nation to hold the G20 Presidency, South Africa has emphasised the critical intersection between G20 anti-corruption efforts and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) has outlined clear priorities for 2025, informed by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 16, which underscores the importance of peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, led discussions on the corrosive effects of corruption, which undermine the pillars of the G20's overarching theme of Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability. The South African Presidency identified four key priorities for the ACWG:

Strengthening Public Sector Integrity: Promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical governance.

Enhancing Asset Recovery Measures: Stream-

lining the management of seized assets to boost efficiency.

Inclusive Participation: Enhancing and mobilising the inclusive participation of the public sector, private sector, civil society, and academia to prevent and combat corruption.

This priority is supported by a Compendium of Good Practices that captures the expertise of multi-stakeholders, demonstrating how meaningful societal inclusion can strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

Whistle-Blower Protection: Establishing robust frameworks to protect individuals who expose corrupt practices.

The discussions were inclusive, reflecting a variety of stakeholder perspectives. The Chair's Statement, released under the responsibility of the South African Presidency, outlines the outcomes of the meeting, which acknowledged the shared commitment of G20 members to lead by example in the fight against corruption. — *IOL*

President Ramaphosa calls for expanded support for women's empowerment



President Cyril Ramaphosa has emphasised that efforts to expand women's access to finance, digital tools, and entrepreneurship must go hand in hand with the fight to end gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

"It's inspiring when many women who, against extraordinary odds, have transformed adversity into opportunity. When women prosper, the whole community benefits," President Ramaphosa said.

The President was addressing delegates at the International Women's Forum (IWF) conference, currently underway at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).

The President paid tribute to women who, despite facing systemic discrimination, have built successful businesses, led communities, and developed innovative solutions that have improved the lives of millions. "These are the women who have raised families while pursuing education; who have crossed cultural and structural barriers to lead in fields where they were once invisible," President Ramaphosa said.

He said the stories of resilience remind society that progress is not just about policy, but also courage, creativity and persistence.

"This conference is a platform to examine how women in leadership can not only respond to today's challenges but anticipate the opportunities of tomorrow."

The President noted that the sessions at the conference bring global perspectives from women leading large institutions and shaping entire communities. These discussions, he said, are especially timely in a world of shifting geopolitics, where multilateralism is tested and new forms of cooperation are urgently needed. Ramaphosa called for collective action to

ensure there is no backsliding on the progress made in advancing gender equality.

"We must recognise that our progress is intertwined. That when women rise, societies rise with them. Today, we celebrate not only the leaders in this room but also the millions of women worldwide who, through courage and ingenuity, are transforming their communities and breaking down barriers for the next generation," the President said.

Welcoming delegates, the President said South Africa is honoured to host a gathering of thought leaders, innovators, and change-makers committed to shaping the contours of the global future.

"Your presence here signals a shared determination to confront entrenched inequalities, to champion inclusive growth and to create pathways that empower women everywhere," President Ramaphosa said.

Convened under a theme: 'Ubuntu: I am because we are,' the conference called on the global community to recognise shared humanity, interdependence and collective power of women in shaping society.

The International Women's Forum of South Africa (IWFSA) was established 19 years ago when its patron, Zanele Mbeki, together with a group of women leaders, set up a South African chapter of the IWF.

IWFSA currently has grown to include 100 members from government, business, science, the arts and numerous other sectors.

The IWFSA members, who are at the top of their fields of endeavour and who have nationally and internationally identifiable track records, enjoy unique networking opportunities with access to both local and global influence of high performing, like minded and accomplished women. — *SAnews.gov.za*

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Balancing Cents and Rands

There's literally 9 weeks before Christmas and we all know what this means when it comes to business finances. Expectations and sometimes panic.

Your employees have pushed and put all their energy to meet production and sales targets and it's only fair that they should expect to be remunerated accordingly.

They can in some cases expect to be given a little bit more time to spend with their loved ones.

The excitement builds up with every week that passes. The thought of getting bonuses makes all this sound even more sweeter.

As an employer, you can't ignore the anticipation and importance of the 13th cheque. But what if this is not going to be realized?

Not because you do not want to reward your employees but because there isn't enough profit to allocate bonuses from?

Or worse, the invoices you have issued to your clients are not being paid and as a small business you do not have enough reserves to tap from?

This is bound to cause unnecessary stress and panic and compromise your relationship with your employees.

You can not afford to have disgruntled staff that is confused because they have delivered and don't understand why there is no money. You risk losing talent and credibility.

It has been noted many times that some offices lack the urgency to make payments and entrepreneurs are likely to be compromised more than ever during this time of the year as everybody prepares to go on holiday and hardly thinks of the negative impact of delaying payments.

The level of stress becomes heightened and anxiety sets in. Things will spiral downward quickly especially when there is no proper on time discussions with the employees to manage expectations. One way of minimizing this risk is to use the first few weeks to push for payments.

Do whatever it takes to communicate the urgency of getting all monies in by the end of November. You cannot simply choose to trust the system. Follow up everyday if you must.

You have delivered and therefore deserves to be paid. Your employees deserve to be paid. Overheads have to be covered and as an employer, you cannot afford to be compromised to the point where your health suffers because of living on the edge.

Being constantly expected to understand delayed payments has become a norm and entrepreneurs often succumb to the pressure for fear of being overlooked for opportunities in the future.

You rather ruffle some feathers than suck up and lose your sanity. We all deserve better! **By Annah Lelimo**

Opinion

Vukosi R. Msimeki
public servant and emerging leader in
South Africa's healthcare and
business sectors



ESD: The Missing Link Between Corporate Spend and Real SMME Growth

South Africa invests billions in transformation each year, yet the economy still lacks a significant pipeline of scaled black-owned enterprises. Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) programs were meant to build inclusive participation and transform ownership patterns, but too often, it remains a bureaucratic exercise rather than a catalyst for real growth. The link between policy ambition and entrepreneurial reality is still too weak.

