

Journal



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NAMPO: FARMERS SQUEEZED AS COSTS BITE



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NORTH WEST DRUG LAB MASQUERADES AS GAME FARM

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

While the country is grappling with a drug crisis and a large proportion of South Africans consuming them, this week the police uncovered a sinister drug den and a gold processing plant masquerading as a tranquil game farm in the North West province.

The drug manufacturing lab and gold processing plant which is based in the Swartruggens just outside Zeerust was discovered with drugs with a street value of over R250 million on Wednesday morning.

Eleven suspects which include four Mexican nationals and one woman are in police custody and are expected to appear in the Swartruggens Magistrate Court today.

This comes after the community members were terrorized by spiking numbers of drug abuse in their communities and kept reporting them to authorities.

According to the Acting Provincial Commissioner in the North West, Ryno Naidoo, an intelligence-driven operation was executed by the National Head Office Crime Intelligence, the National Head Office for Organised Crime Investigations, and a

National team from the DPCI.

"We received many complaints from nearby community members saying that they suspect there is a major drug operation happening nearby because the number of people suffering from drug abuse was skyrocketing.

"We knew that something was wrong. We also found out later that there was a strong smell in the community which needed to be investigated.

"The investigations were conducted over a few days, the police verified what was happening and it was decided then on Tuesday evening that there must be a search warrant to verify exactly what

was happening," said Naidoo.

Naidoo says the team selected for this operation is the same team that was involved in the ATM bombings, emphasising the intent to thoroughly search the premises.

"It was during the intense search that they discovered a laboratory of highly addictive crystal meth and a huge quantity of chemicals.

"On further searching of the property, they also found a gold processing plant with a lot of gold-bearing materials.

"As you can see, this is fronting a game lodge. "It is a game farm with suf- Continues on Page 2

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Arms Deal 'Deliberate Delays' Done



Zuma's decades-long 'Stalingrad' strategy crumbles as court sets trial commencement date. Pictures: TGT

The KwaZulu-Natal High Court in Pietermaritzburg has effectively ended Jacob Zuma's long-standing legal strategy to stall the arms deal corruption case.

On Thursday, Judge Nkosinathi Chili ordered that the trial against the former president and French arms company, Thales, must proceed without any further delays.

This ruling follows decades of legal hurdles that have prevented the case from reaching its merits since the initial indictment in 2005.

The court found that the continuous filing of interlocutory applications was a deliberate attempt to obstruct the start of the criminal trial.

"This court owes the public a duty to facilitate the expeditious commencement and management of the criminal trial," Chili stated.

The judge emphasised that the interests of society and the integrity of the justice system would be compromised if further delays were permitted. He noted that there was no evidence of injustice in allowing the trial to move forward even while certain legal challenges remain pending.

"Failure by the court to intervene in circumstances where it has been sufficiently established that the strategy implemented by the defence is designed to delay the commencement of the trial will no doubt compromise the integrity of the court," Chili said, adding that "a factual finding has been made several times that Mr Zuma is implementing Stalingrad delay tactics to the commencement of the trial."

'Stalingrad' refers to a strategy of exhausting every possible legal avenue and filing endless technical appeals to delay the start of a trial for as long as possible.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) secured this victory after years of facing recusal bids against prosecutor, Billy Downer, and various appeals. The trial, which involves charges of racketeering, money laundering, and corruption, is now scheduled to officially kick off on 1 February 2027. -The Gauteng Times

Mathae returns from Italy drive with investment deals in sight

By Bernell Simons

The Free State Provincial Government has returned from an eight-day strategic mission to Italy aimed at attracting investment, strengthening international partnerships and unlocking new economic opportunities for the province.

Led by Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae, the delegation engaged government institutions, businesses, educational bodies and development agencies across Napoli, Bari, Pescara, Ortona and Roma from 3 to 11 May 2026.

The visit forms part of the provincial government's broader push to position the Free State as a competitive destination for investment, tourism and agricultural development.

Accompanying the premier were MEC for Economic Development and Tourism Ketso Makume, senior provincial officials and representatives responsible for planning, treasury and international relations.

The delegation held a series of engagements focused on tourism development, agro-processing, manufacturing, youth empowerment and innovation-driven economic growth.

In Naples, discussions with municipal leaders centred on potential cooperation projects and shared economic priorities. The delegation also visited agricultural and tertiary institutions to explore innovation in farming education, research and skills development.

Officials said the engagements could pave the way for future collaboration in agricultural training and youth development programmes in the Free State.

One of the visit's symbolic moments was a tribute to South African music icon Miriam Makeba, who died in Italy in 2008. Letsoha-Mathae joined local



Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae and her delegation in Italy. Pictures: Supplied

leaders in laying wreaths at Makeba's monument, describing the occasion as a reminder of the historic ties between South Africa and Italy.

In Bari, the delegation took part in a business roundtable with local entrepreneurs and companies, where talks focused on enterprise development, innovation and opportunities for collaboration between Italian and Free State businesses — particularly those supporting youth entrepreneurs and small enterprises.

The delegation also visited a technical and vocational institution specialising in cybersecurity and digital skills training to examine how education systems can better prepare young people for the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Further engagements were held at the CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, where discussions focused on agricultural innovation, food systems and sustainable rural development.

Tourism and heritage development also featured

prominently during the mission. In Matera, internationally known for its historic cave settlements, the delegation explored how heritage tourism can stimulate local economies.

The provincial government said it identified possible lessons for developing tourism sites linked to the Maluti Mountains and other heritage areas in the Free State. The final leg of the trip in Pescara and Ortona focused on business-to-business engagements and institutional partnerships, including investment opportunities, women empowerment initiatives and tourism cooperation.

According to the provincial government, one of the key outcomes of the visit was an agreement to begin formal discussions on Letters of Intent and possible Memoranda of Understanding with Italian stakeholders in the coming weeks.

Premier Letsoha-Mathae said the trip was focused on delivering tangible economic benefits for the province.

"This mission was not a tourism exercise, but a strategic economic and developmental engagement aimed at creating opportunities for our province," she said. She said the province was encouraged by the willingness of Italian institutions and businesses to pursue long-term partnerships with the Free State.

The delegation also acknowledged the role played by the Embassy of South Africa in Italy, particularly Ambassador Nosipho Jezile, in coordinating engagements and facilitating interactions with Italian stakeholders.

The provincial government said its next priority is turning the discussions into concrete projects that can drive economic growth, skills development and job creation across the province.

SA urged to rethink rural development before decline deepens



Acting Director-General of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, Clinton Heinman. Picture: Thembisile Mlangeni

By Bernell Simons

South Africa's rural communities face a stark future of shrinking populations, collapsing infrastructure and deepening economic decline unless government urgently overhauls how it plans, funds and coordinates rural development. That warning came from Acting Director-General of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, Clinton Heinman, who argued that technology, better data and stronger intergovernmental coordination could determine whether rural areas survive or continue to fall behind.

Speaking during a two-day rural development indaba aimed at resetting South Africa's rural policy agenda, Heinman said the gathering was designed to hear directly from rural communities, stakeholders and government officials in order to build a more coherent national strategy.

He said discussions at the indaba were expected to feed into formal policy recommendations that could ultimately inform the development of a rural development bill.

Heinman acknowledged that rural development efforts have often been fragmented across different government departments, limiting their long-term impact. He said the department had already begun shifting away from earlier models such as the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, which relied on pilot projects in selected communities, toward a broader Integrated Rural Development Strategy built around six pillars.

The new model, he said, is intended to improve coordination and ensure that rural development is treated as a cross-cutting national priority rather than a standalone departmental programme.

He stressed that rural development cannot succeed in isolation from other government functions.

While departments may focus on projects in traditional and communal areas, progress also depends on reliable roads, bridges, healthcare services, policing, transport infrastructure and broader public

investment.

Without deliberate alignment between departments, Heinman warned, rural communities would continue to struggle despite isolated interventions.

To improve coordination, the department has started collecting quarterly data from government departments to measure their contribution to rural development outcomes.

Recommendations emerging from the indaba will also be channelled through structures such as MIN-MEC and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land and Agriculture to strengthen broader policy alignment.

Heinman said rural development must become a standard consideration in government planning rather than an afterthought.

He compared the approach to disability inclusion policies, where awareness and integration are built into planning processes from the outset.

International examples were also raised during his address.

He pointed to Finland's rural development model, where government subsidies help sustain businesses, schools and communities in remote areas as an example of proactive intervention to prevent rural decline.

He also challenged conventional approaches to job creation.

Rather than focusing only on large employment targets, Heinman argued that protecting even a single job in a rural area could create wider economic benefits for families and communities.

Broader long-term planning is also being shaped through the National Spatial Development Framework 2050.

He described the framework as a critical planning tool that highlights major demographic and environmental pressures facing South Africa.

Among its projections are rising urbanisation, declining rural populations and increasing environmental threats such as water scarcity and desertification in regions like the Karoo.

Heinman said government is also developing a public digital infrastructure platform that will integrate data from institutions such as National Treasury and SASSA.

The system is expected to improve decision-making on where development funding should be directed as population trends and economic pressures shift.

Technology and artificial intelligence formed a major part of his address on the future of governance. He warned that poor data and weak analytical thinking could lead to inaccurate AI-generated outcomes that distort policy decisions.

Using geospatial mapping as an example, Heinman said incorrect information entered into AI systems could create compounded planning failures. Despite those risks, he cautioned against resisting technological change.

He argued that countries and communities that fail to embrace digital systems risk being left behind.

To demonstrate the practical benefits of technology in rural communities, Heinman shared the story of assisting a farmer whose chickens had stopped laying eggs.

After entering the symptoms into an AI system, a likely diagnosis and treatment plan was generated, helping restore productivity on the farm.

He said the example demonstrated how digital tools could help close gaps in veterinary services, healthcare access and technical support in remote communities.

He added that expanded internet connectivity and electricity access could create new economic opportunities by allowing rural residents to participate in online work and digital industries.

Heinman said rural development must be approached as a layered system that addresses individual, household, community and national infrastructure needs simultaneously.

Without coordinated planning and smarter use of technology, he warned, rural decline will continue to accelerate.

NW Drug Lab Masquerades as Game Farm



Continues from Page 1

efficient games, about 200 square kilometers, but the real business here was the drug and the gold-bearing materials.

"I think this kind of setting favours the kind of business that they do.

"They are not selling or dealing around here, this is the manufacturing process.

"They don't want too much activity or business" said Naidoo.

Naidoo also says this bust is regarded as one of the biggest in the province and in the country in a very long time.

Naidoo says he was notified by the team that the owner would hand himself in while some of the family members who were found on the property are also in custody.

MEC for Community Safety Wessels Moroeng, said that even though it is disturbing, it is also something that have always wanted to do, which is rooting out the drug manufacturing labs.

"We need to change the approach, we need to focus on the primary level where they are being manufactured," he said.

Moroeng also praised the community members for their role in making sure that they report all the suspicious activities on the farm.

Drugs give way to other criminal activities as those who use them will stop at nothing to get the next fix.

The police and experts are still working on accurately seeing how much the gold they discovered is worth as it takes a little longer than drugs.

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No Jobs, No Hope

• SA's rising unemployment crisis drives families to the streets • Desperate jobseekers turn traffic lights into 'hiring spots'



Many carry their qualifications and documents with them in the hope that someone may need their specific skills, but disappointment often follows.

Another jobseeker, who identified himself only as Thabiso, is a former municipal general worker with seven years of experience. He also spent six years in security and subsequently worked as a plumber before facing unemployment last year.

"With all the experience and the qualifications I have, I still end up coming here to beg for any kind of job just so we can make ends meet," Thabiso said, while presenting certificates of all the vocational courses he has successfully completed. He further revealed that many job seekers relocated from smaller towns in the province to Bloemfontein in search of better opportunities, only to find themselves stranded and homeless.

"Some of us are not even from Bloemfontein. We came here thinking there were greener pastures, but things are not working out. Because we travelled from far and do not want to return home empty-handed, some of us end up homeless."

Thabiso added that competition for limited opportunities is intense, especially with undocumented foreign nationals also searching for work at the same intersections. He acknowledged that extreme poverty sometimes pushes people toward crime as a means of survival, something he says only worsens employers' mistrust.

He further urged government officials to physically go out and witness the true magnitude of the job crisis by visiting the various intersections throughout Bloemfontein.

