

Journal NEWS

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RAMAPHOSA FACES NGC BACKLASH

*...after Ramaphosa's public
criticism of 'incompetent' ANC
councillors*

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ANC Disciplinary Net Tightens on Defiant Mayors



ANC Provincial Secretary Polediso Motsoeneng.
Picture: Baagedi Sethora

By: Abigail Visagie

The African National Congress (ANC) in the Free State has stamped its authority against defiant mayors it sought to recall from office.

Journal News can reveal that the seven mayors who were ordered to step down from office have now been served with immediate suspension letters of their party membership by the Provincial Working Committee (PEC). This follows their refusal to obey the provincial leadership's instruction to resign.

According to the letter – seen by this publication and signed by Provincial Secretary Polediso Motsoeneng on 16 September 2025 – the mayors will “attend the Council Caucus and council sittings” as directed by Motsoeneng or the regional secretaries until the disciplinary process is concluded.

Last month, the ANC provincial leadership announced the removal of seven troikas - comprising mayors, speakers and chief whips - from the Mafube, Mophaka, Letsemeng, Nketoana, Nala and Masilonyana local municipalities, as well as the Lejweputswa District Municipality. The decision was justified on grounds of poor

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Power of Life

Suspect caught fleeing after allegedly killing father in Ficksburg



By: JN Reporter

A 23-year-old man from Zone 2 Meqheleng, near Ficksburg, Free State, has been arrested in connection with the alleged murder of his father.

He was arrested by local police with assistance from community members as he attempted to flee the country.

The incident took place in the early hours of Monday, September 30.

The Free State police spokesperson, Warrant Officer Mmako Mophiring said according to reports, a confrontation occurred between the man and his father, during which the father was struck on the head and face with a blunt object.

“It’s alleged that on Monday, September 30, at about 2am, the young man had a fight with his father and hit him with an unknown blunt object on the head and face. He died instantly in his room. He fled the scene on foot after the incident,” said Mophiring.

After the incident, the suspect fled on foot.

However, with the community’s help and local detectives were able to track him down in the same area.

“The local detectives traced and found him in the same location, following the assistance of the community, which pursued, caught and arrested him,” said Mophiring.

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Ramaphosa Faces NGC Backlash



Over 4000 ANC councillors were gathered for a councillors Roll Call on Monday at the FNB stadium in Johannesburg. Picture: Supplied

By: Refilwe Mochoari

The controversy surrounding ANC President, Cyril Ramaphosa’s remarks has set the stage for a potential explosive showdown at the fifth National General Council (NGC) meeting scheduled for 8 to 12 December at Nasrec in Johannesburg.

The party’s internal dynamics will be tested, and members will need to navigate their differences and find ways to move forward for the organisation’s future.

The NGC is held every five years and serves as a platform for ANC members to debate and discuss the party’s future, and Ramaphosa’s remarks are likely to be a major topic of discussion.

Ramaphosa ignited a firestorm earlier this week when he made explosive comments during a councillors’ Roll Call, where over 4,000 councillors convened for a local government plan at the FNB Stadium in Soweto. He said that DA-led municipalities are better run than ANC-led municipalities.

This gathering was part of efforts to ensure its councillors remain aligned with the ANC mandate.

In his address, Ramaphosa singled out the Mafuti-a-Phofung local Municipality in Free State and

the Ditsobotla local Municipality in North West as the worst-performing municipalities in the country comparing them to the City of Cape Town and the Stellenbosch municipality both in the Western Cape Province a DA-led province.

Ramaphosa urged ANC councillors to learn from DA-controlled municipalities.

“It is usually painful each time when the Auditor General comes to report to cabinet and they put up their report and those municipalities that do best are not ANC-controlled municipalities and I can name it here because there is nothing wrong with competition, they are often DA-controlled municipalities, Ramaphosa said.

Ramaphosa challenged the party to learn from its rivals asking councillors to consider what the DA was doing differently in places such as Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

“And there is nothing wrong with us saying we want to go and see what Cape Town is doing, we want to go and see what Stellenbosch is doing, how they craft everything.

“We need to be moving up the ladder or being good at what we do, we cannot forever stay at the bottom,” the President said.

But political analysts say Ramaphosa has committed

political suicide and might expect some nonchalant behaviour from members.

They say that the words he used, are unwise, while ANC councillors and members came out guns blazing and expressed their dissatisfaction saying that the President’s comments have undermined the organisation.

Political analyst from the University of Free State Professor Sethulego Matebesi says apart from angering many of his comrades, Ramaphosa has acknowledged that there are capacity issues in the ANC which are added on top of the corruption by its own members.

“This is also an acknowledgement that cadre deployment is not working, but you do not go in public like that against an organisation that you are leading.

“You cannot publicly acknowledge the success of another party.

“Remember that people’s alliances change and members will use this against him, especially because they know that he is not coming back as the president.”He might experience some booing during his speeches at the NGC because these kinds of statements are not good for a bleeding organisation,” said Matebesi.

Another political analyst Prof Ntsikelelo Breakfast

from the Nelson Mandela University said these comments have landed Ramaphosa in hot water.

He says the President’s utterances could well backfire with the DA likely to use his words against him as part of their own political campaigning.

“There are things that you can acknowledge in private, but I think it was unwise to say that.

“Politics is a game of competition, so how do you tell your troops to look up to your political competitor? You might as well tell them to vote for that political party,” Breakfast said.

One ANC councillor who prefers to remain anonymous attended the gathering has expressed his dissatisfaction to Journal News.

“In recent years, the ANC has faced internal struggles and a growing divide among its members. This has come to a head with the upcoming NGC where the political and ideological standoff within the ANC will finally be addressed and hopefully resolved.

He says the NGC is also expected to address the growing dissent against Ramaphosa within the ANC. While many see him as a strong and capable leader, there are some who question his policies and decisions which have led to a clear divide within the party.

“The stakes are high for the ANC at the NGC, as the decisions made will shape the party’s future and its

ANC Disciplinary Net Tightens on Defiant Mayors

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performance and failure to deliver services.

The affected officials, however, have since written to ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula appealing for intervention. This prompted Mbalula to summon the provincial executive committee (PEC) to the party’s headquarters, Luthuli House.

According to a memo from Mbalula – also seen by this publication - the PEC meeting will deliberate on the “redeployment” of the mayors, scheduled for today (19 September 2025) at 13:00.

A source within the PEC, however, revealed that only three of the seven mayors have received suspension letters so far.

“Only three mayors have received their letters, while others are still waiting. The process was halted by Mbalula’s call for a meeting, which could see it reversed,” the source said.

When contacted by Journal News on Thursday, Mafube mayor, Tlhoare Motsoeneng, declined to confirm or deny whether his ANC membership had been suspended.

“The rules of the ANC stipulate that, once the matter has been finalised, the province will release a statement on whether the mayors’ memberships

have been suspended. I therefore cannot confirm or deny my suspension,” he said.

Similarly, Letsemeng mayor Bonolo Mocwaledi would not confirm if she had received a suspension letter - but instead referred this publication to the ANC’s provincial office.

Provincial spokesperson, Thabo Meeko, explained that the process of managing communication with deployees from the seven municipalities was still underway, adding that the ANC “has its own processes to manage redeployment.”

“The ANC cannot be inhumane towards its own members, so the decision to redeploy the mayors takes into account the constitutional requirements of the organisation.”

Meeko stressed that the seven mayors should not be treated as though they had committed individual offences, noting that the ANC views their failures as a collective, with the respective mayors serving as ‘commanders-in-chief’. He also emphasised that the process is about reconfiguration, not suspension.

“We don’t act arrogantly. We are a disciplined organisation, and once a decision is taken, its im-



ANC Provincial Secretary Polediso Motsoeneng and spokesperson Thabo Meeko. Picture: Baagedi Sethola

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Madlanga Commission: Mkhwanazi Implicates MPs, Business Figures and Police



KZN top cop, Nhlanelo Mkhwanazi, opens the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry. Picture: YouTube / SABC News

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

Day two of the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry yesterday ended with KZN Police Commissioner Nhlanelo Mkhwanazi having implicated several individuals during his testimony from Members of Parliament to businesspeople and even law enforcement officials.

Testifying at the Brigitte Mabandla Justice College in Pretoria, Mkhwanazi identified people he believes acted as obstacles to the work of Gauteng’s counter-intelligence operations unit.

That unit has been working closely with the Political Killings Task Team (PKTT) on a number of high-profile murder cases in the province.

Mkhwanazi has named Members of Parliament Fadiel Adams and Dianne Kohler Barnard, claiming they gained access to classified crime intelligence information and made it public.

He also identified a Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) officer, Johannes Mokgatle, alleging that he had links to businessman-turned-murder accused Katiso “KT” Molefe.

Mokgatle is accused of assisting Molefe by running a number plate check and confirming the ownership of a police vehicle that was staking out Molefe’s home a day

before his arrest.

“He then goes and tests the vehicle to establish the ownership, and he then goes and briefs his friend or associate to say, ‘This is a police vehicle, don’t worry about it,’” Mkhwanazi testified.

Molefe is regarded as the alleged mastermind behind the murders of DJ Sumbady and DJ Vintos.

Mkhwanazi also named North West businessman Suleiman Kareem, alleging that underworld figure Vusumuzi “Cat” Matlala had asked him to intervene with Police Minister Senzo Mchunu.

According to the testimony, Kareem was requested to help persuade the minister not to cancel Matlala’s R360-million police contract.

On Wednesday, the first day of the Madlanga inquiry, Mkhwanazi warned of a “risk of total collapse” in the criminal justice system if reforms are not made to address the concerns he raised in July.

He said he had made his allegations in a media briefing on 6 July “because I wanted to inform the public about the level of challenges ... in relation to the work we do as a police, which involve criminality and political interference ... which will also include corruption within the value chain of the justice system, which we are part of as law enforcement”.

He said his public briefing in July was not a personal

initiative, but rather the result of “collective and collaborative efforts” by various units in the South African Police Service (SAPS).

“It is therefore a reflection of the common concerns that we share as colleagues in different ranks within the service, which made our common desire for these problems to be resolved in order to enable these members of the service to be able to serve with honour and dignity,” he said.

Asked by evidence leader Mahlaphe Sello about the risk to the system, Mkhwanazi said: “It has been my aim that I want to demonstrate that the criminal justice system has been subject to a continuous threat as well as sabotage, which has been with us over an extended period, to a point where we believe it is a real risk of a total collapse. Nothing is done.”