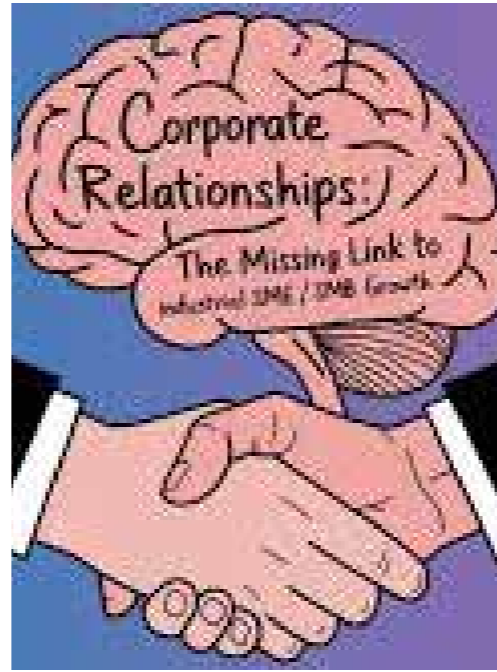
Small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) are the backbone of South Africa's economy. They create jobs, bring new ideas, and help communities grow. Nevertheless, despite years of ESD programs, many small businesses still struggle to access the funds and support they need. Organisations like the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) have collected large sums from corporate ESD contributions. In 2023/24, NEF reported over R3.5 billion disbursed to black-owned businesses (NEF Annual Report, 2023/24). Yet, many small entrepreneurs, especially in townships and rural areas, remain left out.

The proposed R100 billion Transformation Fund, now under review by the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC), presents an opportunity to restore purpose to South Africa's transformation agenda. The BMF supports the Fund's goals, but success depends on transparent governance, local delivery mechanisms, and measurable developmental outcomes (National Treasury, 2024).

Why ESD is Not Reaching Small Businesses?
ESD is designed to help black-owned businesses join supply chains and grow competitively under the B-BBEE framework (Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003) and Codes of Good Practice (2019). In implementation, however, progress has been uneven due to several structural and procedural barriers:

- Administrative bottlenecks: Application processes are lengthy and difficult to navigate, particularly for township or rural entrepreneurs (SEFA Annual Report, 2023).
- Unclear priorities: Many enterprises do not know what criteria to meet or which sectors receive priority.
- Fragmented institutions: Overlaps with programmes from DSB, IDC, and provincial agencies, reducing impact.
- Weak accountability: Impact tracking is inconsistent, and few initiatives measure long-term (BMF, 2023).

The funding exists, what is lacking is the strategic coordination and urgency to ensure it reaches



small businesses efficiently and fairly.

The Transformation Fund: Big Goals, Big Challenges.

The Transformation Fund, described in NEF's March 2025 Concept Document, is a five-year, R100 billion public-private partnership aimed at empowering black-owned businesses across key sectors such as agriculture, ICT, tourism, and manufacturing, including informal traders and spaza shops (NEF, 2025). While the scale is promising, the fund faces operational and governance challenges:

- Centralised management could distance the Fund from regional business realities.
- Excessive compliance focus risks prioritising scorecard over sustainable business development.
- Governance safeguards must be strengthened to prevent political interference or misuse.
- Non-financial support, such as mentoring, technical guidance, and market access, remain poorly defined.

Coordination among delivery agents like SEFA, NEF, and IDC must be deliberate and outcome-oriented. A harmonised delivery model that encourages partnership rather than duplication is essential. Otherwise, the Fund could mirror past inefficiencies, benefiting a few while sidelining emerging enterprises (Phukubye, 2025; BMF, 2025).

Beyond Compliance: A New ESD Mandate
Real transformation cannot depend solely on

meeting compliance metrics. It must create enduring value by developing entrepreneurial skills, expanding access to markets, and ensuring sustainable business growth.

The BMF recommends the following approach:

- Decentralised Delivery: Empower NEF, SEFA, IDC, and provincial agencies to manage funds at a local level with defined performance targets.
- Blended Finance Mechanisms: Adapt support to business maturity – grants for micro-enterprises, equity for growing businesses, and performance-linked loans for established entities (DTIC, 2024).
- Independent Governance: Boards should include entrepreneurs, finance specialists, and civil society members, ensuring independence from political or corporate influence.
- Outcome-Based Evaluation: Measure success through survival rates, job creation, skills transfer, and supply-chain participation.
- Public Awareness and Accessibility: Strengthen outreach and education so small business owners understand available funding and how to formalise operations (BMF, 2023).

The objective is not to adjust ESD at the margins but to reposition it as a strategic tool for economic restructuring.

Market Access: The Missing Link

Access to finance without access to markets leads to stagnation. South Africa's public procurement, exceeding R1 trillion annually provides a major untapped channel for inclusive growth. Government and corporates must view ESD not as a compliance burden but as an investment in the country's productive capacity.

Linking Transformation Fund beneficiaries directly to procurement networks, both private and public, would convert funding into genuine growth opportunities. This shift from grant dependency to market engagement ensures that black-owned businesses acquire customers, technical skills, and sustainable income streams (National Treasury, 2024). The R100 billion Transformation Fund offers a critical opportunity to transform the structure of South Africa's enterprise landscape. However, achieving this vision requires decisive implementation, not just ambitious design.

ESD must evolve from an administrative obligation into an instrument that drives measurable outcomes. Real transformation will come when supplier development delivers market access, when transformation funds build scale, and when agencies coordinate for shared impact.

To unlock inclusive economic growth, South Africa must move ESD from compliance to contribution, from intent to measurable performance.