"They need to see how many people are suffering and looking for jobs," he said.

For Pule Menyatso, traffic lights have been a place of hope for more than three years, but he longs for stable employment and a reliable monthly income.

"Imagine how painful and degrading it is not being able to provide for your family as a man and head of the household when everyone depends on you."

"What is happening in this country is painful and deserves attention," he added.

Menyatso said his family has not had a proper meal in days and now survives mainly on hand-outs from those willing to help.

struggling to provide for their children as winter tightens its grip and the cost of living continues to rise. Among them is 38-year-old father of two, Thokoana Thokoana, who has spent the past three years searching for work at traffic lights. "When you see us waiting here, it's because we are struggling and need jobs because we have families that we have to take care of," Thokoana said.

"We come here every day hoping to meet a good Samaritan who can offer us something for the day so that we do not go home empty-handed," he added.

Despite having skills in plastering, construction work and paving, Thokoana told Journal News he has been unemployed for more than 10 years. Although he dreams of starting his own business, he says the lack of proper registration documents has prevented him from doing so.

"Having a CK document would help me build a customer base and make things easier," he explained. For many of the men standing at the intersections, finding work is never guaranteed. Some say they can go for weeks without getting a single job opportunity, yet they continue returning every day out of hope and desperation.

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

As South Africa's unemployment crisis deepens, desperate job seekers in Bloemfontein are turning traffic lights into informal hiring spots, hoping that a passing motorist might offer them a day's work and enough money to feed their families.

According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) released by Stats SA on Tuesday, the number of employed persons decreased by 345 000 in the first quarter of the year, bringing the total to 16.8 million.

The number of unemployed people increased by 301 000. This resulted in a net decrease of 44 000 (0.2%) in the country's labour force.

Because of this, the official unemployment rate increased by 1.3 percentage points to 32.7% for the quarter, up from 31.4% in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The Free State province recorded an expanded unemployment rate of 54.4%

Every morning, groups of unemployed men gather at busy intersections across the city, standing for hours in the cold with the hope of securing temporary jobs. Many are fathers



MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 19 of the Municipal System Act (Act no 32 of 2000) that a meeting will be held as follows

DATE: TUESDAY, 26 MAY 2026

TIME: 15H00

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS



Any member of the public is welcome to attend.

Dr. Vuyo Adonis
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Notice: /2026

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Didiza determines process for composition of Impeachment Committee



National Assembly Speaker, Thoko Didiza (Left) and President Cyril Ramaphosa (Right). Pictures: Supplied

National Assembly Speaker, Thoko Didiza, has outlined the next step in the National Assembly process on the composition of the Impeachment Committee, in accordance with section 89 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The Section 89 impeachment process is linked to the 2020 theft at President Cyril Ramaphosa's Phala Phala farm.

In a statement on Wednesday, Parliament said Didiza engaged the National Assembly Chief Whips Forum earlier in the day on the process to be followed in establishing the committee.

The forum comprises Chief Whips and representatives of political parties represented in the National Assembly.

"Given that the impeachment committee process constitutes uncharted procedural terrain for Parliament, the Speaker this morning engaged the National Assembly Chief Whips Forum, comprising Chief Whips and representatives of political parties represented in the Assembly, regarding the determination for the composition of the committee," Parliament said.

Political parties represented in the National Assem-

bly have now been requested to submit the names of Members who will serve on the committee to the National Assembly Secretariat by the close of business on Friday, 22 May 2026.

Parliament said the Speaker considered both proportional representation and inclusivity in determining the composition of the committee.

"In determining the composition of the Impeachment Committee, the Speaker considered not only the constitutional principle of proportional representation, but also the need for inclusivity and broad participation in this unprecedented parliamentary process," the statement said.

Parliament said the approach seeks to ensure smaller political parties are also represented in the committee.

"Accordingly, the determination seeks to balance traditional proportional representation with a measure of inclusivity, so as to ensure that smaller political parties — which may otherwise not be accommodated through a strict mathematical application of proportional representation — are also afforded representation and participation in the Committee's

work," Parliament said. The impeachment committee will comprise 31 members drawn from the 16 political parties represented in the National Assembly.

The African National Congress (ANC) will have nine members, followed by the Democratic Alliance (DA) with five and the uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MKP) with three.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) will have two members, while the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Patriotic Alliance (PA), Freedom Front Plus (FF Plus), ActionSA, African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), United Democratic Movement (UDM), RISE Mzansi, Build One South Africa (BOSA), African Transformation Movement (ATM), Al Jama-ah, National Coloured Congress (NCC) and United Africans Transformation (UAT) will each have one representative.

Meanwhile, the Speaker has referred the Constitutional Court judgment relating to the matter to the National Assembly Subcommittee on the Review of Rules.

The subcommittee will consider and process amendments required to the Rules of the National Assembly. — SAnews.gov.za

ANC mum on progress in Mathae probe



ANC Mangaung Convenor, Lawrence Mathae Pictures: MMM/Facebook

By JN Reporter

The African National Congress (ANC) in the Free State remains tight-lipped on the progress of its investigation into allegations involving senior Mangaung regional leader, Lawrence Mathae.

The silence follows an instruction from ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula to Provincial Secretary Polediso Motsoeneng to investigate claims that Mathae allegedly victimised municipal employees for political reasons.

Mathae, who serves as Speaker of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, is accused of dismissing five municipal employees for allegedly backing his rival during the ANC's fiercely contested Mangaung regional conference, which was later nullified two weeks ago.

According to the letter, the affected employees include Dineo Mothabane, Tsietsi Tekete, Mngi Shounyane, Tseliso Mokoai, and ANC regional spokesperson Nqamile Nxangisa, who were allegedly dismissed with immediate effect for supporting Vusi Soqhaka at the conference.

In a letter seen by Journal News, Mbalula instructed that the matter be treated with urgency and that a report be submitted to his office by 10 May.

However, high-ranking sources within the party's provincial leadership say no update has been provided on whether the investigation has begun, whether any findings have been made, or whether the report was submitted.

When asked whether any investigation had been conducted, provincial spokesperson Thabo Meeko said he had not been briefed.

"Even if comrade PS has conducted and concluded his investigation on the matter, such a report will not be made public until it reaches the SG first," said Meeko.

One senior party source told Journal News that "no investigation has been conducted" because Mathae had done nothing wrong.

"Nothing has happened, and nothing will happen," the source said.

"What comrade Mathae has done is normal practice that all leaders do when assuming political office in government. It is his prerogative to fire people he does not trust in his office and hire people he feels comfortable working with."

Mbalula's letter was also circulated to senior ANC national leaders, including President Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President Paul Mashatile and ANC National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe.



FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS: PROVINCIAL SOCIAL RELIEF AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) mandates the Department of Social Development (DSD) to ensure universal access to comprehensive social protection and developmental services for households living below the poverty line, as well as vulnerable groups and communities.

In line with this mandate, the Department seeks to strengthen coordinated service delivery at a provincial level through the implementation of the Provincial Social Relief and Livelihood Support Programme. This programme is aimed at providing immediate Social Relief of Distress while simultaneously advancing poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood initiatives. To this end, the Department invites submissions of partnership proposals from suitably registered Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and Cooperatives operating in the Free State Province, with a proven track record in community development (poverty alleviation & sustainable livelihoods) and/or Social Relief of Distress programmes, and who wish to partner with the Department in this initiative.

Preference will be given to organizations that are already implementing similar programmes within the Free State Province.

SERVICES REQUIRED

The appointed partner organization will be required to:

- Manage the procurement and distribution of relief items to support Social Relief of Distress interventions at a provincial level.
- Source and manage donated supplies.
- Provide emergency support to identified households during disasters or periods of distress.
- Support the implementation of poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood initiatives linked to community development.
- Work in partnership with the Department of Social Development to fulfil its constitutional mandate.

The Department will assess the capabilities of interested organizations based on the submitted proposals, in line with the requirements outlined in the scope of work and the approved evaluation system.

The partnership will be for a period of three (3) years, from 2026/27 to 2028/29 financial years, commencing from the date of signing of the Letter of Award, subject to annual performance reviews and the availability of funds.

QUALITY OF PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS

Proposals must include the following:

1. Governance: Disclosure of the organization's profile (Board, Executive, Committee, staff, and capacity-building plans).
2. Confirmed Needs: Disclosure of the area(s) of operation within the province and identified community needs.
3. Financial Status: Disclosure of financial status, including assets.
4. Corporate Profile: A detailed budget breakdown and costed implementation plan, submitted on the organization's letterhead and signed by the Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
5. Legislative Compliance: Applications must comply with the Non-Profit Organization Act (NPO Act), the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), and the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FICA). Non-compliance will result in disqualification.
6. Supporting Documents:
 - o Latest audited financial statements or financial statements.
 - o Certified copy of the NPO registration certificate and proof of registration status (printout).
 - o Copy of the NPO constitution.
7. Statutory Compliance:
 - o Signed copy of Section 38(1)(j)(a) or (b) extract.
 - o Tax Certificate/Tax Exemption Certificate/proof of registration with SARS.
 - o Proof of banking details.
 - o Proof of registration on the Central Supplier Database (CSD), with active status.
 - o Affidavit disclosing funding received from other donors for 2025/2026.

BRIEFING SESSION

A briefing session will be held as follows:

- Date: 20 May 2026
- Venue & Time: 3rd Floor, Mayula House 10H30

Attendance is highly encouraged to clarify requirements and allow for questions.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

All proposals must be physically submitted and recorded at the Department of Social Development offices, Mayula Building, Bloemfontein. The submission register must be signed as proof of submission.

ENQUIRIES

Ms. W. Direko
Community & Partnership Development
066 487 6191

CLOSING DATE
Friday 29 May 2026 (15h00)
(Late submissions will not be accepted.)

The submission of a proposal does not guarantee appointment or funding. Partnerships will be approved subject to relevance, compliance, performance considerations, and the availability of resources over the three-year period.

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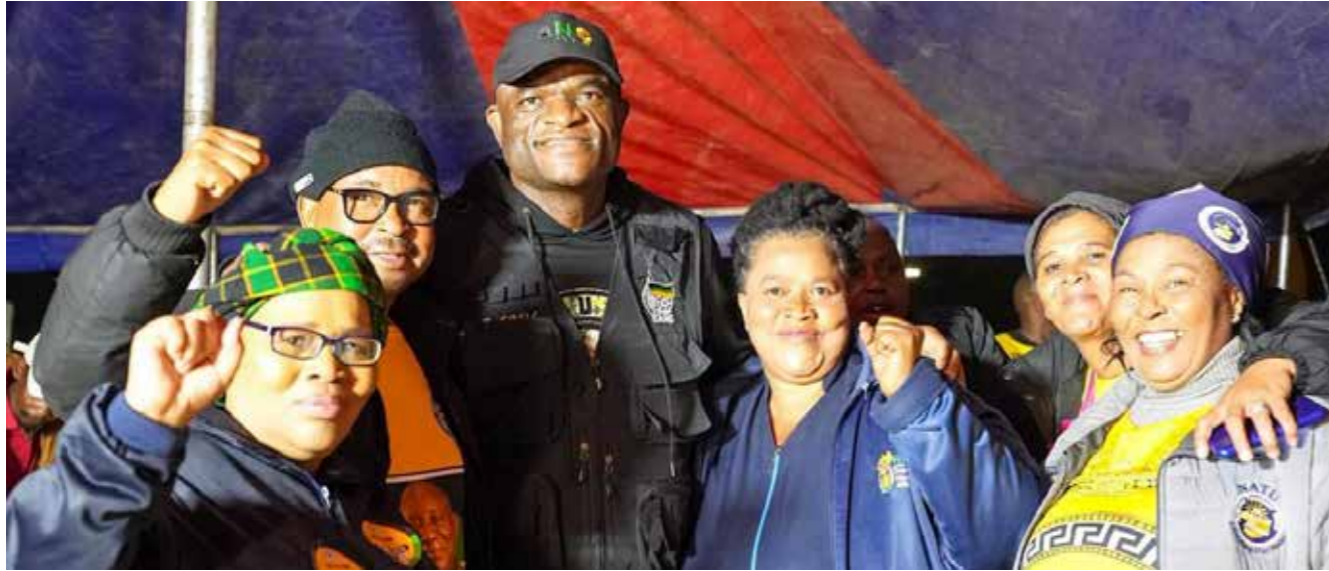
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ANC Romps home in NC and NW



The ANC under the leadership of provincial chairperson, Dr Zamani Saul, has reclaimed full control of Ward 2 in the Siyathemba Local Municipality Pictures: MMM/Facebook

The ANC has tightened its grip on key municipalities in the Northern Cape and North West, while the PA delivered a breakthrough performance by winning a DA-held ward in the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality.