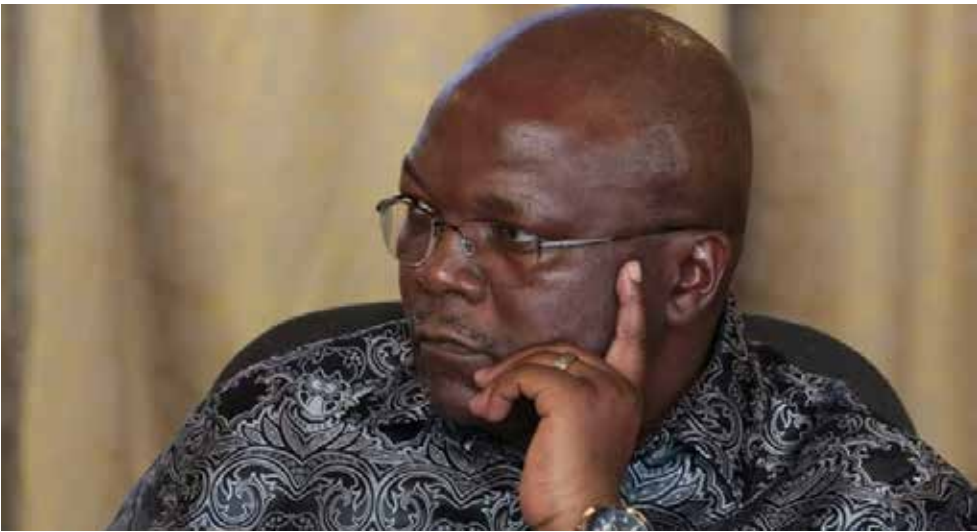
He added that the commission has a vital role to play in preventing that collapse.

Mchunu, who Ramaphosa placed on special leave and appointed Firoz Cachalia as acting police minister, has denied any wrongdoing and dismissed Mkhwanazi’s allegations as “wild”. Parliament has established an ad hoc committee on the matter, which is also keen to interview Mkhwanazi.

The Madlanga commission has six months to complete its work and deliver findings. An interim report is due within three months.

Additional information by EWN

Ralikontsane Steps In to Rescue Embattled Ditsobotla



Retired Free State Director-General (DG) Kopung Ralikontsane. Picture: Supplied

By: JN Reporter

Former Free State Director-General (DG) Kopung Ralikontsane has been appointed to stabilise the deeply divided Ditsobotla Local Municipality, where years of political turmoil and governance failures have left residents without reliable basic services.

His appointment follows repeated interventions by the provincial government that failed to restore order in Ditsobotla, which has been dissolved twice in recent years due to persistent instability.

The retired Ralikontsane, who brings nearly four decades of public service experience, is part of a national team of experts expected to prioritise restoring governance systems, stabilising finances, and ensuring essential services such as water, electricity, and refuse collection reach frustrated residents.

The national government has now placed the municipality under administration for the ninth time, following years of service delivery failure, financial mismanagement, and deepening political instability.

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa confirmed the appointment of a six-member intervention team, citing the municipality’s inability to fulfill its constitutional obligations to residents.

“This is the first time a team of people has come together, bringing a range of expertise. In the past, it was one person at a time. This time, it’s a team effort, and that’s what gives us confidence. It’s what led us to recommend an intervention to cabinet, rather than a dissolution, be-

cause never before has a team of experts stepped in to support the municipality,” said Hlabisa.

During his visit to the region, Hlabisa stressed that no appointments or tenders will proceed without oversight from the national representative.

The drastic intervention, carried out under Section 139(7) of the Constitution, comes after numerous failed attempts by provincial authorities to stabilise the municipality, which serves thousands in and around Lichtenburg.

A specialised task force - including the SAPS, State Security Agency, and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) - will probe longstanding allegations of fraud, corruption, and misconduct.

“Cases previously ignored will be reopened. If arrests are needed, they will happen,” added Hlabisa.

The municipality’s senior leadership, including a municipal manager accused of mismanagement, will now face investigation, with the intervention team tasked with enforcing compliance, restoring governance, and re-establishing essential services.

Ditsobotla’s collapse mirrors a national crisis in service delivery. According to the Auditor-General, more than 80% of South Africa’s 257 municipalities are financially distressed or plagued by poor governance.

Across the country, communities face interrupted water supply, uncollected waste, pothole-ridden roads, and crumbling infrastructure.

North West Premier Lazarus Mokgosi welcomed the intervention as a new beginning, but conceded that residents are demanding immediate and visible improvements.

Motsepe’s Khumani Mine Visit Sparks Concerns in Northern Cape Amid 700 Job Losses



Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul together with Mining tycoon Patrice Motsepe during a strategic meeting at the Khumani Iron Ore Mine in Kathu. Picture Supplied

By: Refilwe Mochoari

South African billionaire and mining tycoon Patrice Motsepe’s visit to the Khumani Iron Ore Mine in Kathu this week has drawn attention to the contrasting fortunes of African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) operations.

While Motsepe engaged in discussions on strategic partnerships with the Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul and MEC for Finance, Economic Development, and Tourism Venus Blennies Magage, a crisis looms with 700 job losses at his other mine, Assmang Beeshoek Iron Ore, located just outside Postmasburg.

The main aim of the engagements was to present the province’s development priorities, which are directly aligned with its vision for a modern and successful Northern Cape. While Khumani Mine appears to be thriving, its sister mine, Beeshoek, is facing a potential closure.

Last month, Beeshoek Iron Ore Mine issued a Section 189(3) notice under the Labour Relations Act, indicat-

ing its intention to begin consultations regarding the possible retrenchment of 688 employees. The potential closure of Beeshoek is attributed to its only client steel producing company ArcelorMittal South Africa’s refusal to renew their three-year supply contract, despite indications of a possible agreement.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) describes this situation as an economic blow.

The union argues that the closure of Beeshoek Mine would severely impact the local community and the livelihoods of thousands of families.

NUM regional secretary Mosepedi Sanana emphasised that the union is seeking alternatives to what could be the region’s most significant job losses.

“We are clear that we will robustly challenge any attempts at unfair job losses.

“Our members will be fully informed of every development, and we will consider collective action if the employer acts in bad faith,” Sanana said.

Sanana mentioned that the union would engage in consultations to explore all possible alternatives to retrenchments, including hiring freezes, overtime

freezes, redeployment within Assmang or other ARM joint ventures, reskilling opportunities, and voluntary separation packages.

He says the union expects the employer to provide robust social support measures for all affected workers, stating, “No worker will face this process alone.”

The union also called on the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy to fulfill its oversight obligations under Section 52 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act. They urged members at Beeshoek Mine to remain calm, united, and vigilant.

“Your union is at the table and will fight tirelessly to ensure transparency and fairness. Retrenchments must be the last resort,” he added.

Without a steady income, Assmang Beeshoek Iron Ore incurs monthly operational expenses of R72 million, translating into annual losses totaling R2.6 billion for AMSA. Over the past three years, the mine has reported impairment losses of R3.6 billion across its assets, highlighting the dire economic realities it faces. Currently, Beeshoek has an operational lifespan of just six years, producing a mere 2.2 metric tons annually.

Discovery of Unknown Body Stuns Heidedal Community



A decomposed female torso and legs found floating in the flooded basement of a dilapidated nightclub in Heidedal. Picture: Supplied

By: Abigail Visagie

Residents of Heidedal, Bloemfontein, were left shocked after the discovery of a decomposed female torso and legs found floating in the flooded basement of a dilapidated nightclub in the area. The remains were reportedly discovered on Friday last week afternoon by two children playing near the nightclub, who noticed what appeared to be a body floating in the basement.

They immediately informed nearby adults, who alerted the police.

According to traumatised residents, the abandoned building has been a source of concern for years, with claims that several unidentified bodies were previously discovered inside.

One community member, who asked not to be named, said the building had become a hideout for homeless people and criminals since its closure.

“We don’t know how many people have been killed and dumped in that basement. It is fright-

ening to think our children play around there, not knowing what they might discover or whether they could become victims themselves. I plead with the authorities to demolish the building,” the resident said.

Police spokesperson Sergeant Mahlomola Kareli said the Bloemfontein Diving and Rescue Unit was dispatched to assist in recovering the remains due to the challenging conditions at the scene. He confirmed that the body was in an advanced state of decomposition, consisting only of a torso and legs.

“The victim was wearing multi-coloured leggings and a single Soviet sneaker on her left foot. An inquest has been opened, and a thorough investigation is underway,” Kareli said.

Karelo has further confirmed that the water within the basement has been pumped out in search of the remaining body parts.

Police have appealed to anyone with information that could assist in identifying the deceased to contact Captain Wilson at the Heidedal police station on 082 553 6307.

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Granny’s Tears Turn to Joy



Matshedisio Landela (80), staying in a waterlogged home set to be relocated. Picture OTP

By: Mogomotsi Selebi

Eighty-one-year-old Matshedisio Landela of Riverside in Nyakallong, Allanridge spent almost four years suffering from the devastating aftermath of the water rising from the nearest river in their area.

Staying alone in her crumbling home, she has battled not just rising waters, but many other challenges caused by that disaster. She lives in fear that her house, like others in the area, might collapse and swallow her world.

On Tuesday 16 September 2025, as she learnt that the Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae and Human Settlements MEC Saki Mokoena announced their relocation from this forsaken corner of Ward 19 of Nyakallong, Landela’s voice broke with sobs of pure relief.

She says their misery began in 2022, when the nearby river’s overflow turned their beautiful paradise into peril.

“When we settled here in 1986, Riverside was a quiet and beautiful area with a river where kids used to swim. This ended five years ago when floods seeped into our homes thus wreaking havoc. We started living in fear, every rain is a nightmare” she explained.

The nightmare she talks about introduces itself through the foul stench immediately when you arrive in the area. Most of the houses have cracked walls, damaged doors and the iron roofs have rusted.

Landela’s neighbour Anna Mabaso (66) added that the water brought snakes slithering through their doors at night, ferocious mosquitoes and sewage spilling.

“The pollution caused by the stink is the cause of all sorts of diseases such as asthma, sinusitis, and persistent coughing. We suffer from severe winter colds because of this water. The toll on us has been merciless,” Mabaso added.

The Department of Human Settlements, working with Matjhabeng local municipality identified a site where the families will be relocated. MEC Mokoena told the community that the new appointed contractor will move with speed to ensure that by December, the first phase to relocate twenty-seven (27) families will be complete.