The Convenience that come with Anti-HIV injection



Refilwe Mochoari
Editor-in-Chief

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has approved a six-month jab that will be taken as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP) to prevent HIV.

Hi everyone, my name is Refilwe Mochoari, lets talk about the HIV preventative injection, which is expected to be implemented in our country in April next year.

This is excellent news in the fight against HIV considering the high numbers of new HIV infections in South Africa every year.

The news about this injection has sent ripples of excitement through the medical community.

This ground-breaking treatment has the potential to change the way we approach HIV prevention and management in South Africa.

According to the scientists, this jab is a game-changer..

According to the Themisa model, a leading mathematical model on HIV and TB in South Africa, eight million people are living with HIV which represents 12% of the population.

There are about 178,000 Infections per year in the year 2023/24 and 10500 HIV positive people died in the same period, 53,000 people died of HIV related illnesses and 52000 died for reasons that are not related to HIV.

A total of 6.2million are on Antiretroviral treatment in South Africa.

These numbers are a perfect picture that shows us how prevalent HIV in South Africa is and just how this HIV preventative jab, is such a game changer to the health department's HIV programmes.

The injection contains an antiretroviral drug called Lenacapavir and was registered by SAPHRA which makes South Africa the first African country to register Lenacapavir.

Just to break it down a little, this injection was established to prevent HIV negative people from contracting HIV for six months at a time.

And I think that the faster the process moves the sooner people who are at high risk can be protected and finally a fever new HIV infections South Africa will see.

The Minister of Health Dr Aron Motswaledi says the injection is very safe to take.

He says during clinical trials, the injection was found to be 100% effective in young girls and 96% effective in men sleeping with men.

Although this is some really good news and a significant breakthrough,, there are a few concerns from the public that still need to be addressed.

Challenges such as accessibility and the costs that come with it.

Some of the other challenges that come with the implementation of this injection are the theories and the myths.

These will be disruptive to a certain extend because all that is needed on the African continent right now is to win the HIV battle, and Wits University modelling says millions of people must take the injection if South Africa wants to end HIV by the year 2040.

How much will it cost?

Two generic drugmakers Hetero and Dr Reddy have received funding from the Hates foundation and Unitaid respectively to produce and sell the shot for about R692 per person which is equivalent to the cost of one pill that is currently being taken by HIV negative people to protect themselves from contracting HIV which can be received for free in government clinics.

This injection is a major milestone in the fight against HIV.

While there are other preventative methods such as the usage of condoms, this treatment has the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of those who want to protect themselves and those who are in relationships with HIV positive partners.

It is important for the department of Health to ensure that this injection reaches all of those who need it.

Fun Facts about the Anti HIV Jab

The Pre HIV vaccine will be given to HIV negative people only

The injection has been proven to be 100% effective in young women.

It is 96% effective in men sleeping with men

South Africa will be the first country in Africa to roll out the Anti HIV jab

It will be implemented in April 2026

The jab brings convenience, as it will only be taken twice a year.

Letter to the Editor

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

Leadership Price



Pastor
Motsamai Kareli
Empowerment Ministries International

Nelson Mandela spent twenty-seven years on Robben Island off the coast of South Africa. For those long years, he broke rocks, did hard labor, was beaten, and had no privileges. Mandela's future looked bleak. But then, one day, he gained his freedom. One day, he walked out of that prison to change the world.

As leaders, we must remember that leadership comes with a price. Some of you leaders may even be going through that season of refinement right now. Maybe your passion is to change the world, but you're facing massive difficulties. Maybe you have no idea how God's calling in your life will come to be. Maybe you're in your Robben Island.

Just like Nelson Mandela, keep waiting and preparing—during the fifth year, the fifteenth year, the twenty-fifth year...despite how you feel, know that a brighter future is coming. God is using this season, no matter its trials, to prepare you for what's coming. The Nelson Mandela we celebrate today would not have been the same without Robben Island. The work you'll do for the Lord requires that you allow Him to shape, mold, and refine you beforehand. That is the price of leadership.

And one day...it will all be worth it. Say to yourself today, "I'm a world-changer. I won't give up. This is my calling. And it's going to be awesome." Don't give up. Stay right where you are, and get ready to move to a brand new place at the right time.

Please do your best to escape the trap of desiring

to accomplish great things without any price. In one of my previous articles I shared the importance of handling pain while pursuing your God given dream. Let me share a few things that happens while you are in your Robben Island:

1. Your faith in God will be strengthened
2. You get to spend time with yourself and discover your strengths
3. Your character get sharpened
4. You will know who are for you so that when you get out you work with them
5. Personal development becomes a priority

Do not be discouraged because of the Robben Island experience you need it and it is not going to be forever. Nelson Mandela came out strong and ascended his throne, can you imagine if he committed suicide because of the pain he went through while there? If he did we wouldn't be free as a nation and I think that could have led to a civil war but Nelson Mandela had the following traits that allowed him to endure the Robben Island experience: patience, long-suffering, inner joy, vision, resilience, selflessness and passion. Your dream will be fulfilled please endure before you enjoy the realization of it. God will reward you if you hold on and keep moving even though it is tough. Leadership is not for the fainthearted but the strong. The sad news is that every level you come to has its Robben Island experience and your ability to go through qualifies you for the next level. Lets do this.

Gambling away the future: UDM demands action on online betting and NSFAS misuse

South Africa is witnessing a moral and social emergency. Gambling has become a trillion-rand industry feeding on the hopes of the poor, the unemployed and the young. According to the National Gambling Board, more than R1.5 trillion was wagered in the 2024/25 financial year, a staggering 45 percent increase from the previous year. What was once a leisure pastime has now become a mechanism of mass economic extraction that drains households, deepens poverty, and destroys families.