In by-elections held on Wednesday, the ANC retained Ward 20 in Kanana South, Orkney, in the Matlosana Local Municipality with 81.03% of the vote, up from 72.01% in the 2021 local government elections.

The party's new councillor is Fortunate Lehlohonolo Mahogen.

The PA emerged as the official runner-up with 11%, ahead of the EFF, which slumped to 8% from 18% in 2021.

The by-election followed the death of ANC councillor Molefi Sello, who was killed after an altercation outside a tavern earlier this year.

The result confirmed the ANC's continued dominance in the gold-mining region surrounding Orkney and Klerksdorp, despite a slight drop in turnout from 39% in 2021 to 33.71%.

The PA, however, will take encouragement from overtaking the EFF in an area where it previously had limited support.

The ANC also secured a major political victory in the Siyathemba Local Municipality by wresting Ward 2 in Prieska from the Siyathemba Gemeenskap Beweging and gaining outright control of the council.

The party won 50.77% of the vote in Bonteheuwel, Prieska, defeating the newly

formed d'Bokke movement, which secured 44%.

The once-powerful Siyathemba Gemeenskap Beweging, which had stunned the ANC in 2021, collapsed to 5%.

The ANC's victory means it now holds six of the municipality's 11 seats, allowing it to govern without relying on a coalition with the SGB.

The party's new councillor is Franklin Vaughan Louw.

The by-election was triggered after former SGB councillor Ronald Februarie resigned and formed d'Bokke, contesting the seat under his new party banner.

Turnout in the ward fell from 65% in 2021 to 57.16%, but the ANC managed to reclaim both voting districts, including the decisive Omega Community Hall district.

Meanwhile, the PA scored a historic victory in Ward 15 in Rosedale, Upington, defeating both the ANC and the DA in the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality.

The by-election was triggered by the resignation of the previous DA councillor.

The PA secured 37.53% of the vote after previously obtaining just 1% in the ward in 2021.

The ANC finished second on 32%, while the DA, which had held the seat, crashed to third place with 29%.

The result handed the PA a breakthrough ward victory in Dawid Kruiper and its first councillor in the local municipality.

The party's new councillor is Christi-Ann

Ntlanganiso.

In the 2021 local government elections, the PA received only 63 votes across all 17 wards in Dawid Kruiper.

Turnout surged dramatically to 63.01%, compared with 47% in 2021.

PA leader Gayton McKenzie celebrated the result on social media, describing the victory as evidence of a political "shift" in the Northern Cape and congratulating Ntlanganiso.

"I left Upington knowing that a shift had happened. I want to thank all leaders in Northern Cape including the ones who came to help. I want to assure you that we appreciate your hard work," he said.

"Our councillor, you are kind and love people, thank you. I want to thank our voters who kept to the promise, our volunteers who stayed in position. I can only but thank God for your presence in our lives.

PA has enemies, PA has detractors, PA has people who were with us but never for us, we see them clearly now, PA is a force and I want to thank all real PA patriots," said McKenzie.

The ANC in the Northern Cape and North West also praised volunteers and party structures for securing victories in Matlosana and Siyathemba.

The next round of municipal by-elections is scheduled for 27 May, when the ANC is expected to defend seats in Evaton in Gauteng and in the village of Masuthe near Mahikeng in the North West. **-INSIDE METROS**

Mangaung bans scrap trade at landfill sites



By Bernell Simons

After years of violence, lawlessness and mounting safety concerns at landfill sites, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality has finally pulled the plug on scrap metal recycling and second-hand goods trading at all landfill sites across the metro.

The municipality confirmed this week that the sweeping ban follows growing concerns over criminal activity, weak enforcement of permit conditions and repeated violent incidents linked to scrap operations — including killings at some landfill sites.

In what is being viewed as one of the municipality's toughest interventions yet, Mangaung said scrap metal recycling and second-hand goods trading will no longer be allowed at any landfill facility within its jurisdiction.

"The Municipality has resolved that scrap metal recycling and second-hand goods dealing will no longer be permitted at any landfill sites within the Mangaung Metropolitan area," the municipality said in a statement.

For years, landfill sites across the metro have become flashpoints for illegal activity, with complaints ranging from theft, violence and turf wars to poor access control and unregulated trading.

The growing presence of scrap operations has often created dangerous conditions for waste reclaimers, municipal workers and nearby communities.

Municipal officials said the decision followed consultations with external departments and stakeholders as concerns escalated over public safety and operational control at landfill facilities.

Authorities believe the ban will help restore order at sites that have increasingly become difficult to regulate.

However, the decision does not solve the broader humanitarian and social challenges surrounding landfill sites.

Informal settlements continue to expand around several dumping grounds where families and waste reclaimers live in makeshift shelters under harsh conditions.

Many residents lack access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation and electricity. Community leaders and resi-

dents have repeatedly warned that landfill sites have become centres of desperation driven by unemployment, poverty and limited housing opportunities.

Environmental health concerns have also been raised over unsafe living conditions and long-term exposure to waste.

Reacting to the municipality's announcement, AfriForum's Christo Groenewald welcomed the move but cautioned that enforcement would be critical.

He said authorities must also confront the issue of informal settlements surrounding landfill sites.

"Regulation without relocation and proper enforcement risks shifting the problem rather than solving it," Groenewald said.

Mangaung has warned that reclaimers who fail to comply with the new directive could have their permits revoked and may be denied access to landfill sites as enforcement measures begin.

The municipality now faces pressure to ensure the ban delivers lasting change without deepening the hardship faced by vulnerable communities who depend on landfill activity for survival.

MANTSOPA



LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT
LEKGOTLA LA MOTSE

Box 64, Ladybrand, 9745
Tel: (051) 924 0654
Fax: (051) 924 0020

VACANCY INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Mantsopa Local Municipality is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer and requires the services of a suitable qualified persons with relevant experience to fill the following vacancy. Persons designated in terms of applicable legislation as historically disadvantaged individuals as well as people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Incorporating, Ladybrand (Head Office), Tweespruit, Hobhouse, Excelsior and Thaba Patchoa.

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SECTION – REVENUE

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
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POST DESIGNATION: PAYROLL CLERK

TERM OF APPOINTMENT: PERMANENT

SALARY: R 329 589.55 pa (excluding benefits)

POST LEVEL 6/4 OF GRADE 3 MUNICIPALITY

DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL SERVICES
SECTION – ROADS & STORMWATER

POST DESIGNATION: FOREMAN ROADS

DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL SERVICES
SECTION – SANITATION

POST DESIGNATION: SUPERVISOR DRIVER X1 [LADYBRAND]

DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL SERVICES
SECTION – ELECTRICITY

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DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL SERVICES
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DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL SERVICES
SECTION – WATER SERVICES

POST DESIGNATION: WATER SERVICES AUTHORITY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL SERVICES
SECTION – WATER SERVICES

POST DESIGNATION: MANAGER PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

DEPARTMENT: INFRASTRUCTURE (TECHNICAL) & COMMUNITY SERVICES

POST DESIGNATION: GENERAL WORKERS: NINETEEN (19) POSTS

DIRECTORATES: COMMUNITY SERVICES TECHNICAL SERVICES

[LADYBRAND X6] [TWEESPRUIT X2] [HOBHOUSE X3] [EXCELSIOR X4] [THABA-PATCHOA X4]

SUB DIRECTORATE:
PARKS & CEMETERIES
General worker – 2 [Ladybrand]

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
General Worker – 2 [Ladybrand]
General Worker – 1 [Hobhouse]

ROADS & STORMWATER
General worker – 3 [Ladybrand]
General worker – 1 [Tweespruit]

WATER
General worker – 2 [Ladybrand]
General worker – 3 [Thaba-Patchoa]
General Worker -1 [Tweespruit]
General Worker - 2 [Hobhouse]

SANITATION
General worker – 1 [Hobhouse]

TERM OF APPOINTMENT: PERMANENT
SALARY: R136 718.25 pa (excluding benefits)
POST LEVEL 16/3 OF GRADE 3 MUNICIPALITY

NB: The detailed information on the vacancies can be obtained from the municipal official website : www.mantsopa.co.za

Applications on the prescribed official form, with a comprehensive CV, must be submitted to: The Municipal Manager, Me MRE Mogopodi, PO Box 64, Ladybrand, or can be hand delivered or couriered to 38 Joubert Street, Ladybrand, 9745, or can be submitted to all Mantsopa Municipal Offices before the closing date.

PLEASE NOTE: Application forms are available from the municipal official website; www.mantsopa.co.za and from the switchboard office. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted. Certified copies of academic qualifications and a copy of your curriculum vitae must accompany all application forms.

NB! No political canvassing of any of the advertised positions by the applicants is advised.

If not contacted within three (3) months after the closing date, applicants should regard their applications as having been unsuccessful. The municipality reserves the right not to make any appointments, fraudulent qualifications / documentation / driver's license, will immediately disqualify any applicant. A candidate who canvasses any Councillor for preference will be disqualified from the selection process or from appointment. Municipal

Further information or inquiries are available from the Human Resources Manager, Mr. Lehlohonolo Mariti at 051 924 0654.

CLOSING DATE: 22 MAY 2026

MRE MOGOPODI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER.
MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.
38 Joubert Street.
PO Box 64.
Ladybrand
9745.
04 MAY 2026

Ramaphosa fires Social Development Minister Tolashe



President Cyril Ramaphosa has expelled embattled social development minister Sisi Tolashe. Ramaphosa's office confirmed the dismissal in a statement issued on Thursday afternoon, stating cabinet minister Sindiwe Chikunga will, in the interim, take over social development.

"President Cyril Ramaphosa has in terms of section 91(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, removed Minister Sisi Tolashe from the position of Minister of Social Development.

"In the interim, President Ramaphosa has appointed the minister in the presidency for women, youth and persons with disabilities, Sindiwe Chikunga, as the acting minister in the portfolio pending a full-time appointment in due course," said Ramaphosa's spokesperson, Vincent Magwenya.

Ramaphosa pulled the trigger after recently elected DA leader Gordin Hill-Lewis went on his social media account to call on the president to fire Tolashe.

"President Ramaphosa must immediately remove Minister Sisi Tolashe from the Government of National Unity, following serious corruption allegations against her," wrote Hill-Lewis on X.

"The GNU cannot ask South Africans to believe in reform while tolerating conduct that undermines it. While the ANC often protects compromised leaders,

the DA fights for clean government," he said.

Tolashe's troubles started following a trip to New York in March 2025, which cost the taxpayers about R3-million for a UN event.

DA, a member of the GNU, and opposition party ActionSA filed criminal complaints against Tolashe in April after she registered cars which were used by a Chinese delegation.

The DA accused Tolashe of fraud and a potential statutory offence for the registration of vehicles she and her family used and that were donated by Chinese delegation.

Both parties also filed complaints against her to the Parliament's Ethics Committee. This was after she also failed to declare the vehicles to Parliament as required by the Executive Ethics Code.

Tolashe claimed that the vehicles were intended for the ANCWL. However, it ANCWL leadership denied knowledge about the Chinese vehicles.

Tolashe had initially registered vehicles under the names of her children, with claims that she did so to protect them in case the ANC loses its assets in many of its legal troubles.

Both vehicles are worth R900 000 combined.

Tolashe did not answer her phone when called for comment. - *Sunday World*

NOTICE OF MAJOR HAZARD INSTALLATION

Notice is hereby given of the existence of a Major Hazard Installation (MHI) Nestlé (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd – Harrismith Factory located at 10 Bonnet Street, Harrismith, Free State Province.

Such notice is required by regulation 4 of the MHI Regulations promulgated on 31 January 2023 via regulation gazette number 47970.

Any interested or affected person may make representations in writing to the relevant local government or provincial director within 60 days if the installations are not acceptable to them.

A copy of the MHI risk assessment pertaining to the installations is available for that person at the above address at a time, place and in a manner which will be agreed upon between the parties.