The houses will be built in Extension 1 in Allanridge by Maqaza contractors represented by Mmuso Makae and Tshidiso Maqaza. This development will see more than eighty families being rescued. The whole project is expected to be completed by March 2026.

Premier Letsoha-Mathae pledged transparency. She committed her government to deliver services, not empty promises. “Our priority is to better the lives of the Free State people. We made a commitment to serve you and we shall not falter. Where there are challenges, we will come back to you and inform you” said Premier.

Premier was flanked by MECs Ketso Makume, Jabu Mbalula, Monyatso Mahlatsi, Zanele Sifuba, Mamiki Maboya, Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng local municipality Thanduxolo Khalipha, Councillor Paseka Ramatisa and government officials.

The residents expressed joy that their salvation has arrived when the Free State Provincial Government vowed swift action.

“It’s like God remembered us. After so much fear, this feels like breathing free,” beamed another resident.



Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae has announced the relocation of families living in waterlogged homes in the neglected corner of Ward 19, Nyakallong. Picture OTP



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Election Talks with Maluti A Phofung Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Malekula Melato

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

By: Abigail Visagie

Thank you for your time Mayor. In your view, how would you describe the position of a mayor in local governance?

I cannot speak on behalf of my colleagues, but I firmly believe that I am a public servant for the people of Maluti-A-Phofung, and it is my duty to advocate for the community. Wherever I go, I carry and represent the pride of my municipality — and to me, that is the true embodiment of a mayor.

Maluti-A-Phofung has been in the headlines for a long time due to service delivery challenges. How do you navigate that?

The municipality is rural, yet it is one of the largest in the province and contributes significantly to the Free State’s overall votes. That alone highlights the weight of the responsibility I carry on my shoulders.

Can we look into the specific challenges faced by the municipality? What exactly are these issues, and how are you addressing them?

I face a number of challenges, but my top three priorities are service delivery, roads, and infrastructure. These are the areas I dedicate most of my focus to. I am, however, supported by the interventions of the national department, which strengthens our capacity to respond to these pressing issues.

It has been some time since we last heard of violent protests in your municipality. Would it be correct to say there has been progress in service delivery, or is it still too early?

Maluti-A-Phofung is currently undergoing significant change, and residents can already see positive and visible improvements. Although I am relatively new, I believe the turnaround

strategy is beginning to show real impact. There was a period when Maluti-A-Phofung had no electricity at all, and we had to develop an intervention strategy in collaboration with both the provincial and national departments. Those efforts are now bearing fruit.

In these processes you are engaged in, are there any proud moments you can share with the public?

Indeed, one of the milestones I take great pride in was my visit to China in pursuit of investment opportunities for Maluti-A-Phofung. The scale of our service delivery challenges is such that the municipal budget alone cannot sufficiently address the levels of poverty within our communities. Recognising this, I took the initiative to position our municipality on an international platform, where the response was encouraging.

Among the notable outcomes was an agreement with two universities in China, which committed to offering opportunities for our youth to undertake short courses aimed at enhancing their skills and improving their livelihoods. This partnership not only strengthens our capacity to empower young people but also lays a foundation for future investment and job creation within Maluti-A-Phofung.

What are those courses, Mayor?

Our agreement is focused primarily on agriculture, as we already have an agricultural school within the municipality. We are placing greater emphasis and building more capacity in this sector to ensure that our young people are exposed to meaningful opportunities.

In addition, my team and I visited a TVET college, where discussions on cultural exchange were held. This was particularly exciting for us, given the presence of our traditional leaders, the Marena, in Maluti-A-Phofung.



The Executive Mayor of Maluti A Phofung Local Municipality, Malekula Melato. Picture: Supplied

I also had the opportunity to attend a Chinese Film Festival, which created a platform to promote tourism in our municipality.

While engaging there, I ensured that the spotlight was not only on national filmmakers but also on our local creative industry.

I highlighted that we have many talented young people who are eager to learn and participate in cultural exchanges between China and our community. It gives me great pride to cultivate and nurture the potential of our youth.

What is an exciting project that you have worked on since the inception of your mayoral position?

One of the projects I take pride in is the transformation of our community hall into an amphitheatre. Such refurbishments are particularly meaningful to me because they are directly linked to the development and empowerment of the youth.

In addition, I have introduced a six-month day-to-day working programme designed to equip young people with workplace skills, ensuring that they are prepared once they complete their short courses. I am also in discussions to implement a unisex beautician course, as part of a broader effort to provide diverse training opportunities for the young men and women of Maluti-A-Phofung.

Furthermore, our Special Economic Zone (SEZ), based in Harrismith, remains a priority. I am working on attracting investment into the firms and factories located there, with the goal of strengthening the rural economy and creating sustainable job opportunities.

You are relatively new as a mayor; are you intending to run for a second term?

I believe I am motivated and well-positioned to serve a second term. The infrastructure I have set in motion, coupled with the fact that I have represented Maluti-A-Phofung on international platforms, speaks to my tenacity and dedication.

The organisation that deployed me has recognised my potential and the work I have undertaken. As a proud member of the African National Congress (ANC), I will always strive to raise our flag higher and serve our people with commitment.

What are your plans for the local government elections?

While I do have several plans in place, I prefer not to focus solely on organisational matters at this stage. My primary focus is on implementing initiatives that will improve the overall economic well-being of our youth, as they are the cornerstone of Maluti-A-Phofung’s future.

‘Good Singing, No Capacity’ – ANC Conductor

Mantashe’s assertion sparked division within the party, with critics denouncing his stance while others insisted his message had been misinterpreted

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Amid growing unrest within the ANC, party members have openly challenged National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe, arguing that he should have been advised differently.

The criticism comes as tensions mount over the party’s direction. Speaking at the FNB Stadium in Gauteng, Mantashe lambasted local ANC councillors, claiming they are “good at singing and creating noise” but lack the skills to govern effectively.

“I know we have a lot of singing councillors, but we have no councils. You all sing well, but capacity dololo [nothing],” he told a rowdy crowd.

Mantashe added that this reflected the type of leadership the roll call was meant to address. “That is the council we are having—comrades who are councillors, leaders of the ANC, who make noise during meetings. What kind of leadership is that?”

His remarks triggered backlash from several local councillors, who accused him of being “divorced” from the realities they face on the ground.

A ward councillor in the Dihlabeng Local Municipality — who asked to remain anonymous — challenged Mantashe’s assessment.

“Our leadership is divorced from the reality we live in. The Chairperson’s insinuation on Monday has far-reaching implications, not only for us as councillors but for the organisation as a whole. We are trying to rebuild the ANC’s image after years of damage, and now, as we approach what is expected to be the most difficult election, our leadership is undermining us,” the councillor said.

However, Mangaung Ward 7 councillor Clement Sehloho took a different view, arguing that Mantashe’s comments were misinterpreted.

“From me personally, I feel the National Chairperson’s message was not to destroy but to build on the basis of governance, urging members to put in more effort. In terms of service delivery, we do our part as councillors, but what truly limits progress is



ANC National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe. Picture: Supplied

funding. For example, in Freedom Square the roads are in a terrible state, and I have had to use my own money to buy gravel to temporarily fix potholes so that residents can use the roads,” Sehloho explained.

Responding to Mantashe’s remarks, Gauteng Provincial Task Team co-convenor Panyaza Lesufi warned that councillors are facing real threats beyond political criticism.

“The message I suspect all councillors would want from the NEC is one of support. Our councillors are not only under attack from our communities but also targeted by people who are hired, resourced, and on a mission to kill them. As we convene here, comrade president, it is vital to stress the need not only to protect councillors and officials, but also whistleblowers who expose corruption in our municipalities and across state institutions,” Lesufi said.

Vodacom Injects R400m into FS and NC Network Expansion

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

In a bid to accelerate network expansion and drive digital inclusion, Vodacom will invest R400 million in the Free State and Northern Cape in the next financial year. The initiative aims to strengthen network infrastructure, enhance efficiency and resilience, and connect underserved communities across the two provinces. This investment builds on previous efforts, with R500 million spent on broadband coverage expansion in the 2024/2025 financial year and R340 million in 2022/2023.

Vodacom’s commitment extends beyond connectivity, focusing on social impact through digital skills development and youth empowerment. Eva Mthimunye, Managing Executive for Vodacom Central Region, highlighted the company’s goal of empowering previously marginalized groups.

“Guided by our purpose to connect people for a better future, Vodacom Central Region continues to invest in initiatives that enable access to quality education, empower women and youth with digital skills, and provide critical support in times of need. Our focus is on creating meaningful change that strengthens communities and unlocks opportunities for all,” Mthimunye said.

The company has significantly supported Schools of Excellence (SoEs) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers across the Free State and Northern Cape, benefiting 6,654 learners and 2,949 young children in the Free State, and 3,705 in the Northern Cape. These institutions provide access to quality education, equipping learners with digital literacy and future-ready skills.

“Vodacom is committed to going beyond connectivity to make a lasting difference in people’s lives. By using technology as a force for good, we are helping to create a more inclusive, sustainable future for the Free State and Northern Cape,” she added.

The Vodacom Community Development Centres in both provinces continue to serve as hubs for digital skills training, further supporting the company’s mission to empower communities.

New Black Political Parties Dilute Power



xxx. Picture: Supplied

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

The rapid mushrooming of new black-led political parties in South Africa has sparked debate over whether this trend strengthens democracy through broader representation or weakens collective influence by splintering the black electorate to the benefit of minority groups.

According to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa, the country had over 600 registered political parties before March this year. Of these, 383 were registered at the national level, while the remaining 226 were registered at either the provincial or municipal level.

Former president Jacob Zuma, who used to lead the ruling African National Congress (ANC), surprised many when he emerged as the leader of the fledgling uMkhonto we Sizwe Party (MKP), whose entry into domestic politics saw them eating significantly into the ANC's voter base and subsequently unseating them in Zuma's political stronghold of KwaZulu-Natal.

The MKP garnered almost 15% of the national vote, thus contributing significantly to the ANC's decline

to 40.2% - a record low for the ruling party since it assumed power in 1994.

Afrika Mayibuye Movement (AMM), which was launched by former Economic Freedom Fighter (EFF) and MKP heavyweight, Floyd Shivambu, on 5 September 2025, is now the newest kid on the block. Following a countrywide consultative campaign that began in June this year, AMM has now officially entered the political fray to also establish a voter base within the black electorate.