The United Democratic Movement (UDM) is alarmed by the evidence that gambling is no longer limited to casinos or horse racing. The proliferation of online betting platforms, aggressive advertising, and the use of celebrities and social media influencers have normalised gambling across society. For millions of South Africans, it has become an illusion of escape in a reality of joblessness, debt, and despair.

Clinical experts warn that gambling addiction is rising sharply, driven by smartphone access and constant exposure to digital marketing. As people chase losses, they borrow, steal, or beg to sustain the habit. These are the symptoms of a society where the line between hope and exploitation has been erased. The UDM is particularly disturbed by reports that students are gambling with their National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) allowances. Young South Africans entrusted with public funds meant for food, accommodation and study materials are using these allowances to bet online. This is not a story about moral weakness. It is a story about desperation, systemic neglect, and an absence of accountability from institutions that should protect them. Universities and NSFAS cannot continue to look away while students are being consumed by the very system meant to lift them out of poverty.

Government's failure to regulate online gambling, curb advertising excesses, and enforce ex-

isting laws has turned this crisis into a national tragedy. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the National Gambling Board, and the National Gambling Policy Council must act immediately to:

1. Regulate online gambling platforms and close legal loopholes exploited by unlicensed operators.
2. Restrict advertising and influencer marketing, especially content that glamorises gambling or targets youth.
3. Introduce responsible gambling education at tertiary institutions and within communities.
4. Ensure that NSFAS and universities implement monitoring systems to prevent misuse of allowances and support students who fall into addiction.
5. Strengthen and better resource the national gambling helpline and expand access to counselling and rehabilitation services, ensuring that support reaches schools, universities, and communities most affected by addiction..

The UDM calls for the issue of gambling and its devastating social and economic consequences to be formally placed on the agenda of the National Dialogue. This matter cannot remain at the periphery while it destroys lives and undermines social stability. The National Dialogue must confront how gambling, poverty, and inequality intersect, and develop coordinated solutions that protect vulnerable citizens, especially young people and low-income families.

South Africa cannot claim to build a just and equal society while it profits from the despair of its own people. The UDM calls for urgent government action, stronger laws, and accountability from every institution that has allowed this exploitation to flourish. **By Zandile Phiri, Acting Secretary General of the United Democratic Movement**

Business

Markets and Indicators

Rand/Dollar	17.39	0.09%	▲
Rand/Pound	22.79	-0.33%	▼
Rand/Euro	20.06	-0.31%	▼
Platinum	1 529.60	-1.99%	▼
Brent Crude	63.25	-0.36%	▼
Gold	3 976.93	-0.07%	▼
Etherium	3 283.99	-4.61%	▼
Bitcoin	101 247.6	-2.29%	▼

Tackling global inequality must be a G20 priority: President Ramaphosa



President Cyril Ramaphosa Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Joseph Stiglitz during the handover of the report by the G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality at Tuynhuys. Picture: SANews

President Cyril Ramaphosa has reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to placing the fight against global inequality at the centre of the upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit to be held in Johannesburg later this month.

Speaking at the handover of the report by the G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality at Tuynhuys on Tuesday, President Ramaphosa described the report as a "seminal and rigorous" document that offers a roadmap for addressing one of the world's most urgent challenges.

"Now, with this report, we have clear actions that we can take as governments, as societies, and as the global community to reduce inequality. It is now up to us, the leaders of the G20 and the leaders of the world, to demonstrate the necessary will and commitment," he said.

The report, led by Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Joseph Stiglitz, represents the first comprehensive examination of inequality to be presented to the G20 for consideration.

"This is the first time that a report of this nature on a matter so fundamental to global stability and human progress is presented for consideration by the G20,"

President Ramaphosa said.

He emphasised that inequality is not only a moral issue but a direct threat to democracy, inclusive growth, and global peace.

"This report, which is a blueprint for greater equality, supports the goal of South Africa's G20 Presidency to put inequality on the international agenda. It correctly asserts that inequality is a betrayal of people's dignity, an impediment to inclusive growth and a threat to democracy itself.

"Addressing inequality is our inescapable generational challenge. We have the means to build a fair, just and equal world. We have the resources to narrow gap between and within countries," the President said.

President Ramaphosa said the findings and recommendations in the report align with South Africa's goal as G20 President to ensure that inequality remains a key focus on the global agenda.

He recalled his remarks during the establishment of the Extraordinary Committee in August 2025, when he warned that inequality continues to erode human dignity, citing examples such as vaccine apartheid and the economic fallout of global crises.

"People across the world know how extreme ine-

quality undermines their dignity and chance for a better future. They saw the brutal unfairness of vaccine apartheid, where millions in the Global South were denied the vaccines to save them," the President said.

The President commended the committee for its work, saying the report provides practical and actionable steps that governments and societies can take to narrow the gap between and within nations.

President Ramaphosa expressed appreciation to Professor Stiglitz, the committee of experts, and supporting organisations such as Oxfam for their contributions to the study.

He said the document will form the foundation for discussions at the upcoming G20 Summit, which South Africa will host for the first time.

"This report provides a solid platform on which to launch a renewed global effort to tackle inequality. I look forward to discussing its findings at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg later this month," he said.

The Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality was established under South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025 to examine the structural causes of inequality and propose strategies to achieve a fairer global economy. – [SANews.gov.za](#)

Makate, Vodacom Settle Out-of-Court



Vodacom former employee Nkosana Makate has reached an out-of-court settlement with former employer. Picture: Facebook

South African headquartered Vodacom Group has reached an out-of-court settlement with former employee Nkosana Makate over the long-drawn-out "Please Call Me" invention dispute.

In a statement issued via the Johannesburg Stock Exchange News Service (SENS), Vodacom Group confirmed the settlement, though it did not reveal the final settlement amount.

"Shareholders are hereby advised that on November 4, 2025, the Vodacom board approved a settlement agreement, and the matter was settled by the parties out of court," the statement said.