For access to the risk assessment please contact the site on: +27 60 964 9153 - Patience Mlambo, SHE Specialist.

The site is classified as a Low Hazard Establishment.

Interested or affected parties are invited to attend a public notification meeting where the MHI Risk Assessment Report will be explained and viewed.

The Public Notification Meeting details are as follows:

- **Date:** 27 May 2026
- **Time:** 10:00
- **Venue:** 10 Bonnet Street, Harrismith, Free State Province

To confirm your attendance, please RSVP to support@mrisk.co.za

TSEBISO YA SETSI SA KOTSI E KGOLO

Ho tsebiswa ka hona hore ho teng Setsi sa Kotsi e Kgo (Major Hazard Installation - MHI), sa Nestlé (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd – Fektheri ya Harrismith, se fumanehang ho 10 Bonnet Street, Harrismith, Profensing ya Free State.

Tsebisiso ena e hloka hore ho ya ka molao wa 4 wa Melawana ya MHI e phatlaladitsweng ka la 31 Pherekong 2023 ka Gazette ya Melawana nomoro ya 47970.

Motho ofe kapa ofe ya nang le kgahleho kapa ya amehang a ka etsa ditlalebo kapa maikutlo ka lengolo ho mmuso wa lehae o amehang kapa ho motsamaisi wa profense nakong ya matsatsi a 60 haeba ditsi tsena di sa amohelehe ho yena.

Khopi ya tlhahlobo ya kotsi ya MHI e amanang le setsi sena e fumaneha bakeng sa motho eo atereseng e ka hodimo ka nako, sebakeng le ka mokgwa o tla dumellanwa pakeng tsa mahlakore ka bobedi.

Bakeng sa ho fumana tlhahlobo ya kotsi, ka kopo ikopanye le setsi ka: +27 60 964 9153 – Patience Mlambo, Setsebi sa SHE.

Sebaka sena se hlophisitswe e le Setsi sa Kotsi e Tlase.

Batho bohle ba nang le kgahleho kapa ba amehang ba memelwa ho ba teng kopanong ya tsebisiso ya setjhaba moo Tlaleho ya Tlhahlobo ya Kotsi ya MHI e tla hlalosa le ho hlalishwa.

Dintlha tsa Kopano ya Tsebisiso ya Setjhaba ke tsena:

- **Letsatsi:** 27 Mantsesane 2026
- **Nako:** 10:00
- **Sebaka:** 10 Bonnet Street, Harrismith, Profensing ya Free State

Ho netefatsa boteng ba hao, ka kopo RSVP ho: support@mrisk.co.za

NAMPO: Farmers Squeezed as Costs Bite

By Bernell Simons

Rising input costs, weak commodity prices and worsening logistics failures dominated discussions at NAMPO Harvest Day 2026, with agricultural leaders warning that mounting financial pressure on farmers is threatening profitability, food security and the future of grain production in South Africa.

Held at NAMPO Park in Bothaville under the theme "Resilience through Innovation," this year's gathering placed the economic realities of farming under sharp focus as producers, banks, government and organised agriculture called for urgent collaboration to keep the sector sustainable.

During a panel discussion titled "To Farm or Not to Farm: The Economic Reality," Grain SA chairperson Richard Krige said profitability and sustainability could not be treated as separate issues.

"We cannot separate sustainability from profitability," Krige said.

"If producers are not profitable, investment slows, succession becomes uncertain and food security is placed at risk."

Krige was joined by Hansie Viljoen, Jaco Minnaar and Japie Grobler as they unpacked the growing pressures facing grain producers.

According to Grain SA, fertiliser and fuel now account for nearly 45% of production costs on many farms, with fertiliser prices in some cases increasing by as much as 80%. The issue was also raised during a breakfast meeting involving Grain SA, the African Farmers' Association of South Africa, major agricultural banks and Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen.

Representatives from Absa Group, First National Bank, Nedbank, Standard Bank and Land Bank took part in discussions around financing pressures, debt restructuring and long-term sustainability.

Krige said weak commodity prices, high financing costs and persistent logistics inefficiencies were placing severe strain on producers.

"These realities require urgent collaboration across the value chain if we are to protect long-term food security, investment and rural economic activity," he said.

Steenhuisen assured farmers that agriculture remains a strategic priority for government, describing the sector as one of South Africa's most bankable industries.

"There is growing international demand for our agricultural products, and we are working very hard to open up those markets because that is where the premium lies for South African producers," he said.

Export competitiveness emerged as another major concern, with stakeholders warning that poor rail performance, port inefficiencies and regulatory barriers continue to undermine grain exports.

During Grain SA's strategic overview session, chief executive officer Tobias Doyer said South African agriculture must remain globally competitive through innovation and productivity improvements.

"There is only one way we remain globally competitive — and that is through better science, better technology and improved productivity," Doyer said.

Stakeholders also explored new demand opportunities beyond traditional grain markets, including livestock feed, protein production and biofuels as part of efforts to diversify revenue streams and improve long-term sustainability.

Krige highlighted Grain SA's "grain on legs" strategy, which focuses on adding value locally before grain is exported.

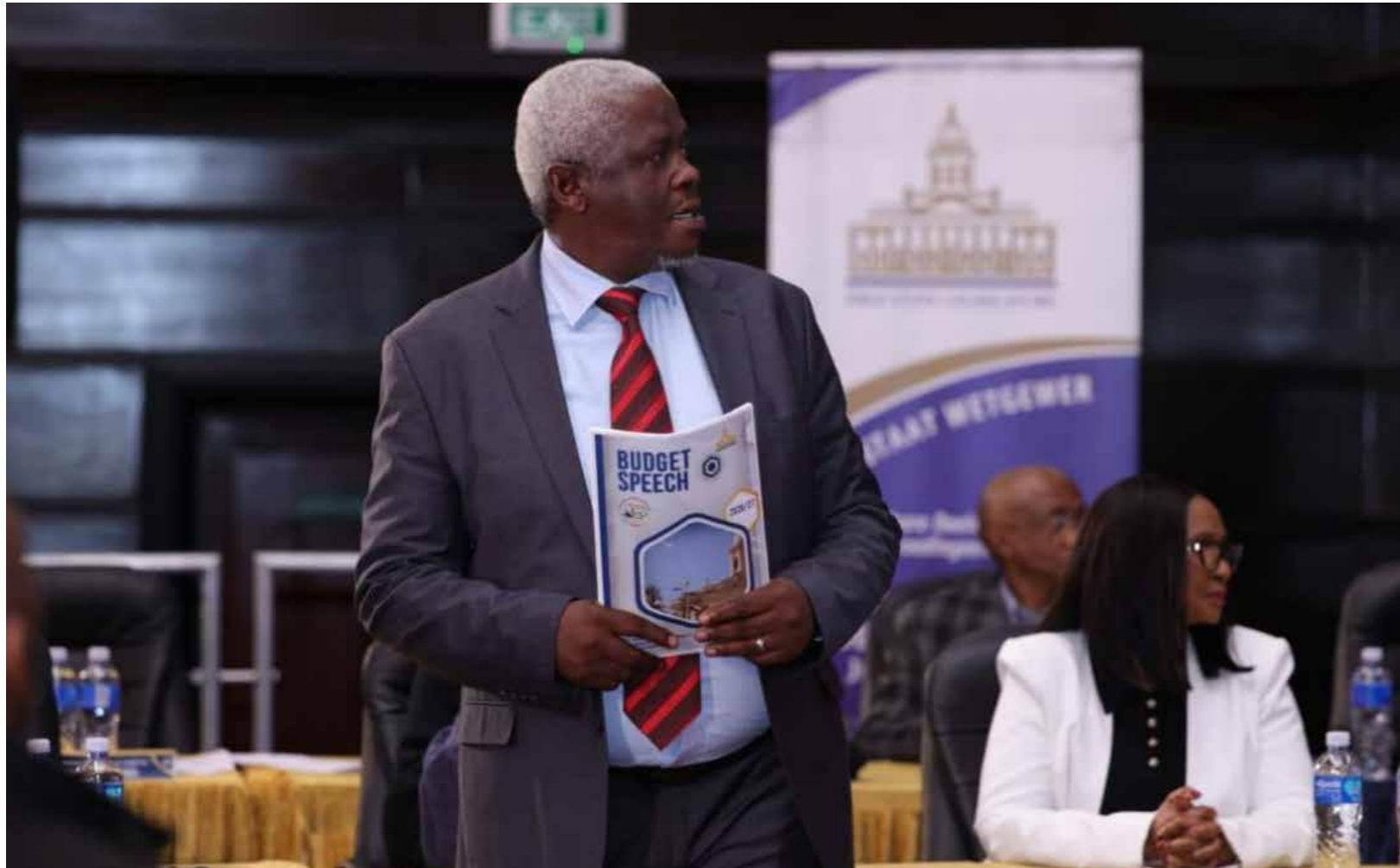
"When logistics systems are constrained, we must not only ask how to move more grain — we must ask how to move more value," he said.

Despite the challenges, the mood at NAMPO remained solutions-driven, with strong calls for cooperation between government, organised agriculture, financial institutions and the private sector.

The message from Bothaville was clear — protecting farmer profitability is critical to safeguarding South Africa's food supply, export growth and rural economy.



Dukwana sends a strong message against corruption



Speaker of the Free State Legislature Mxolisi Dukwana. Pictures: FSL/Facebook

By Bernell Simons

The Speaker of the Free State Legislature Mxolisi Dukwana, yesterday during the tabling of his R339 million budget vote warned against corruption, poor workmanship, and wasteful expenditure during the 2026/26 financial year.

Dukwana during his address said he aims to reposition the provincial legislature as a more assertive oversight institution that is focused on accountability, digitization, public participation, and an evidence-based governance institution.

He said corruption undermines service delivery in the province, and says in the upcoming financial year, the Legislature will embark on an accountability drive.

"We need to get to a point where we can account for every cent that we use and we must be able to get value for money on the things that we spend on",

Dukwana said.

During an interview with Journal News at the Bloemfontein City Hall, Dukwana after tabling his budget, said the issue is not only whether the government has enough money, but it is whether the public funds are being used properly and responsibly.

"You will never get enough budget, even at home, it only depends on how you use the money," he said.

He said that even within a constrained fiscal environment, government resources can still bring significant change if properly managed and tied directly to improving the lived experiences of residents.

He criticised the poor quality of road infrastructure works, and incomplete infrastructure projects in the health sector saying that weak accountability mechanisms force the government to repeatedly spend money fixing the same problems.

"We have seen people contractors fixing potholes,

but when it rains they are immediately washed away and open again.

"Some of these potholes can be fixed more than five times in a year and that is a serious problem," he said.

Dukwana said to curb this, as the Legislature they are intending to work with the Engineering Council of South Africa to ensure that members who conduct oversight can assess whether infrastructure projects match the quality standards and budgets that are allocated to them.

He says weak consequence management contributes to public frustration and a declining trust in institutions.

"I think people do what they want because there are no consequences. Our inaction in this field has actually increased the number of people who are doing wrong things, he said.

'You're out of order': Chaos erupts in Parliament as MK Party, EFF walk out over Ramaphosa



Chaos erupted in the National Assembly as members of the MK Party and the EFF broke into song and walked out of proceedings after demanding that motions of no confidence against President Cyril Ramaphosa over the Phala Phala scandal be prioritised before he answered oral questions.

Ramaphosa was expected to face MPs amid mounting pressure over the Phala Phala matter and broader governance concerns.

The sitting followed a Constitutional Court ruling directing Parliament to establish a process to determine whether impeachment proceedings against the president should proceed, keeping the Phala Phala farm theft scandal firmly in focus.

However, proceedings got off to a turbulent start as opposition MPs insisted the Phala Phala matter be addressed first.

MPs argued that it could not be "business as usual" while Ramaphosa faced the prospect of impeachment proceedings.

EFF MP Nontando Nolutshungu told National Assembly Speaker Thoko Didiza that the House was dominated by black South Africans who had inherited the sacrifices of the generations of 1960 and the students of 1976.

"We therefore cannot sit and listen to someone who does not respect the Constitution," she said.

The EFF called on Didiza to address the motions of no confidence.

The MK Party and the ATM both launched motions of no confidence against Ramaphosa following the Constitutional Court judgment.

ATM leader Vuyo Zungula urged Didiza to address the Phala Phala matter and acknowledge that the apex court had ruled against Ramaphosa in relation to the saga.