Seasoned political commentator Professor Sethulago Matebesi from the University of the Free State (UFS) said that despite there being 200 smaller parties contesting general elections in South Africa, their respective impact remains insignificant and often only serves to mislead the electorate.

He cautioned that beyond misleading voters and diluting black political power, many smaller parties risk being influenced by funders with questionable backgrounds who have little interest in advancing the black agenda.

"It is the nature of politics that whoever funds political parties usually has an interest — and in most cases,

it is not to advance the so-called black agenda. Rather, it may be to control these parties and dictate terms to them.

"If that is the case, it would be unfortunate, because it carries serious implications for our politics and the future of this country. Even with over 200 smaller parties contesting elections, their impact is negligible. Instead, they mislead their voters and everyone associated with them. I still have to find a funder without vested interests in such a party," said Professor Matebesi when approached for comment by Journal News.

While electorate fragmentation weakens established movements and supposedly misleads voters, other narratives suggest that it also has the potential to enrich South Africa's political culture by holding dominant parties accountable, while amplifying diverse voices and strengthening multiparty democracy.

Therefore, the surge of black-led political parties reflects both the vibrancy and the vulnerability of South Africa's democracy. The challenge for South Africa, therefore, lies in finding a balance between embracing political diversity and safeguarding unity to ensure that democracy remains both representative and effective.

FS Economy on Upward Surge



The province's economy has grown at a slow, yet very steady pace. Picture: Supplied

By: Matshidiso Selebeleng

The Free State is continuing to position itself as a prime business location, having projected steady economic growth in recent years.

Despite the poor governance performance of several local municipalities - as highlighted by the recent visit by Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) to the province - the Free State economy has shown to be on an upward trajectory largely due to the stability and resilience of its agriculture and tourism sectors.

According to the economist and deputy president of the Truckers Association of South Africa (TASA), Tony Modise, the province's economy has shown modest albeit uneven growth recently.

"In 2022, the Free State economy grew by at least 1.5%, after it had dropped by 0.1% in 2023. This makes it one of the slowest-growing provinces in the country.

"The main cause of this weak performance is the decline in mining output, which traditionally

played a major role in the province's GDP.

"Load shedding, ageing infrastructure, and underinvestment in the mining sector have accelerated this decline. Additionally, structural challenges in logistics, inefficiencies in the public sector, and limited private sector investment are further hindering economic progress," he told Journal News. Modise pointed out that regions such as the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Lejweleputswa District Municipality, as well as local municipalities such as Maseru, among others, can potentially boost the economic standing of the province as they have vast agricultural and mining areas.

He said the latter can only happen if infrastructure and special economic zones (SEZ) projects are developed at a faster pace, while rolling out efforts to curb unemployment in the province.

"The Free State province stands at a critical inflexion point, and it is also facing structural constraints such as high unemployment and declining mining output, amongst others.

It also has increasing opportunities in agriculture, renewable energy, and logistics," he said.

The Gauteng Times

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By Dr Solomon Chibaya

lecturer in the Department of Education Management,
Policy, and Comparative Education, University of the
Free State

BELA Act and school discipline: A balancing act of justice, correction, and human development

It has long been said that to err is human. In the classroom, this truth is clearly visible: children, naturally curious, often test boundaries and sometimes overstep them, knowingly or unknowingly. For educators, acting in loco parentis, the responsibility goes far beyond simply punishing misbehaviour. Their task is to correct, guide, and nurture learners into responsible members of society. The Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act, which is currently at the centre of debate in South Africa, brings into sharp focus a fundamental question: how can schools maintain order and fairness while upholding learners’ dignity and supporting their development?

Why discipline matters
Nearly a third of learners leave school prematurely, and ill-discipline plays a significant role in this worrying trend. Discipline, therefore, is not about control for its own sake. It creates order and safety, ensures fairness among learners, protects individuals and school property, and nurtures moral and personal growth. Most importantly, it seeks to correct behaviour - not for retribution, but for the learner’s future.

It is here that we must distinguish discipline from punishment. Punishment is rooted in retribution, often producing pain, resentment, and alienation. Discipline, on the other hand, is developmental in nature. It seeks growth, respect, and correction. Understanding this distinction is essential to appreciating the transformation that the BELA Act introduces to the narrative of school discipline.

Levels of misconduct
The Act clarifies responses to misbehaviour by categorising misconduct according to severity. Minor misconduct, including minor offences such as tardiness, disobedience, or disruptive behaviour, can be dealt with through verbal and written warnings, academic tasks, or acts of restitution. Educators may also use restorative practices and varied methods of correction to redirect behaviour constructively.



Serious misconduct includes actions that threaten safety or dignity, such as bullying, theft, vandalism, foul language, or repeated minor offences. In these cases, suspension or expulsion may be applied - but only within the framework of the South African Schools Act. Suspension is temporary, with admission denied for up to 14 days, while expulsion is permanent and reserved for the gravest offences or repeated transgressions. Importantly, both measures demand due process, fairness, and equity. A disciplinary decision made without adherence to due process is not only flawed but unjust.

Perspectives in the Debate
Educators, who remain at the frontline of discipline, understand the daily challenge of balancing authority with compassion. While many appreciate the BELA Act’s emphasis on fair processes, there is concern that excessive bureaucracy may weaken their authority and embolden unruly learners through an overemphasis on rights without responsibilities.

Parents, too, are divided. Some call for stricter measures, lamenting what they see as an erosion of respect for authority, with a few even advocating

for the return of corporal punishment – a debate long settled in South Africa. Others argue that harsh disciplinary measures such as suspension and expulsion unfairly rob learners of opportunities, particularly when socio-economic contexts are overlooked. The BELA Act attempts to strike a balance between fairness and safety in this contested space.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) promotes the BELA Act as a step towards modernising discipline, ensuring fairness, preventing abuse of power, and protecting learners’ constitutional rights. Yet critics warn that this focus on policy risks overlooking the lived realities of overcrowded classrooms and under-resourced schools, where maintaining discipline is most difficult.

Learners themselves hold complex views. Many value fairness, the right to be heard, and restorative approaches to justice. They recognise that the absence of discipline erodes safety and undermines learning. What they resist is not discipline itself, but unfairness.

At the heart of the BELA Act lies a commitment to protecting their best interests while creating safe learning environments.

Teachers’ unions largely defend the interests of educators, insisting they cannot be left powerless in increasingly challenging classrooms.

They argue for stronger support systems such as counsellors, social workers, and greater parental involvement, rather than leaving teachers isolated under restrictive legal frameworks. Among unions, views on the BELA Act differ, with some positions also influenced by broader political dynamics.

The question of fairness
At the centre of the BELA Act lies the principle of fairness. The doctrine of Audi alteram partem - “let the other side be heard” - is non-negotiable. Both the victims and the accused must have the opportunity to present their case. Notices should be clear, representation must be allowed, and decisions must be reasoned and transparent. Impartiality is equally critical; for example, a School Governing Body member with a personal interest in a case must recuse themselves to ensure justice is not compromised.

Fair procedure is not bureaucratic red tape - it is the safeguard that transforms discipline from an act of vengeance into an educational tool.

Discipline for the future
If discipline is reduced to punishment, the learner is lost. When discipline is understood as correction, protection, and preparation for the future, schools can evolve into communities of justice and growth. Suspension and expulsion should always remain measures of last resort, applied only in cases of severe misconduct and carried out with transparency, consistency, and humanity.

The BELA Act challenges us as South Africans to balance firmness with fairness, and correction with compassion.

Teachers, parents, learners, government, and unions must resist the temptation to see discipline solely through their own perspectives. Instead, a shared principle should guide us: discipline is not about control, but about equipping the next generation to live responsibly in a democratic society.

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



Refilwe Mochoari
Editor In Chief

South African actress and fashion designer Enhle Mbali loosely used the K-word to describe her hair in a room full of white people during a brand partnership launch of the renowned hair brand Carlton Hair. Quoting her verbatim Enhle said, “I am the only one allowed to use this word, I have k**fir Hare and black people know what I mean, colored people know what I mean..”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why did they remove them?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter to the Editor

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

Pastor Motsamai Kareli
Empowerment Ministries International

Growth Equals Pain

You will grow only to the threshold of your pain. That’s the differentiating factor between a high-level leader, and someone who has plateaued. The more pain you can handle, the higher you can go. Why?

Because growth equals change. Change equals loss. Loss equals pain. And so, growth equals pain. We each have a pain capacity. If you move yours higher, you can grow higher. If you are the lead leader in your organization, your pain threshold will either elevate you, stagnate you, or drag you down.

The truth is that no leadership role comes without pain. You can understand, embrace, and push through this pain, however. Indeed, that is the mark of true leadership. The higher you go, the greater the pain will be. That is why you will only grow to the threshold of your pain. The following are causes of pain especially in the lives of high level leaders

- * Loss
 - * Betrayal
 - * Rejection
 - * Stagnation
 - * Character assassination
 - * Lack of direction etc
- Every individual aiming at achieving greater things must develop the pain tolerance capacity because nothing of significance comes cheap but with a heavy price. Majority of high level leaders that I consulted do not finish their success story without narrating the painful situations they had to go through and conquer. It is those who understand that difficulties are God’s curriculum for those who want to excel that succeed. There is no breakthrough without going through and success without pain doesn’t exist. There are four things that you must avoid doing when you go through pain
- * Do not ask God to increase your pain because He might answer your prayer
 - * Do not hang around those who have not been through pain
 - * Do not share your painful situation on social media

* Do not give up
I am attempting to make you understand that you are not the only one going through pain and that painful situation will not kill you nor your destiny. Please make pain your friend because running away from it is running away from your growth. I am a preacher and a speaker and as a result I can tell whether a preacher or speaker has been through pain or not, those who have not been through pain do not speak nor preach to transform but for applause however those who have been through pain have a deep love for people and speak for transformation. My friend any great businessman, husband, politicians (if we have any), leader etc have been through great pain. You cant have it without pain. Pain is a part of progress. Anything that grows experiences some pain. If I avoid all pain, I’m avoiding growth. I repeat ny friend embrace pain.

Consider the following questions: • Who in your life “gets you” and doesn’t think you’re weak or strange when you wrestle with the complexities of your role? • Who listens to you without feeling compelled to give you advice? • Who asks second and third questions to draw you out instead of giving pat answers, simple prescriptions, and easy formulas? • Who is your safe haven so you can be completely honest and open? • Who fills your spiritual and emotional gas tank?