"The parties are glad that finality has been reached in this regard. The settlement has been accounted for in the Group's interim results for the six-month period ended September 30, 2025, subsequent to the publication of a trading statement on SENS on October 3, 2025, related to those interim results," the company said.

The case was due to go back to the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) after a July 2025 judgment by the Constitutional Court that ruled that the case needed to be heard by a new panel of SCA judges.

Vodacom Group said that as part of the settlement process, a notice was sent to the SCA withdrawing its latest appeal. Additionally, a notice was also sent to the High Court to abandon a previous 2022 judgment.

Makate confirmed that a settlement was reached on his X account citing: "In response to media queries. Indeed, the 'Please Call Me' matter has been settled and is subject to confidentiality."

Makate is credited for coming up with an idea which allowed mobile users without any airtime to

send a free text message requesting that someone call them, back in 2000.

The idea was developed into Vodacom's "Please Call Me" service and launched as a free service to its customers in 2001.

Vodacom and Makate's lengthy legal battle The now infamous case has been in and out of South African courts since 2008.

It made its way to the Constitutional Court in 2016, and the ruling was that the Vodacom CEO and Makate needed to negotiate in good faith regarding appropriate compensation for his idea.

In January 2019, Vodacom CEO Shameel Joosub determined reasonable compensation of R47 million (US\$3.1 million at the time).

That determination was rejected by Makate and he went to the Gauteng Division of the High Court in Pretoria to have the CEO's determination judicially reviewed and set aside.

In February 2022, the Pretoria High Court told Vodacom it needed to pay Makate more than the \$3.1 million offered for his idea.

Vodacom appealed against the High Court judgment and took the case to the SCA.

The SCA heard the appeal in May 2023, and in February 2024 it ruled that Makate was entitled to receive between 5% to 7.5% of the total money generated from the idea, including interest, for revenue generated over 18 years, from 2001 to 2019.

Vodacom then headed to the Constitutional Court, citing that the SCA judgment and order were "fundamentally flawed."

In July 2025, the Constitutional Court ruled in favor of Vodacom, sending the case back to the SCA.

Another 145 Businesses Shut Down in SA

South Africa experienced another spike in business liquidations in September, with another 145 companies added to the pile of closures, taking the running total to 1,180 in 2025 so far.

Stats SA's liquidations data showed that the numbers spiked significantly year-on-year, with liquidations shooting up 23.9% compared to the same time in 2024.

Year-to-date, liquidation numbers are also higher than they were in 2024, with the 1,180 total between January and September up 3.8% from the same period last year. Comparing the three-month running total, the number of liquidations between July and September 2025 is 13.0% higher than the same period in 2024.

Following the longer-term trend line, 2025 is reflecting a troubling turn for companies in South Africa, with liquidation figures trending upwards after being on a declining path since mid-2022.

While the overall number of liquidations is still much lower than what was seen in the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown years (2020-2022), this does not necessarily reflect an improved business environment. Given that South Africa's economic growth has stag-

Industry	Jan – Sep 2025			Sep 2024			Aug 2025			Sep 2025		
	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total	C	V	Total
1. Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	1	4	5	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	1
2. Mining and quarrying	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Manufacturing	5	42	47	0	10	10	1	3	4	2	3	5
4. Electricity, gas and water	1	5	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Construction	11	46	57	2	2	4	1	3	4	3	8	11
6. Trade, catering and accommodation	31	194	225	0	16	16	4	25	29	1	22	23
7. Transport, storage, communication	2	18	20	2	6	8	0	1	1	0	4	4
8. Financing, insurance, real estate, business services	50	349	399	2	37	39	6	30	36	6	40	46
9. Community, social, personal services	10	53	63	0	6	6	1	10	11	1	7	8
10. Unclassified	40	315	355	3	27	30	6	36	42	6	41	47
Total number of liquidations	151	1 029	1 180	10	107	117	19	108	127	20	125	145

nated over the last decade, the lower liquidations may in fact reflect that there are simply fewer businesses around to shut down.

2025 has also been an incredibly strained year for businesses, with economists and analysts pointing to global and local constraints.

Locally, businesses have to contend with collapsing

infrastructure, rising electricity costs, anti-business government policy and red tape, and a lack of skills in the workforce.

Globally, the United States' tariffs and trade war have fundamentally shifted market dynamics, impacting imports and exports and the wider global economy. In this environment, businesses, including decades-old

companies and established brands, have been forced to shut down or enter into business rescue.

Notably, business rescue data is not covered by Stats SA's liquidation data, with the latter providing just one data point in the larger picture of South Africa's business environment.

According to Stats SA's data, the businesses hardest hit by liquidations remain those in the finance, insurance, real estate and business services sector.

This is followed by those in trade, catering and accommodation. Breaking from the annual data, September hit the construction industry hard.

The third-hardest-hit is typically the community, social and personal services sector, but the construction sector saw more liquidations in September.

A notable liquidation in that sector is Murray & Roberts Holdings, which was given a final liquidation order by the High Court this month.

The 123-year-old company will begin winding up; however, its subsidiary, Murray & Roberts Limited, is unaffected and is going through business rescue.

This again highlights the different paths for businesses and how the data only tells part of the story.

Despite the apparent pressure South African businesses are under, sentiment in the country is one of resilience.

The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sacci) Business Confidence Index for September climbed 1.1 points to hit 121.1 for the month. This is up 10.9 points from September last year.

According to the chamber, this reflects a general rebound for the index, though it remains lower than February's reading of 125.8 before the US tariff and trade war was initiated.

The onset of tariffs and sociopolitical attacks on South Africa, amid budget troubles, saw the index drop to 113.2 in June, which improved to 120.0 in August. General feedback has been that South Africa remained resilient in the face of the tariffs and the economy was not hit as hard as expected.

