

The Weekly

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NOT IN MY NAME: MAYOR

- I've high regard for President Ramaphosa
- Makhalema willing to uphold ANC policies

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Dihlabeng Municipality Mayor Lindiwe Makhalema who is in the eye of a social media storm says she would never disparage the good name of President Cyril Ramaphosa or his office.

Makhalema said as a disciplined African National Congress (ANC) cadre, she will always be willing to uphold party policies and constitution, including respecting its leaders and ideals.

The mayor has been under attack after a posting under her name on social media Facebook called President Cyril Ramaphosa a "sellout" during a discussion amongst ANC members.

Responding to a question posed by fellow party members in a group on social media recently on who the biggest "stinking sellout" is, Makhalema 'allegedly' named Ramaphosa.

However, in an interview with *The Weekly* on Wednesday, Makhalema distanced herself from the remarks, saying her phone had been hacked and used to post the comments.

"I would never do such a thing . . . describing the President as a sellout. I'm a disciplined cadre who respects President Ramaphosa as the elected leader of the movement, the ANC itself, and the people of South Africa," she noted.

The mayor explained this was not the first time her phone had been tampered with and used, and she is not taking it lightly.

"This is not consistent with my previous posts," she pointed out.

Makhalema, who said she would be happy, if given an opportunity, to meet President Ramaphosa to apologise personally for the posting, noted she fully rallies behind him as leader of the country and the ruling party.

She said she was also working hard to implement the resolutions of the ANC at the 54th national policy and elective conference in

Nasrec, Gauteng in December to promote unity and solidarity in the party at all levels.

"The party is preaching the need to unite our members at all levels and I would not go against the grain and act otherwise . . . by attacking my leaders, including the President, whom I've high regard for," the mayor said.

"As an informed leader of the ANC, if I had any issues with the party's leadership I would raise them within ANC internal structures and processes, not splash them all over the media.

"That's not ANC tradition," she added.

In a statement, ANC national spokesperson Pule Mabe said the party was extremely disturbed by the recent increase in insults towards its leaders, particularly the president.

"The African National Congress condemns in the strongest terms insults directed at the person of the President, Cde Cyril Ramaphosa, by ANC leaders as well as members on social media," Mabe noted.

He said the ANC National Executive

Committee recently adopted a social media policy that moves from a premise that all party structures and members will operate within the discipline and policies of the organisation in expressing and enjoying freedom of expression.

"The policy prescribes that any social media posting must be legal, ethical and respectful at all times and prohibits members from utilising inflammatory language."

The ANC added: "We therefore find the recent upsurge in insults towards our leadership, particularly the president, extremely disturbing and view them in serious light. The use of social media platforms should at all times be in line with the ANC Constitution and Code of Conduct and seek to advance debates and discussions in a rational and responsible manner.

"To this end, we have impressed upon the Gauteng and Free State Provincial Executive Committees to institute disciplinary processes against the instigators of disunity within the organisation, without delay," its statement said.

Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela said the disrespect of leaders in the party would not be tolerated at all costs.

Free State ANC provincial spokesperson Thabo Meeko said the party was still talking to Makhalema.

"Our officials are proceeding to engage with the mayor. Her social media posting was unfortunate and reckless," he said, adding the province would not defy the ANC national office.

Makhalema told *The Weekly* she was willing to co-operate with the ANC and subject herself to any process that would help her clear her name.

ANC members from across the country have in the past used social media to castigate and critic party leaders including former President Jacob Zuma and the secretary general, Dr Ace Magashule, who was also attacked on the same media platform.



Clearing her name. . . Dihlabeng Municipality Mayor Lindiwe Makhalema



Three life terms . . . Axe murderer Henri van Breda

Van Breda gets three life terms for murder

Axe murderer Henri van Breda has been sentenced to three life sentences for the murder of three of his family members, 15 years for the attempted murder of his sister, and one year for obstructing the course of justice.

The sentences will run concurrently. Shortly after sentencing yesterday, Van Breda indicated he would appeal his conviction and sentences. A date was set down for June 27.

Judge Siraj Desai said: "These attacks display a high level of innate cruelty and an almost unprecedented disregard for the welfare of one's own family, one's parents and siblings. Each murderous attack upon a family member

constitutes a very serious crime, warranting the severest penalty possible.

"Viewing all these acts cumulatively, it must rank extremely high on the ladder of serious crime," he noted.

He also said no argument had been advanced to mitigate the impact of the crime.

"The violence was excessive and gratuitous. We have no explanation from you. No substantial and compelling circumstances have been placed before us. There appeared to be none," Desai said.

Van Breda was last month found guilty of murdering his parents and brother, attempting to kill his sister and obstructing the course of

justice.

Desai had listened to arguments from the State and defence in mitigation and aggravation on Tuesday during sentencing proceedings.

He said he considered the crimes to have been premeditated, as Van Breda would have had to arm himself before bludgeoning Rudi, Martin and Teresa to death and trying to murder Marli. Premeditated murder carries a prescribed sentence of life imprisonment.

Prosecutor Susan Galloway had argued that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances which would warrant deviating from the prescribed minimum sentence.

Van Breda showed no remorse, Galloway had insisted, and Marli had survived because of a miracle, not because of mercy shown by her brother.

There was no prescribed sentence for attempted murder and the State argued that a sentence similar to the one for his parents' and brother's murders be handed down for the attack on Marli as it was committed during the same incident with the same weapon and intent.

Defence lawyer advocate Pieter Botha said his client had no previous convictions and had been young at the time of the brutal killings.

Van Breda maintains his innocence. -News24



No work no pay . . . Public servants and administration Minister Ayanda Dlodlo

Govt strikers ruled offside

Government employees who strike on Monday will do so without pay, says public servants and administration Minister Ayanda Dlodlo.

The Public Servants Administration (PSA), representing over 240,000 government employees, says its members will go on strike on Monday after rejecting government's latest wage increase deal.

The deal has been signed by some 48 percent of all unions, but the PSA says it is not satisfied, eight months after the start of negotiations.

Dlodlo said the PSA's decision to strike violates bargaining council rules. The PSA served notice of their intention to strike on Monday.

She said the "no-work-no-pay" policy will be applied to those who want to join the strike.

In what the PSA has reportedly called a "Day of Rage", the union says its strike will also extend to the South African Social Services Agency (Sassa), according to Fin24. About 5,000 of its members reportedly work at Sassa.

Director in charge of collective bargaining at the department Letsatsi Modise told Fin24 that the strike would be unprotected, but PSA general secretary Tahir Maepa reportedly disagreed.

The PSA wants a 12 percent increase for its members, while the employer is offering seven percent.

PSA general manager Ivan Fredericks reportedly said the PSA had avoided serving notice on Sassa of its intention to strike because it was aware that the strike would have implications for poor and vulnerable people. However, it ultimately did so when several attempts to talk to the minister of social development failed.

Maepa told eNCA that essential services like doctors and nurses will not be impacted by the strike. However, borders, courts and the water and sanitation department will be affected. -HuffPost

Mangaung working on audit outcomes

- Audit action plan approved
- Tariffs increase
- More pit toilets to be eradicated

By: Martin Makoni

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality has come up with a special plan to address its deteriorating financial systems which saw last year's audit outcome regressing to a qualified opinion.

Presenting her 2018/19 budget for the municipality last week, Executive Mayor Councillor Olly Mlamleli said the drop in the audit result was unfortunate and council had put in place measures to closely monitor operations which are expected to speedily improve the situation.

"It is disappointing that our audit outcome for the 2016/17 financial year regressed to a qualified opinion," said Mlamleli.

"To rectify this, the council has approved an audit action plan that is monitored on a monthly basis," she added.

Some of the key financial recovery plan processes include: monitoring by the Executive Management Team (EMT) and reporting to the Council on a quarterly basis; National Treasury playing an advisory role on the plan including areas of disagreement between the metro and the Office of the Auditor General on certain audit matters; filling of critical vacant positions in the Budget and Treasury Office, Asset Management and Financial Accounting sub-departments; ensuring consistency regarding application and enforcement of compliance to the Supply Chain Management Policy in the procurement of goods and services.

The metro also plans to develop procedure manuals affecting the Annual Financial Statements as well as updated internal controls and manuals to better manage asset register, especially as it relates to water meters.

The Auditor General, Kimi Makwetu, said in his latest report that most municipalities in the country had regressed in their audit outcomes mainly due to a lack of decisive leadership to address the lack of accountability by ensuring consequences against those who flouted basic processes that hampered effective municipal governance.

Makwetu also pointed to weaknesses in internal controls as one of the main reasons for the slump.

Mangaung expects to collect revenue amounting to about R7.3 billion in the 2018/2019, including capital grants, mainly the Urban Settlement Development Grant.

Mlamleli said the city will intensify the installation of automated pre-paid meters to reduce non-revenue water and improve revenue collection during the course of the new financial



Mangaung Executive Mayor... Presenting the 2018/19 Budget last week

year which starts on July 1, in the prioritised areas including schools, churches, indigent customers, defaulting customers and councillors' homes.

Tariffs for Assessments Rates are set to go up by seven percent across the board while sewerage tariffs will be increased by 8.30 percent on average for both residential and non-residential in 2018/19 Financial Year and by 7.6 percent and 7.9 percent for the two outer years respectively.

Water tariffs will be increased by 11.65 percent for 2018/19 with a basic charge of R27.60 per month for properties with a market value above R 80 000. Electricity tariffs will be increased by 6.84 percent on average for the 2018/19 financial year. Other general tariffs will be hiked by an

average of 10 percent Refuse removal tariffs will be increased by 10.83 percent across the board

"Regarding indigents, prepaid water meters will be installed for all registered indigents to ensure that anyone going beyond 10 kilolitres, pays for such consumption, and this will further inspire us to act accordingly where there are water leakages," said the mayor.

All changes are effective at the beginning of next month.

The social package for indigent households covers 100 percent rebate on rates and taxes; 50 kilo watts of free electricity; 10 kilolitres of free water; free refuse removal; and free sanitation.

Mlamleli noted the city will be spending

approximately R1.17 billion over the next three years on bulk sanitation infrastructure and corresponding water borne sewer connections in Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, Thaba Nchu and Wepener.

"The city is of a firm belief that sanitation is at the heart of human dignity and central to the creation of conditions that are consistent with our determination to provide housing security and comfort. In order to restore the dignity and humanity of our community, the city has embarked on an aggressive drive to remove conditions that perpetuate the humiliation of our people."



To pay more . . . Passengers using Interstate Bus Lines will have to fork out more starting from July 1

Interstate fares up

By: Martin Makoni

Interstate Bus Lines says its fares will go up by about 7.5 percent on July 1 as a result of increases in various operational costs including fuel and wages.

In a statement issued by Chief Executive Officer George Mokgothu, the bus company says the increases come following widespread consultations with the public between May 19 and June 1.

"The main issues that influences the proposed increase are... the increase in the cost of spares mainly due to the weak rand, as most spares are imported, the price of Brent Crude Oil which has increased by 17 percent in the past 12 months, increasing tyre costs which remains the company's increasing expense as the state of roads in our operational area are in a bad state, salary increases that are way above inflationary rates and which are subject to National Collective Bargaining thus company cannot influence on its own alone," said the statement by Mokgothu.

The proposed new tariffs were approved by the Department of Police, Roads and Transport. "The company, based on its calculations, is entitled to an 11 percent fare increase. However having taken into consideration the financial

situation and pressures their commuters are facing, it took a difficult decision of proposing the bare minimum of 7.5 percent," Interstate Bus Lines added.

The company says in total 70 percent of its operational costs increase in the excess of nine percent per annum. It is expected that the company's expenses will increase as such: diesel 12 percent; salaries and wages, nine percent; tyres, seven percent and spares, seven percent.

"Government subsidy only increased by a mere 3.2 percent for 2018/2019 and in 2017/2018 by only 5.2 percent which is not in line with bus company expenses increasing trend. The Bus subsidy as a supplementary grant to provinces creates an annual shortfall and provinces does not provide for this in their budget. Only three provinces in the country supplement the difference to eliminate the shortfall and the Free State is not one of them. The impact of the VAT increase from 14 percent to 15 percent is negative on the company by about R1.5 million. Since the company is VAT exempt it cannot claim any input VAT," according to the statement.

The company noted last year it had to reduce the nine percent approved fares to 6.5 percent after the passengers protested and impacted on the normal operations of the company resulting

Cele declares war on cash-heist 'terrorism'

The tables are about to turn on cash-in-transit robbers as minister of police Bheki Cele described the recent spate of heists as "terrorism", vowing that police will use tough tactics to stop it.

Between Monday and Tuesday, at least 13 people involved in heist syndicates have been arrested. One of them was the second-most wanted cash-in-transit heist kingpin, Cele said.

He was giving a briefing at the National Press Club in Pretoria, accompanied by Kevin Twiname of the South African Banking Risk Information Centre (Sabric) and Hawks boss Advocate Godfrey Lebeqa.

There had been violent attacks on cash-in-transit vehicles, with at least 159 reported nationally this year. Seventy-one of them involved use of explosives to access the vaults, Twiname said.

In total, 91 people were injured during these heists and 67 of them were guards, who were either injured or fatally wounded, said Twiname.

Cele added: "We are taking every [officer] out of the barracks, especially the specialised unit and giving them the best equipment."

"But again, the criminals tried on Tuesday in Tzaneen. We responded ... we intercepted those that were involved in another one on June 4 in Witbank.

"We intercepted another in Vosloorus and arrested six."

Heavily armed men have used rifles, AK-47s and explosives to stage several violent heists on vehicles carrying cash in recent months.

School principal Christopher Mathebula was killed by a stray bullet when he was caught up in a heist on his way home in Olifantsfontein last week. Some of the weapons retrieved have been linked to the police or the South African National Defence Force.

"Cash heist is terrorism. It's not only a heist. A few days back, we visited the family of Mathebula



Dedaring war . . . Police minister Bheki Cele

in Tembisa, who had nothing to do with the cash heist, but he was killed. Simply put, we are beginning to turn the corner ... No one will stage a heist, kill police and go home. No one will be able to do that ... This means we are arresting one criminal per hour."

"You must remember that for six years, crime intelligence didn't have a head. Now we have a head. For some time, the Hawks did not have a head. Now they do."

Of the 71 attacks on vehicles, 49 of the vehicles were a total writeoff, Twiname said.

"Those vehicles cost between R1.1 million and R1.4 million each. The loss alone of the vehicles equates to R67 million." -Citizen

The Weekly

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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION GROUP

I could have handled it differently: Prince Kaybee

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Prince Kaybee has decided to use his own experience with paggeld (child support) and being an "absent father" to inspire other men to also take responsibility for their actions.

The Club Controller DJ made headlines in February after Sunday World reported that he was accused of not paying adequate maintenance for a child he fathered with a Gauteng woman.

The report also claimed that Prince Kaybee didn't make any effort to see his child.

While at the time Prince Kaybee's management said the matter would be resolved soon, the star finally spoke out on the claims after his Sama win this weekend, taking full responsibility for not handling it properly.

"I want to take this 'Best Male' award beyond my music. I want to be the best male in my life.

I take full responsibility for not handling the paggeld matter correctly which led to the baby mama going public and everything went south," he wrote on Twitter.

Kaybee said the matter was "fixed" and that he was co-parenting with his baby mama like a champ.

"I have since fixed matters with the mother of my child. We now have a healthy co-parenting relationship and all parties are at peace. This is not something I expect to be congratulated for, but since I won Best Male Artist for my music I would like to expand the meaning.

"In recent news we have seen tonnes of reports on how we as men let women down, the most worrying being violence against women followed by absent fathers. As a man who has walked this path my own way through recent paggeld headlines, I would like to challenge other

men to become best males in their societies, become best males 24 hours every day. It's a full time job being a dad, a husband or a boyfriend," he noted.

Kaybee added the battle was now to fight the stigmas of men being trash, accepting mistakes and fixing them.

The comments come just days after The People's Bae, EFF spokesperson Dr Mbuyiseni Ndlozi, opened up to Metro FM's DJ Fresh about his own experience growing up with an absent father.

"We grew up very tough. I was raised by a single mother for majority of my life and a grandmother type of situation. I met my father very late. My mother told me that when she fell pregnant, they went to the family and was chased away by the family of my father. He was complicit throughout."

Honouring fallen heroes through music



The second coming: Organiser of the One school Item Party (Top), DJ LeGoody (Left) and Geemo (Right) gearing up for another spectacle at Maplakeng Lounge next Saturday.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

The One School Item party makes its return on June 16, when South Africa celebrates Youth Day.

The day is celebrated to recognise the role of youth in the liberation of the country from the apartheid regime.

Hosted by Bloem's social butterfly, Duma 'No Nonsense' Pule, this year's One School Item show sees up and coming musicians and disc

jockeys ascend to the big stage, to dazzle patrons. New outfits, 3RD WORLD Concept and OHMS, will also be part of the line-up.