However, Didiza said both the motion of no confidence and the impeachment process had to follow parliamentary procedures.

Her ruling angered MPs from the MK Party and the EFF, who disrupted proceedings before eventually walking out of the National Assembly chamber.

"You're out of order," some MPs shouted during the exchanges.

Didiza warned that members continuing to disrupt proceedings would be removed from the House.

She also instructed EFF MPs who had raised their hands without being recognised to lower them.

Members of the MK Party and the EFF later broke into song before leaving the chamber ahead of Ramaphosa's oral replies.

"Honourable members, those of you who want to leave the House, can you please do so orderly?" Didiza said.

Unlike an impeachment vote, which requires a two-thirds majority in Parliament to remove a president from office, a motion of no confidence requires only a simple majority - 50% plus one vote.

The parties want any vote to be conducted by secret ballot, although Didiza must first determine whether the motions will proceed.

On Monday, Ramaphosa announced plans to chal-

lenge the Section 89 independent panel report on the Phala Phala scandal in court.

Following advice from his legal team, Ramaphosa said he would seek a judicial review of the report compiled by the panel chaired by former chief justice Sandile Ngcobo.

Last Friday, the Constitutional Court paved the way for a public impeachment inquiry into Ramaphosa's conduct in the Phala Phala saga.

On Monday, Didiza confirmed that Parliament would establish an impeachment committee to consider the Ngcobo panel's findings.

The apex court ruled that Rule 129I of the National Assembly's rules was unconstitutional and invalid. It also overturned the National Assembly's December 2022 decision not to refer the Section 89 panel report on Ramaphosa's conduct in the Phala Phala matter to an impeachment committee.

The panel found that Ramaphosa had questions to answer regarding the theft of \$580,000 hidden in a sofa at his Phala Phala farm in Limpopo in February 2020.

The Constitutional Court ordered that the report be referred to an impeachment committee.

Ramaphosa has denied any wrongdoing in relation to the scandal and maintains that the report is "flawed". He has also rejected calls from opposition parties to resign.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Didiza outlined the next steps in the National Assembly's impeachment process in line with Section 89 of the Constitution.

"Given that the impeachment committee process constitutes uncharted procedural terrain for Parliament, the Speaker this morning engaged the National Assembly Chief Whips Forum, comprising chief whips and representatives of political parties represented in the Assembly, regarding the determination for the composition of the committee," she said.

Didiza said political parties had been asked to submit the names of MPs who would serve on the committee to the National Assembly Secretariat by close of business on Friday, 22 May 2026.

In determining the committee's composition, Didiza said she considered both the constitutional principle of proportional representation and the need for inclusivity in what she described as an unprecedented parliamentary process.

"Accordingly, the determination seeks to balance traditional proportional representation with a measure of inclusivity, so as to ensure that smaller political parties - which may otherwise not be accommodated through a strict mathematical application of proportional representation - are also afforded representation and participation in the committee's work," she said. The 31-member committee will comprise representatives from the 16 political parties represented in the National Assembly.

Didiza also referred the Constitutional Court judgment to the National Assembly Subcommittee on the Review of Rules to consider amendments required to the Assembly's rules. - **JoL**

SA contains virus scare without panic

By Bernell Simons

South Africa's calm and coordinated response to two imported laboratory-confirmed Andes Hantavirus cases linked to the MV Hondius event is emerging as a powerful example of how preparedness systems can prevent isolated incidents from spiralling into public health emergencies.

Health authorities identified 101 contacts linked to the cases, traced and monitored 98 of them and found no evidence of secondary transmission within the country — a response that has drawn praise from the World Health Organization.

In an interview with Wamala Joseph Francis, Journal News explored how the WHO Strategic Toolkit for Assessing Risks (STAR) is helping countries strengthen their ability to detect, assess and respond to emerging health threats.

"STAR moves countries from improvisation to structured readiness," said Dr Wamala. "It helps governments identify priority hazards, assess the likelihood and impact of those threats, understand vulnerabilities and coping capacity, and translate those findings into practical preparedness actions before a crisis occurs." The recent Andes Hantavirus incident demonstrated that strategy in action. Rather than treating the imported infections as either routine cases or a source of panic, South African authorities responded with a targeted public health intervention.

This included activating the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre and an Incident Management Team, coordinating with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, tracing contacts, strengthening infection prevention measures, supporting case management and maintaining measured public communication.

According to Dr Wamala, the clearest signs of preparedness were early signal detection, rapid laboratory confirmation, immediate contact tracing and clear



communication.

"Guided by protocols, the system knew whom to call, which structures to activate, where to send samples and how to communicate without generating fear," he said.

"That is preparedness in practice."

He stressed that no single institution can manage a public health emergency alone, highlighting the role of national and provincial health departments, laboratories, clinicians, emergency medical services, border authorities, airlines, airports and international partners.

"If any part of this chain is unclear, delays can occur in isolation, sample transport, contact tracing or public messaging," he said. "When everyone understands their role before the first alert arrives, the response becomes faster and more effective."

The first hours after identifying a potential health

threat are often the most critical. In South Africa's case, authorities moved quickly to verify the threat, assess risk, protect healthcare workers and activate response systems — allowing testing, tracing and international communication to happen simultaneously. By 12 May 2026, authorities had identified 101 contacts and traced or monitored 98 of them without detecting any secondary transmission.

For Dr Wamala, that outcome shows preparedness investments are paying off.

"Preparedness does not eliminate risk," he said. "It enables countries to detect threats early, contain them proportionately and maintain public confidence while investigations continue."

Health authorities continue urging the public to remain vigilant and to report any illness following international travel for prompt investigation and treatment.

Journal NEWS

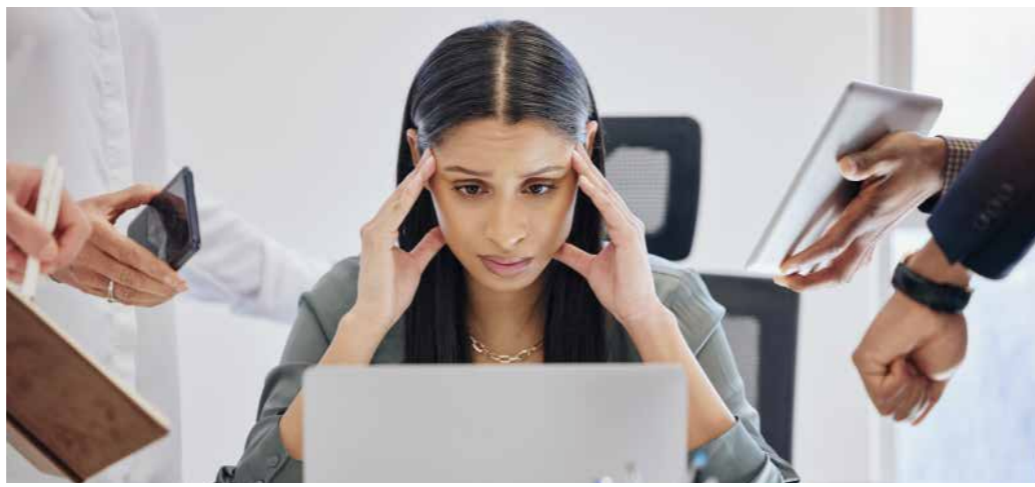
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Opinion

By Carmine Nieman,
Industrial Psychology Lecturer at the
University of the Free State



Promoting staff mental well-being during burnout periods

Burnout – a widely recognised concept – has gained attention since its inception in the 1970s. Research has shown that burnout occurs when individuals exhaust their coping resources due to work and personal life demands, resulting in decreased job performance and extreme fatigue. Further review revealed that burnout often results from overworking and striving for perfection, particularly in high-pressure environments with challenging professional relationships. Though not officially recognised in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), the literature defines burnout as a combination of emotional exhaustion, depersonalisation, and reduced personal accomplishments due to chronic work-related stress. This condition is identifiable through symptoms such as profound fatigue, loss of motivation, cynicism towards one's work, and a sense of inadequacy. Recognising burnout as a contemporary societal challenge is vital; however, in many countries, the official statistics on this topic are not even available.

According to the literature, there are two coping strategies: positive coping, involving problem-solving and constructive appraisal, and negative coping, which leans towards managing emotions and adopting less effective coping mechanisms. Research has identified a positive correlation between negative coping and burnout, contributing to the experience of burnout among staff members who are struggling to cope personally or professionally. Recent research reveals a strong link between stress and burnout, with job burnout identified as a risk factor for anxiety and stress. Thus, addressing job burnout is essential to reduce anxiety and stress symptoms, especially as we commemorate World Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mitigating the risk of burnout

Implementing early detection methods is essential to alleviate the adverse effects of burnout. Research underscores the significance of well-being in the workplace, covering emotional, psychological,

physical, and behavioural aspects, to effectively manage and prevent burnout.

Additionally, burnout has repercussions on personal life, leading to family issues, work-life conflict, and a diminished quality of life, underlining the importance of social support. Preventing and managing burnout entails both individual and organisational strategies.

While organisations bear some responsibility, it is unrealistic to expect employees to relinquish personal responsibilities entirely.

There are numerous research outcomes based on individual strategies. Individual strategies encompass role and boundary management, cognitive restructuring, time management, lifestyle balance, coping strategies, work pattern adjustments, social resource utilisation, and overall well-being and self-assessment.

Cognitive restructuring effectively prevents burn-

out by transforming negative and irrational thought patterns into positive and constructive ones. Time management and planning are core skills for managing a demanding job. Lifestyle management – the balance between work and non-work roles – is increasingly relevant. Moreover, effectively coping with stress by managing thoughts and controlling the interpretation of stressful experiences helps prevent and manage burnout symptoms.

Furthermore, changing work patterns is recommended, such as taking regular breaks and avoiding excessive overtime. Leveraging social resources, including support from supervisors, colleagues, family, and friends, is also vital to prevent burnout.

The organisation's social responsibility role

Research-based strategies on the organisational level are less than on the individual level but offer valuable advice and recommendations. Organisations can contribute to burnout prevention by

implementing and developing policies and initiatives. Organisations should focus on transitioning individuals from burnout to engagement by fostering energy, resilience, involvement in work tasks, and job success. Regular well-being assessments also provide insights into individual and organisational well-being and coping. Supportive organisational strategies to prevent burnout entail role clarification, goal setting, nurturing supportive management relationships, eliminating unnecessary stressors, and offering flexible work schedules. Other organisational strategies include supportive practices, job design, coaching, and wellness programmes such as those offered by the Division of Organisational Development and Employee Well-being.

Based on the cumulative insights, an effective approach to addressing and preventing burnout on both individual and organisational levels involves enhancing personal and workplace coping skills. This can be achieved by replacing negative thought patterns with constructive patterns using rational emotive behaviour therapy techniques.

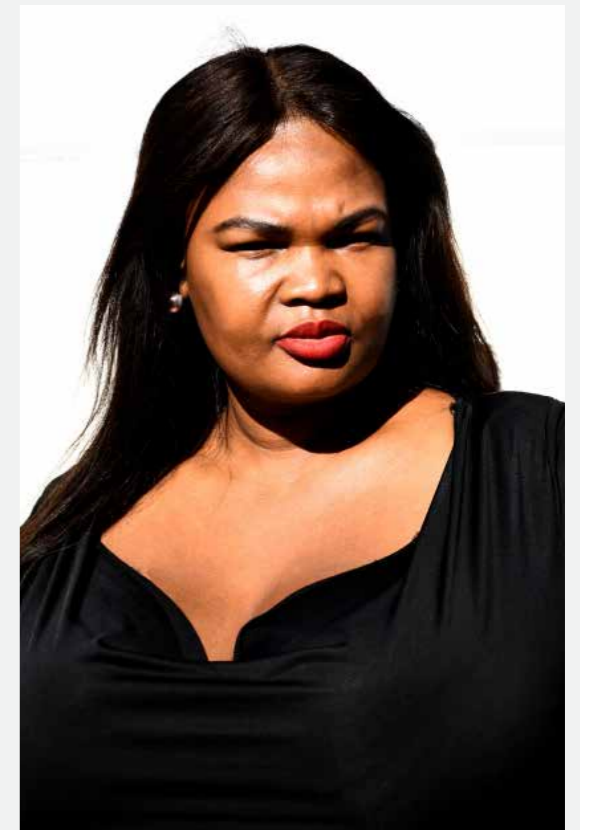
Additionally, implementing constructive thinking techniques towards a model that focuses on various aspects of work life can assist in managing and preventing burnout. Furthermore, implementing early detection strategies is pivotal in identifying potential issues before they escalate.