However, while economic activity has been relatively stable, Sacci noted that uncertainty persists, especially related to future trade and exports.

This includes AGOA, which ended in September, and whether or not the South African government can reduce the US's 30% tariff.

GET TO KNOW YOUR DJ

The Maestro of Soundscapes



By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Get ready to be transported to a world of rhythm and bliss with DJ Skamzen's infectious beats. Kamohelo 'DJ Skamzen' Lekhetho is a master of crafting sets and mixes that take listeners through various soundscapes, from deep and soulful house to Amapiano and beyond.

Lekhetho's journey started in the confines of his bedroom, where he honed his skills with an old computer and a mini virtual DJ mixer.

His big break came when he enrolled in a Radio Production programme with PAS media in Bloemfontein turning his passion into a career.

With nine years of DJing experience and five years in radio broadcasting, he has established himself as a force to be reckoned with in the industry.

Born and bred in Welkom, Lekhetho is still aspiring to reach new heights.

He says he wants to be one of South Africa's top DJ.

"I see myself as one of the biggest and experienced radio jock across South Africa.

And I also want to make a huge impact to those who aspire to one day be in the same industry as I am," he shared.

Lekhetho's love for music and radio was ignited by his family and further fueled by listening to Lesedi FM.

He is now a popular Sesotho radio broadcaster, known for his genre-bending style.

Catch Skamzen's flavor on Motheo FM, weekdays from 3PM to 6PM.

Top Billing Makes a Grand Return to TV Screens



By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Top Billing, the beloved show that captivated South Africans for 25 years, is making a highly anticipated return to television with a special reunion episode on Thursday, November 27.

This revival comes after a seven-year hiatus, sparked by a passionate plea from KFM Radio host Mitch Matyana on national radio.

Excitement surrounding the show's return was fueled by entertainment commentator and TV

blogger Mlu, who announced the comeback of Top Billing on his Instagram post.

"TV UPDATE: Top Billing makes a return on SABC3 (S3). A special reunion episode is scheduled to air on November 27, 2025," Mlu stated in his post.

After successfully running for 25 years, the show ended due to the South African public broadcaster SABC stating that they could no longer afford to finance it.

Fans can expect a sneak peek into the new season, featuring bigger transformations, bolder ideas, and heartwarming moments.

South Africans are eagerly anticipating the show's return and speculating about the presenter lineup, with names like Maps Mapunyane, Bonang Matheba, Jeannie D, and Ursula Chikane being thrown around as potential hosts.

Stay tuned for more updates on Top Billing's return, and get ready to be inspired by the innovative home décor and DIY ideas the show has to offer.

Welkoms Inno Morolong Featured on Slay Queens

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Behind the French champagnes, designer clothes, bags, luxury cars, expensive jewelry, sun-kissed villas, international holidays, Brazilian But Lifts (BBL's), lies a reality only a few are brave enough to confront.

This is what the much-anticipated five-part Showmax documentary series Slay Queens which premiered on 31 October is all about.

It is not just about the flashy lives of the Slay Queens but, it is a forensic examination of the darkness required to maintain the soft life.

The show is narrated and commented by award-winning author and former slay queen Jackie Phamotse who says she hopes that the show will spark awareness around the risks behind the illusions of the daughter after lifestyle.

Some of the influencers who are featured in the show include club host Inno Morolong telling the soft life story from her home in Thanong, Welkom.

Their lives are flawless like an Instagram feed where women seem to have it all together but lean a little bit closer, disregard the Cartiers, smell the fear behind the echoing darkness of being a slay queen. Morolong opens up about the challenges the lifestyle of being a slay queen poses, with hopes

that her story will inspire young women.

"I hope my story makes an impact on young girls out there, that if I can make it, they can also make it," she said. She says the slay queen lifestyle comes with a lot of social, financial, and emotional pressures that are often overlooked. The hardships are not put in the forefront. She encouraged young women to embrace authenticity and live within their means.

"I would advise young girls to love their natural looks, be happy with the little they have, and know that it's okay to make an honest living and be a natural beauty."

The Slay Queen show succeeds not because it makes us envy these women, but because it makes us understand them. It holds up a diamond-encrusted mirror to our own societal obsessions with wealth, beauty, and external validation.

In the end, the show asks an uncomfortable question: In a world that constantly sells women a fantasy of a 'flashy life,' how many of us are willing to pay the dark, hidden price? The true darkness isn't just in their lives, it's in the reflection of our own desires staring back at us.



Taung Calabash Leaves A Positive Mark



Fashion icon David Tiale among the A blisters attending the Taung Calabash. Picture: Supplied

Most revellers who attended the much-anticipated iconic Taung Cultural Calabash event gave a general positive feedback. They are happy to see the event that used to be a 'centre of attraction' during heritage month being revived, refreshed and reloaded.

One of the revellers, Tshiamo Modisakeng from Schweizer Reneke said they are happy to see organisers going all out, although the event has not reached its former level. However, Modisakeng said the event is growing and soon it will reach its iconic standard.

"We enjoyed the performances from various artists such as Maglera Doe Boy, Pabi Cooper, Paige and others. We just hope the event continues to grow and eventually become what is known for," she said.

Some local artists such as Black Cheeta and Trokid said it was impressive to see the Taung Cultural Calabash event organisers giving them a platform to showcase their talents.

Matsheng-born Hip Hop artist, Black Cheeta said: "We have spent most of our time in the side lines and events like this will assist us to hone our talents. The aim is to reach our dreams and claim our niche in the music industry. So, Taung Cultural Calabash event will assist us to achieve our dreams.

"So, we are grateful to the organisers for considering us. It is difficult to develop one's skill without any assistance with business opportunities where possible. It was an eye-opener sharing a stage with big artists you have already made their mark in the music industry."