Speaking ahead of the event which takes place at Maplakeng Lounge, Pule expressed excitement saying, "When we hosted the first event last year, we could have never anticipated that it was going to be a success. And seeing that it was, the demand to host it again this year has been heard and we are more than ready to deliver to our patrons."

While many are of the view that the day should be celebrated to remember fallen young heroes in a more formal manner, the organisers believe differently.

"I don't necessarily disagree with views suggesting we should celebrate the day in a more formal way. That view has long been standing as so is that debate. However, for me as a promoter, while we remain aware of the painful events that transpired on that day where young people lost their lives, we chose to honour and celebrate them through music and I don't think there's nothing wrong with how we chose to honour the fallen heroes," cited Pule.

The outspoken promoter reiterated that the show was about celebrating young people at the end of the day.

New features as this year's event include Otsile, Tsunamic Dj, Deepfire, Stugarless and Benzito Musicue. Asked about the host of up and coming musicians and disc jockeys, Pule explained, "There's been outcry about lack of exposure granted to up and coming artists in a lot of shows in Bloemfontein, and I wanted to take a different route hence the decision to give as many of them a chance as possible."

Dark Cappucino, Geemo, Legood, KB, Nick SA and Attorney who represent the old school generation need no introduction as they've been on almost every entertainment card in the city.

The merging of new school versus old school has in recent years proven to be the draw card and it appears as if the same trick will work once again as patrons have vowed to pack the tasteful lounge in large numbers come next Saturday.

"We've pulled out all the stops in ensuring we give people a night to remember as we honour those who made the day possible for us," added Pule.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

The South African Music Awards (SAMAs) ceremony this past weekend took an interesting turn when controversial social media personality Skolopad fainted during the event in Sun City.

Skolopad, who was seated in the front portion of the auditorium, seemingly became unresponsive in her chair. Fortunately, onsite paramedics immediately wheeled her out of the venue where she received medical attention.

It was initially believed the cause of her fainting was due to exhaustion after she drove more than eight hours to attend the event. However, the controversial figure as blamed the incident on witchcraft.

"There's no way that I can have skin problems three days before the event. And when I do resolve the problem, I then faint at the awards. No! This has nothing to do with driving eight hours; this is witchcraft," she said in telephonic interview with The Weekly on Monday.

The artist fainted before Shekhinah took to the stage. Dressed in a black sheer number, the outspoken social butterfly was stretched out by paramedics soon after she collapsed.

A few days before the big event, Skolopad posted a picture her foot showing some marks on social media, asking for fans to pray and for advice on what to get rid of them.

Skolopad, who is also a nurse, assured her supporters that she is fine and they should not to worry about her health. The singer is reportedly resting at home.

"Am home now, taking it easy. I know a lot of people; especially my fans were worried about me. But everything is okay now. Am going to rest before heading back to work," she noted.

They are bewitching me, says Skolopad



I was bewitched . . . Social butterfly Skolopad

Soapbox

MUVHANGO

Mulalo and Teboho's evil plan to bring Azwindini down quickly gains momentum. Gugu makes a startling discovery about Brother Max. Imani's blog is discovered by a blast from the past. Hangwani is shocked to find Rendani lifeless on the floor. Gugu confronts Brother Max about his secrets and lies and she decides it's enough. Meme invites Imani to speak at her women's support group. Foul play is suspected as Rendani fights for her life.

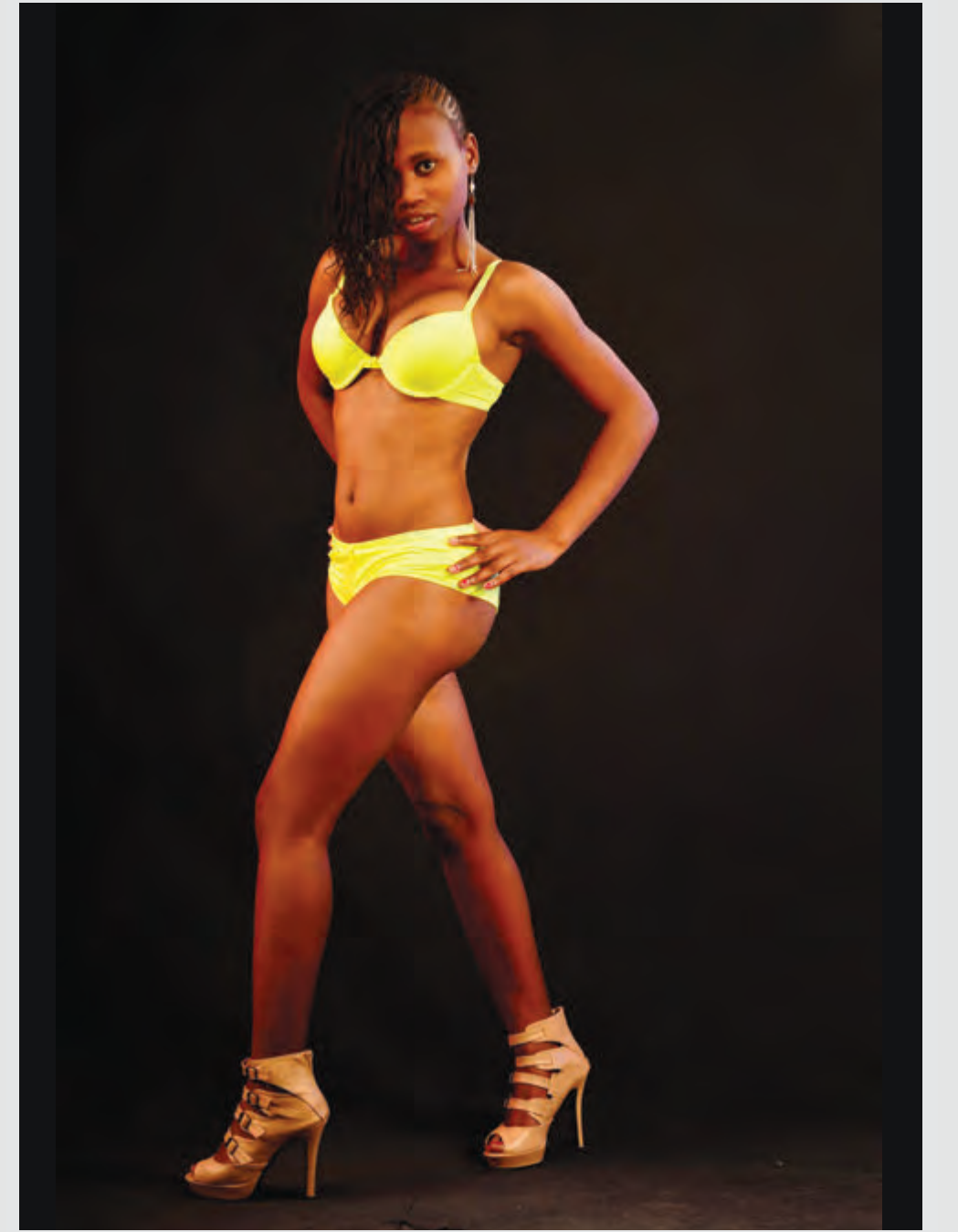
GENERATIONS

The Diales are very secretive about the arrangements they're making. Gadaffi decides murder is the best punishment for betrayal.

Nandi wakes up from her coma. Lucy is choked up with emotion when she has to say goodbye to her 'baby'. The big secret is finally revealed at S'khaftin Chicken. Zoe is furious when Jack blackmails her. Smanga is determined to go it alone. The siblings form an alliance to take down the enemy. Mrekza realises his game is up. Gadaffi uses an opportunity to take photos of his ex's diary. Lesedi turns the tables on Jason when he tries to humiliate her.

SCANDAL

A man's missing memories provide hope for someone else. A fake email leads to a life changing decision. 'Partners' must reassess their partnership after a wild party. A man in hospital is desperate for answers, but will anyone come clean to him? A son reveals his truth to his parents, but one of them refuses to accept it. A teenager's complaints fall on deaf ears, so he takes matters into his own hands. An attempt to cover up the truth leads to an intense confrontation.



Twenty-two year old Leena Gxalaba of Bloemfontein is business management at one of the local private colleges. She describes herself as an outgoing person who is fun to be with with.



Newcomer Shekhinah shines the brightest

It was a good night for newcomer Shekhinah at the 24th edition of SA Music Awards (SAMA) held in Sun City, North West.

Shekhinah swept the boards taking the Newcomer of the Year, Album of the Year and Female Artist of the Year awards for the sterling work on her debut album Rose Gold.

Distraction Boyz whipped the Superbowl into a frenzy when they were declared winners of the public-voted Record of the Year for their monster hit Omunye.

Veteran Afro Pop band, Mafikizolo proved their staying power when they took Duo/Group of the Year and Best Afro Pop Album. Add to their Best Engineered Album (by Howard Gomba and Themba Sekowe) win from last night, Mafikizolo is tied at three awards with Shekhinah overall.

Joyous Celebration's Joyous Celebration Volume 21 Heal Our Land won the Best Selling Digital Artist Award, adding to the two Best Selling DVD and Best Selling Album they won last night brings their haul to three in total.

The anthemic Akanamali by Sun-El Musician featuring Samthing Soweto was honoured with Sampra Highest Airplay of the Year and Samro Highest Airplay of the Year Composer's Award, last night they won Best Collaboration Award taking their total to three.

House DJ Prince Kaybee took home Male Artist of the Year for his hits laden album I Am Music.

New blood made their presence felt with rapper Shane Eagle taking the Best Hip Hop Album Award and Lady Zamar winning Best Dance Music Award. In the Best Kwaito Album category, Busiswa beat the competition for her

album Highly Flavoured. Tresor's The Beautiful Madness earned him the Best Pop Album.

In gospel, Andile ka Majola was declared the winner in the Best Traditional Faith Music Album category for Andile kaMajola Chapter 8 Sekwanele while Vuma Zion's Samson Aphie Amanda Akho bagged the Best African Indigenous Gospel Album.

Jo Black's Skepe emerged victorious in the Beste Kontemporere Musiek Album category and Fokofpolisiekar's Selfmedikasie was announced the Best Rock Album.

The glittering high octave celebrity event hosted by TV and radio stars Somizi Mhlongo and Dineo Ranaka; and comedian Mpho Popps was broadcast live on SABC1 and featured performances by Distraction Boyz, Lady Zamar, Shwi noMtekhala, Shekhinah, Die Heuwels Fantasties, Bongeziwe Mabandla and Riky Rick.

President Cyril Ramaphosa and Nathi Mthethwa, Minister of Arts and Culture were among the dignitaries that graced the night.

Commented Nhlanelhla Sibisi, RiSA CEO: "Tonight has been a remarkable night of celebrating the best our country has to offer. We salute all the winners and the nominees and we thank the public for their undying support for local music. We applaud everyone who made SAMA24 such a successful project."

"Congratulations to all the winners," said Mme O.R Mochware, MEC for Culture, Arts and Traditional Affairs in North West. "The winners were all worthy of their medals in such a competitive and prestigious event. We are proud to be associated with the SAMAs."

'Abusive' parents to remain behind bars

By: Martin Makoni

The Bloemfontein couple who briefly went on the run during their trial for alleged child abuse after being released on warning, will stay behind bars until the case resumes at the Free State High Court in November.

Judge Corne van Zyl ordered the two to return to court when their trial runs from November 26-30. The couple will be held in custody until that date as they have become a flight risk. They were told the court roll for the current term as well as the next one are full and their matter will be heard at the end of the year.

The two are each facing a charge of conniving to rape, sexual exploitation of a minor, not seeking permission to perform a sexual act and child abuse. They cannot be named in order to protect the identities of the children. The wife, 37, is the first accused and the husband, 45, is

the second accused.

The crimes were allegedly committed in Bloemfontein, south of the city where the family lived on a plot.

They were arrested on Tuesday in Pretoria North after police published their names and photographs appealing for public assistance in tracking down.

The police said although the law does not allow names to be published in cases of a sexual nature involving young children and their parents, they found it necessary to do so in order to expedite the matter.

Police spokesperson Warrant Officer Loraine Earle told The Weekly various considerations were made before the names and photographs were published.

"The investigating officer and the prosecutor discussed the matter thoroughly before publishing those names and faces," said Earle

earlier this week.

"It's not likely that they will ever go back to that community where those crimes were committed. We understand that it's a very difficult situation for the children, but a decision had to be made in their best interest. We want to have the case finalised. Those children also deserve a happy and normal life," she added.

It is believed that the couple offered their daughter who was 11 years old at the time of their arrest, to be raped by at least five men over an unknown period of time. The girl was also forced to take drugs together with her brother who was nine years old and were often denied food and water.

The children did not go to school and were constantly locked up in the tidy house.



Sibusiso Tshabalala, who 50, is facing a murder charge broke down before appearing in the Lenasia Magistrate Court yesterday morning

Gauteng man cries after 'mistakenly' killing son

The Gauteng father who "mistakenly" shot his son outside an Ennerdale school broke down before appearing in the Lenasia Magistrate's Court yesterday (Fri).

Sibusiso Tshabalala, 50, is facing a murder charge and has appeared before Magistrate Maggie van der Merwe.

The father appeared in court wearing a purple sweatshirt, blue jeans and black torn shoes.

The mother of the 16-year-old was also present in the court. She sat quietly in the front row of the gallery silently crying while photographers took pictures of her and her husband.

Tshabalala appeared calm when first entering the court and smiled a bit at the photographers. After sometime however, he started wailing loudly.

The mother of their dead child, who was also overcome by emotion, stood up and went to the

father to comfort him. The two sat huddled for a number of minutes before they calmed down and she returned to her seat.

Twitter Ads info and privacy

Gauteng Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi was attending the case, sitting in the row directly behind the mother.

The incident reportedly happened on Tuesday night around 9 pm at the Fred Norman Secondary School, where the 16-year-old was attending his evening classes.

The boy came back from evening classes and knocked on the passenger window of his father's vehicle. The father, who was asleep in the car with his firearm on him, allegedly got scared and pulled out his firearm and shot towards the direction of the person who was knocking. The boy passed away on his way to the hospital. -*The Star*

Ex magistrate up for fraud

Former magistrate Maria Botha appeared in the Nelspruit Magistrate's Court on Wednesday on charges of fraud, corruption and forgery amounting to almost R5m.

Botha was arrested by the Hawks in 2017, following a probe that uncovered fictitious garnishee orders which she allegedly authorised from various magistrate's offices in the province.

It is alleged that she ran her own attorney

firm after resigning as a magistrate and collected debts on behalf of a micro-loan business.

She also reportedly prepared administration papers and various court orders, and forged signatures of clients of a cash-loan company, resulting in the payments unduly accumulating in her account.

She was released on a strict warning and will appear again in court on July 2. -*News24*



Community apprehends robbery suspects

Two armed robbery suspects were arrested in Summerstrand in Port Elizabeth within minutes of robbing a 38-year-old woman of her handbag, cellphone and personal items, Eastern Cape police said.

Police spokesperson Colonel Priscilla Naidu said the complainant was standing at the corner of Erasmus and Admiralty Way yesterday morning waiting for a taxi to go to work.

Naidu said two unknown men were standing with her and one of them suddenly produced a knife while the other pulled out a firearm.

They threatened her and ran off with her belongings.

"A passer-by saw the screaming woman and stopped. After explaining to the driver what happened, the driver took her and while on the way to the police station, they noticed a group of people and a security official with two men lying

on the ground in the parking area of Pollock beach. When they stopped, the complainant recognised the suspects. All her stolen items were in their possession. A member of the community also seized a .38 revolver and the knife."

Both suspects, aged 26 and 30 years old, were arrested, and will appear in court soon.

Naidu said police are investigating whether the suspects could be linked to other crimes in the area. The cluster commander for Mount Road, Major-General Thembisile Patekile has commended the community for their swift response and for immediately coming to the aid of the distraught victim.

"Fighting crime is a shared responsibility and the speedy mobilisation of the community this morning shows that the community is definitely the eyes and ears of the police."

-*Citizen*



Murder accused . . . Mortimer Saunders enters the Cape Town High Court

DNA expert testifies in murder case

DNA expert Luthando Tiya testified yesterday in the trial of Mortimer Saunders, the man who has admitted to the shocking killing and sexual assault of three-year-old Courtney Pieters.

Tiya went into detail regarding the presumptive DNA testing that had taken place, and explained the processes followed to prevent contamination of DNA samples.

Tiya said there was a full profile match between the DNA profile found on Courtney Pieters' top and Saunders' DNA profile.

Tiya then went on to explain that while the second right-thigh swab tested positive for semen, the DNA was too minute to visualise a full DNA profile.

Defence advocate Mornay Calitz objected to this evidence, saying this result was not disclosed to the defence.

Earlier, the court had heard from forensic toxicologist Jacobus van Zyl, who explained how he found carbaryl in samples from Courtney Pieters' stomach, blood and bile.