Ultimately, a combined treatment plan involving collaboration between the organisation, industrial psychologists, and individuals is recommended. Such an approach ensures effective burnout management, focusing on well-being and minimising the impact of burnout.

In conclusion, burnout is a significant concern with implications for individuals and organisations. Effective interventions and treatment plans are pivotal for safeguarding well-being.

Future research should continue to explore and develop treatment plans to enhance the success and well-being of individuals and organisations.

Are South Africans ready to experience another disease outbreak?



Refilwe Mochori
Editor-in-Chief

We are still trying to heal from the emotional and economic scars of a disease outbreak and now the Hantavirus is becoming a new concern.

South Africa's first encounter with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) was on 5 March 2020 when a 38-year-old male from KwaZulu-Natal who travelled to Italy with his wife tested positive upon arrival in the country.

The couple was part of a group of ten people who arrived back in the country on 1 March that year.

What followed this one incident was a worldwide trauma where death visited many of our households.

In the blink of an eye, we saw our loved ones die of the flu.

A total of 102 595 people died from COVID-19.

Over 4 million Covid-19 cases were recorded, and 3.9 million people recovered.

A strict level five lockdown that reshaped our daily lives was implemented.

Schools closed, some learners had to repeat their 2020 grades, alcohol and tobacco sales were banned, many businesses shut down and some are still suffering the effects of these lockdowns.

Travel to other provinces and countries was restricted and banned to some extent, as a result many people did not get opportunities to attend the funerals of close friends and relatives.

This continued for two years and in April 2022 the National State Disaster lifted the lockdown.

In 2023, South Africa was able to administer over 38 million vaccine doses.

Now, six years later, another threat has arrived and I am already in panic mode.

Three people have died from Hantavirus after exposure to a Dutch luxury cruise ship MV Hondius, which docked in South Africa en route to Spain.

A British tourist evacuated to Johannesburg with pneumonia-like symptoms and died in a Johannesburg hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) on 2 May.

Health authorities have since confirmed two additional cases linked to the luxury ship.

According to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), the Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a severe and sometimes fatal respiratory disease caused by Hantaviruses (a family of Hantaviridae, genus Orthohantavirus).

The institute says Hantaviruses cause two main clinical presentations, the Hemorrhagic fever renal syndrome (HFRS) and HPS, which differ by the causative virus species, geographic distribution, and clinical features.

Anyone exposed to infected rodents or their secretions or urine in endemic areas of the Americas can develop HPS.

NICD says individuals who are at higher risk include farmers, forestry workers, construction workers, and people who clean or occupy rodent-infested buildings.

While we wait for the outcome of further testing and investigations as well as the confirmation of the strain that is causing the outbreak let us reflect on what is known about the Hantavirus.

Hi everyone, my name is Refilwe Mochori lets talk about Hantavirus.

Are South Africans ready for yet another outbreak?

The Department of Health has confirmed that they have traced 91 of the 97 identified people who may have had exposure to a passenger from the MV Hondius cruise.

Although experts say that the risk of human-to-human transmission of the virus is low, this outbreak brings back bad memories because of what we experienced during the COVID-19 era.

While authorities worked very hard to fight COVID-19, and are still working very hard now in the case of hantavirus, I have some mixed feelings and cannot help but get triggered by some painful memories.

The 2020 wounds are still fresh.

The national department of health is now deeply involved in monitoring and treatment, as several infected passengers passed through Johannesburg I am now asking myself, are we truly ready for another outbreak?

Department of Health, under Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, insists that the risk of widespread transmission is low.

For some of us, reassurance is not enough.

We are still living with the trauma of 2020, we are still grieving loved ones lost, we are still grappling with the economic fallout, and carrying the psychological burden of lockdown.

I do not think that as South Africans, we are ready for another disease outbreak.

We are still healing and still in trauma.

Letter to the Editor

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



Pastor Motsamai Kareli
Empowerment Ministries International

You need to focus—and so do I!



I chose to write on this topic this week because I have discovered that the more opportunities I'm involved with, the more difficult it is to engage in focused thinking.

We must face this hard truth about success: you will not achieve it if you are not willing to dedicate focus toward it.

In other words, there is no success without focus!

Here are a few observations on how being focused can make you successful.

Focus harnesses energy toward a desired goal. Philosopher Bertrand Russell said, "To be able to concentrate for a considerable time is essential to difficult achievement." The greater the difficulty of a problem, the more you will need to focus your energy to solve it.

Focus gives ideas time to develop.

John Maxwell asks a thought provoking question, "How much thought does it take to think a thought through?" It is a bad habit to choose a good idea that hasn't been thought through. When we fail to focus on an idea long enough, we settle for something less than what it could be. The more focus you give to an idea the better it will become.

Focus brings clarity to the target.

Let me ask you a question; if you don't know where the target is, how will you ever hit it? Concentrating on the target is very difficult when you are distracted. Focus makes it possible to see the target, which is the first step to hitting the target.

Focus will take you to the next level.

Author Harry A. Overstreet said, "The immature mind hops from one thing to another; the mature mind seeks to follow through."

To get to the next level, no matter what that level is, it requires follow through. And follow

through requires focus.

There is an action plan that I refer to regularly that helps me develop and maintain focus. It's what John Maxwell calls his Focused Thinking Action Plan:

1. Set aside dedicated thinking time.

Unless you make room for focused thinking, it will not take place. You have to create it by blocking out time in your calendar, every day, for thinking. Do your best to schedule this time in your most productive time of day.

2. Create a place for focused thinking.

Now, it is very important that this place be only for you and only for thinking. This place needs to be a distraction free environment that is conducive to focused thinking – no phone, no television, no social media, and no people. Then spend your scheduled time in that place.

3. Identify your area of focus.

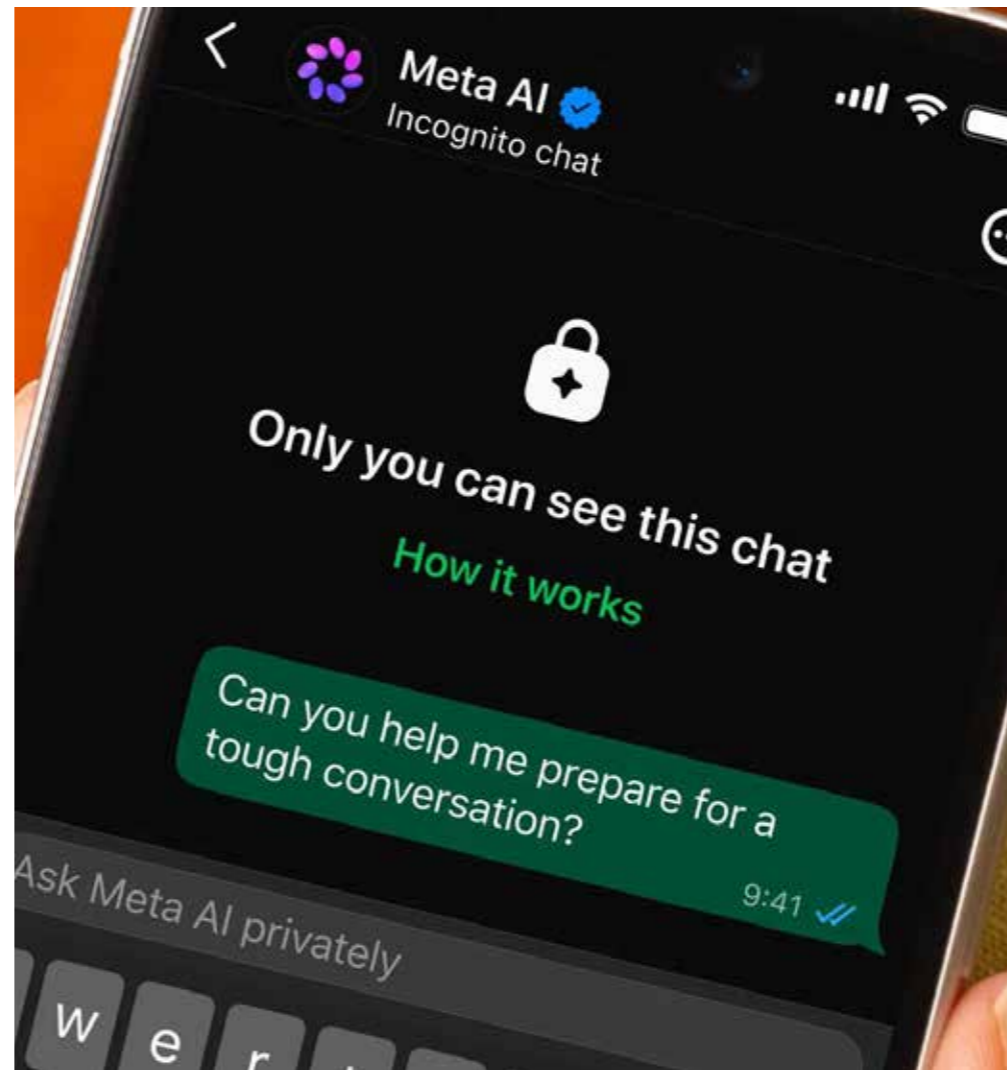
What are your dreams? What are your talents? What sense of calling do you have on your life? What decision is most important currently? When you spend some focused time thinking about these questions it will help you clarify your goals and identify your area of focus.

I want to encourage you—put the Focused Thinking Action Plan into practice. It will help you in every area of your leadership. Look at your calendar for next week. Find a free hour at a highly productive time of day and block it out. Go to your thinking place and eliminate distractions. Now identify a specific issue or opportunity that needs your attention and focus on it.

I believe Charles Dickens described a successful leader in his novel Dombey and Son, "He did each thing as if he did nothing else."

Always remember: no matter what your goals are, you need focus in order to achieve them.

Incognito Chat with Meta AI is truly private — no one can read your conversation, not even us



Chatting with AI has quickly become a critical part of how people get information and ask important questions. And many of these questions can be deeply sensitive, or include situations where people are including private financial, personal, health or work data with their questions.

Ten years ago we brought the world end-to-end encryption and now we are extending this privacy to chats with Meta AI.

Today we're launching Incognito Chat with Meta AI, a new way to have completely private conversations with AI. Built on top of our Private Processing technology, Incognito Chat lets you talk to Meta AI in a way that is invisible to anyone else.

Other apps have introduced incognito-style modes, but they can still see the questions coming in and the answers going out. Incognito Chat with Meta AI is truly private — no one can read your conversation, not even us.

Since we started exploring bringing AI to WhatsApp, we've been focused on how to deliver this power privately, at a global scale.

When you start an Incognito Chat with Meta AI, you're creating a private, temporary conversation that only you can see. Your messages are processed in a secure environment that even Meta cannot access. Your conversations are not saved and by default, your messages disappear — giving you a space to think and explore ideas without anyone watching.

We believe this private way of chatting has potential to be part of several ways people chat with AI on WhatsApp. In the coming months, we'll also introduce Side Chat protected by Private Processing. Side Chat with Meta AI will give you private help with any chat, with context of what's being discussed, without disrupting the main conversation.

We remain committed to delivering privacy for the world. Incognito Chat with Meta AI is rolling out on WhatsApp and the Meta AI app over the coming months. You can learn more about how Incognito Chat with Meta AI works. **Written by Tshego Stone.**

DJ West Spins Passion Into Rising Music Career



Bloemfontein's Self-Taught DJ on a Mission to Reach the Top. Picture: Supplied

By Bernell Simons

Self-taught, self-funded and driven by an unshakable love for music, 32-year-old DJ West is carving out his place in South Africa's competitive music scene — proving that passion, persistence and talent can still move crowds.

For more than eight years, the versatile DJ and club host has been building his brand through hard work and determination, turning what started as a passion into a growing career. Known for his laid-back personality and sharp sense of humour off stage, DJ West says everything changes the moment he steps behind the decks.

"I have a deep-rooted love for music, and that is why I respect and continuously invest in my craft," he said.