The questions above are important in your interaction with pain. ORISON SWETT M - Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds. My friend reluctance to face pain is your greatest limitation. There is no growth without change, no change without loss, and no loss without pain. Pain, if you’re not hurting, you’re not leading. Your vision for the future has to be big enough to propel you to face the heart-aches and struggles you’ll find along the way. Change only happens when our level of desire (or actually desperation) rises above the level of our fears.

I always advice pastors that When you chart the course of your church toward growth, start with one basic assumption: your efforts to grow are going to create many, many problems. Expect them, anticipate them, and welcome them as God’s instructors. My friend adversity is the diamond dust Heaven polishes its jewels with.

The Illusion of Freedom in a Digital World

They told us technology would set us free. But as we swipe, scroll, and tap through life, it’s worth asking: are we the masters of these tools—or are they mastering us? Thirty years ago, life felt slower. Moments weren’t measured in notifications or likes. Back then, attention was a gift we gave freely. Today, it’s a commodity—bought, sold, and manipulated by systems we barely understand.

For Black professionals and entrepreneurs in South Africa, this shift comes with unique challenges. As AI, automation, and surveillance capitalism redefine the world of work, we’re faced with a sobering reality: adapt or be erased. Shape the system—or risk being shaped by it.

Parenting in the Age of Algorithms
The dinner table has a new guest: the smartphone. Families sit together but scroll in silence. Even parenting has been outsourced to algorithms. Today’s children seek guidance from YouTube influencers, TikTok trends, and AI chatbots—often on issues as commodified as relationships, identity, and mental health. For Black families already navigating socio-economic hurdles, this raises critical questions. Who is shaping the aspirations and values of our next generation? And how do we reclaim that role before it’s too late?

Surveillance Capitalism and the Cost of “Free”
We’re told the digital world is free. But the price is steep: our attention, our privacy, our agency. Shoshana Zuboff, in The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, calls it “behavioural surplus”—data harvested from our clicks, pauses, and likes. This data doesn’t just predict our actions; it actively shapes them.

Industrial capitalism mined nature. Surveillance capitalism mines human nature—our emotions, routines, even relationships. And for Black professionals in South Africa, the danger isn’t just consumption. It’s exclusion from designing the systems that increasingly govern our lives.

If we aren’t shaping the algorithms, we risk being invisible to them—or worse, misrepresented by them. **When Algorithms Think for You**

Google finishes our sentences. Netflix chooses our next watch. AI tools even suggest how we feel. These conveniences seem harmless—until we realise how much of our thinking we’ve outsourced. The real danger isn’t in what we see. It’s in what we don’t—the subtle nudges and curated realities that condition how we perceive the world. Ask yourself: Are your thoughts truly your own—or echoes in a feedback loop engineered to keep you scrolling?

AI and the Fragility of Our Future
On 10 June 2025, ChatGPT’s unexpected global

outage left millions stranded. Work halted. Students, marketers, and developers sat idle—not because a website failed, but because they’d handed over core cognitive tasks to algorithms.

For Black entrepreneurs and professionals striving to grow businesses, this was a warning: reliance on tools we don’t own or control creates brittle systems—brilliant in promise, fragile in crisis.

The South African Reality: A Dual Challenge
In South Africa, the stakes are amplified. Digital infrastructure and policy remain uneven.

Affordable data is still a barrier. And historic underrepresentation in STEM means few Black voices are shaping the AI models and workplace technologies of tomorrow. If Black professionals and entrepreneurs are excluded from designing the digital workplace, we risk being coded into irrelevance—by systems that do not reflect our realities, cultures, or aspirations. **Reclaiming Digital Agency**

The chains we face are invisible. But the key is in our hands. **Here’s how we can act:**
Lead ethically – Challenge workplace systems that perpetuate bias and exclusion.

Mentor the next generation – Equip young Black South Africans with digital literacy, coding, and critical thinking. Demand transparency – Hold platforms accountable for how they harvest and use our data.

Build and own platforms – Support Black-led tech innovations that embed African realities into global systems. Surveillance capitalism doesn’t need weapons to control us—just our attention. It doesn’t shackle the body; it captures the mind. But we can resist.

The Future Demands More Than Survival
The future of work in South Africa isn’t just about mastering tools—it’s about mastering the power behind them. Black professionals and entrepreneurs must step into roles as creators, critics, and custodians of the systems shaping our world.

This is more than a fight for relevance. It’s a fight for agency. For dignity. For the right to define what it means to thrive in a digital age.

The choice is stark: remain passive passengers in a vehicle we don’t steer—or take the wheel and drive toward a future where technology serves humanity, not the other way around. The time for awakening is now. Because if we don’t shape the algorithm, the algorithm will shape us. **Mike Ntsasa (CPRP) is a strategist with over 20 years’ experience in media, business development, and public sector engagement. He is currently Group Executive: Public Sector & Regional Executive: Business Development & Strategy at Independent Media (Pty) Ltd**

Business

Markets and Indicators			
Rand/Dollar	17.34	0.22%	▲
Rand/Pound	23.50	0.68%	▲
Rand/Euro	20.55	0.44%	▲
Platinum	1 389.59	1.84%	▲
Brent Crude	67.50	0.01%	▲
Gold	3 340.11	-0.59%	▼
Etherium	79 677.66	0,27%	▲
Bitcoin	2 036 983,57	0,57%	▲

Free State’s 506 MW Solar Cluster Project Gains Momentum



157 MW Khauta West solar PV facility under construction. Picture: Supplied

Major-scale solar and battery storage hub is under construction on a 560 ha site in the grid-ready Free State province – a development that comprises two solar PV farms with a combined capacity of 506 MW and advanced plans for the construction of an associated battery energy storage system (BESS).

The NOA Group, which is developing the project to supply private customers, reports that the 157 MW Khauta West solar PV facility achieved financial close this month. This, after the 349 MW Khauta South advanced to financial close in June.

No capital expenditure values have been disclosed, but NOA Group CEO Karel Cornelissen confirms with Engineering News that the debt financing is being provided by Standard Bank.

Khauta West is expected to enter into commercial operation in the fourth quarter of next year, while the larger Khauta South will follow in the first quarter of 2027. The project will connect to an existing Eskom

substation by an overhead transmission line, and NOA says the project is leveraging the province’s relatively strong grid availability when compared with other regions where there are grid capacity constraints.

The electricity will be wheeled through the national grid and will be sold to a portfolio of private-sector customers across the mining, manufacturing, data centre and commercial real estate sectors.

Besides constructing and operating large-scale wind, solar and energy storage plants, the NOA Group is also an aggregator and NOA Trading has secured a trading licence from the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa).

Cornelissen says all of the energy from the Khauta Cluster has been contracted on a 30 year generator power purchase agreement to NOA Trading, which will sell the electricity produced to a portfolio of customers on various tenors, ranging from 12 months to 25 years.

While pricing varies by customer, he tells Engineering News that the prices will be at a “significant dis-

count to current Eskom pricing”.

Cornelissen notes that the combined Khauta Cluster will be the country’s largest single-asset solar PV facility, and will be able to deliver 1 073 GWh of renewable electricity yearly once constructed.

The company expects to achieve financial close on the BESS component at the cluster by mid-2026.

“For NOA’s private offtake partners, BESS brings more consistent supply and the ability to meet peak-load demands,” he says, adding that BESS will help it integrate renewable electricity without compromising grid stability or reliability.

NOA reports that its own wind and solar PV assets currently stand at 601 MW, with a partner independent power producer providing a further 144 MW of wind.

The company is also advancing a near-term project pipeline of 727 MW of combined wind and solar capacity and has a target to deliver more than 5 000 MW of generation capacity prior to 2030. **EngineeringNews**

Second Round: DESTEA Reopens MSME Incentive Applications



MEC for DESTEA Ketso Makume Picture: Supplied

By: JN Reporter

The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) has reopened online applications for its Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) support incentives, giving businesses another opportunity to access much-needed financial and developmental assistance.

The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) has reopened its online funding incentive applications following overwhelming demand during the first phase, which closed on 21 July 2025.

DESTEA spokesperson Mojalefa Mphapang said the decision was taken in line with government’s commitment to “leave no one behind.” Free State MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Ketso Makume, has extended applications through a second phase, open from 11 to 21 September 2025.

“The reopening of applications for 10 days is aimed at ensuring that Free State businesses receive the financial and non-financial support they need to remain sustainable, acquire production equipment and machinery, and create much-needed jobs,” Mphapang explained.

Applications can be submitted via the official portal: <https://client.fsdestea.kwantu.me>.

DESTEA stressed that applications must be completed using a laptop or desktop computer, as smartphones and tablets are not supported.

Applicants who registered during the first phase can log in with their existing credentials, but du-

plicate applications for the same incentive will be automatically rejected. Businesses are advised to ensure their enterprise registration is complete before applying. Existing registered enterprises can be linked using the owner’s ID number.

Mphapang urged entrepreneurs to carefully select the correct incentive, check the qualifying criteria, and prepare all required documents before applying. Applicants should also refrain from applying for multiple incentives.

For assistance, DESTEA has provided the following contact persons:

- Spaza Shop Support Incentive: Ms Mohono – 082 559 7944 (Head Office)
- Small & Medium Enterprise Support Incentives:
- Lejwaleputswa: Ms Tshidi Maleka – 066 051 1279
- Fezile Dabi: Ms Nnana Matlepe – 082 443 5613
- Thabo Mofutsanyana: Ms Rosemarry Booi – 082 454 0134
- Khariiep: Mr Lungelo Stuurman – 065 802 6913
- Mangaung Metro: Ms Selloane Ramabolu – 072 635 3674
- Industrialization Support: Ms Protia Nyokong – 082 828 0259

The department emphasized that no payment is required for applications, warning that anyone requesting money is not a genuine DESTEA representative.

Applicants who fail to meet the qualifying criteria will be automatically disqualified from funding consideration.

Coca-Cola Bloem plant set for closure



Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) is reportedly planning to cut as many as 680 jobs and shut some plants in South Africa, joining a slew of international companies trimming operations in the country.

The group confirmed that consultations are underway, but stressed that no final decisions have yet been made.

Speaking to the SABC, the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) confirmed receiving notice from the group of its intentions to retrench workers.

According to the group, the company has cited fi-

nancial constraints as a primary reason for the decision and intends to close plants in Bloemfontein and East London as part of a restructuring.

FAWU said it received notice of a section 189 retrenchment process that would impact up to 680 workers, mostly cleaning staff. This is almost 9% of its 7,700 person workforce in South Africa.