Carbaryl is a pesticide commonly used to kill insects such as ants, ticks and spiders.

In a plea explanation, Saunders admitted to feeding the child ant poison before assaulting her.

Van Zyl said he found 0.8 milligrammes a litre of poison in the child's blood, which is more than a lethal dose for an adult.

He added he was surprised to find carbaryl in Pieters' blood because most pesticides usually metabolised very quickly and moved into the urine.

Van Zyl said the finding told him the deceased had been exposed to a high dose of poison and death occurred quickly, in which case metabolism stopped.

Because the three-year-old's body was only found nine days after her death, Van Zyl said there was no telling how much poison she had been given.

The matter will resume on Tuesday, June 12. Saunders remains in custody.

-*Citizen*

Police vehicles torched in protest

Two police vehicles were yesterday set alight by service delivery protesters from New France informal settlement in Bot River, Western Cape.

It is believed that the protest, which erupted on Tuesday, resulted in damage to buildings and vehicles that could run into hundreds of thousands of rands.

A post office and a municipal building were also torched during the overnight protests.

When News24 journalist Zukile Daniel arrived on the scene, the burnt-out cars had not yet been removed.

"Police used live ammunition on the protesters, so they were forced to fall back. Things are calm for now, but the situation is still volatile. One person has been arrested so far," Daniel said.

Police station commander Nokuzola Pete

said that the goal was to remove protesters from the N2, which had been closed as a result of the protest action.

"At this moment the situation is still tense, but we have it under control. At the present moment, we are waiting for SAPS photographers to take photos of the burnt vehicles so that they can be removed," she said.

Pete added that they were currently short-staffed and that they had run out of ammunition after firing at the protesters involved in setting the vehicles alight.

Theewaterskloof Municipality spokesperson Hugo Geldenhuys said that there is speculation that the removal of shacks on privately owned land allegedly prompted the protest.

"Our theory is that [residents of New France informal settlement] requested councillors in

that ward to remove shacks from previously vacant land," Geldenhuys said.

"It became a safety risk at night, but we are not sure if that is the motive because it was the community who requested the removal."

A New France informal settlement community leader, who preferred to remain anonymous, said they are demanding that the councillors involved in the removal of the shacks resign.

"They promised us that they had R8m to put in electricity for us last week. Then they didn't show up, instead they demolished our shacks," he said.

"We know that if we close the N2 we will get results. The police promised that they will bring the councillors to us in two hours, so it is calm for now." -*News24*

Mangaung ANC BGM's verify membership

By: Ramosidi Matekane

All 50 branches of the ANC in Mangaung region, Free State province will over the weekend convene branch general meetings (BGMs) in response to the call by their regional leadership to verify membership of comrades in good standing.

The process is also meant to open doors for new recruits into the age-old former liberation movement.

The news was announced by the regional secretary of the ANC in Mangaung, Lulama Titi, in a press communiqué yesterday afternoon.

Titi said the BGMs are to run from Friday 09 June to Sunday 10.

She noted the convening of the meetings is as a result of the instruction of the regional leadership to have all 50 branches of the movement in Mangaung hold their BGMs for purposes of verifying membership.

"This serves to inform all members of ANC to attend these meetings at the venue, time and date provided. Members are advised to carry their identity documents and or proof of membership for purpose of this verification."

Titi reminded members that as per the constitution of the ANC as amended and adopted by the 54th National Conference in December, the

membership of the organisation is open to all South Africans above the age of 18 years, irrespective of race, colour and creed.

Such members must be willing to accept the ANC's principles, policies and programmes and to abide by the constitution of the movement.

Titi said as per the rules of the organisation, application for membership shall be considered by the branch executive committee in consultation with the branch general meeting, indicating the regional executive may also consider application in instances where no branch executive committee exists.

"Rule 4.8 of the ANC states that provisional membership shall apply to persons who wish to join the organisation for the first time or who wish to re-join the organisation after a considerable lapse of time or circumstances determined by the national executive committee," she explained.

She however added that the rights of a provisionally accepted member of the ANC commences from the date of production of acknowledgement and following receipt of the application and the appropriate membership subscription, cautioning in the same token that a provisional member may only attend a branch in a non-voting capacity.

In instances where disputes regarding

membership occur, the rules of the former liberation movement speaks of a National Dispute Resolution Committee appointed by the national leadership to settle matters. The decisions of this committee are final and binding on the parties.

Neither party would have further recourse through either the courts of law or other structures of the ANC on matters that the national dispute resolution committee has pronounced.

"It is our belief as the regional executive committee that all members of the ANC will abide by the cited rules amongst others as reflected in the ANC constitution," said Titi.

She cautioned the regional leadership of the ANC would not tolerate any 'gate keeping' through destroying, hiding or unreasonably rejecting membership of any person eligible to be member of the party.

In the same token, she said, prospective members of the ANC will also not be allowed to exercise 'gate keeping' towards themselves through hiding or not submitting membership to either the branch executive committee or the regional executive of the movement in the Mangaung.

"We wish all members of the ANC well in their branch general meetings. Members are urged to contact their branch secretaries for time and venues," she added.



Calling on all ANC members . . . Lulama Titi

Fight to keep Celtic continues

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Mangaung Metro executive mayor Olly Mlamleli is adamant that popular soccer club Bloemfontein Celtic will remain in the city.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, Mlamleli said she decided to intervene after rumours started circulating that the club was sold to an unknown businessman in Kimberley.

This triggered protests in different parts of Bloemfontein after soccer-mad Sivelele supporters took to the streets to voice their displeasure with the reported sale.

But both the club and the mayor have since clarified that although the club is up for sale due to cash flow problems, it has not been sold yet.

The club says the rumours were "untruthful" and "misleading".

Giving her take on the matter, Mlamleli said they would not allow the team to leave the city as it plays an important role in promoting local tourism.

She explained that while the municipality cannot be involved financially in the rescuing of the team, it has however created a platform for all business people in the city to come together and solicit ways on best to avert the team from leaving the province.

Talks between the club and potential buyers were still ongoing and the metro is confident the club will stay put.

"We are concerned and we want to play a role together with the business community to keep the club in the city. The city has a lot to leverage from an international brand such as Bloemfontein Celtic and that mileage can be drawn from areas such as tourism and economy. My role is just to facilitate these talks," Mlamleli said.

She however could not confirm how far these talks are, "but I can ensure you that before the start of the new season that there will be positive results."

The mayor further encouraged Sivelele supporters to stay calm and respect processes that still need to take place. "I was disturbed by the protests that took place, but I equally felt that I had the responsibility to understand the matter. The supporters are key stakeholders; I have done my part in engaging them."

The chairman of Bloemfontein Celtic, Max Tshabalala, on Sunday June 3 also addressed supporters during a general meeting at Paradise Hall, Bochabelo, where he confirmed that he is selling the club but nothing has been finalised.

The club earlier indicated in a press statement that the team, chairman and his executive team had visited Kimberley to meet with the Sol Plaatje Municipality to talk about the possibility of playing some home games there in order to remedy the financial situation of the club.

It noted the proposed R1.5 million deal has also not been signed.

With the possibility of the club still being sold to an outsider, chances of the club leaving the province are still on the card. However, Mlamleli did not want to be drawn in discussing the possibility, saying: "We will cross the bridge when we get there. For now, we are doing all within our powers to keep the team in the province and we are confident that things will go accordingly and that the consortium will be able to retain the club and its rich history in our city."

Meanwhile, the mayor also announced that the municipality will be handing over the Dr. Rantai Molemela Stadium to Celtic on a long-term lease, to ease the burden of having to pay for it during home games.

Details of the lease would be announced at a later stage, she added.

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An action packed Hlasela



Brandfort here we come ... Premier Ntombela and her executive council delivered services to Brandfort residents last Friday during Operation Hlasela

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela has made good of the promises she made to Brandfort residents following the death of ANC stalwart Winnie-Madikizela Mandela in April this year.

After meeting residents and hearing of their plight over lack of essential services, grinding poverty, and high levels of unemployment, the newly-appointed Premier declared; "I'll be back!"

And last Friday she did, with her provincial executive committee in tow, to provide some services aimed at uplifting the lives of residents of the rural town, with an estimated population of 12 899 people.

The highlight of the first-ever Operation Hlasela to hit Brandfort since the establishment of the service delivery vehicle back in 2009, was the official opening of a container park in Majwemasweu.

An initiative of a local non-profit organisation, Nomzamo eKasi, the Container Park is the first of its kind in the province. It was set up in partnership with various stakeholders, including Transnet Engineering.

The containers, which were constructed by students at Transnet's School of Engineering based in Bloemfontein, Mangaung, were donated by the company as part of the state owned company's Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

Young entrepreneurs from Brandfort were given fully-furnished containers to operate their businesses from.

Maserame Matlho, a 33-year-old soap manufacturer, was delighted to finally have a place where she will produce and sell detergents and other cleaning consumables.

Another beneficiary, Godwin Thebe, runs a tuck shop within the Container Park.

Thebe is happy that he will be able to expand his general dealer enterprise and employ more people.

The Container Park also includes an internet café, Nomzamo Sewing initiative by young women, and a fully-furnished office for the ward councillor.

"I am extremely overjoyed about the Container Park. The work done between the public sector and the private sector has produced one of the most innovative ideas ever witnessed in our country. I am emotional," he said.

During the official handover, Ntombela said the Container Park would not only contribute to the fight against unemployment, through contributing to the local economy, but will also make government accessible to the community.

The development of the park was not only an honour to the legacy of Mama Winnie, but was an honour to young people who played a role in the struggle against apartheid and oppression.

"The youth of 1976 did not fight for fun and festivities alone. They fought for development. This is part of our contribution towards youth development," she noted.

In addition to the centre, Ntombela and her executive council also embarked on a number of activities, which not only sought to improve the lives of the people of Brandfort, but also provided a platform for the members of the community to interact with their leaders.

These included distribution of school uniform and shoes to needy learners, blankets to the elderly, and a visit to Eluthando Day Care Centre to deliver chairs, tables, mattresses and education toys. However, the centre is yet to be registered with the department of social development.

Social development MEC Butana Komphele vowed that his department would look into the matter and ensure the centre gets the necessary assistance.

ERRATUM

Please take note that a change has been made to the public notice "Notice of public participation: adoption of structural plans" that was published on the 14th of June 2018 in the Weekly and the notice on the 14th of June 2018 in the Bloemfontein Courant.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: COMPILATION OF STRUCTURE PLANS

Notice is hereby given in terms of **Section 20 (3)(a) of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act No 16 of 2013)**, hereinafter referred to as the "Act", that Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality is in the process of compiling and or amending structure plans for the following areas:

- Structure Plan for the area of Brandwag suburb and Dan Pienaar Avenue;
- Structure Plan for the area of Louw Wepener Street and Dan Pienaar Avenue;
- Amendment of the Structure Plan for Parkwest and Willows area;
- Amendment of the Structure Plan for the Kolbe Avenue and Oranjesig;
- Structure Plan for the Rayton Lilyvale, Bayswater, Hillside and Douglas Valley Development Areas;
- Structure plan for Spitskop Small Holdings.

In line with **Section 20 (3)(b) of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act No 16 of 2013)**, members of the public who desire to submit written representations in respect of the proposed structure plans, should do so within **60 days**, starting from the **date of the public participation meeting, 14 June 2018**. Emails can be sent to mammui.mahao@managungmetro.co.za or zanele@ybmacc.co.za or alternatively delivered to:

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality
Head of the Department: Planning
Mr. Bheki Mthembu
Bram Fischer Building
Cnr Nelson Mandela Drive & Markgraaf Street
Bloemfontein
9300

A public participation meeting will be held on the **14th of June at 9:00 – 12:00** in **Indaba Auditorium, Bram Fischer Building, Bloemfontein**. The documents will be available on the city's website (www.mangaung.co.za) from **14 June 2018**.

Target groups: Residents within the aforementioned structure plan areas and all interested parties.

South Africa pledges to protect children



Promise to protect... Social development minister Susan Shabangu signs a pledge during the closing of the 2018 Child Protection Week in Ladybrand on Sunday.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

South Africa has reiterated its commitment to care not only for the children of its citizens, but also those from neighbouring countries who are unaccompanied and without documentation.

"We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the fact that some of the children in our country are unaccompanied and undocumented," said social development minister Susan Shabangu on Sunday.

The minister was addressing the closing ceremony of Child Protection Week in Ladybrand in the Free State. Local communities, including learners, came in their numbers to be part of the movement aimed at building a better life for children.

Shabangu said officials should use the laws of the country designed to protect children efficiently, especially in cases involving unaccompanied and undocumented children of foreign nationality.

"It should be kept in mind that once children cross the borders of a country they were born in without proper documentation, they become vulnerable."

Such children may be exposed to various forms of exploitation, including physical and sexual abuse, kidnapping, child trafficking and child labour.

Undocumented children often make it difficult for government to provide them with comprehensive social services including basic education, food, clothing, child support grant

and social relief of distress, Shabangu noted.

She launched the Child Protection Week campaign last week in Pretoria to highlight to communities the value their children.

On Sunday, the minister appealed to delegates from Lesotho, which is landlocked in South Africa, to work hand in hand with the South African government to protect children.

Major General Thokozani Mathonsi of the South African Police Service reaffirmed their commitment to protect children. "It is our duty to protect our children. People should demand answers if they are not getting help from the police."

In 2010, cabinet established an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Violence against Women and Children (VAWC). The IMC is a multi-sectoral approach led by the department of social development and seeks to help reduce incidents of VAWC through workable and sustainable solutions.

The development also set up the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, a 24-hour call service dedicated to providing support and counselling to people affected by gender-based violence and abuse. The toll-free call centre can be found on 0800 428 428 (0800 GBV GBV).

World Vision representative Ernest Fraser called on communities to work with government to protect children.

"It's upon all of us to ensure that our children are protected. We request communities to be vigilant at all times," he appealed.

New Prasa boss ready

Newly appointed Prasa group chief executive officer Sibusiso Sithole says he is aware of the challenge awaiting him as he takes over the reins at the ailing rails agency.

The former eThekweni municipal manager was appointed on a 12-month contract to effect a turnaround at Prasa.

Sithole once styled himself as the “doctor of ailing municipalities”. Now a year and a half after his last stint in the eThekweni Municipality, he is tasked with turning around the besmirched rails agency.

Sithole said he wants to immediately respond to the red flags raised by the Auditor-General report and the Public Protector’s report on Prasa so that he starts on a clean slate.

“My tasks are to put the basics right in terms of governance of the institution in terms of the

supply chain management issues,” he noted.

Prasa has been at the centre of widespread corruption and fraud amounting to an alleged R14 billion. Sithole said he will also look into Prasa’s business model to ensure sustainability in the long run.

“One has got to look at the financial model of the whole organisation, together with its entities to see how we can sustain it over time,” the new Prasa boss said.

The financial situation at the parastatal is so dire that Transport Minister Blade Nzimande said it was losing money “like an ATM”.

Sithole’s appointment comes as rail agency Prasa prepares to brief Parliament’s portfolio committee on transport on its turnaround strategy on Tuesday. -EWN

Fuel price hike: South Africans feel pinch

As a record high fuel price kicked in on Wednesday morning, Debt Rescue says that South Africans will feel the pinch all round, not only in transport costs.

Motorists queued at petrol pumps until late on Tuesday night just before the new fuel levy came into effect.

Petrol now costs 82 cents more, while diesel will set you back a further 85 cents.

Last year this time, motorists were paying around R13 rand for petrol, now it stands at just over R15.

Debt Rescue’s Neil Roets says that many can’t afford this adjustment.

“The reality is there’s no relief that we see anywhere else, just prices going up and the situation is that people are going to struggle.”

Consumer activist Ina Wilken says that food prices will also be affected.

“Food is transported by ways of air, trains or

trucks. You can imagine they have to use fuel, so it does have an effect.”

In Cape Town, commuters are facing the reality of the recent series of fuel price hikes and the knock-on effects they will have.

“All these things are very, very expensive. They’re killing us,” one commuter says.

“The petrol goes up and obviously the price of food also goes up and I think that the cost of living is so high already, it is tough,” another one said.

“It’s going to effect me as I’m going to have to dig deep into my pocket as it’s affecting everything,” a man said.

One woman commented on salary increases: “We can’t be happy as the price increases, everything is more and the salary doesn’t go up.”

“I can’t save for myself as I use all my money on transport,” another woman explained. -EWN



Getting dirty with work...

Workers from Coca Cola Beverages South Africa this week rolled up their sleeves to help out at the Itekeng Support Group in Mangaung where the place was getting a major facelift. The support group deals with the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and identifying orphans and vulnerable children. The Non-Governmental Organisation was established in 2001 and is also involved in addressing other health factors such as poverty, unemployment, TB and HIV/AIDS which remain a challenge in the country. Some of the refurbishments done included the installing of a new ceiling, window panes, a disabled ramp, a new toilet accessible to the disabled, floor tiles, benches and chairs as well the painting of the interior.