DJ West specialises in Amapiano, particularly Private Piano, while also blending 3-Step and Deep House into his sets. He credits both local and international artists he grew up listening to for shaping his sound and inspiring him to take music seriously.

Despite his progress, he says the journey has not been without obstacles. Limited bookings, underpayment by some establishments and a shortage of events in Bloemfontein have made it difficult for independent artists like him to grow.

Still, DJ West remains focused on the bigger picture. Over the next five years, he hopes to cement his name as one of South Africa's leading DJs.

Fans can catch him every weekend at Club Vegas, where he keeps dance floors alive with his energetic sound. For DJ West, music is more than a career — it is a lifelong calling.

Facebook Spotlights African Cinema in 'Made by Africa, Loved by The World' Campaign

By Refilwe Mochoari

Yesterday Meta Facebook launched the 2026 edition of its pan-African campaign, 'Made by Africa, Loved by the world' campaign.

This campaign is launched in celebration of Africa Day on May 25 where the focus this year will be on African cinema.

This sixth campaign features a five-part vodcast series that profiles five internationally acclaimed actors and filmmakers from Nigeria and South Africa and will be hosted by leading African podcasters I Said What I Said from Nigeria and Because We Said So from South Africa.

Speaking about the campaign, Communications Director, Africa, Middle East and Turkey at Meta, Kezia Anim-Addo said, "For six years, Made by Africa has spotlighted talent from across the continent making a mark globally.

"This year, film takes centre stage from Nollywood to South African cinema.

"African stories are reaching audiences worldwide, and Facebook is at the heart of how people come together around cultural moments like these Anim-Addo said.

She says this campaign backs the filmmakers driving that momentum.

Anim-Addo says featured talents are Kehinde Bankole from Nigeria. Bankole is a two-time AMVCA winner and has performed at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, voiced Disney's Iwaju, and starred in Netflix and Amazon Prime productions.

Linda Mtoba from South Africa is a digital entrepreneur and presenter, an award-winning actress known from Showmax soaps, Isibaya, The River, and BET's Queendom.

Nomzamo Mbatha from South Africa is a TIME 100 Next honouree, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, and WEF Young Global Leader. She starred in Coming to America 2 and Shaka ilembe. She is the executive producer and founder of the Nomzamo Lighthouse Foundation.

Osas Ighodaro from Nigeria is a two-time AMVCA Best Actress winner, Nigerian-American actress and producer known for The Smart Money Woman and Fela and the Kalakuta Queens, and the founder of Imuenyan Productions.

Tobi Bakre from Nigeria is an AMVCA-nominated actor known for Brotherhood and Prime Video's Gangs of Lagos. He is one of Nollywood's fastest-rising leading men.

Anim-Addo says each episode explores the talent's creative journey, global impact, and how they use Facebook to build communities and connect with fans worldwide.

"We are excited about this partnership and the chance to collaborate with Facebook in celebrating Africa Day with other brilliant African creatives. Being able to spotlight creators with global impact feels incredibly special to us and we look forward to more partnerships and opportunities to champion African creativity." - FK Abudu and Jola Ayeye, I Said What I Said

Commenting, Because We Said So duo, Zama Marubelela and Landzy Gama, added, "As young African content creators, we are passionate about celebrating African excellence, identity, and culture through honest and relatable conversations.

"Having our own space to represent Africa on a global stage while sharing authentic African stories with the world. We're excited to amplify these voices and be part of a campaign that celebrates African talent, creativity, and storytelling on a global scale, said the duo

Anim-Addo says the campaign also evolves its community challenge, #ShareYourAfrica, inviting creators across lifestyle, fashion, and dance to use Meta AI to celebrate African culture through Reels showcasing the traditions and moments shaping African identity today.

Vodcast snippets will be available on the Meta Africa Facebook page, with full episodes on the I Said

What I Said and Because We Said.



'Uthando Nesthembu' wraps up its ninth season with hour-long episode



Musa Mseleku and his family are saying goodbye to Mzansi screens after a thrilling ninth season of 'Uthando Nesthembu'.

The season debuted in February with two episodes a week on Mzansi Magic, and now it concludes with two hour-long episodes, ensuring viewers are satisfied.

Season nine kicked off with tensions running high with Musa's polygamous family, confronting the breakdowns within the family.

The wives, MaCele, MaYeni, MaNgwabe, and MaKhumalo, during the season dealt with their different challenges. The introduction of MaKhwela, also known as 'Number 5', into the family brought in another set of problems.

Musa, who is also a producer of the hit show, remarked that he was "greatly humbled by the amount of support the family receives from the public. The season was also extended with four episodes.

"Having our season extended with additional episodes makes me happy," he said.

When the show's first season aired, Musa had hoped it would be successful but did not expect it to become this big. "It is far beyond what I had thought."

Viewers are sad that another season of their favourite show is coming to an end, with some volunteering to go live to eMzambe, where the Mseleku household is, just to keep up with the show.

It is unclear whether the Mseleku family will give in to a tenth season of the show, but Mzansi Magic has announced a new reality show, "Life with Londie London", which debuts on May 21 at 8.00pm

'Podcast and Chill' goes global: MacG and Sol Phenduka touch down in Bali for Russell Simmons exclusive

From Jozi to Bali, the "Podcast and Chill Network" crew is making waves internationally.

Popular South African podcasters MacG and Sol Phenduka recently travelled to Indonesia to record a special episode with American hip hop veteran Russell Simmons in Bali.

A video shared on Instagram by Simmons featured a humorous interaction involving South African billionaire Patrice Motsepe.

In the clip, Simmons sent a shout-out to Motsepe while MacG interjected with the Sepedi greeting "Kgotsong", which translates to peace in English.

The moment left Simmons briefly confused, with the hip hop mogul initially thinking MacG was mocking him before the podcaster explained that he was greeting him respectfully.

"Wake up man. I got these n****s here, I'm taking care of them," Simmons said in the video addressed to Motsepe.

Simmons later reflected on the experience in an Instagram post, praising the South African podcaster crew.

"The biggest podcaster The great MacG brought his whole crew ALL OF SOUTH AFRICA to tape with me.

"We had a great time we talked about everything



from hip hop yesterday and today, comedy yesterday and today to the pitfalls of economic and social integration Lots of in depth discussion with these fun crazy people, he wrote.

The clip quickly went viral on social media, sparking widespread reactions online.

Phenduka also documented the Bali trip on Instagram, sharing his experience with Simmons at the Gdas Bali Health and Wellness Resort.

The broadcaster posted a selfie with the music mogul and jokingly promised to improve his fitness. Simmons has been living permanently in Bali,

where he has embraced a lifestyle centred on yoga, meditation and wellness.

The music executive frequently shares snippets of his daily routines and spiritual journey on Instagram.

The Def Jam co-founder reportedly relocated to Bali following multiple sexual assault allegations made against him over the years, all of which he has denied.

He has since obtained a retirement visa in Indonesia. Earlier this year, Simmons's daughter, Aoki Lee Simmons, also made headlines after revealing that she had decided to move to Bali.

Karabo Ntshweng 5FM move from PM to AM



By Refilwe Mochoari

Weekday mid-mornings will never be the same with the arrival of celebrated broadcaster, media personality, child star, and content creator, Karabo Ntshweng who has embarked on an exciting transition in her radio career by moving from nighttime to daytime radio.

The new show, '5 Mid Mornings with Karabo' airs on 5FM as part of the radio station's 2026 programme line-up marks a significant milestone in Ntshweng's journey in the media industry.

Broadcasting weekdays from 9 – 12 mid-mornings, the show will feature a blend of music, conversation, and high-energy audience interaction, perfectly matching the fast-paced lives of young professionals and students navigating modern life.

The show offers a fresh and relatable voice, balancing themes of ambition, wellness, career growth, and active social living, while staying attuned to current cultural trends and events which aims to create a space grounded in everyday experiences and honest conversations, making listeners feel seen, heard, and involved with the right amount of fun, energy, and personality.

Ntshweng says this chapter of her life feels aligned with where she is in her life and career.

"Mid-mornings are such an essential part of people's day, whether you are working, studying, figuring things out, or just taking a breather, I love being part of that.

"Music plays a huge role in what I do, and this show will be the soundtrack to your day, whether you are fully engaged or just enjoying the vibe.

"It's about reflecting real life as it unfolds", she said.

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STRAMPE DU PLESSIS INC.
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Dated at Bloemfontein this 14 day of May 2026.

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HEALTH

Aurora, Bloemcare join forces to tackle mental health and addiction

By Matshidiso Selebeleng

Aurora Addiction Recovery Centre and Bloemcare Psychiatric Hospital have merged forces to strengthen collaboration in the treatment of individuals facing both mental health disorders and substance use challenges.

Bloemcare Psychiatric Hospital helps patients who struggle with mental health while Aurora Addiction Recovery Centre is the only inpatient rehabilitation facility in the region registered with the Department of Social Development.

The two stakeholders launched a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Friday at Bloemcare Psychiatric Hospital where they emphasised that the partnership brings two leaders in their respective fields, united by a shared commitment to improving patient outcomes through integrated, multidisciplinary care.

“The agreement recognize the growing need to address mental health and substance use disorders not as separate conditions, but requiring a coordinated clinical and therapeutic approach,” said Bloemcare manager Barbara Steenkamp

Steenkamp says the collaboration comes at a time when the country is faced with the pandemic of substance abuse and mental health issues and stands as a reminder that they are not alone.

Steenkamp also says they will now pave the way in educating the public about the need to be aware that these two issues at some point correlate.

She says research indicates that the current clinical experience shows that more than 70% of individ-



uals seeking treatment for either substance abuse or mental health conditions present with a dual diagnosis.

Director at Aurora Centre, Marietjie Landsberg says the primary objective of this agreement is to deliver professional, ethical, and evidence-based services that improve recovery outcomes and support long-term wellbeing.

Landsberg says the centre plays a critical role in this collaboration as the only inpatient rehabilitation facility in the region registered with the Department

of Social Development to provide non-acute medical detoxification for substance users.

“This specialised service will significantly support the Multidisciplinary team at Bloemcare Psychiatric Hospital, registered with the Department of Health, enabling more effective stabilisation and ongoing treatment of patients with psychiatric needs.

“By working together, we can ensure that patients receive integrated care that addresses both their mental health and substance use challenges in a meaningful and sustainable way,” Landsberg said.

FASHION

Older generation revives forgotten customs

By JN Reporter

The elderly members of Iphahamiseng Bagolo from Bloemfontein on Wednesday 13 May brought history back to life during a joyful social gathering at Urth Restaurant.

The organisation’s gogos and elderly members gathered for a special day of socialising, laughter and celebration while proudly dressed in beautiful old-fashioned attire dating back to the 1600s and 1900s.

The event became a colourful showcase of history and culture as the elderly women walked proudly in their vintage dresses and traditional garments.

Among the standout attendees was Kedibbone Moeti, who wore the oldest attire of the day, a remarkable Voortrekker dress with a traditional Kappie hat.

According to Moeti, the dress design dates back more than 300 years and was worn by settler women who arrived in South Africa during the 1700s.

Moeti, who is widely known in Mangaung for her passion for historical clothing and wisdom, explained the uniqueness of the outfit.

She said the dress can be worn in both summer and winter by adjusting the material inside the garment.



“Everyone will be surprised that the dress you wear in summer is the same one you can wear in winter because the cloth that you add is inside,” Moeti said.

The outing allowed members of Iphahamiseng

Bagolo to relax, bond and celebrate their love for heritage and tradition. The gogos expressed great joy after the event, saying they enjoyed every moment together and had fun while shining proudly in their elegant old attires.

FOOD Recipes

Slow cooker chilli con carne

PREPARE less than 30 mins **Try it with soured cream, fluffy rice and a scoop of guacamole.**

cook over 2 hours

Serve Serves 6

Dietary Egg-free Nut-free



This slow cooker chilli recipe has a little bit of chocolate for a richness. It uses beef brisket, but you can also use braising steak or even beef mince if that’s what you have. Try it with soured cream, fluffy rice and a scoop of guacamole.