The union said that cleaning staff are integral to the food and beverage production industry.

The SABC, which has seen the notice, reported that the company is offering separation packages to employees as an alternative to “forced separation”.

However, FAWU said that this is unlawful as the offers are being made before consultation with the unions. It added it would challenge the retrenchments.

The union said that it also does not accept the company’s reasoning for the retrenchments, saying it is not pleading poverty but instead wants to “realign the business”.

CCBSA confirmed that it has started consultation processes with workers, and stressed that no final decision has yet been made.

However, it did say that, if implemented, its “adjustments” to its operations could result in job losses.

“In response to evolving industry dynamics, Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa intends to make adjustments to its organisation that, if implemented, may result in some roles being impacted and may unfortunately result in job losses,” it said.

“We have started a consultation process with unions and non-unionised employees who may be impacted. Our priority is to support affected colleagues with fairness, transparency, and compassion during this process. Consultations are underway, and no final decision has been made.”

The potential retrenchments come amid thousands of other jobs being lost in local operations by international giants.

Ford Motor Company South Africa plans to cut 474 jobs at two of its plants, and Goodyear SA’s announced

the loss of 900 jobs at its operations.

Retrenchment notices have been sent out by mining giant Glencore, where more than 3,000 jobs could be cut.

The job losses are not only devastating for those directly impacted, but will have a knock-on effect on dependents, families and communities, where tens, if not hundreds of thousands of lives will be hit.

Listing, investment and expansion

Notably, the latest retrenchment move comes just months after CCBSA announced an expansion and investment drive in South Africa.

In July 2025, the group said it had invested R365 million in a new state-of-the-art bottling line capable of producing 72,000 bottles per hour at its plant in Midrand, South Africa.

At the time, the group said that the new line was launched to meet growing consumer demand, and formed part of its wider expansion in the African market.

Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa is the South African-based subsidiary of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA).

Sunil Gupta, CCBA’s Chief Executive Officer, said the group had “ambitious growth plans” in all its markets on the continent.

CCBA was formed in 2015 as a merger of The Coca Cola Company, SAB Miller and Gutsche Family Invest-

ments (GFI) bottling operations in Southern and Eastern Africa.

It comprised SABMiller’s Coca-Cola bottling franchise, GFI’s Coca-Cola Fortune in South Africa, and Coca-Cola’s South African soft drinks bottling businesses.

The merger was approved by South African regulators in October 2015, and CCBA began operating as a legal entity in July 2016.

In October 2016, Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) announced it would be merging with SABMiller. In the same month, Coca-Cola Global announced its intention to acquire AB InBev’s stake in CCBA.

Coca-Cola and AB InBev reached an agreement in December 2016 regarding the transition of AB InBev’s equity stake in CCBA, which was concluded in October 2017. CCBA is now 66.5% owned by Coca-Cola, with the remaining 33.5% held by GFI.

In April 2021, Coca Cola and CCBA announced plans to list CCBA as a publicly-traded company. The global group intends to sell a portion of its shareholding in CCBA via an initial public offering.

FAWU expressed concerns over local operations being sold off to international companies, saying that the groups involved often chase profits at the expense of workers.

This has been evidenced by each merger being followed by a round of retrenchments as soon as any conditional holds lapse, it said. **BusinessTech**

GET TO KNOW YOUR DJ

Cueing Up with Finest China



Finest China. Picture: Suplied
By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Forget life’s countless warzones, here comes the cure for all shackles, vibe-drenched Amapiano courtesy of the young and dynamic Finest China. She’s been tearing roofs off with massive sets in the City of Roses, Bloemfontein.

The vibrant Nompumelelo Katu, better known as Finest China, is only 24. She launched her music career in 2019, fresh out of Matric, quickly pulling in loyal fans from her own generation, the notorious 2Ks. And she’s stopped at nothing to keep them dancing.

Her journey was shaped under the guidance of Bloemfontein’s biggest names like Mbulelo “LeGoody” Khathaza, Bobby Motumi, and Dem-bentainment founder Fines Moroane, where she honed her craft.

“I was schooling in Vaal, and had to travel to Bloemfontein every weekend to practice,” she recalls.

Now, with laser lights flashing and basslines thumping, China has her sights set on building more than just un-

forgettable sets. She dreams of one day owning her own record label, producing hit songs, and, most importantly, giving back.

“I believe music has the profound ability to change lives. As a DJ, I strive to create sets that heal, inspire, and leave a lasting impact. My ultimate goal is to share the love and positivity of God through my music, touching hearts and minds world-wide,” she emphasises.

Already, her track record is impressive, from sharing stages with giants like Sol Phenduka and MacG at the Black Monday Ultimate Experience to rubbing shoulders with DJ Lamiez Holworthy, Skhumba, and many more.

Wind down your weekends on a high note, catch Finest China live at THE Zone Carwash & Restaurant and at GLO on Second Avenue this weekend for your ultimate music fix.

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. T21713/1995 passed by BUTI OBED BLOED and SHELU SARAH BLOED in favour of CARELESS NOMATSE and MANTWA MERRIAM NOMATSE in respect of certain ERF 16927 MANGAUNG, DISTRICT BLOEMFONTEIN, 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 FREE STATE: at BLOEMFONTEIN within two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

SIGNED AT BLOEMFONTEIN on this 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.

BEREKA MOSADI CONSULTANTS (PTY) LTD
874 PANYANE STREET
BATHO LOCATION,
MANGAUNG 9323
E-MAIL: matshedisoramolula@gmail.com
CONTACT:
(+27) 65 862 3469

The DStv Delicious International Food & Music Festival

Prepare for a feast of the senses at this renowned event, which is returning to Joburg for its 11th edition.

One of the biggest highlights will be the musical performance with Kelvin Momo, Zee Nxumalo, Don Toliver, Kwesta, Sjava and Big Zulu, Oscar Mbo, Kamo Mphela and Distruction Boyz, taking to the stage on Saturday, September 20.

Then on Sunday, September 21, Lauryn Hill featuring Wyclef Jean, YG Marley and Zion Marley will perform while local acts such as Lira, Oskido and DJ Fresh will also entertain the crowd.

The festival will also feature mouth-watering food experiences as well as fashion and art installations.

Echoes Between Us with Jeremy Loops and Laldysmith Black Mambazo

This show will be staged for this weekend only, bringing Joburgers a one-of-a-kind musical dialogue between the two beloved South African acts.

Expect new collaborative material, moving reinterpretations and fresh takes on old favourites.

Songs like “Homeless” and “Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes”, originally made famous by Paul Simon, will also be reimagined.

Where: The Teatro at Montecasino.

When: Friday, September 19, and Saturday, September 20, from 8pm.

Knit-in Cinema at The Bioscope

This event allows you to watch a movie while you knit, sew, crochet, and craft in the company of like-minded individuals.

This weekend, The Bioscope will host a screening of “Mamma Mia!”, which you can enjoy while you work on your own projects or take part in a blanket drive by knitting squares that will be assembled into blankets for mothers in underprivileged parts of Johannesburg. - iol

American Hip hop artist and poet Lauren Hill set to perform at the DST delicious festival in Johannesburg over the weekend..
Picture: Suplied



Culture Club Duo Breaks Through With Amapiano Hit ‘Crazy’



Culture Club duo Brandon Veldman and Camryn Ford. Picture: Suplied

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

Heidedal duo Brandon Veldman and Camryn Ford, known as Culture Club, are making their mark in the Amapiano scene with their debut single ‘Crazy’.

The track, a collaboration with pioneer Gaba Canal and vocalist Boohle, was released on 27 August 2025 and is gaining traction on streaming platforms.

Breaking into the music industry is no easy feat, but for Veldman and Ford, the journey has been defined by persistence.

“It gave us resilience and the courage to stand in our own identity,” the duo said.

Their big break came after being selected for the Gaba Cannal Studio Camp, where what began as a routine session evolved into a fully fledged track.

“That’s what made the connection with Gaba so real.

He saw us for who we are and what we bring, and that gave us the confidence to pour ourselves into the process,” they explained.

“When Crazy came together with Boohle, it felt effortless yet powerful, her voice, Gaba’s direction, and our own contribution just locked in naturally.”

Gaba Cannal praised the pair’s originality, saying: “What thrilled me was their uniqueness. Everyone else simply maneuvers through amapiano, but with them, the sounds connected in a way that was fresh and exciting.”

Crazy appears on Gaba Cannal’s latest project, Khaka Lomculo, and is available on YouTube and Spotify.

Looking ahead, Culture Club said fans can expect a sound that merges their roots with forward-looking creativity.

“Our music is soulful, layered, and rooted in emotion, it carries the warmth of amapiano but stretches into spaces that feel fresh and unexpected. It’s music you can dance to, but also music you can feel.” With their first hit under their belt, the duo insists this is just the beginning of their story.

BFN Breaking Bread in Style

By: Lerato Mutlanyane

It was all about glitz, glamour, purpose, and brand building at the highly anticipated “Breaking Bread” event hosted by Nkokheli Creatives, which took place at Bloemfontein City Hall last week.

The event’s outfit theme, ‘Black is Gold,’ was a resounding success, with attendees showcasing stylish interpretations of the theme through stunning ensembles. Big names arrived drenched in shades of black and flashy gold, making show-stopping entrances while soaking in the wisdom from visionary speakers.

Under the theme “Thriving with Longevity, Leadership and Purpose,” attendees gathered to learn from industry icons and thought leaders such as film producer Connie Ferguson, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, and entrepreneur and actress Mapaseka Koetle.

The event was also graced by music icon Thambi Seete, as well as the MECs for Economic Development, Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Zanele Sifuba.

“This is a dream come true,” expressed CEO and event organizer Nkokheli Lindazwe. He shared that when he first conceived the idea, he had no funding, but his vision

was clear. He knew exactly who to reach out to and how to ensure the event would succeed.

“Everyone I called about this event delivered. I am grateful to all who contributed, and to every guest who attended — your support means so much,” he said.

One of the speakers, award-winning film producer Keitumetse Lebaka from Qwaqwa, shared her inspiring journey of overcoming a challenging upbringing. She recounted going from wealth to poverty, a transition that never stopped her from becoming the phenomenal businesswoman she is today.

“As women, we must be deliberate in claiming those senior positions,” Lebaka urged the audience.