FS to mark International Albinism Day

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation partnering with Free State Performing Arts and Transport for People with Disabilities, will host International Albinism Day.

This year’s provincial event will be held in Senekal over a four-day period.

In a media statement issued this week, MEC for sport, arts, culture and recreation, Mathabo Leeto said the day which is normally celebrated on June 13 across the world was an important one.

She said people with disabilities are often marginalised and seen as handicapped members of the community unable to take part in sport and activities.

However this perception was far from the truth. “Often these individuals have not been afforded opportunities to take part in these activities.”

Leeto noted, “They are not considered for talent participation and performing arts activities due to discrimination and would not even be afforded equal opportunities like the rest of the community – those often referred to as able bodied.”

Acknowledging the existing challenge, the MEC said a great need for artists with disabilities to participate in arts and be recognised for their talents still remains untapped.

Among others, the department along with its partners will seek to address challenges faced by people with disabilities and seek solutions. This would include establishing projects to empower the handicapped.

Leeto denounced the continued dehumanisation of people with albinism, saying this lays the foundation for horrifying physical attacks against them by people who still regard them as “magical beings or ghosts”.

She said, “This perception has seen albinos being subjected to the worst kind of killings, with some mutilated or killed so that their body parts can be used for witchcraft rituals.

“Persons with albinism deserve to have their rights to life and security protected, as well as the right not to be subjected to torture and ill-treatment.”

VACANCY

Tokologo Local Municipality subscribes to the principles of employment equity. Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified and competent applicants for appointment to the following vacant positions of:

DIRECTOR: CORPORATE SERVICES

Tokologo Local Municipality, is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer with clear employment equity targets. It is our intention to promote equity through the filling of posts, according to the set Employment Equity targets. Qualified persons, women and people with disability with the skills and expertise to discharge the duties of the under-mentioned positions are invited to apply.

NB: the following remuneration levels and term of contract cut across the three (3) senior manager positions advertised below:

SALARY: (Minimum: R813 635 / Midpoint: R929 869 / Maximum: R1 046 101)
Total remuneration package will be in terms of Government Gazette No.41173 dated 10 October 2017 for a category 3 municipality. The salary level will be determined by experience, qualifications, knowledge and competence in line with the upper limits of 10 October 2017.

Reporting directly to the Municipal Manager, the following appointments will be made in line with the provision of sections 56 & 57 of the Local Government: Municipal System Act 32 of 2000 and relevant LG Regulations applicable to senior managers.

**Department: Office of the Municipal Manager
Position: Director Corporate Services
Term: Five Year Fixed Term performance based employment contract.**

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor Degree in Public Administration/ Management Sciences/ Law or equivalent.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: The appointed candidate must be in possession of a valid driver’s license and a suitable vehicle for proper performance of his/her functions and discharge of duties; Willingness to work irregular hours with extensive travelling; Compliance with limitation of political rights as contained in Municipal Systems Amendment Act, No 7 of 2011.

ADDED ADVANTAGE: Certificate in Municipal Finance Management (SAQA Qualification ID No. 48965) and registration with a Professional body will serve as a strong recommendation.

EXPERIENCE: At least five (5) years relevant experience at a middle management level; and have proven successful institutional transformation within public or private sector;

COMPETENCIES: Leading Competencies: Strategic Direction and Leadership, People Management, Program and project Management, Financial Management, Change Leadership and Governance Leadership. Core Competencies: Moral Competence, Planning and Organizing, Analyzing and Innovation, Knowledge and Information Management, Communication, Results and Quality Focus.

KNOWLEDGE
The candidate will be expected to demonstrate:
Good knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation;
Good knowledge and understanding of institutional governance systems and performance management;
Good knowledge of corporate governance support services including:
Human Resources Development;
Human Capital Management;
Legal Services;
Facilities Management; and Council Support
Good knowledge of supply chain management regulations and the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 (Act No. 5 of 2000);
Good Governance; Labour Relations Act, and other Labour-related Prescripts;
Legal background and Human Capital Management; and Knowledge of coordination and oversight of all specialized support functions.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

Provide strategic direction to the Corporate Services Directorate. Responsible for development organizational policies and procedures
Be accountable for the execution of all resolutions of the municipality, as well as be accountable for the general supervision, control and efficiency of the directorate.
Formulate support and implement the strategic goals of the municipality in order to give effect to the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).
Participate in strategic management of the Municipality by advising the Municipal Manager on issues pertaining to Corporate Support Services Directorate.
Ensure that municipal Performance Management System is fully implemented in the Directorate
Ensure effective management of the Directorate and the following sections: Human Resource Management & Development, Legal Services, Payroll Administration and Admin & Support Services.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tokologo Local Municipality is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer with clear employment equity targets. It is our intention to promote equity through the filling of posts, according to the set Employment Equity targets. Qualified persons, women and people with disability with the skills and expertise to discharge the duties of the under-mentioned positions are invited to apply.

**Directorate: Treasury Services
Position: Chief Financial Officer
Term: Five Year Fixed Term Contract performance based employment contract.**

SALARY: (Min – R 813 635 / Mid – R 929 869 / Max – R1 046 101)
Total remuneration package will be in terms of Government Gazette No. 41173 dated 10 October 2017.

REQUIREMENTS:

At least an NQF Level 6 in the field of Accounting, Finance or Economics and a Certificate in Municipal Finance Management (SAQA Qualification ID No. 48965) with a minimum of 5 years’ experience at senior management level. The candidate must have the required minimum competency levels in the areas of Strategic Leadership and Management, Strategic Financial Management, Operational Financial Management, Governance, Ethics and Values in Financial Management, Financial and Performance Reporting, Risk and Change Management, Project Management, Legislation and Policy Implementation, Stakeholder Relations, Supply Chain Management, Audit and Assurance as per the National Treasury, Local Government : Municipal Finance Management Act – Municipal Regulations on Minimum Competency Levels as published on 15 June 2007 relevant to a Chief Financial Officer.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The candidate reports directly to the Accounting Officer on Strategic Financial Management issues and provides adequate financial management advice to the Accounting Officer, Executive Mayor and Council. Effectively and efficiently implements and manages the financial management system. Develops and implements key strategic/business plans to ensure effective implementation and management of systems, processes, procedures and controls relating to: Supply Chain Management, Revenue Management, Expenditure Management, Budget Preparation and Reporting. Prepares Annual Financial Statements and other mandatory financial management reports. Performs duties and functions delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act and System of Delegation approved by Council as well as other functions as delegated by the Accounting Officer. Ensures compliance to relevant legislation, regulations, policies and procedures. Implements effective processes, support and co-ordination for the compilation of the Integrated Development Plan, Budget and Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan. Strategically engage with external auditors and provide appropriate and timely responses to audit queries. Be responsible for the execution and timely delivery of departmental outputs as outlined in the departmental SDBIP and CFO’s performance contract. Facilitate stakeholder participation and involvement in relevant matters.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:
Providing strategic support to the offices of the Municipal

Manager and the Honourable Mayor for the day to day financial management of the Municipality; fulfilling the role of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) as prescribed by the Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003 (MFMA), preparing and implementing the budget; advising the senior management, debt management and other duties as delegated to the CFO from time to time, advising the Municipal Manager, Honourable Mayor and other office bearers on matters of financial and economic strategies including policy formulation and implementation of appropriate financial policies, procedures and rules applicable to the Municipality or re-evaluate the existing financial architecture to ensure relevance & compliance; preparing and submitting regular reports to Council, Honourable Mayor, Provincial and National Departments as prescribed by various pieces of legislation, preparing budget in terms of legislated timeframes; preparation and implementation of medium term financial plans, calculation, determination and implementation of tariffs for Municipal Services and facilities, budgetary controls and monitoring of spending patterns and generation of income in terms of Council’s approved SDBIP’s; monitoring and controlling of proper accounting systems, preparation of annual financial statements in accordance with acceptable accounting systems, cash & investment management; billing processes and revenue collection; development, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of asset registers and municipal wide internal control systems, managing the Human Capital of the Budget and Treasury Office; taking an active role in the preparation of audit periods

DIRECTOR: TECHNICAL SERVICES

Tokologo Local Municipality is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer with clear employment equity targets. It is our intention to promote equity through the filling of posts, according to the set Employment Equity targets. Qualified persons, women and people with disability with the skills and expertise to discharge the duties of the under-mentioned positions are invited to apply.

**Department: Office of the Municipal Manager
Position: Director Technical Services
Term: Five Year Fixed Term performance based employment contract.**

Salary: (Minimum: R813 635 / Midpoint: R929 869 / Maximum: R1 046 101)
Total remuneration package will be in terms of Government Gazette No.41173 dated 10 October 2017

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor Degree in Technical / B Tech Technical or equivalent.

Added Advantage: A Certificate of competency as required in terms of the General Machinery Regulations, 1988; or registration with a recognized relevant Technical professional body or Certificate in Municipal Finance Management (SAQA Qualification ID No. 48965) will serve as a strong recommendation.

Experience: Five (5) years’ experience at middle management level, or as programme / project manager. Three (3) to Four years must be at a professional level / Technical management experience.

COMPETENCIES: Leading Competencies: Strategic Direction and Leadership, People Management, Program and project Management, Financial Management, Change Leadership and Governance Leadership. Core Competencies: Moral Competence, Planning and Organizing, Analyzing and Innovation, Knowledge and Information Management, Communication, Results and Quality Focus.

KNOWLEDGE:

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate:
• Good knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation;
• Good knowledge and understanding of institutional governance systems and performance management;
• Must have extensive knowledge of public office environment; and
• Must be able to formulate Technical master planning, project management and implementation.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

• Manage the Infrastructure Department
• Overall responsible for PMU, Fleet Management, Roads and

storm water, Electricity, Water and Sanitation provision and management

- Ensure implementation of IDP strategic objectives of the department.
- Draft and ensure implementation of departmental strategic plan and SDBIP.
- Establish the key performance indicators and measures for determining and accessing the level of service delivery.
- Prepare and control departmental budget.
- Ensure compliance of all legal aspects and conditions required from the different spheres of government.
- Manage related Municipal Infrastructure Grant Programs (MIG), RBIG, WASIG, INEG and others;
- Develops, implement, monitor and control capital projects and contract administration.
- Develop plans and programs for infrastructural services within Tokologo Local Municipality area in line with IDP objectives, Manage Operations, maintenance, planning and administration of electricity, water, sanitation, roads and storm water networks.
- Ensuring technical knowledge leverage, sharing and integration
- Developing standards, functional plans, policies and practices
- Integrating functional output with other directorates

Applications and Conditions of Appointment:

Applicants must request and fill in an Application Form (Annexure C) that can be requested from the Human Resource Department at the following email addresses: innocentia.miro@gmail.com or mavusanavm@gmail.com or directly from the Government Notice No. 21 of 17 January 2014 (Annexure C). No Applications will be considered if it is not on the Official Application Form. It is the applicant’s responsibility to have foreign qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and to attach proof thereof.

Shortlisted/recommended candidates will be subjected to a competency based assessment over 2 day’s prior appointment in terms of Annexure A (Competency framework for Senior Managers) of Notice No.21 of Government Gazette No. 37245 of 17 January 2014.

Short-listed candidate will be subjected to reference checks, criminal record check and signing of indemnity forms

The successful candidate will be required to sign an Employment Contract on or before assumption of duty, a Performance Agreement within 60 days of appointment and the necessary Disclosure of Financial Interest Forms as well as undergoing the necessary Security Vetting Processes.

The successful candidate will be based at Tokologo Local Municipality’s Head Office in Boshof but may be deployed anywhere within the municipality depending on the operational requirements.

Due to the large number of applicants, correspondence will be limited to the short-listed candidates only. If you have not been contacted within a period of two months after the closing date of the advertisement, kindly accept that your application has been unsuccessful.

The successful candidate will be reporting directly to the Accounting Officer. The municipality reserves a right not to appoint any applicant to this position.

Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. A candidate who canvasses for preference will be disqualified.

Detailed and comprehensive Curriculum Vitae accompanied by certified copies of qualifications must be addressed to: The Municipal Manager, Tokologo Local Municipality, Private Bag X46, Boshof, 8340 or alternatively can be delivered to the Municipal Offices, corner Voortrekker & Market Square, Boshof, 8340.

Enquiries: Mr Kelehlile Motlhale (Municipal Manager) Tel: 053 541 0014. Late applications will not be considered, post delays must be considered by the applicant

Closing Date: 29 June 2018 (Before the end of business @ 16h00)

**Mr Kelehlile Motlhale
Municipal Manager**



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON NAME CHANGES IN MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT.

Free State Provincial Geographical Names Committee (FSPGNC) will host a public consultation and public hearing on the name changes in Masilonyana Local Municipality; particularly in Brandfort, Majwemasweu and Verkeerdevlei.

NO.	CURRENT NAME(FEATURE)	PROPOSED NAME
1.	Brandfort Town	Winnie Mandela Town
2.	Marantha Location	N .Nqana Square
3.	Deep Level Location	Ntomane Square
4.	Vaal Rock Location	Robeni Village
5.	Los my Cherry Location	S Kotoane Square
6.	Sport Centre	Ida Ngoma Sport Centre
7.	Marantha Health Clinic	Lingani Bosman Health Clinic
8.	Vaal Rock Clinic	Morgan Phehlane Health Clinic
9.	Akademia School	N Moahlodi School
10.	Refihletse Secondary School	Mr. Lehloma Levy/ Rea hola Secondary School
11.	Community Hall	Tshepong Community Hall
12.	Long Road	Morena Lerothodi Road

Date for public hearing in Brandfort: 27 June 2018 (Wednesday)

Venue: Majwemasweu Community Hall

Time: 16h00 pm

Date for public hearing in Verkeerdevlei: 28 June 2018(Thursday)

Venue: Kaps Community Hall

Time: 16h00 pm

All residents of Masilonyana Local Municipality, in particular Brandfort, Majwemasweu and Verkeerdevlei as well as the Media are cordially invited to take an active role in these debates about the names in their town.

The public is therefore given 14 days' notice to send objections or inputs on, or before 22 June 2018, to the Office of the Secretariat.

CONTACT PERSON

Mr. Jeff Mphomela-Deputy Director

Address: Corner Henry and East Burger Street
Business Partners Building, 3rd Floor, Room 302

Contacts: Tel: 051 4104702, Cell: 074 7101534 / 072 535 2145, Fax: 086 4010431

E-Mail: jeff@sacr.fs.gov.za

Private Bag X 20606, Bloemfontein, 9300



sport, arts, culture & recreation

Department of
Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Ramaphoria must not mislead us, says Jonas



Former deputy finance minister and current MTN board member Mcebisi Jonas has warned against the "Ramaphoria", saying the ANC was still faced with a lot of challenges that have moved beyond just an "individual".

Jonas was speaking at a breakfast meeting at the East London Golf Course on Monday, where ANC Ward 18 by-election councillor candidate Andrew Sokolich was introduced to residents.

Jonas said the country was still faced with a lot of youth unemployment, slow gross domestic product growth.

"Ramaphoria must not mislead us and cloud us from the huge challenges that the ANC is still faced with. Taking a look at the figures comparing our GDP we are far behind as a country compared to other economies that are developing," he said.

In the last quarter, the GDP grew at only 3.1%. Speaking about the state capture, Jonas, who was among the first people to speak up against the notorious business family, the Guptas, he described it as a systematic structural challenge that was just "raw".

Jonas called on state security agencies to be effectively used to fight against corruption, instead of being used as political hit squads.

He noted, "The country has enough legislation to fight corruption. The state security entities must be effective and be used for the sole purpose of fighting corruption and not political battles. Political battles must be fought politically. We must dismantle corruption from the private and public sector." -*Daily Dispatch*

Caution over 'Ramaphoria' . . . Former deputy finance minister Mcebisi Jonas



Fuming over non-performance . . . Transport minister Blade Nzimande

Nzimande urges RAF board to resign

Transport minister Blade Nzimande says he wants the "dysfunctional" board of the Road Accident Fund (RAF) to stop fighting like children and rather resign.

Nzimande made the call during his briefing to Parliament's transport portfolio committee on the various entities in his department which include the RAF, Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa and the Airports Company of South Africa.

He has told MPs about the challenges and progress made in some of the boards of these state-owned companies.

Nzimande has also presented his department's quarter four performance report for

the 2017/18 financial year.

Nzimande says the RAF board members were close to exchanging blows at one point. He adds the bad blood and infighting on the board, which currently has five vacancies, even spilt over into Parliament.

"I've decided to call an AGM chair on the Road Accident Fund which is taking place on Friday this week, to just engage them. But in the meantime, I've said: is it not a good idea that they resign and reconstitute this board because it's dysfunctional?"