Trokid said he was happy to share his music with the broader audience. He further said given platforms like this will nurture their talents.

"Honestly, it was inspiring and encouraging to live out our own unique dreams. Mostly, I share the stories of hopeless dreamers that become victorious through my music. So, we appreciate the platform given to us," added Trokid.

Meanwhile, the The Mmabana Foundation spokesperson, Kgalalelo Molotsi said they extend their heartfelt gratitude to all patrons, artists, partners, and the people of Taung for making the 2025 Taung Cultural Calabash a resounding success. Molotsi said over three unforgettable days, the festival truly lived up to its theme: "Revived, Refreshed, Reloaded" reigniting the creative spirit of the North West through powerful performances in fashion, theatre, comedy, and music.

"From the inspiring David Tiale Master Class and the vibrant Art Exhibition, to the electric energy of the Music Spectacle, the festival showcased the best of local and national talent. We are deeply thankful for the unwavering support of the North West Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, our partners, and the Greater Taung community for their hospitality and participation.

"The Taung Cultural Calabash continues to stand as a symbol of unity, creativity, and cultural pride. We look forward to seeing you again in 2026 revived, refreshed, and reloaded," she said. - Taung Daily News

Mahika Mahikeng Dates Confirmed

By: JN Reporter

It is that time of the year again when all roads lead to the North West Province for the annual Mahika Mahikeng cultural festival that is set to take place from 11 to 14 December in Mahikeng.

This week the Department of Arts, Sports, Culture and Recreation (ACSR) has confirmed the dates as the dates for the 2025 edition of the annual cultural festival.

The four-day festival is a celebration of local art and culture through music with genres ranging from gospel and jazz to hip hop and a map is no.

According to a media statement issued by the department, details about performers will be confirmed during a media launch scheduled for this month. ACSR spokesperson Vuzi Kama said, "Mahika Mahikeng has, over the years, become a formidable brand in the North West and the rest of South Africa and Botswana.

"It attracts travellers from various cities and countries. It also attracts tourists and contributes to the local economy. "We are excited to bring Mahika Mahikeng to the people, once again.

"We are building on the success of the previous years, Kama said.

Ms Manche opens up about her exit from 'The Mommy Club' - here's what she had to say

Tshengofatso Manche Adewale, popularly known as Ms Manche, has revealed her reasons for leaving Showmax's popular reality show, The Mommy Club.

In a recent podcast interview with Lungelo Mdlatshe on Engineer Your Life with Lungelo KM, the mother of three opened up about her decision not to return to the show.

Ms Manche explained that she chose to leave the reality TV series because she noticed changes in herself that she did not like.

"I am actively deciding to leave 'Mommy Club' because, as I said, energy. I am sensitive. I have a big heart, and I'm not perfect. There were instances where I felt that wasn't Tshego," she shared.

As a digital content creator, Ms Manche joined the cast for its first season, which premiered on June 27, 2023.

She felt that while people were familiar with her

online persona, she wanted to show her true self beyond social media.

"I was leaving, not a version of me. I was leaving 'Mommy Club' because it started to become something I don't recognise or something I didn't expect. I misrepresented myself because that's not who I want to be. The girl throwing the water, uh uh. It's not how I was raised," she said.

The incident she referred to involved her throwing water at another cast member, Mrs Mops, during a heated discussion where Ms Manche felt her children were unfairly targeted as a topic of conversation. Upset by the situation, she spilt water on Mrs Mops before walking away from the table.

Since then, Ms Manche has apologised to Mrs Mops, and the two have reportedly reconciled.

However, the incident significantly impacted how she wishes to represent herself moving forward. - IOL



JJJ NOTICE OF LOST OR DESTROYED TITLE DEED

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer No. T49627/2000 issued by MALUTI-A-PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY in favour of DIKETSING LYDIA SEBUSI in respect of certain ERF 10618 PHUTHADITJHABA, DISTRICT HARRISMITH, PROVINCE FREE STATE, which has been lost or destroyed.

All interested parties having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at FREE STATE at BLOEMFONTEIN within two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

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874 PANYANE STREET
BATHO LOCATION, MANGAUNG
9323

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GIG Guide

Friday 07 November 2025

Friday Afterwork gettogether

Sechaba Lounge
Bloemfontein

Sunday 09 November 2025

Massive Sunday

Sandys & Restaurant

Bloemfontein

Sunday 09 November 2025

Sunday Soul Cookout

Mangaung Outdoor Sport Center
Bloemfontein

Sunday 09 November 2025

Social Sunday

K-LA-K Lifestyle

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Sport



Mckenzie Bashes Basketball SA

The Sports Minister strongly condemned the mismanaged federation, while lambasting SASCOG for blatantly disregarding the department's corrective interventions

By: Mpho Sekharume

In a trenchant and uncompromising address at a press conference on Tuesday, Sports Minister, Gayton McKenzie, delivered a searing indictment of Basketball South Africa (BSA), declaring a state of administrative emergency for a sporting code that should, by all rights, be flourishing.

Mckenzie's words were not merely criticism, but a candid diagnosis of profound governance failure, a lament for lost potential, and a non-negotiable demand for accountability.

"Take the example of Basketball South Africa. This sport should be booming in this country. Our young people love it, and it has become one of the fastest growing and supported sports in schools.

"Instead, basketball is in the ICU in South Africa," Mckenzie said.

This inherent energy, he argued, should logically translate into a vibrant ecosystem of "thriving leagues, packed arenas, and homegrown stars making their way into the NBA."

Mckenzie further peeled back the layers of this administrative malady, focusing on a single, costly debacle that exposed the federation's operational disarray - namely the bungled hosting of the FIBA U-18 Afrobasket tournament which transcended a simple logistical error.