Saturday 20 September 2025
Edutainment
TOKKIE PARK CUT
Bloemfontein

Saturday 20 September 2025
Spring at the Gardens
STHIBA GARDENS
Bloemfontein

Wednesday 24 Sept 2025
Family Reunion Heritage Day
@URTH Bloemfontein
Bloemfontein

Saturday 27 September 2025
Sunset Groove
@THE EDGE
Bloemfontein

Rassie drops Lood and Fassi for Championship

The Springboks have lost lock Lood de Jager and fullback Apehelele Fassi for the final two legs of the Castle Lager Rugby Championship, but coach Rassie Erasmus has resisted the urge to call up any new faces to the Bok squad.

That also means that the other players that left the field - Cheslin Kolbe and Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu will recover in time from their niggles - and will be ready to take the field against Argentina in Durban next weekend.

The 33-man squad - three less than toured New Zealand - was named on Wednesday for the final two games against Los Pumas - one in Durban and one in London.

The squad will assemble in Durban on Thursday to begin their preparations for the final two games.

The other news is that a number of players who were sidelined remain that - prop Gerhard Steenekamp, winger Kurt-Lee Arendse, prop Frans Malherbe and lock Salmaan Moerat are all still on the injury list.

Bongi Mbonambi returns to the squad after missing the New Zealand leg because of personal issues, while Makazole Mapimpi and Faf de Klerk, who were late additions to the squad, remain with the team.

Morne van den Berg is also back in the mix, but there is no word on the exclusion of Edwill van der Merwe, who was injured, but has not been named in the injured group this time around.

The squad to face Argentina includes 18 forwards and 15 backline players. The teams will meet at Hollywoodbets Kings Park in Durban on Saturday 27 September, and at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, in London on 4 October.

Following medical assessments in camp on Thursday, there is a possibility that a further three players could be added to the group later in the week, with a group of up to 30 players set to travel to London for the final match.

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As things stand, the Wallabies are currently on 11 points going into their Bledisloe Cup matches against New Zealand, while the Springboks are in second place, and the All Blacks in third place (both on 10 points), while the Pumas are one point back with nine points – with all four teams having won two of their four matches to date.

“This group of players have been together for over 13 weeks now, and they’ve shown that they are the right players for this big task against the Pumas,” said Erasmus.

“We’ve chopped and changed our squad a fair bit this season, playing a total of 46 players in our last eight matches, including in the Barbarians match, and by training together almost daily, we are confident that these are the players who can give us the best shot to try to retain the title.”

Erasmus added: “The fact that the younger and older guys have been training with one another and against one another on the field almost daily really paid off last weekend, and we have no doubt that if we continue showing our faith in these players, we

will get the best out of them.

Looking forward to the clashes against the Pumas, who moved up to sixth spot on the world rankings following their victory over the Wallabies in Sydney last weekend, Erasmus expected colossal battles against them, and said he had no doubt their victories against Australia, New Zealand, and the British & Irish Lions would fuel their motivation going into these encounters.

“The Pumas are a tough and physical outfit, and they’ll come to South Africa full of confidence after beating Australia 28-26 last weekend and knowing that they beat us in Santiago Del Estero last year, as well as the All Blacks earlier in the competition,” said Erasmus.

“They have quality forwards and backs, and they play with guts and passion, so we know it will take two great performances to beat them and hopefully reclaim the Castle Lager Rugby Championship title.

“The next two games are going to be vital for all four teams because there is so little between them in terms of the way they play, and given how close the standings are. Any team can still win the competition so there is no margin for error, and point will count. These are going massive battles.” ***SuperSport***



Apehelele Fassi. Picture: SuperSport

FIFA to distribute record \$355 million to clubs for 2026 World Cup



Players celebrate with the trophy after winning the World Cup. Picture: SABC

FIFA is set to distribute a record \$355 million to clubs around the world as part of an expanded Club Benefits Programme (CBP) tied to the 2026 World Cup, soccer’s world governing body announced on Tuesday.

The initiative marks an increase of close to 70% from the \$209 million paid out after the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

For the first time, clubs that release players for World Cup qualifiers — not just the finals — will be compensated.

The initiative is part of a renewed memorandum of understanding between FIFA and the European Club Association (ECA) signed in March 2023, aimed at creating a more inclusive and equitable system for global club football.

“The enhanced edition of the FIFA Club Benefits Programme for the FIFA World Cup 2026 is going a step further by recognising financially the huge contribution that so many clubs and their players around the world make to the staging of both the qualifiers and the final tournament,” FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

The CBP was first introduced for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. In 2022, 440 clubs from 51 FIFA member associations received payments under the programme.

With the 2026 edition set to include compensation for qualifiers, the number of benefiting clubs is expected to rise significantly.

ECA Chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi called the programme “innovative.”

“Clubs play a pivotal role in the success of national team football,” he said. “This initiative recognises every element of it, from early development through to release for the most important games.”

The 2026 World Cup runs from June 11 to July 19 in the US, Mexico and Canada. ***SABCNews***

Van Niekerk Misses Out on 200m Final as Dambile Advances



SA track and field sprinter Wayne van Neikerk. Picture: TeamSA

By: JN Reporter

South Africa’s 400m world record holder Wayne van Niekerk has failed to qualify for the men’s 200m final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

The 33-year-old sprinter, who had kept a low profile in the build-up, impressed in the first round with a strong 20.19sec performance to reach the semi-finals. But he could not reproduce that form on Thursday, finishing 11th overall in 20.12sec – outside the top eight required to advance to the final.

Van Niekerk, who dropped down to the 200m this season, had shown signs of promise last month with a 20.07sec run at a Continental Tour meeting in Budapest.

Ahead of the championships, he spoke of his

confidence in challenging his long-standing personal best of 19.84sec, set eight years ago.

However, since his return from a career-threatening knee injury in 2020, the Olympic champion has struggled to consistently find top gear, with much of the spotlight shifting to South Africa’s younger sprinters.

One of them, 23-year-old Sinesipho Dambile, provided a boost for the team by storming into the final. He clocked a personal best of 19.97sec to finish third in his semi-final heat and sixth overall.

The quickest qualifier was America’s Noah Lyles in 19.51sec, followed by Jamaica’s Bryan Levell (19.78sec) and American Kenneth Bednarek (19.88sec).

The men’s 200m final is scheduled for 15:06 (SA time) today.

Premier League Weekend Rivalries



xxx. Picture: Supplied

From the red-hot Merseyside Derby to a tactical chess match at Old Trafford and a title-tinged showdown in North London, this is a weekend where reputations will be tested and legacies shaped.

Starting with the Merseyside Derby on Saturday at midday, David Moyes returns to Anfield with Everton, still chasing his first Premier League win at the ground after 20 fruitless attempts. His record there — D6 L14 — is a haunting stat, matched only by his similarly winless run at Stamford Bridge.

Liverpool, meanwhile, are chasing a fifth consecutive home win over Everton — a feat not achieved since the 1930s. Arne Slot’s side has started the season with four straight wins, and a fifth would echo their title-winning rhythm from 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Liverpool have lost just one of their last 28 home games against Everton in all competitions (W17 D10), winning each of their last four in a row since a 0-2 defeat in February 2021. Only from February 1933 to January 1937 have the Reds ever won five straight home matches against the Toffees.

Few hours later, will see the most drawn fixture in Premier League history returns to Old Trafford, where Manchester United haven’t lost to Chelsea in 12 league games. But the Blues, fresh off a 1-0 win in May, are eyeing back-to-back victories over United for the first time since the Ancelotti era.

Manchester United are unbeaten in their last 12 Premier League home games against Chelsea (W5 D7) since a 0-1 defeat in May 2013. Indeed, Chelsea’s win rate of 18% at Old Trafford in the Premier League (6/33) is their lowest away to any side they have visited 10+ times in the competition.

After their 1-0 win in May, Chelsea are looking

for successive league victories over Manchester United for the first time since winning three in a row from November 2009 to March 2011 under Carlo Ancelotti. The Blues’ two wins in their last three league games versus the Red Devils (D1) are as many as their previous 17 beforehand (W2 D9 L6).

Chelsea vs Manchester United is the most drawn fixture in Premier League history, finishing level 27 times. 14 of those draws have come at Old Trafford, with Everton against Spurs at Goodison Park the only fixture at a specific venue to be drawn more often in the competition (17).

The weekend will end with the North London’s Power Play when Arsenal welcomes Manchester City.

The Gunners have won two of their last four league meetings with City and are unbeaten in their last three at home against the reigning champions. Mikel Arteta could become the first manager to go five league games unbeaten against Pep Guardiola — a seismic shift in their mentor-protégé dynamic.

Arsenal have won two of their last four league meetings with Manchester City (D2), as many as their previous 22 beforehand (D5 L15). The Gunners could win back-to-back league games against the Citizens for the first time since December 2015. Manchester City have lost both of their last two Premier League visits to Arsenal, as many as their previous 14 beforehand (W7 D5 L2). It’s their longest losing run away to the Gunners since April 2009 (4 in a row).

Arsenal have won their last three Premier League home games by an aggregate score of 9-0. They last won four in a row without conceding in December 2021, while they last won their first three at home in a season without conceding in 1960-61. ***SuperSport***

PSL Log				
		P	W	P
1	Sekhukhune United	6	5	16
2	Mamelodi Sundowns	7	4	15
3	Kaizer Chiefs	6	4	13
4	Durban City	5	3	11
5	Amazulu FC	3	3	11
6	TS Galaxy	3	3	10
7	Orlando Pirates	5	3	9
8	Polokwane City	6	2	9
9	Marumo Gallants	6	2	8
10	Golden Arrows	6	2	7
11	Richards Bay	6	2	5
12	Siwelele FC	6	2	4
13	Stellenbosch FC	6	2	4
14	Chippa United	6	2	4
15	Magesi FC	6	0	3
16	Orbit College FC	6	1	3

EPL Log				
		P	W	P
1	Liverpool	4	4	12
2	Arsenal	4	3	9
3	Tottenham Hotspur	4	3	9
4	Bournemouth	4	3	9
5	Chelsea	4	2	8
6	Everton	4	2	7
7	Sunderland	4	2	7
8	Manchester City	4	2	6
9	Crystal Palace	4	1	6
10	Newcastle	4	1	5
11	Fulham	4	1	5
12	Brentford	4	1	4
13	Brighton	4	1	4
14	Manchester United	4	1	4
15	Nottingham Forest	4	1	4
16	Leeds United	4	1	4
17	Burnley	4	1	3
18	West Ham	4	1	3
19	Aston Villa	4	0	2
20	Wolves	4	0	0

Sport

Rassie drops
Lood and
Fassi

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More PSL Coaches Face the Chop

Nabi's axing at Kaizer Chiefs may have sparked a potential coaching exodus that will see more premiership coaches being sacked by their clubs

By: Mpho Sekharume

The recent sacking of Nasreddine Nabi by Kaizer Chiefs may have cast the spotlight on the performances of other coaches at other Premier Soccer League (PSL) clubs.