The minister has also urged those leading the various entities to end the infighting and focus on turning the agencies around. -*EWN*

Lagging councils given 3 months to shape up



Cracking the whip . . . CoGTA minister Zweli Mkhize

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) minister Zweli Mkhize has given dysfunctional municipalities three months to get their houses in order.

The minister was speaking at a municipal excellence workshop in Ekurhuleni on Tuesday.

He recently confirmed most municipalities are either dysfunctional or in distress, and in need of urgent help with only seven percent of them considered to be functioning properly.

Mkhize has been visiting provinces to help

with stabilising municipalities in distress.

He has travelled to KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and most recently the North West.

The minister says dysfunctional municipalities need to employ experienced and qualified people as soon as possible.

"Dysfunctional municipalities have been given three months to clean up all the vacancies. Those vacancies must be filled with correct municipal structures."

His government has announced it will

dispatch 16 technical teams to the municipalities to build capacity.

"Engineers, construction, project managers, financial experts, town and regional experts and administrators are expected to build permanent capacity within these municipalities," Mkhize noted.

He says his department wants to see municipalities back on their feet and able to improve service delivery sooner rather than later. -*EWN*

Ex top cop off the hook

The corruption case against former police commissioner Khomotso Phahlane, his wife Beauty and co-accused, Durand Snyman, has been withdrawn after the state's application for a further postponement was dismissed.

Magistrate Nicola Setshoegoe yesterday dismissed the state's application for a postponement which led to the state withdrawing the matter against the three accused.

"The application for postponement would be prejudicial for the accused," said Setshoegoe.

She added that the state had not persuaded her on why they would be prejudiced if the court removed the matter from the roll.

Earlier in the Commercial Crimes Court in Pretoria, the state had asked for a three-month postponement, saying investigations against the accused had evolved and it wanted to charge more suspects. The defense opposed this postponement arguing that the matter should be struck from the roll as the accused have the right to a speedy trial.

It was alleged that Snyman gave the Phahlanes vehicles, which were paid for by a police contractor who received billions in forensic contracts.

They made their first appearances in February, and were each released on R10 000 bail.

The allegations of corruption against the former acting national police commissioner surfaced more than a year ago, as questions arose about how he could afford a multimillion-rand home.

The allegations escalated recently, as IPID included police supplier Keith Keating and his company, Forensic Data Analysts (FDA), in its investigation.

In December, a joint operation between the Hawks and IPID saw seven properties connected to Keating and Phahlane raided.

News 24 reported last year that Keating's company, FDA, had allegedly received R5bn in SAPS contracts since 2010.

Phahlane, Snyman and Keating previously denied the allegations against them. -*News24*

Relations between De Lille and DA 'beyond repair'

The DA's worst-kept secret has been revealed as the party's legal representation made it clear that the damage in relations between Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille and the party had reached irreparable proportions.

The DA's legal team argued that "it is clear that De Lille merely seeks to clear her name and then sever all ties with the party".

This emerged as the legal battle between De Lille and the DA resumed in the Western Cape High Court on Tuesday.

Sean Rosenberg, leading the charge for the DA, argued that in a radio interview with 702 host Eusebius McKaiser, De Lille's aim was to clear her name and then walk away from the party.

"McKaiser asked repeated questions to clarify that point [whether she sought to leave the party after clearing her name] and her answers were in agreement, it's clear [that after clearing her name she will leave the DA]," argued Rosenberg.

Judge Andre Le Grange sought clarity on whether it was "mischievous" for De Lille to first want to clear her name before resigning, to which Rosenberg answered "not per se, but there were other ways to do that other than holding on to her membership".

De Lille's legal team argued that the DA jumped the gun in exiling the mayor from the party over comments made on radio.

"It was a total overreaction akin to killing a fly with a hammer," argued Johan de Waal who took over from Advocate Dali Mpofu who was defender-in-chief for De Lille in Monday's proceedings.

The bone of contention in Tuesday's proceedings seemed to revolve around whether the public declarations made by De Lille could be construed as being a "public declaration of an intention to resign".

De Lille's lawyer said there was no compelling proof that his client's remarks deserved such a harsh backlash.

"When it comes to [legal] reasonableness, here we are dealing with a decision that

is totally disproportionate.

"Reasonableness requires an element of proportionality between what she did and the sanction. Really, the crux of the unfairness lies therein."

De Waal continued to argue that even if his client had intended to resign after clearing her name, it was "a total overreaction" to kick her out of the party, the council and the mayoral office "immediately based on the conditional words used".

Judge Le Grange seemed to hold a similar opinion as he cross-examined Rosenberg.

"The DA's own constitution does not state that when a member has publicly declared his/her intention to resign, they can't determine otherwise.

"It, in fact, allows them a discretion to confirm [these public declarations] or deny them. And I would assume that if they do not confirm it that is the end of the matter."

Judge Pearl Mantame also added to Rosenberg's woes, asking if the DA's determination was not premature given that De Lille's utterances may have meant that she wants to clear her name first and that she will resign "when it suits her" and not that she intended to resign at that point.

Rosenberg responded that De Lille's membership only ceased to exist subject to confirmation of her intention to resign.

He argued that the mayor's utterances on radio were clear, and the court needed to "weigh up the harm involved in any suggested deviations from the party rules".

Rosenberg also challenged Mpofu's position given on Monday that De Lille's name ought to be cleared in accordance with the DA's own disciplinary processes, saying it was past that stage and was now up to the courts to make a judgement.

De Lille is challenging the constitutionality of the DA clause that the party relied on to fire her last month. -*City Press*

ANC KZN ready for provincial conference



Putting things right . . . Sihle Zikalala

The highest decision-making body of the African National Congress (ANC), the national executive committee, has said it is confident that KwaZulu-Natal is ready for this weekend's ANC provincial conference.

"A provincial conference is the responsibility of the [NEC]; the NEC has discussed the provincial conference, and there is consensus that they have met all constitutional requirements, so the conference is going ahead," said NEC member Nocawe Mafu yesterday.

Mafu - who is also the convener of deployees in KwaZulu-Natal - was speaking at the party's provincial head office in Durban alongside Provincial Task Team (PTT) convener Mike Mabuyakhulu and coordinator Sihle Zikalala.

The provincial party currently has no official leadership structure. Instead, it has been run by an interim structure since January after the NEC suspended the provincial leadership. This was the result of a court case that had challenged the 2015 provincial conference and thus the legitimacy of the ANC KwaZulu-Natal leadership.

However, the interim structure consists of the same members who made up the suspended provincial leadership, leading to some disgruntled regions and branches maintaining that they would still be kept from internal party processes because of factionalism.

This weekend's conference - which takes place at the University of Zululand in the Empangeni

area - is a rerun of the 2015 conference.

Also to be tackled at the three-day conference will be the implementation of policy decisions taken at the party's national conference in December.

Mafu said the NEC was "comfortable" that all constitutional requirements had been met for the conference to convene.

Zikalala said the majority of the ANC branches in the province had held successful branch general meetings and any disputes that were lodged had been attended to. Branches that did not meet their audit requirements would not take part in the conference.

The regional executive committees of Harry Gwala (Kokstad area), Lower South Coast (Port Shepstone area) and Moses Mabhida (Pietermaritzburg area) had been disbanded, he said. REC members would be at the conference, but as nonvoting delegates.

All three of these regions have been plagued by political killings, generally viewed as intraparty disputes as members jostle for positions.

National party leadership had been in the Moses Mabhida region on Wednesday, said Zikalala, and based on their report, it would be decided which branches participated in the conference.

Zikalala said there was agreement that the province had to work towards the unity of the party. "Our priority now is to ensure unity as we move to the 2019 general elections."

Speaking about the challenges in the run-up to the conference, Zikalala said: "We have been confronted by challenges, one being the killings of ANC members. It has created a climate of mistrust and suspicion amongst members."

The party was cooperating with law enforcement to ensure no further lives were lost to political killings, he said.

"As the ANC, we are convinced that the Justice, Crime-prevention and Security [JPCS] cluster departments can halt these killings," Zikalala said. -Citizen



MEC Sport, Arts, Culture & Recreation
Mme Mathabo leeto

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS FOR STATUTORY BODIES

The MEC for Sports Arts Culture and Recreation, under the following Acts

- *National Arts Council Act No 56 of 1997*
- *Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999*
- *South African Geographical Names Council Act No 118 of 1998*

Hereby requests members of the public who are interested in serving in the Free State Provincial Arts Council, Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Act and the Free State Provincial Geographical Names Committee to hand in their applications or nominations. Committees are currently in existence and the aim of this advert is to appoint additional members.

Applications or nominations may be sent to:

Physical Address:

Paseka Mosole
Department of Sport Arts Culture and Recreation
Corner Henry and East Burger Street
4th floor
Bloemfontein
9301
Tel: 051 410 4728
Email: paseka@sacr.fs.gov.za

Private Bag X20606

Bloemfontein
9300
Tel: 051 410 4728
Email: paseka@sacr.fs.gov.za

DA councillors support opposition

Internal divisions in the DA playing out at municipalities in the Western Cape continue after members in the Knysna municipality broke ranks to vote out their own mayor.

Former mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies was voted out on Wednesday by an ANC-sponsored motion supported by two DA councillors - Mark Willemse and former deputy mayor Peter Myers.

Seven DA councillors walked out of the special council sitting before the vote, with the exception of Willemse and Myers, while speaker Georlene Wolmarans was the only DA councillor to vote against the motion, the Knysna-Plett Herald reported. The motion passed by 11 votes to one.

Wolmarans then recused herself from voting in a new mayor.

The move has shocked the DA's provincial leadership, which was caught unaware by its members' plan to support the opposition motion.

The DA, however, remains in charge of the Southern Cape municipality as Willemse, who is also the speaker of the broader Eden district, was elected mayor. COPE councillor Ricky van Aswegen was elected his deputy.

DA Western Cape leader Bonginkosi Madikizela told News24 that the move was "unacceptable" and came with "no prior warning".

"Their reasons given were that they were 'voting with their conscience'. But you can't vote with your conscience if you have a direct interest in the result," he said on Thursday.

He and other provincial leaders will be going to Knysna on Friday to have an urgent meeting with the caucus and the two councillors to ascertain exactly what had happened, and why the councillors voted with the opposition.

He did not want to pre-empt the outcome of the meeting, but repeated that their actions were "unacceptable".

Willemse could not be immediately reached for comment on Thursday. He was expected to be commemorating the anniversary of the Knysna fires at various events in the town on Thursday.

Section 3.5 of the DA's constitution says that canvassing members to support an opposition party could result in the cessation of membership.

Standing against an official candidate of the DA in any public election could also result in that member getting the boot.

Bouw-Spies is among several DA mayors in the province to face motions of no confidence recently.

Former Berg River mayor Evert Manuel resigned two weeks ago ahead of a motion of no confidence against him in council, after he lost the confidence of his DA caucus in an internal vote.

Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille is currently fighting her removal from the party in the Western Cape High Court, after she too lost

C

CONVERSATIONS

NYOVEST RUBBISHES SAMAS



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ANELE RESIGNS AS HOST OF 'REAL TALK'



PAGE 12

ONE ON ONE WITH HAROLD VERSTER



PAGE 16



Nurturing love . . . Extensive research has shown that children who grow up in a non-violent environment with positive emotional engagement and cognitive stimulation are more likely to succeed at school, find stable employment and form healthy adult relationships.

HOW FAMILY BONDS CAN PREVENT VIOLENCE

Comprising just 800 families, Touwsranten in the Western Cape province is the only place in the world in which every programme included in the Parenting for Lifelong Health initiative has been implemented.

Collaboratively developed by the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef), and a number of universities in South Africa and the United Kingdom, the programmes aim to prevent violence by equipping parents with the tools necessary to form close and loving bonds with their children.

Extensive research has shown that children who grow up in a non-violent environment with positive emotional engagement and cognitive stimulation are more likely to succeed at school, find stable employment and form healthy adult relationships. They're also less likely to suffer from anxiety and depression, abuse alcohol and other substances, engage in risky sexual behaviour or become involved in crime and violence.

Seven Passes' parenting initiative includes four programmes: one for new parents, from 36 weeks of pregnancy to six months after birth; one for parents and caregivers of two to nine year olds; one for the parents and caregivers of teenagers; and a book-sharing programme. The programmes run once a week for two to three months at a time and are open to any interested parents in and around Touwsranten.

The parenting initiative was born out of Seven Passes' after-school programme, which since 2007 has provided the town's children with a safe and supportive environment in which to complete their homework every day.

"Over the years, we realised that the behaviour that we were teaching children in the after-school programme wasn't being reinforced at home," says Wilmi Dippenaar, director of Seven Passes.

"The violent behaviour the children were displaying – the way they screamed and swore at each other – was behaviour they were seeing elsewhere."

In 2012, the first of several community-

wide parenting surveys was conducted by Chandré Gould, senior research fellow at the Institute for Security Studies, and Catherine Ward, professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cape Town.

The survey found that spanking, slapping, stress, parental mental health and intimate partner violence in Touwsranten affected children's behaviour. This was evident in their experiences of anxiety and depression, and often manifested as aggression and violence.

As a result, the parenting initiative kicked off, striving to eliminate violence in the home. "Most of the people in the community believe in corporal punishment," says parenting facilitator Roslynn Wehr-Damons. "That's a big part of what we're trying to change."

The programmes encourage parents to spend quality time with their children, to praise them for positive behaviour, to involve them in decision making, to use cool-down strategies when tempers flare, to communicate effectively, and to make sure children feel as though their emotions are valid.

Melissa Fisher had been struggling with her 10-year-old son Cullin when Seven Passes' parenting facilitators came door to door offering assistance. "I was yelling and screaming at him all the time," she recalls, "and I realised I needed help".

"It was like having a weapon that I didn't know how to use," says Melissa. "And they trained me how to use this weapon that I have. It was amazing. It gave me a sense of purpose. It taught me how to handle things in a positive way."

Since completing Seven Passes' adolescent programme, during which she was encouraged to share her feelings with her son, listen attentively to his, spend dedicated time with him and respond to situations calmly, their relationship has vastly improved. "Every morning, I hug him and I tell him 'I love you' – and we never part in anger. He can talk to me about anything now – except sex," she says with a laugh.

The programmes' approach to parenting is different to the way many parents in the community were raised.

"It takes some getting used to," says Joshlin Grootboom, who signed up for the book-sharing programme with her little boy Skye, who is just under two years old.

This programme teaches parents how to read picture books to their children, guiding them on how to help their children engage with the stories. Grootboom also learnt the power of affirming and encouraging her son: how to turn his mistakes into positive reassurances.

While the benefits have been tangible, the parenting facilitators conducting the programmes have experienced no shortage of challenges. Their work is time-consuming and emotionally demanding. They are responsible not only for their day-to-day duties, but for ensuring that the educational facilitators who work with the children in the after-school programme are familiar with the positive parenting techniques. "We all have to practise what we preach," says Wehr-Damons.

Absenteeism is also an ongoing issue. "Most of our programmes run for two or three hours once a week in the evenings," says facilitator Sharren Buys, "but often, the majority don't show up".

While this is found in parenting programmes around the world, it is still a source of frustration for the facilitators.

On Mandalay Farm, parenting programmes have been offered during the workday to ensure that parents are able to attend, despite working long hours. Packaging house employee Manica Everson and her fellow employees Elizabeth Jumat and Shane de Swart speak highly of the work of Seven Passes. "Our relationships with our children are much better since we did the programmes," Everson says.

Although a few men have attended the parenting programmes, this number is small, and its growth is prevented by deeply entrenched gender roles.

"One of the biggest problems in the community lies in the relationship between men and women," explains Gould. "It threatens to undo what we're doing in the parenting programmes."

"A lot of fathers think that parenting is the mother's job," says Fisher. "The men

work; the rest, they leave up to the women.

"As we continue to do this work, we start seeing what else is necessary," says Gould. "The after-school programme made us realise that children needed to be emotionally supported at home, and now we've realised that we need to address imbalances in gender roles, too."

In 2018, Seven Passes will be collaborating with Sonke Gender Justice to implement its MenCare+ programme. This initiative aims to educate fathers on their roles in fatherhood and care giving; engage them in sexual and reproductive health, and maternal and child health services; and provide counselling to those who use violence in their relationships with their partners and children.

Programmes of the kind being offered in Touwsranten – not only the parenting programmes but also the after-school programme – don't lend themselves naturally to impact assessment. The variables are immense, the content deeply personal and sensitive, and respondents sometimes unreliable. Nevertheless, establishing indicators of success is an important means of demonstrating the programmes' efficacy in dealing with and preventing violence.

The number of parents participating in the parenting programmes might be one such indicator; the number of children attending the after-school programme could be another; and the number of children equipped with the grades, skills and self-belief to attend university a third.

Each of these indicators has seen improvements over the years. Looking back on the past decade of work, Gould says: "Something has shifted dramatically here."