Ingredients:

- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 red pepper, deseeded and thickly sliced
- small bunch fresh coriander, stalks finely chopped
- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- 500g/1lb 2oz beef brisket, trimmed of excess fat and cut into matchbox-size pieces
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 fat garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 2 tsp hot chilli powder
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp tomato purée
- 400g/14oz can chopped tomatoes
- 300ml/½ pint hot beef stock
- 2 x 400g/14oz can red kidney beans in water, rinsed and drained
- 1 cube good quality dark chocolate, minimum 70% cocoa solids

Method

- Place the onion, red pepper and coriander stalks into a slow cooker.
- Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan, season the beef with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then fry in two batches until golden-brown, transferring to the slow cooker when ready.
- Add the garlic, spices and oregano to the pan juices and fry for one minute until fragrant. Stir in the tomato purée, tomatoes and stock then bring to a boil. Pour the hot sauce over the beef in the slow cooker, then cover with a lid and cook on low for seven hours. Stir in the beans, then cook the chilli for an hour more until the meat is very tender.
- Pop the chocolate into the chilli, let it melt, then stir. Season the chilli to your taste, then scatter with the coriander and serve with rice or cornbread.

Off-road market shifts from toughness to lifestyle

As technology and travel-focused design reshape SUVs, reliability remains the deciding factor for South African buyers



Elements ranging from camping equipment to wearable tech that can interact with the vehicle itself are increasingly being considered at vehicle design stage. Picture: Supplied

If there is one segment of the automotive market that has traditionally moved at its own pace, it is the off-road category. Not because it resists innovation – but because it prioritises reliability above all else.

In South Africa, off-roading is closely tied to practicality. Long distances, varied terrain, and limited infrastructure in certain regions means that vehicles are often expected to perform consistently under demanding conditions.

In that context, trust becomes a defining factor in purchase decisions, which is why the current wave of innovation raises a more fundamental question.

As new technologies, design philosophies, and pricing models begin to influence the broader market, to what extent will those changes filter into the off-road segment?

Manufacturers such as Jetour are beginning to explore this space with a different perspective. The approach combines traditional SUV capability with more modern elements – from enhanced in-cab technology to updated design language – while maintaining a focus on accessibility.

Advanced technology
At the centre of that approach is a deliberate positioning of technology.

“Technology in our vehicles is designed to support capability, not replace it,” says Ke Chuandeng, president of Jetour International.

“It should make off-road driving easier, more controlled, and more accessible.”

While there is clear interest in more advanced features, the core expectations of an off-road vehicle

between automotive and consumer tech. It is a different way of thinking about off-road ownership.

“Our approach is to combine strong mechanical capability with modern features, so customers don’t have to choose between the two,” says Chuandeng.

In practical terms, this begins to align with how many off-road vehicles are already used in markets like South Africa – not just for driving, but for extended travel, camping, and overlanding.

The difference is that these elements are increasingly being considered at the design stage, rather than added as aftermarket options.

Charging capability now becomes part of that equation.

As vehicles incorporate more electronic systems – and, in some cases, hybrid or electrified components – the ability to power external devices, from camping equipment to portable accessories, becomes a functional advantage rather than a novelty. For a segment built on self-sufficiency, that capability is clearly relevant.

The fundamentals however remain unchanged because reliability is still non-negotiable in this segment.

“We recognise that off-road customers prioritise reliability and real-world usability. Any new technology has to meet those expectations first,” says Chuandeng.

This is where the tension becomes most visible.

On one hand, innovation is expanding what vehicles are capable of – both on and off the road. On the other hand, the environments in which off-road



The future isn’t just about where a vehicle can go – it’s about ‘how much more it enables you to do when you get there’. Picture: Supplied

remain largely unchanged. Capability, durability, and ease of use continue to sit at the centre of the value proposition.

What appears to be emerging is not a wholesale shift, but a gradual evolution.

For example, advancements in traction control systems, suspension technology, and driver-assist features are increasingly integrated in ways that enhance rather than replace traditional capability.

In many cases, these technologies are designed to make off-roading more accessible – particularly for drivers who may be newer to the segment.

“With intelligent systems, even less experienced drivers can handle more challenging terrain with confidence. That’s an important part of how the segment can evolve,” says Chuandeng.

But the transition is not only happening inside the vehicle. It is also happening around it. One of the more notable shifts from newer entrants is a move to position the vehicle within a broader lifestyle ecosystem.

That positioning is also beginning to take shape in the product pipeline.

Models such as the upcoming F700 pick-up and G700 SUV point to a more deliberate push into the off-road and lifestyle segment – vehicles designed not only for capability, but for extended use cases that align with how consumers are increasingly engaging with their vehicles.

In that sense, these are not simply new models. They are expressions of a broader philosophy – one that views the vehicle as a platform for travel, utility, and experience.

Travel+ culture

The idea is simple: the vehicle becomes a platform for travel, not just transport – shifting from building for terrain to building for experience.

That includes integrated accessories and use-case extensions, from camping equipment and modular storage solutions to wearable technology that can interact with the vehicle itself.

In some instances, functionality extends to allowing drivers to control certain vehicle features remotely via connected devices, blurring the line be-

vehicles operate continue to demand simplicity, durability, and resilience.

Electrification adds another layer of complexity to the conversation.

While hybrid systems may offer a transitional pathway, fully electric off-roading still faces practical considerations – particularly regarding range and charging infrastructure in remote areas. As a result, the transition is unlikely to be uniform across all use cases.

Instead, what is emerging is a more measured progression that reflects the realities of the segment.

“The transition in this segment will take time. It’s not about replacing what works, but improving it step by step,” adds Chuandeng.

That step-by-step approach reflects a broader understanding of the market. Rather than forcing change, manufacturers are increasingly introducing it incrementally – allowing consumers to adapt while maintaining the core attributes that define the segment.

In that context, lifestyle integration may prove to be one of the more effective entry points.

Drivers may be slower to adopt entirely new drivetrains or systems, but are often more open to enhancements that improve the overall experience – whether that is convenience, comfort, or the ability to extend time spent off the grid.

“As customer expectations evolve, we believe the segment will evolve with them – but always with capability at the centre,” says Chuandeng.

So, is the off-road market ready to transition? The answer is not a definitive yes or no. It is already beginning to adapt – but in a way that reflects the realities of how these vehicles are used. The shift may not be driven purely by technology. It may be driven by lifestyle.

And in that sense, the transition is less about replacing what has come before and more about expanding what the off-road experience can become.

As Chuandeng says: “The future of off-road isn’t just about where a vehicle can go – it’s about how much more it enables you to do when you get there.”

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Three points away ... Orlando Pirates may be crowned Betway Premiership champions this weekend should they win against Durban City Picture: Orlando Pirate

Bucs On the Cusp of Glory

Pirates set to end their 14-year wait for league glory, while denying Sundowns their ninth successive title

By Mpho Sekharume

The black and white half of Soweto stands on the precipice of a historic celebration that has been over a decade in the making. Orlando Pirates are now a mere three points away from clinching the Betway Premiership title, needing just one victory from their final two fixtures to secure the trophy.

Pirates host Durban City in a crucial Betway Premiership Round 29 match at the sold-out Orlando Amstel Arena in Soweto on Saturday, 16 May 2026 - a match that can potentially be their crowning moment which will end a gruelling 14-year league drought for the Sea Robbers.

Since their last triumph in the 2011/2012 season, the Buccaneers have waited through years of frustration and near-misses for this specific opportunity to reclaim domestic league dominance.

"It is in our hands now, and the players understand the magnitude of the task ahead," stated head coach, Abdeslam Ouaddou, in a pre-match

press conference ahead of the Durban City clash tomorrow.

The stakes are heightened by the identity of the team they are set to replace at the summit of South African football.

By claiming the title, Pirates will officially deny Mamelodi Sundowns a ninth successive league crown - halting a period of dominance that many believed was unbreakable, up until now.

The Brazilians have won the league for eight consecutive seasons on the trot, creating a monopoly that has often left the rest of the league fighting for second place. However, recent stumbles by the defending champions have turned the tide, allowing the Buccaneers to seize total control of the title race.

Pirates have two fixtures remaining, while Sundowns have already played all their games.

A win by any goal margin in any of their remaining two matches - against City tomorrow and Orbit College on 23 May 2026 - will be sufficient to finalise the deal and ignite celebrations across the

country. Even playing to a stalemate in both fixtures would suffice.

The permutations are simple, yet the psychological weight of crossing the finish line remains the greatest hurdle for the Soweto giants.

"We cannot afford to look at the trophy yet; we must focus on the 90 minutes in front of us," Ouaddou cautioned.

However, the desire to wrap up the campaign early and avoid a final-day nervous breakdown is palpable within the Bucs camp. The players are fully aware that they are not just playing for three points, but for a place in the history books of the club.

Ending the dominance of the Chloorkop-based outfit would signal a new era for the Betway Premiership and validate the long-term project currently underway at Pirates.

The Orlando Amstel Arena is expected to be a cauldron of emotion as fans prepare to witness what could be the most significant shift in the domestic hierarchy in modern history.

Williams' Throne Threatened by Chaine, Petersen

By Mpho Sekharume

The undisputed reign of Ronwen Williams as South Africa's premier goalkeeper is under immediate threat following a series of high-profile blunders that have likely cost Mamelodi Sundowns the league title.

With the World Cup only a month away, the sudden decline of the national captain - probably due to fatigue - has opened the door for Orlando Pirates' Siphon Chaine and Kaizer Chiefs' Brandon Petersen to hijack the Bafana Bafana starting spot.

While Williams' form has hit a catastrophic low, Siphon Chaine has become the league's most consistent performer, providing a composed presence for Orlando Pirates that Williams currently lacks. This season, Chaine made premiership history by securing his 19th clean sheet against Magesi FC - surpassing Ronwen Williams' previous record of 18 shutouts. Most notably, he achieved this milestone with two games to spare, having conceded only 12 goals in 28 matches.

Simultaneously, Brandon Petersen has revitalised his career at Kaizer Chiefs, earning a new contract through sharp reflexes and the kind of reliability that now makes him a massive contender for the national team's plane.

Former Chiefs stalwart

turned football commentator, Junior Khanye, highlighted Williams' sudden drop in confidence in a recent interview with iDiski Times.

"Goalkeeper Ronwen Williams, I think he is enduring one of his worst performances now," noted Khanye.

The shift in momentum suggests that Hugo Broos can no longer treat Williams as an automatic selection, especially with the domestic performances of Chaine and Petersen providing a stark contrast in quality.

These two challengers are not just competing for a squad place but are actively campaigning to be the country's first choice when the global showpiece kicks off next month.

"I'd have doubts about taking Ronwen if I were the coach, let me put it that way, it would be difficult to take him," Khanye continued.

Despite the intense scrutiny, Williams has one final lifeline to salvage his reputation and secure his reign through the upcoming CAF Champions League final. A commanding performance over the two-legged tie would allow him to demonstrate the big-game temperament required to lead the national side on the world stage.

Should he fail to find his form in the continental final, the pressure to start either the surging Chaine or the rejuvenated Petersen will become impossible for the national selectors to ignore.

The undisputed number one narrative is diminishing, leaving Williams to fight for his status in the final weeks of the season.

The coming weeks will determine if Williams arrives at the World Cup as the captain and leader of the nation or merely as a backup to the rising stars of the Soweto giants.



PSL 2025/2026				
POS	TEAMS	P	W	PTS
1	Mamelodi Sundowns	30	20	68
2	Orlando Pirates	28	20	65
3	Kaizer Chiefs	28	14	51
4	AmaZulu FC	28	12	44
5	Sekhukhune United	28	11	42
6	Polokwane City	29	9	39
7	Durban City	28	10	38
8	Golden Arrows	28	10	37
9	Siwelele FC	28	7	33
10	Stellenbosch FC	28	8	33
11	Richards Bay	28	7	33
12	TS Galaxy	29	8	31
13	Chippa United	28	5	25
14	Orbit College FC	28	6	24
15	Marumo Gallants	28	4	23
16	Magesi FC	28	4	21

Premier League 2025/2026				
CLUB	P	W	PTS	
1	Arsenal	36	24	79
2	Man City	36	23	77
3	Man Utd	36	18	65
4	Liverpool	36	17	59
5	Aston Villa	36	17	59
6	Bournemouth	36	13	55
7	Brighton	36	14	53
8	Brentford	36	14	51
9	Chelsea	36	13	49
10	Everton	36	13	49
11	Fulham	36	14	48
12	Sunderland	36	12	48
13	Newcastle	36	13	46
14	Leeds	36	10	44
15	Coventry	36	11	44
16	Nottingham Forest F.C.	36	11	43

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