He detailed the immediate, humiliating fallout that required an urgent intervention by the government, with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture forced to act as an emergency administrative hospital by injecting a staggering sum to save the situation.

"Last year when Basketball South Africa bungled the hosting of the FIBA U18 Afrobasket tournament, they turned to government (sic) to bail them out. We spent more than R18 million to rescue that event and protect South Africa's reputation."

This expenditure, he made clear, was not an act of routine funding but a direct consequence of financial and organisational incompetence. It was a bail-out necessitated by the federation's failure to secure venues, manage logistics, and fulfil its most basic obligations as the hosts.

Millions of Rands had to, therefore, be diverted from developmental initiatives and other deserving codes, all to clean up an entirely avoidable mess.

This costly intervention prompted the Minister to apply the brakes on the cycle of impunity and formally request that the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOG) launch an investigation and take strong retributive measures.

"We waited for months," Mckenzie stated with palpable frustration, "only to be told that our complaint had been 'registered as a dispute.'"

For the executive authority of the nation's sport portfolio, this was an insult disguised as procedure.

Mckenzie categorically rejected the framing of their complaint as a mere squabble.

"How can the concerns of a department that recognises all the federations be considered a 'dispute'? We are not one child's angry mother writing emails fuming about why her son wasn't picked for the team. We are Government! (sic)" stressed the Minister.

This passage eloquently drives home the Minister's perception of his department's stature and the gravity of the issues at hand, refusing to allow a critical governance failure to be downgraded to a petty turf war.

The administrative impasse then spiralled into an unprecedented confrontation when the sports department, having exhausted all patience, took the ultimate punitive step - the withdrawal of official recognition from BSA as a federation.

The action was intended to force a complete overhaul, with Parliament's portfolio committee on Sport, Arts and Culture compounding the department's frustrations with calls for the dissolution of the federation's board back in April this year.

"When the Department eventually made the decision to withdraw the recognition of Basketball South Africa as a federation, SASCOG simply carried on working with this same federation and its leadership, as if nothing had happened," Mckenzie lamented.

His passionate criticism of BSA thus transitioned into a broader, philosophical challenge to the entire eco-

system of sports governance.

He made it clear that this was not an isolated incident but a symptom of a larger systemic malaise that threatens the very integrity of South African sport.

"This is unacceptable. How can we be expected to believe that sports administration is healthy in this country when you can have situations like this?" he demanded.

The saga, therefore, becomes the central exhibit in his case for a fundamental change in how national sports are funded and run.

In a final, unifying statement, the Minister connected the dots between administrative chaos and his department's latest policy shift toward stringent oversight.

"So, when people ask why we are tightening funding and demanding accountability, this is why. How can we talk about healthy sports governance when

such things are allowed to happen?"

As blunt as it may have seemed, Mckenzie's scathing BSA rant also served as a forceful manifesto for transparency, good governance, and the protection of public funds in a sector where the nation's youth and reputation are the ultimate stakes.



Minister Gayton Mckenzie tore into Basketball SA for gross government failures at a press briefing on Tuesday. Picture: OkayAfrica.com

Boks Set for Brutal Paris Test



Siya Kolisi to play his 100th Test. Picture: Supplied

By: Mpho Sekharume

Revenge and redemption will be the driving force behind a spirited French side host the Springboks at Stade de France in Saint-Denis Stadium, Paris, this Saturday, charged with two years of simmering French resentment.

For Les Bleus, this match is unequivocally a revenge fixture. The memory of their 2023 Rugby World Cup campaign ending at the hands of the very same opponents, on the very same turf, by a single, gut-wrenching point remains the deepest scar in modern French rugby.

The latter duel saw the Boks clinch a nail-biting 29-28 victory to break the hearts of the French, who crumbled under the immense pressure of a home World Cup.

Moreover, the fact that the Springboks' narrow victory remains the only French loss at the Stade de France in their last 16 matches underscores just how personally motivated Fabien Galthié's men will be to exorcise that particular ghost.

The World Champions, meanwhile, seek to mark the 100th Test cap of their talismanic captain, Siya Kolisi, with a victory that will sustain their dominant status in world rugby. The back-to-back World Cup-winning skipper will become only the ninth Springbok centurion - an achievement that transcends the sport given his humble origins and status as a unifying national figure.

While coach Rassie Erasmus insists the milestone will not distract the team, the players will be determined to make the occasion a winning one for their leader, further adding to the emotional intensity of the day. The match-up itself promises a brutal contest.

"This is a huge milestone for Siya and we are all delighted for him. He is a level-headed player and although this will be a big occasion for him, and a match that we would like to make special for him, he is fully focused on the task at hand, so he won't allow that to overshadow what he must do on the field," said Erasmus.

He continued: "This is a huge game, and the entire team knows how determined France will be to make up for the World Cup result, so we'll celebrate Siya's achievement after the match. That said, hopefully we can make it a memorable game for him."

The Springboks, fresh off winning the Rugby Championship and a comfortable win against Japan, bring their trademark physical dominance.

The French, on the other hand, are statistically one of the best sides at the breakdown, leading tier one nations in turnovers won per game. They will undoubtedly target the Springboks' relative weakness in ball retention to stifle their momentum.

With the return of star fly-half Romain Ntamack to partner the influential Gaël Fickou - who captains the side in the absence of the injured Antoine Dupont - France boasts a backline capable of turning turnovers into deadly counterattacks.

South Africa's selection sees the return of key enforcers like Eben Etzebeth and Pieter-Steph du Toit. This is a game where the emotional scale might tip the tactical one. France needs this win for redemption and to re-establish their home dominance, while the world champions aim to honour their captain with a victory that will remind the world they remain the standard-bearers of Test rugby.

Expect a contest as close, chaotic, and dramatic as their last unforgettable meeting at the 2023 World Cup showpiece.