Amelia King first started working at Seven Passes in the after-school programme, an experience that helped her secure a full-time position as a parenting facilitator. King's assessment of the programmes relies less on tangible data and more on what she is seeing in the town's homes every day.

"These programmes," she says, "teaching parents to have a good relationship with their children – they have the ability to change the whole community". - DM

Decriminalisation of sex work back on the agenda

"It is clear that South African Civil Society wants sex work to be decriminalised. 59.6% of the submissions called for the full decriminalisation of sex work, which is a clear indication that decriminalisation is the only way to go."

This was the comment from Lesego Tlhale, who was attending the Deliberations on the Summit with Stakeholders on the Sexual Offences Act, 1957 that currently forbids prostitution, brothel-keeping and procuring, and other activities related to prostitution.

The discussion, chaired by Rosalia Morutoa at the Old Assembly in Parliament was attended by Sweat (Sex Workers Education & Advocacy Taskforce) and Stop (Stop Trafficking of People) and a

few members of the Multi-party Women's Caucus.

This deliberation comes after a summit was held on March 5 this year to elicit public participation on whether or not to decriminalise sex work. The draft report on the summit found that 59.6% of the submissions were in support of the full decriminalisation of sex work, while only 22% were in favour of keeping sex work criminalised.

The purpose of this week's meeting was for women's caucus members to finalise decisions and make proposed recommendations. However, this did not happen as members felt that more needed to be done. Cynthia Majeke, a member of the UDM (United Democratic Movement) said

that more voices need to be heard before decisions can be made.

"We don't want a situation where you call a meeting in a room like this and say you have reached stakeholders. We want a situation where you go to even the rural areas and we hear the voices of people before we can take any decision."

Her sentiments were echoed by Nthabiseng Khunou of the ANC (African National Congress).

"If we really want to say this is a clear representation of our country and the demographics of the country are taken seriously we need to make it a point that we go to different provinces, get as many submissions as possible."

Speaking on the abuse that sex workers

experience at the hands of police, and the comments of stakeholders at the summit on the role played by police in the policing of sex work, ANC MP Machwene Semenya, said that the ministry should be more involved. "We want the Minister of Police to take up the issues."

A call has been put out that more people should be included in the research. Members of Parliament in attendance and the organisations present agreed that all South Africans need to be represented.

Tlhale of Sweat said: "We are happy with the outcome of the report and agree with the caucus, to say they want further deliberation especially from the Department of Justice."

No follow-up dates were provided at the meeting. - DM



Scarred for life . . . Vusi Nova

Nova sings about heartbreak

Musician Vusi Nova is still trying to heal from a five-year relationship that left a gaping hole in his heart and he uses music as therapy.

Vusi spoke to TshisaLIVE about the heartbreak that has become an inspiration for some of his iconic hits, including his latest offering *Ndizakulinda* from his upcoming album.

He said the album would tell the story of love, heartbreak and moving on.

"I'm trying to tell people (in my music) that you can love a person and still move on. It doesn't mean just because you love someone you have to be with them. That is ridiculous. You can't, just because you love a person, sit there and stand for all their sh*t basically."

Vusi said that especially at a time where femicide numbers were at an all time high in

Mzansi, women needed to hold on to the fact that at times love is just not enough and put their safety first.

"There are women, even men, that are in abusive relationships and they just stay there because that's all they know. Even if you love that person and they love you back, staying even though you can feel that something just doesn't gel is ridiculous," Vusi said.

The singer noted he wasn't downplaying working on your relationship to make it work.

In fact he said, it was always better to try and give it your best but always accept when it's over.

"It's okay to say, no, I've been through hell and back with this person, I have tried my best. Once the heart has made a decision to walk away then it's done." -*tshisalive*

Anele resigns as host of 'Real Talk'

After two years in the driver's seat, Anele Mdoda has resigned as host of SABC 3 talk show, *Real Talk with Anele*.

The channel made the announcement on Thursday last week through a press statement, which left fans shocked.

The statement revealed that Anele's resignation was accepted and that her last show will be on June 8.

"Real Talk with Anele has, since the beginning of season one, been exceptionally close to my heart and I have been enormously proud to work with SABC 3. I feel, for my own growth, it is time to leave the show and to focus on my career ambitions and prospects.

"I would like to thank SABC3, the viewers and everyone behind the show for the opportunity they afforded me through the show. Hopefully this is not the end but see you later," Anele said in the statement.

The statement went on to add that the current season of the show will end in October and that the search for a new presenter was already underway.

"Anele Mdoda was a great addition to the *Real Talk* show. We wish her all the best with her future endeavors," said Janez Vermeiren and Yusuf Stevens, Executive Producers of *Real Talk with Anele* and Director Cheeky Media.

They added that they were excited about launching the new face of *Real Talk* in the near future. -*Citizen*



Calling it a day . . . Anele Mdoda

Nyovest rubbishes Samas

Cassper Nyovest did not submit his music to be considered for nomination at this year's South African Music Awards (Samas), because he believes he does not need awards to prove his worth — and also because, according to him, the awards are "trash" and "not credible".

This is not the first time. In 2016 and 2017, Nyovest did not submit his music for consideration either, after his hit song "Doc Shebeleza" had failed to be nominated in the record of the year category in 2015.

Earlier this year, when it was time for submissions, the "Tito Mboweni" hitmaker announced that he had not changed his mind about local awards shows and would not be entering his latest album, "Thuto", this year.

In May, Nyovest received a nomination for the Best International Act category alongside *Distraction Boyz* at the upcoming BET Awards.

When asked during a press conference why he takes part in international awards while boycotting local ones, Nyovest said he did not understand the credibility of the Samas and called for a conversation to be had on the subject.

He said the BET Awards come with a bigger market, which he believes is good for his growth prospects.

"How credible is the Samas? These are the kind of conversations we need to have. Why are some categories voted for by the people? I have so many questions, like when I was nominated for my first Sama [in 2015], I wasn't nominated for Record of the Year with "Doc Shebeleza", and my question was why they had to cut from 20 people to 10 the year we were nominated?"

"These are questions that haven't been answered. For me, it was like: 'I can't submit at the Samas every year when I don't understand certain things and you have questions and no one has ever answered us.'

"So when I thought about it, for me it was like I don't really need the Samas. They don't take me anywhere. They don't expose me to anybody. They are here in South Africa and people in South Africa know me and love me



No kind words . . . Cassper Nyovest

regardless of whether I win or not.

"In terms of the BETs, they offer me a bigger market and I'm trying to grow. The Samas is trash though," Nyovest said.

But entertainment commentator Phil Mphela disagrees.

"I love Cassper, but he needs to chill. Right now, he's going to the BETs, and he's very excited about the nomination, and I understand it's an international award, but even there he doesn't know who actually makes the selection for nominees, and he probably doesn't care — it's BET. So why is it that when it comes to local awards, he wants to know who's selecting when?"

"That said, I think at some point, there's some validity to his concerns, and I give him that, but at the same time, the idea that just because it's

South Africa he needs to know who's voting and choosing nominees is ridiculous, because he doesn't ask for the same when it comes to international awards.

"If the process is done correctly and is not marred by controversies, then why do you want to know who's on the panel?" Mphela said.

He noted local stars should also guard against coming across as bitter when they are not celebrated.

"Some of our celebrities are annoying in the sense that when they win all is okay, but when they are not nominated then all of a sudden they start to question processes, etc., yet when it was their turn they did not ask," he said. -*Huffpost*

Ms. K Unrestricted

Simple tips for healthy relationships

Having a successful and healthy relationship takes work, but not the stressful and tedious work you might be thinking. You can have a healthy relationship by following just a handful of simple tips. We asked five relationship experts what their number one tip is when it comes to maintaining a healthy relationship.

1. Avoid making assumptions.

When people know each other for a while, they can sometimes predict how their partner is going to react. However, when couples fall into a pattern of making assumptions about each other too readily, some significant problems may follow, explains licensed psychologist, Dr. Nicoletta C. Skoufalos. "Communication between partners can shut down over time. Partners may stop being curious about each other, and in fact may be making incorrect assumptions about each other that can lead to miscommunications. Additionally, people's thoughts and experiences or even who they are can change over time. When partners make assumptions about each other they may fail to acknowledge how each has grown over time and this can create distance between them." Continue to communicate about feelings, don't hide your reactions, and always express what it is you need from your partner.

2. Focus on the positive.

Instead of focusing on flaws in your partner, which perpetuates negative feelings about the relationship, focus on the positive aspects of your partner. "It's important to look for any positive qualities that you admire in your partner," suggests Afton Strate, a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist. "If you have

experienced a lot of conflict in your relationship this may pose more of a challenge initially, but I encourage couples to find even small things that they can appreciate about their partner. When you have identified something that you like about your partner (e.g., their patience) it can be helpful to connect the quality with an experience that you've had with them. You can also reference qualities that initially attracted you to your partner or an aspect of their character that may have been demonstrated more recently."

3. Play together and stay together.

Take turns planning weekly romantic date nights or date days. "Hiking, biking, skating or long walks are great things to do. Learn something new together as a couple such as wine making, snow shoeing, a cooking or dance class," says Susan McCord (aka Dear Sybersue), a relationship coach and advice columnist. Then, every couple months, even if it's just a weekend, get away together. "Getting away from everything once a year is also a great way to stay close to each other. You can remove yourself from the everyday distractions at home and enjoy a fun new environment together. Diversity is the key to a strong relationship because things never get stale. You always have something to look forward to," she adds.

4. Maintain your individuality.

Each person in a healthy relationship needs to know who they are and what makes them happy. "Many times when people begin a relationship, they try to please the other person and neglect themselves in order to begin the relationship," explains Dr. Cherry D. Weber, a licensed

clinical psychologist. "People ideally begin to develop who they are in childhood and build off this as they mature throughout their life. If both people have a healthy sense of self they can develop a good relationship by bringing their similar qualities as well as their differences to the relationship, and they won't have one person dominate or overshadow the other."

5. Choose the right person.

If you really want to know the key to having a healthy relationship, it comes down to who you select to be your partner. "Selecting the right person with whom to build a relationship and share your life is half the battle," says Elly Klein, a relationship expert and writer. "Yes, you must find them attractive and enjoy their company, but they must also have a good heart, treat you well, and want to be with you. So don't place all the emphasis on attraction and connection." The bottom line is that if you're only just physically attracted to someone and don't really enjoy spending time with them outside of the bedroom—or if you don't fully trust, accept, or respect them—the relationship will struggle to be healthy. Find someone else.

Some people will tell you relationships are work, and there's some truth to that, but it's also trivializing the matter. Relationships, and fostering healthy relationships, are about more than simply working at it. Your relationships are your life, they are living, evolving things just as you are. And as a result they should grow and change just as you do. As you grow in your relationship, keep in mind these five simple tips. And don't forget to enjoy the ride.



Social Scenes

AN EXCEEDINGLY DULL NIGHT IN THE CITY

With winter upon us, the City of Roses offered very little entertainment, if at all, this past weekend. Fuss was just about the only thing that offered a bit of spark and Boompies Kitchen as well. Apart from that, there's very little to write home about.

This is what went down....



Feeling Naughty: Without a doubt Thando was on the naughty side and she was not afraid to flaunt it. The hair, make up and nails on point, girlfriend was well within her right to display a bit of flesh; no one can blame Immortal DJ for staring!



Trouble makers: One is troublemaker when it comes to the decks and the only is absolutely gifted with causing trouble on the mic. The ever tickled DJ Finzo alongside gospel sensation Teboho Moloji were whispering something not in line with music at St Augustine's Resort. That much we could tell!



The one and only: Mochini Michael refers to himself as the sleepest on note and others deep house junkie. Well, whichever you look at him, Bushveld (dressed new clothes and sneakers) was chilled as ever this past weekend via Thou'ts Lounge. Wow! Guess people do change.



Blowing smoke proudly: Which two people love hookah more than their books...Look no further folks. We would very much love to go further on this one but I'd rather not. These two are just crazy to say the least.



Soulful one...Dr Nogals is known for a lot of things, some good, and some bad. But one thing that stands out is his ability to take you to a place you've never been when he is on deck during Soulful sounds at KK Pub and Grill. And this Sunday was no different. Take a bow doc, you did it again!



Birds of the same feather: Thando was not the only one feeling all excited and kinda out of order on the night. Mpho, who by the way looked absolutely stunning in red was on the same tip. The dance moves said it all darling, not that we're complaining. You girls brought life to that joint. Take five!

EXPRESSIONS

"The party is preaching the need to unite our members at all levels and I would not go against the grain and act otherwise . . . by attacking my leaders, including the President, whom I've high regard for."



Dihlabeng Municipality Mayor Lindiwe Makhalema distancing herself from a recent social media remark posted under her name, describing President Cyril Ramaphosa as a 'sellout'

"The city is of a firm belief that sanitation is at the heart of human dignity and central to the creation of conditions that are consistent with our determination to provide housing security and comfort."



Manguang Metropolitan Municipality Executive Mayor Councillor Olly Mlamleli presenting her 2018/19 budget last week

"The company, based on its calculations, is entitled to an 11 percent fare increase. However having taken into consideration the financial situation and pressures their commuters are facing, it took a difficult decision of proposing the bare minimum of 7.5 percent."

Interstate Bus Lines Chief Executive Officer George Mokgothu announcing a 7.5 percent starting from July 1, in a statement this week

The Weekly

Editorial

Remembering fallen young liberation fighters

June 16, 1976 will forever be remembered in South African political history as the date on which the focus of the world was turned to the brutality of apartheid as a form of crime against humanity and forced those denialist states in cahoots with the repressive regime to reconsider their hostile stance against the forces of change in the country.

That day in history marks the time in which apartheid made it categorically clear that it was willing to use any force no matter how lethal, to extinguish the zest for freedom and liberation that was burning inside the hearts of the oppressed masses.

It was a period wherein apartheid made it clear that failure to comply with their draconian legislations, which in part were meant to strip Africans of their identity and render them black Afrikaners, would be met with fierce reaction even if it meant the death of scores of young black students.

The events of the day will not be complete without mentioning that the march where students were mowed down by security personnel was meant to be peaceful and organised, and yet the white policemen in their insatiable lust to spill innocent blood and appease their handlers, provoked the students to the extent of firing at them with live ammunition and rubber bullets.

Scores of young people were killed in the line of struggle and hundreds more of their peers were injured.

Today as we approach the annual June 16 commemorations, we are reminded of the sacrifices made by youth of yesteryears including Hector Peterson, the first martyr of June 16 shootings, as well as other young people who paid the ultimate price for the freedom we enjoy today.

The heroic actions of the likes of Tsietshi Mashinini, Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, Saul Tsotetsi and Peter Mokaba among many others, tell us that the struggle for the attainment of political freedom was not laced with roses and palms, that the going was tough and only sustained by the deep seated desire to turn the new leaf and free South Africa.

While many comrades today join the struggle to access the material benefits associated with being a card carrying member of the movement, the same cannot be said about the youth of 76 who laid down their lives for the land of their forefathers.

These comrades, who were only motivated by the dire material conditions of their people to take up arms and fight the system on all fronts, including defying orders to use only Afrikaans as an official medium of instruction in schools, will go down our history books as struggle time liberators as opposed to 'peace time' revolutionaries that we see grandstanding as freedom fighters today.

In killing young people in Soweto back in 1976, little did the apartheid master architects knew that they were in actual fact immortalising them, and turning them into subjects of national pride for the hundreds of generations to come.

This class of 76, as much as it appeared to be fighting against the imposed language policy in African schools, were as much fighting against their forced co-option into a system that wished to render them fetchers of water and cutters of wood in a white master's house.

As we celebrate these heroic young lions – we need to reflect on the state of the organisation which brought us the political freedom we so warmly embrace today, and ask the pertinent question of where are the youth of today to carry the baton and run with it.

A serious engagement is overdue on what the nation needs to do to get the youth off their bums and rolling their sleeves to assist the country out of its socio-economic doldrums.

Young people should be taking centre stage in developing the country and building future industries that can absorb a whole lot of their frustrated peers.

An Indaba is indeed needed on workable strategies to ensure youth who have completed their academic training do not join the long list of the unemployed in the townships.

This trend can't be allowed to continue unabated if the country still places any value on academic training and education as empowering endeavours rendering candidates eligible for appointment to job openings.

This being said, the youth of today also need to emulate their 1976 predecessors and take the horn by the bull in terms of sensitising the incumbent authorities around their plight.

It cannot be right that young people keep mum and expect the world to come to their service without raising a finger, something like doing away with the mentality of entitlement which has rendered many despondent and stuck in a revolving circle of apathy, poverty and having-less-ness.



Cartoons by Zapiro from <https://www.zapiro.com>



Are top ANC members being poisoned?

The upper echelons of the ANC are awash with accusations of poisoning. The accusers and their allies assert that they are under homicidal attack by those intent on seizing power and negating their ideological positions.