Although Amakhosi are yet to make an announcement, various reports have confirmed the Soweto giants have indeed severed ties with the Tunisian tactician following their 3-1 loss to log leaders Sekhukhune United on Wednesday - a move that may spark a ripple effect that might see other coaches face similar fates in the foreseeable future.

Despite having pulled the Soweto giants out of the trophy drought by winning the Nedbank Cup and only suffering a single loss in the league so far, Chiefs boldly released Nabi with prospects of current assistant coach rising to the helm.

Chiefs had in recent times maintained a healthy unbeaten streak in the league in Nabi's absence, but their performance noticeably dwindled as soon as he returned to camp. This short yet vivid drop in form - compounded by incessant calls from Amakhosi fans for him to be fired - mapped Nabi's exit from Naturena.

"My separation from Kaizer Chiefs was a mutual agreement with the club's management, following a successful and challenging experience," Nabi told North African news outlet, WinWin, despite Chiefs having not yet released a statement as confirmation.

He added: "Currently, I need some time to rest, focus more on my family, and monitor my wife's health, which has required me to be by her side over the past period."

Nabi is the second coach this season to be removed after Chippa United gave Sinethemba Badela his marching orders last month due to internal club politics.

Other PSL coaches such as Mamelodi Sundown's Miguel Cardoso, Magesi FC's John Maduka, Orbit FC's Pogiso Makhoye and the revered Steve Barker of Stellenbosch FC, may all also be shown the exit door soon at their respective clubs.

While Sundowns sit second on the log behind the high-flying Sekhukhune, Cardoso has come under increasing pressure regarding the Pretoria side's unconventional style of play and cumbersome tactical approaches to matches. This has placed him under similar scrutiny as his predecessor Manqoba Mngqithi, who is now at the helm of Durban outfit, Golden Arrows.

Bafana Ba Style loyalists have also questioned his player selections and his seeming deviation from the club's traditional 'piano and shoeshine' style of play.

Elsewhere the writing might as well already be on the wall for Magesi's Maduka who remains the only coach without a victory at this stage of the season. The 3-0 loss to Sundowns last Sunday saw Magesi slump to their third defeat in six outings, while having played to a stalemate in the other three fixtures.

The former Royal AM mentor is under pressure to start turning things around if he is to remain at the helm of the Limpopo outfit. Maduka will, therefore, be looking to claim all three points at home against a struggling Siwelele FC tomorrow at the Seshego Stadium.

Speaking of Siwelele, Lehlohonolo Seema may also come under intense scrutiny after the Bloemfontein side lost their midweek fixture away to fellow premiership entrants Durban City on Wednesday. The Bloemfontein side succumbed to a 2-0 defeat against Durban City on Wednesday - leaving them languishing in the relegation zone, having collected a mere four points from six outings.

Another coach who might be in potential trouble is Orbit's Makhoye, whose side sits right at the bottom of the log table with only one victory to show.

Despite what looked like a promising debut start to their premiership campaign at the beginning of the season, the North West outfit has struggled to sustain the winning momentum.

This despite roping in key talent in Monnapule Saleng - who is currently on loan from MTN 8 Champions, Orlando Pirates.

Still in the relegation zone, back-to-back MTN 8 finalists, Stellenbosch FC, is another club that might show their coach the exit door should they not turn the corner soon.

Barker, who has transformed the Western Cape outfit into a formidable competitive side over the years is now guiding them through a slow start to the season that has seen them uncharacteristically register only one win in their opening six fixtures.

Only a single point separates Stellies - who suffered a 2-1 defeat to Amazulu on Wednesday - from bottom-of-the-pile Orbit.

While many may argue that fledgling entities such as Siwelele and Orbit are still trying to adjust to the competitive nature of top flight football, collecting points remains a key prerogative that is sacrosanct to sustaining a club's premiership status at the end of the season.

As we enter the second quarter of the season, some may also rebuttal with assertions that teams should have adequately acclimatised at this stage of the season and follow through with their season's plans.

Mokoena Saga Not Over

FIFA has given Teboho Mokoena and SAFA six days to respond to charges



FIFA INVESTIGATES: South Africa could be docked three points for fielding Teboho Mokoena in the World Cup qualifier against Lesotho back in March. Picture: Baagedi Sethlora

By: Mpho Sekharume

FIFA has officially opened an investigation into the matter that could see Bafana Bafana get docked points for allegedly fielding an ineligible player in Mamelodi Sundowns talisman Tebeho Mokoena against Lesotho in a 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier on 21 March 2025.

This pending investigation was confirmed by FIFA through a letter to the South African Football Association (SAFA) on 15 September 2025. Although Lesotho failed to lodge a complaint within a stipulated timeframe, the global football governing body still unilaterally initiate disciplinary proceedings subject to the availability of evidence.

This has opened potential prospects of the latter results being overturned and Bafana Bafana being docked three points, with Mokoena and SAFA being given six days to respond to the charges.

Should Bafana Bafana be found guilty, the potential consequences may see the team forfeit the match against Lesotho, with the latter being awarded a 3-0 victory. The national side will further be docked three points from their World Cup qualification campaign which has seen them amass 16 points to top Group C, while other sanctions may see SAFA and Mokoena himself being handed fines respectively.

Mokoena had accumulated two yellow cards in two previous World Cup qualifiers against Benin and Zimbabwe, which should have resulted in him being suspended for the subsequent match. He, nevertheless, played against Lesotho - in contravention of the rules - where South Africa collected maximum points with a 2-0 win.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event in Soweto, Johannesburg, yesterday, SAFA chief executive Lydia Monyepao confirmed that the association had indeed received a letter regarding the investigation into the Mokoena matter.

"We have received confirmation that the Teboho Mokoena (matter) will now be investigated, and this only came this week."

Bafana Bafana still have two remaining fixtures to be played against Zimbabwe and Rwanda on 6 and 13 October 2025 respectively; and will need to claim all available points in both games to buffer themselves against any potential disappointment should the investigation result in adverse findings.

"The aim of the coach is to win the two remaining games against Zimbabwe and Rwanda to make sure Bafana qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup even if they get docked the three points concerned," Monyepao added.



Nasreddine Nabi is the latest coach to be axed with other PSL coaches set to follow soon due to bad performances. Picture: kaizerchiefs

Proteas Women 'all on the same page' ahead of second ODI



Proteas Women's Tazmin Brits believes the team is singing off the same hymn sheet in their approach with the bat ahead of the second one-day international (ODI) against Pakistan taking place in Lahore on Friday.

The encounter will get under way at 3:30pm local time (12:30pm SAST) from the Gaddafi Stadium and will be broadcast live on SuperSport Cricket (Ch. 212).

South Africa head into the clash with confidence after an emphatic eight-wicket win in the opening fixture.

The victory was underpinned by unbeaten centuries from Brits (101*) and Marizanne Kapp (121*) in pursuit of Pakistan's 255-4, thanks to knocks from Sidra Amin (121*) and Muneeba Ali (76).

Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Brits praised the team's unified batting mindset, while emphasising the importance of role clarity at different phases of the innings.

"We're all buying into the same thing. When you have your different ideas, that's when plans normally fail. So we're working on certain things,

and it also works according to you as a batter.

"I am a bit of an aggressive player where Wolfie (Laura Wolvaardt) is maybe more the anchor role because she bats longer periods of time. Cricket's a funny game, sometimes you come off and sometimes you don't, but we have a target that we set with every powerplay that we try and achieve with maybe losing one or two wickets.

"So whenever you find yourself in that powerplay or outside the powerplay or middle order, you kind of know what you need to do. We're definitely looking at running hard between the wickets. I think we underestimate that in ODI cricket, if you can turn ones into twos, that's an extra 30, 40 runs adding to the total, which can definitely change the game.

"So it is about buying into it and we're all on the same page, and that's what we're working for," the 34-year-old added.

PURPLE PATCH

Brits has been in sparkling form for the Proteas, registering scores of 98* and 101 during the recent tour to the West Indies before carrying that momentum into Pakistan.

When asked about her purple patch, the right-hander admitted there was no secret formula, but expressed gratitude for her current run.

"I don't know, hey. I actually don't have an answer for that, to be honest with you. It just seems like things are going my way. So I'm very thankful for that. Hopefully it can continue throughout the World Cup. I mean, I would have rather taken these hundreds in the World Cup than taking them before that, but hopefully with scoring those hundreds, it definitely gives me confidence and I'm hoping that it does continue".

Another significant area of development for Brits has been her ability to counter spin.

In the first ODI, Pakistan's attack bowled nearly 30 overs of spin, which Brits and Kapp negotiated expertly during their record-breaking 216-run stand for the third wicket.

Reflecting on the hard work behind the scenes, Brits highlighted the adjustments she has made to her game

"Every batter is very different. For me personally, I had to work very, very hard on spin and strike rotation. I like seam, so I like to climb into a seamer, but we've put a lot of work in.

"There were times that I had to travel to PE, for argument's sake, to Bakes (Baakier Abrahams), our batting coach. I had to get out of my comfort zone. I've been working on extra shots, I've been working on head positioning, I even changed my batting grip literally just before West Indies. So there are a few things that you've got to get uncomfortable with to become comfortable," she added

Kovsies Secure Semis Spot



By: Mpho Sekharume

Despite slumping to a 2-1 defeat to the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) yesterday evening in Bloemfontein, the University of the Free State (Kovises) are through to the semifinals of the Varsity Football competition.

The boys from Bloemfontein had already secured their semifinal spot in the even before the ball was kicked yesterday. This was courtesy of their 1-0 win over Wits

However, winning yesterday against four-time Varsity Football champions TUT at their Shimla Park home turf would have handed them the big advantage of playing their semifinal fixture at home once again in front of their supporters.

TUT's victory against Kovsies see them sneak into the final four - pipping their Pretoria neighbours by a single point to secure their semi's spot.

The semi-finals will take place next week Thursday with log leaders, University of Johannesburg, North West University, Kovsies and TUT vying for the coveted Varsity Football title.