The rest of us look on from the sidelines, puzzled as to whether such charges signify psychopathy, paranoia, politics or something older and more mystical. Perhaps it is a curious combination of all of the above.

In any other society a spate of high-level accusations of poisoning would be headline news but in South Africa there is so much other political intrigue in the air that these claims have not been adequately analysed. This is unfortunate because they have serious implications for health, criminal justice and the integrity of the state.

So, let's start at the top. Over the years, former president Jacob Zuma has made several claims that he was poisoned in June 2014. As the 2017 ANC conference loomed, the frequency of the claims increased. In August last year, he was quoted by IOL as having told the ANC cadres' forum in Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal, that "I was poisoned and almost died just because South Africa joined Brics [the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa grouping] under my leadership. They said I was going to destroy the country."

In November, he told ANN7 that "I was poisoned; some people wanted me dead. Indeed it was quite a strong poison and I did go through a challenging time."

Zuma did report his belief that he had been poisoned to the police in 2015 but to date no charges have been brought. In January 2015 aspersions were cast on the cooking of his estranged wife Nompumelelo Ntuli-Zuma who was subsequently evicted

from Nkandla by then minister of state security David Mahlobo. None of the above constitutes proof of a crime having been committed.

Zuma is not alone in making such accusations. Then Mpumalanga premier and ANC deputy president David Mabuza has repeatedly asserted that he was poisoned because "I let my guard down and accepted food" at his 2015 birthday celebrations in Bushbuckridge. When asked, in January 2016, why he believed he was being attacked, he told The Sowetan that there was "a layer of people in the ANC that was unhappy and want to be leaders". In the same statement he mentioned that immediately prior to becoming sick he had been accused of being an apartheid era spy by his chief political rival Mathews Phosa.

Mourners at the January 2018 Parys funeral of head of the Free State department of police, roads and transport, Sandile Msibi, were told by ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule that his deceased ally had been poisoned by enemies of radical economic transformation because "once you touch the nerve of white monopoly capital, you will never survive".

Gayton McKenzie in his 2017 book, Kill Zuma By Any Means Necessary, claims that KwaZulu-Natal Premier Willie Mchunu was a victim of ricin poisoning.

It is impossible to escape the possibility of a political element to the accusations and/or attacks. Whatever else is going on, there is clearly a political element involved in that those who state that they have been targeted are politicians belonging to a pro-Zuma/anti-Ramaphosa ANC faction.

Obfuscation generally surrounds the exact identity of the accused but in February 2018 a group calling itself "cadres of the African National Congress and ex-combatants of Umkhonto weSizwe, the



ANNA TRAPIDO

revolutionary people's army" linked Cyril Ramaphosa to the poisoning of Zuma.

Evidence substantiating claims of such serious attacks might kindly be described as limited.

Poisoning of senior politicians would constitute a serious security breach and yet a 2018 South African Institute of Race Relations report combed through SA Police Service (SAPS) annual reports between 2007/08 and 2016/17 looking for evidence of threats to VIPs and found no such security breaches being logged. Both the president and his wife would fall under the care of the Presidential Protection Service (PPS) and yet the 2014 SAPS annual report states "no security breaches occurred" in relation to the PPS.

Ma Ntuli-Zuma was subsequently questioned by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) in June 2015 but the case seems to have stalled. Her attorney, Ulrich Roux, recently told City Press that he had written four letters to National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) head Shaun Abrahams since September 2016, requesting more information about the case and that "we have not received any proper response, except for the fact that the NPA alleges that it is investigating the matter ... The NPA cannot even confirm if my client is an accused person or a witness."

OPINION

More to the point, neither Mahlobo, Zuma, Mabuza or Magashule provided evidence that poisoning (either intentional or accidental) took place at all. There is evidence that both Zuma and Mabuza became ill and were treated by doctors but no evidence has been provided that they were poisoned.

Poisoning is vulnerable to what philosophers call the logical fallacy of "post hoc ergo propter hoc" (Latin for "after this therefore because of this") which states that since event Y followed event X, event Y must have been caused by event X. This assertion must be proven, as the fact that disease Y occurred after eating food X does not mean that food X necessarily caused disease Y. Illness can and often does have a latency period such that behaviour Z which occurred at any time in the past is at least as likely to be the true cause of disease Y.

The plot really thickens when the competence and ethics of the South African medical profession is called into question. In each case the accusers have stated that named and well-respected South African private hospitals (and the private laboratories that service their toxicology requests) were unable to detect poison. The failure of South African medical

Continues on page 17

Dreaming of a better SA

Visiting the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (aka the Lynching Memorial) in Montgomery, Alabama last week left me emotionally numb.

I was made numb not only because of past injustices and imagining the terror felt by the many victims of lynching and their families who knew that once accused, they faced an almost certain death. My numbness came from knowing that the past continues to haunt us in new forms of terror:

- Targeted police killings of black people; slavery in Libya and other places; women dying at the hands of their partners;
- rape;
- human trafficking;
- violent crime; etc.

The visit left me devastated, raw and feeling discouraged knowing all the woundedness we are suffering from as a people. Woundedness that's hardly acknowledged by the perpetrators! Maybe it's not for them to acknowledge that pain

but for the victims to keep fighting for a more equal and just world, and the rule of law.

Speaking to American social justice activist Bryan Stevenson reminded me that we cannot afford to stay numb forever. He reminded me that we must all play our part to help society reckon with this difficult past. We must turn into partners who want to see justice realised for old and new victims of all forms of terror.

You can choose to look the other way, to hope that victims will come right without lending a helping hand, without sacrifice. You can choose to be an armchair critic who sees everything wrong with all the efforts of others. A critic who finds others falling short yet doesn't get involved to help them fulfil their mission in life.

I choose to get my hands dirty. To help in any way possible to lift the heavy burden of poverty and inequality from the shoulders of the poor and vulnerable. I choose to keep dreaming.

Dreaming of a country free of the pit

OPINION

SELLO HATANG

latrines that can kill another Michael Komape and Lumka Mketwa.

Dreaming of a country in which Palesa Madiba could have completed her degree at the University of Johannesburg.

Dreaming of a country in which Karabo Mokoena is still alive and free of punches from her partner.

Dreaming of a country in which Andries Tatane is receiving the basic services he needed in his community.

I am a dreamer! I dream of a country that fully supports the rights of the LGBTI community without fear of death and mockery.

I dream of health workers fighting for their right to fair wages whilst respecting

the rights of patients to receive care. I dream of the disabled being fully supported and accommodated in their daily lives.

These names and stories remind me that hope is not enough without hard work.

Courage and bravery are not enough without thoughtfulness and help from others. Solidarity remains key to changing our society.

We all have a role to play. Victims of injustice do not have the time to wait.

- #GetYourHandsDirty
- #PlayYourPart
- #BuildACountryOfYourDreams
- * Hatang is Chief Executive Officer of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.





"It is our belief as the regional executive committee that all members of the ANC will abide by the cited rules amongst others as reflected in the ANC constitution."

Regional secretary of the ANC in Mangaung, Lulama Titi, announcing that all 50 branches of the party in the region will over the weekend convene branch general meetings to verify membership



"We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the fact that some of the children in our country are unaccompanied and undocumented, making them vulnerable."

Social development minister Susan Shabangu addressing the closing ceremony of Child Protection Week in Ladybrand on Sunday



Done right, land redistribution will boost economy

OPINION



MAX DU PREEZ

The expectations and fears around land redistribution are what bedevil the national conversation on this issue rather than the process of giving black people more access to land.

The EFF and some elements in the ANC are building up an anticipation that farms, businesses and urban properties are going to be expropriated on a large scale without any compensation and handed out to ordinary people, instantly making them wealthy.

AfriForum and other right wing whites are playing along for their own reasons, warning white people that "the blacks" are going to throw them off their properties as happened in Zimbabwe and that would finally destroy the economy and the peace.

Instead, it should be an ideal opportunity to settle an old and serious issue – indeed, the original sin of the colonial era.

If done properly, quickly and on a big enough scale, land redistribution could actually achieve more than just address the strong emotions around redress, justice, symbolism and historic evil. It could actually become a major injection to economic growth.

But nobody will become rich overnight,

despite Julius Malema and Jacob Zuma's populist promises. Land itself is not as important as what one does with it. The people of, for instance, Mali and Mozambique have ample access to land, yet they remain among the poorest in the world.

Whites should start calming the hell down and know that they stand to benefit more than they could lose if the process really works.

From their point of view, even the worst possible scenario would not be such a catastrophic scenario. In the unlikely event that the ANC decides to vote with the EFF to change the Constitution to spell out that the state could expropriate property without compensation, arbitrary expropriation would still not be possible.

That would be a violation of the Founding Principles in Chapter One of the Constitution that cements the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution. If the rule of law is followed, property owners will always have recourse to the courts.

Chapter One of the Constitution may only be amended with 75% of Parliament and six out of the nine provinces agreeing to it.

It is clear from the national mood that if the

status quo is allowed to remain unaltered for much longer, the emotions around land will get more and more inflamed and could eventually lead to so much instability that our democracy could be under threat.

Even the hardest Afrikaner nationalist must know deep down that it cannot be normal that so few black South Africans own so little land and that so many black people still live in squalor where they have to bring up their children.

Urban land hunger is clearly the biggest and most urgent problem. I cannot remember more than one or two illegal occupations of farms over the last decades, but we have had hundreds of cases of urban land occupation just in the last year.

The reason? The massive movement of people from the communal black areas to the cities over the last two decades. Between 2000 and 2010 the population of Gauteng had grown by 31% and of the Western Cape by 29% – a movement of more than five million people in ten short years.

The governments since 1994 had not anticipated this and certainly didn't plan for it. Almost two-thirds of our nation are now urbanised, the highest in Africa by far.

About seven million people live in desperate conditions in vast informal settlements or squatter camps in the country. Seven million out of a population of 56 million. Moreover, many of the formal townships are hugely overpopulated and offer a very low quality of life.

The government is now planning an ambitious project to rapidly supply open tracts of land in and around cities with water and sewerage infrastructure and then transfer them to people with title deeds and permission to build their own houses.

Abandoned buildings in inner cities will be renovated into decent living units.

It is in this project that expropriation will be essential in terms of costs and time.

We are talking blandly about expropriation without compensation, but actually it means expropriation with no compensation, very little compensation, ample compensation or compensation equalling full market value.

It is worth reading Section 25 (3) of the Constitution in this regard. It states that regard should be paid to "all relevant circumstances" which it defines as "the current use of the property; the history of the acquisition and the use of the property; the market value of the property; the extent of direct state investment and subsidy and the acquisition and beneficial capital improvement of the property; and the purpose of expropriation."

The redistribution of agricultural land is also important, but not quite as urgent. Post-settlement support to new farmers is more difficult than acquiring the land – the vast majority of redistributed farms have become commercial failures because of the lack of support.

The government has confirmed that it sits on more than four thousand commercial farms that it hasn't been able to give to new farmers. Former president Kgalema Motlanthe's High Level Report commissioned by Parliament makes it clear that state capacity, an incompetent bureaucracy and corruption are more to blame for the slow pace of land reform than any other factor.

So why would the government embark on the large scale expropriation of farms now if it doesn't have the capability to establish successful new farmers on the land?

AgriSA, representing most commercial farmers, has proved to be very pragmatic and this week again confirmed its acknowledgement of the untenability of having so few black farmers on the land. It has spent some R330 million on supporting emerging farmers over the last year and is committed to step up those efforts even more.

But establishing new black commercial farmers is just one part of the solution. We urgently need to empower large numbers of smallholder farmers on the land in every province and assist them to be productive. This is done very successfully in Ethiopia where more than a million families were given small pockets of land and ample support from the state.

A recent opinion poll quoted by the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies indicated that about a third of black South Africans want land for the purpose of growing food and that the vast majority of them said they would be happy with five hectares or less. Most of these people are from the rural areas, probably farm workers and people in the former Bantustans, and some who had recently become urbanised and yearn for a piece of land for a patch of maize and a few cows and chickens.

It is good to agitate against any reckless expropriation process and illegal land grabs, but it is as important for citizens and civil society to agitate for a speedy and ambitious redistribution of land.

It will benefit the landless as well as those fortunate citizens who already own land, urban and agricultural land, because it will lower the levels of anger and resentment and make South Africa a more just and stable country.

DA at a crossroads: Ideology versus growth

I remember veteran journalist Ken Owen writing in the Sunday Times just before the 1994 elections that "I stood by the liberals when they were almost extinct. I will not desert them just because they are confused."

Owen was making his electoral choice ahead of the historic elections when black people were, for the first time, given the vote. He had dissected the ideological confusion of the then Democratic Party, but still felt that they were the best choice for the future of South Africa.

More than 20 years later, I feel that we have been saddled with the same problem: The DA, the DP's successor, still expects that the media must "stand by them" because they are "the only truly non-racial party with the best economic policies that can save this country". But the media's role is not to stick by any political party, but rather by the Constitution. That is the only guiding ideology that it should swear by. Anyone or any institution, such as then Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, that best upholds and promotes the values in the Constitution deserves the support of all South Africans.

The DA has done excellent work in shining the light in the dark corners of corruption. For years since the days of Nelson Mandela to these days of Life Esidimeni, its public representatives have been indefatigable in exposing the wastage

of public resources. And their work has been duly highlighted everywhere including, for example, forcing former president Jacob Zuma to finally face trial for corruption and fraud. And I am sure there are many other good patriotic acts they perform.

However, I am getting the sense that they expect to be rewarded by the media with what they call good publicity. This means they should be treated with kid gloves in relation to how they handle matters that could potentially generate "negative publicity". It simply does not work that way. It should be the South African voter who entrusts them with his/her future in recognition of all the (good) work they might have performed. But alas, the DA is sensing "ingratitude" from the media who, for obscure reasons, are expected to sing their praises.

The truth is, the DA is in trouble currently. The reliable Ipsos survey says support for the party has dwindled from 22.3% in 2014 to 20% now. For a party that envisaged taking the levers of national government in coalition with other parties in 2019, this is totally shocking. It honestly means they are living in cloud cuckoo land regarding that objective. And the DA knows the reasons, which include a changed political landscape after the disappearance of Zuma as a central ANC figure

and the emergence of Ramaphoria.

But, for the most part, the damage is self-inflicted.

Despite knowing the real reasons why they are regressing so much, they are looking for scapegoats. They know that a large percentage of their voters are fed up with the same ideological confusion that Owen referred to. But, mostly, the influential, historical DA constituency is unhappy with their leader Mmusi Maimane, who has found his Black voice.

When Maimane attacks white privilege, it causes serious consternation among their constituency and some of the leaders who feel that he is dabbling in ANC lingo and ideology. When he boldly stands up to support rugby legend and commentator Ashwin Willemse in a dispute with two white commentators, DA supporters take to Twitter to express outrage and vow never to vote for the party again. Whether Maimane has reached his Damascus moment or is simply being realistic and opportunistic by targeting the massive black vote that can change his party's fortunes, the fact is, he has rattled the cage. He is no longer the "nice" priest who reminded them of former US president Barack Obama. He is now no different from ANC politicians, who are held up as the worst standard in politics.

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But the problem for his critics is that the DA has recently held its congress, where they strategically chose not to challenge his leadership. It is now too late to properly rein him in. Other than biting the riposte on Twitter, Maimane is running loose in a manner his internal party critics cannot handle. And they are deeply worried that his continued commentary will further erode their support base. But the one small problem is that he and a coterie of mainly black leaders around him feel that this path he is choosing will achieve the opposite: it will bring on board many more black voters who have hitherto viewed the party as white. This is an unavoidable tension.

When they do use federal executive and caucus meetings to try and pressurise him to tone down, the information is leaked and their agenda exposed. So what do Maimane's critics do? They quietly start exploring the possibility of a party that will largely reflect what they feel

the DA should be: A liberal, non-racial party that believes in meritocracy. They then consult sympathetic political analyst Frans Cronje to help them with a feasibility assessment. Cronje's confirmation of the approach by these DA forces stands uncontradicted.

With ten months to go before national elections, this is where the DA finds itself: at a crossroads where ideological purity clashes with practical imperatives of growth. With our history, it inevitably takes on racial connotations. They probably need a special conference to resolve these tensions. Or else the fights and divisions will be drip-fed to a gradually disaffected support base right till the elections.

The DA has a responsibility to find a way to work around the ideological clash that has set the party on a collision course. That is far more fundamental and useful than trying to manage the message.



Letters to the Editor

WRITE TO: newsroom@theweekly.co.za
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The Editor reserves the right to edit and reject letters. Pseudonyms may be used, but must be clearly marked as such. All correspondence, including emails and SMSes, must include your name, address, and a phone number. Preference will be given to shorter letters.

Plan ahead to avoid the worst of winter

It's getting a little harder to get out of bed in the morning and more tempting to linger in a hot shower, sure signs that winter is on its way. South Africa's temperate climate means that for most of us this means breaking out a heavier duvet or putting more blankets on the bed. But are there any other practical steps you can or should be taking to prepare for the change of season?

The laws of supply and demand dictate that if you wait until temperatures plummet before stocking up on fire wood or getting more gas for the gas heater, you'll pay more. Alternatively you'll be faced with Murphy's law and the supplier will have run out. Buying winter essentials such as firewood, gas

or even replacing old or broken heaters is best done before the weather turns cold.

Also bear in mind that power cuts are more likely in winter either because high winds blow trees across power lines or increased demand puts strain on electrical infrastructure.

These are much easier to deal with if you've got working torches and batteries in the house. Rechargeable solar LED lights are also a good idea, as long as you make sure they're charged. A skottelbraai or gas-fuelled camping set are quick to set up and easy to cook on when the power goes out, but entirely useless if you've run out of gas. Check.

If you bought a generator or an uninterrupted power supply system during the days of

loadshedding, test them to make sure they still work.

Preventing problems is always less expensive than fixing them afterwards. You can do most preventative maintenance yourself at little or no cost, although it's best to get professional help if you're unsure how to go about it or don't have the right tools. Simple maintenance includes making sure gutters are clear of leaves and other debris. The weight of water in clogged gutters can break the brackets that support them. The backed up water also needs to go somewhere. If you're lucky it'll just pour over the side. If not, the wind can blow it up under the tiles potentially damaging ceilings and fittings. While you're checking the gutters also take a

careful look at the roof for missing, broken or shifted tiles or other issues that could result in leaks or the wind getting in and potentially causing more damage.

If you are looking forward to a nice roaring fire, check your chimney. You should be looking for blockages such as birds' nests and soot build up. If there does seem to be excessive soot, it's worth considering getting in a professional rather than risking a fire in the chimney.

Take a walk around the house and check for any trees that might blow over or branches that could break off and damage the house. You may be able to trim some yourself, but if you're in doubt get in a professional tree feller.

While you're doing your walk-around check the outside lighting. This is a sensible security precaution because it gets dark earlier in winter. Not only will well-lit paths and approaches

potentially discourage criminals, but will help prevent you, your family or guests tripping and falling on cold winter nights or early mornings.

Whether you're using a gas or electric heater, or a fire to warm your house, heating costs money. The first thing to consider if you want to save heat and money is to make sure the house is well insulated. If you don't have insulation in your ceiling, it's worth considering. It'll keep the heat in during winter and keep you cool in summer. If you have insulation, check to make sure it hasn't shifted, been torn or damaged.

While you're in the ceiling, check to see if there's a cover on the geyser. If not, you may want to think about getting one. Heating water is also expensive.

DirectAxis

One on One

with Harold Verster

Rugby is one of the most lucrative sports in the country and yet its popularity, if the stadium attendance figures are anything to go by, is on the decline. This among other things, has prompted authorities in the game in the Free State, to look for new ways to grow the game and reclaim its past glory. **The Weekly's Martin Makoni** discussed some of the challenges faced by the sport in the province with the **Free State Cheetahs (Pty) Ltd managing director Harold Verster** and what was being done to turn a new leaf. The sport has the potential to turnaround the lives of many young people and can bring more business to the province if the right things are done at the right time. The forthcoming Test Match between South Africa and England to be played in Bloemfontein is a case in point. Excerpts:

How important is this Test Match between South Africa and England on June 16 to the Free State in terms of stadium attendance and business in general?

I think the hosting of a Test here in Bloemfontein is of critical importance for Free State Rugby and also the community of the Free State to show the world that we can host the Test at that level. This is an international Test. It's an absolutely top tier test. So, for us it's very important to have it here. Apart from that, it will bring a lot of business to our city. Latest estimates indicate that we will have about R240 million flowing into Mangaung. This includes business flowing into restaurants, people staying in hotels, guesthouses, people buying fuel and so on. It's important for us to host a Test annually or bi-annually.

How prepared is the province for a match of this magnitude considering the high volumes of people coming in?

Yes, on the part of the Free State Rugby Union and the company Free State Cheetahs (Pty) Ltd, we are well prepared. We have hosted similar matches before. Last year we had Australia. Previously we had New Zealand here. We also host major soccer matches and Tests here at the Toyota Stadium and I think the staff is well prepared with all the support from the government, the municipality and others because we latch onto the police force, security wise, we latch onto the community for gate keepers, bartenders and so forth. We have been very successful in the past hosting the Tests.

Dwindling attendance figures have become a major concern in rugby in South Africa. Big rugby playing nations like Australia and New Zealand are also faced with the same challenge, what could be the reason for that?

Look, there is always a very important factor linked to it. One, is performance. If the team performs well, people support it better. We had the Currie Cup final here in 2016 and we won it. We had a capacity crowd. We also hosted the semi-final and we won it. So, once your team performs well, playing good rugby, the people tend to come to the matches. The performance of the Springboks also means a lot to the game. If they do well, attendances at club matches improves. The other thing that the market is a bit flooded with activities on television, broadcasting. And the other factor is the economy. You must bear in mind, we need to buy the Test from the SA Rugby Union to host it here and it's a lot of money. That means tickets to the match have to be at a high price to make the business work. That's also a factor influencing the numbers. Further to that, our market share is not that big compared to Gauteng, the Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal. But we work hard and we manage to get a lot of people into the stadium. And very importantly, we have embarked on a programme called the New Generation Project aimed at bringing more youths to the stadium. We see a drop in support in the bracket of people aged below 35 years. We don't have real support there.

But do you know why they are not really coming to the rugby matches and how are you addressing that?

Well, I think the point is to know what they want to see. They want to see good rugby and they also want to have some good music and maybe some Wi-Fi so that they can share with others on social media, what's happening in the stadium. And because of the process of transforming rugby, they want to see their role players as well as having some social integration experience. Through that, I believe we can build the support base for the Cheetahs and for rugby generally, in our communities. It started slowly but it's growing and there is a lot of enthusiasm to build on that. This is important because older support base is declining and some of them are moving on in life. We need a new generation to move into that gap. We have to pump-in more money to make that work. We have also linked up with Bloemfontein Celtic so that they can bring their support base closer to rugby and rugby is also working to bring its supporters closer to Celtic and soccer generally. We are working on taking the game to the community – the townships and other towns like Bethlehem, Aliwal North, Burgersdorp, that nice stadium in Botshabelo, and play games there. We have been a bit slow getting started, but next year, we should have a lot of games played out in the community stadiums. We need to take the game to the community and bring the community to the stadium.

But where exactly are those aged below 35 year spending their time, if you go to the cinemas they are not there as well, yet they make up the greater part of South Africa's population, where are they?

That's quite interesting. I think we should do a bit more research on it because if you look at the two universities here, the numbers have increased dramatically in recent years. There are a lot of young people there. Where are they? What's their spending capacity? Where do they want to spend their money? Is there any interest in rugby? I think there is interest in the game. If you look at the Varsity Cup, the attendance figures are good. There is a lot of support there because they meet and socialise. There is music and other forms of entertainment. So, maybe that's what we need to provide. If we provide something that would excite them, I am pretty sure they will come and watch the games.

You said things are improving, which is confirmation that things had gone bad, from your point of view, what went wrong for the game?

I think, if you look at the national side, the performance of the Springboks was quite negative. We were number one in the world we are now number seven. I think that created the problem. Of course there are many other reasons, but unfortunately, that's key. If you look at the Seven-aside team, they are number two in the world. They were at number one but Fiji recently overtook them. If you go to the stadium in Cape Town when the Sevens play, it's a capacity crowd. You can't get a ticket because they play great rugby, it's a fast game and the youngsters enjoy that. The Springboks have not been playing too well. People don't want to lose against Australia, England and so on. That's why SARU went on a process to change the coaching



structure, the players and other things. They almost won against Wales recently but it was a difficult trip. I think we will see a good improvement in the Tests against England. And once that happens, people will start supporting the game again. I think we could also improve that by dropping the ticket prices and bringing more entertainment to the stadium to attract more youths. The Test match coincides with the Youth Day, so will have a lot of youths being brought in by different sponsors. We must also not forget that the economy is tough and kids don't play outside that much they spend most of their time on cell phones, on the internet. They do everything there. They stream stuff and hardly go to the movies. The world is changing.

You mentioned a good initiative of bringing students to the forthcoming Test Match, why don't you do that whenever there is a game to keep the momentum?

We actually have a programme where we go to schools to promote our games. We have what we call a gazebo where we take some of the players to promote the games. We have a team which goes out every week to about three schools promoting our games. For some of Cheetahs matches, we bus some of the students in. We have a deal with Interstate Buses. We also have what we call Toyota Day and it's free of charge. Anybody can come in and watch the game. But sometimes it's a challenge when the matches are at night, they won't come.

How much do you think transformation has an impact on the support base, you mentioned earlier that young people want to watch their role models play, how important is that?

People want to see their heroes play, black and white. We saw it when we had Kennedy Tsimba. He came from Zimbabwe. In one year he was voted the most liked player... by everybody. So what they want to see is their role models... Raymond Rhule, Ox Nche, Oupa Mohojé, playing. When they watch, they can associate with them. So, once you bring the



role models of children into the game, they will come and watch it and thereby increase the support base.

What's your message to the people of the Free State ahead of the Test Match?

I would want to say support the Springboks.

Everybody needs to stand behind the team and help them become better, stronger and be number one again. That's very critical. If you can't be at the stadium, watch the game on TV. But the main thing for me is let's be Bokka. South Africa first. Let's support our team.

Ramaphosa positive about African progress

It's expected that by the end of 2018, 20 countries in Africa will have held presidential elections, and this, according to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, is a sign of progress.

"Choosing the ballot rather than the bullet is a clear indication of progress," said Ramaphosa on Friday at the Africa Day celebration that was hosted at Sefako Makgatho, the presidential guest house in Pretoria.

Ramaphosa wished all the countries that will be having presidential polls peaceful and fair elections.

Ramaphosa was happy about the progress that Africa is making, with conflict declining dramatically, making more African countries secure.

According to the president, a peace dividend which has been experienced by a number of countries previously stricken by conflict such as Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda has translated into unprecedented opportunities and growth for these countries.

Even though conflict levels have declined in some countries in Africa, Ramaphosa said the "insecurities" that the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Sahel region, including in Libya, Somalia and the ongoing conflict in South Sudan were still a concern.

"We are hopeful that the efforts by the AU and its subsidiary organisations' co-operation with the United Nations will lead to peaceful and durable solutions in

these countries," said Ramaphosa.

Touching on the scourge of corruption, the president made delegates that he was hosting aware that the AU's theme for 2018 is winning the fight against corruption in the efforts to build a sustainable path towards the transformation of Africa.

"Corruption undermines the very fibre of the Africa we want, as envisaged in the AU's agenda 2063," said Ramaphosa.

According to Ramaphosa, countries that are taking a stand against this growing phenomenon are an inspiration, and those countries which have not taken a stand yet should consider joining the anti-corruption fight.

Ramaphosa is also determined to redouble

South Africa's efforts in the contribution of peace and security, development and prosperity of the continent. South Africa owed people on the continent gratitude for their unwavering solidarity and hospitality, which made it possible for South Africa to conquer colonialism and apartheid.

Ramaphosa said the adoption of the African Continental Free Trade Area is an iconic milestone along Africa's journey towards an eventual African common market.

The African Continental Free Trade Area was adopted in March 2018.

"This Continental Free Trade Area is a critical response to Africa's developmental challenges," said Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa said the Continental Free Trade Area will enable Africa to significantly boost intra-Africa trade, improve economies and established an integrated market.

The Free Trade deal will also act as a catalyst for industrial development, placing Africa on a path to the exportation of value-added products. This would serve as a way of proving Africa's competitiveness in its markets and globally.

The African Continental Free Trade Area is expected to create a market of about \$2.6-trillion, thereby addressing Africa's key development challenges of unemployment and poverty. **DM**

Reclaiming State authority from inside out

On Monday, Police Minister Bheki Cele, otherwise affectionately known as the Big Cat In The Hat, SAPS National Commissioner, Khehla Sitole, flanked by new Hawks head, Godfrey Lebeya and other senior SAPS officials, announced a far-reaching crime strategy aimed at securing the South African state and its citizens.

For years, a parasitic shadow criminal state, often located within the SAPS itself, has corroded the ability of the criminal justice sector to fulfill its democratic mandate. Time for an industrial-strength clean out.

The idea that vehicles transporting cash payments of social grants to the country's most poor and vulnerable might have to be escorted by a military convoy, as SA Social Security Agency CEO Abraham Mahlangu suggested to the Constitutional Court last week, gives some indication of the mega scale of crime in this country.

Maybe that is why, at Monday's press conference announcing a new and comprehensive "stabilisation intervention plan" to combat serious, violent crime in South Africa, General Khehla Sitole, opted to wear a fresh camouflage Special Task Force uniform. While it is technically illegal for him to do so, and it could be viewed as improper, the aim clearly was to send a visually striking memo to the country's criminals who terrorise and kill South Africans daily.

The uniform seems to suggest: "We are ready for battle."

Sitole is a career cop who has risen through the ranks gathering several legit ribbons and medals along the way, including the SAPS Star, SAPS Medal for Faithful Service, Ten Year Commemoration Medal, Twenty Year Loyal Service Medal, Soccer World Cup 2010 Support Medal, Amalgamation Medal and a Centenary

Medal. Unlike one of his predecessors, former National Commissioner, Riah Phiyega, who enjoyed wearing medals she never earned as a fetching fashion accessories.

Point is, the time for lip service and play-acting at crime prevention is over. The stakes are too high and threaten the viability of South Africa's democratic state, from both the inside and the outside. Which is why the wide-ranging stabilisation intervention plan which has been implemented not a moment too soon must be welcomed and supported.

"We are reclaiming the authority of the state," said Sitole.

Bheki Cele (Police Minister Without A Twitter Account), Daily Maverick has reliably learned, has consulted widely with law enforcement veterans and specialists, some of whom have been purged from the ranks, about the current situation in all divisions of the SAPS and the Hawks. Cele, however, is not new to the terrain having served as SAPS National Commissioner from 2009 (replacing Jackie Selebi) before he was dismissed in 2012.

On Monday Cele and Sitole said one of the priorities would be the cleaning up of Crime Intelligence, the most fetid and unaccountable divisions with access to ample slush fund money and inside information on the country's financial sector.

Sitole also announced that a special session dedicated entirely to Crime Intelligence would take place.

"We are very clear of the products we want and how we want to reclaim the authority of the state. We are looking at the big fishes at this particular time. The overhauling of CI is part and parcel of the stabilisation plan," said Sitole.

One of the most significant arrests in January this year was that of Captain Morris "KGB" Tshabalala, a convicted violent armed

robber who was appointed as an agent in crime intelligence. IPID has accused Tshabalala of being the bagman for Operation Thibela, an intelligence operation during which around R50-million in cash was secreted into the ANC's elective conference in Mangaung in 2012 in order to allegedly buy votes for Jacob Zuma.

Tshabalala was appointed to head, according to IPID the "Rapid Deployment Unit", a hand-picked clutch of 40 intelligence officers gathered, according to City Press, to perform a "mystery mission" at Mangaung. The team had been cobbled together three weeks prior to the conference by then Acting Crime Intelligence head, Major-General Chris Ngcobo, Zuma's former bodyguard.

IPID's head of investigations, Matthew Sesoko, told Scopa in February that the directorate had, in the course of its investigation, discovered that "Captain Tshabalala had not been doing any work related to fighting crime - rather, he was doing work involving factional battles within the ANC".

With the access to apparently unlimited reserves of cash now cut off and cauterised, this criminal cabal has had to seek other avenues to obtain much-needed cash. This might be one factor to consider in the sudden and alarming spike in Cash-in-Transit heists - 141 - since the start of the year.

It is common knowledge that the success of these highly organised hits depend on insider knowledge - inside SAPS as well as the companies transporting cash.

Replying to a parliamentary question last week, Cele said that 10 SAPS generals were being probed and that 27 crime intelligence officers had criminal records - 20 related to traffic violations and seven to more serious offenses. New CI head, Peter Jacobs is investigating these cases. IPID head Robert McBride has said



MARIANNE THAMM

OPINION

that the investigations into top cops involved "billions of rand".

The High-Density Stabilisation Intervention Plan includes lifestyle audits for SAPS members, a devolution of SAPS members from administrative positions to on-the-ground work, shifting authority closer to communities, the placing of senior cops, Lieutenant-Generals in the field, the migration of resources to a local policing framework, the confiscation of illegal guns and the purging of the SAPS of corrupt senior members.

Cele said the intention with the plan is to combat crime including cash-in-transit heists, car hijacking, murders, house robberies, gang violence and related crimes as well as taxi violence and related crimes.

Specialised teams would also be dedicated to tracking down and arresting wanted suspects as part of the Organised Crime Threat Analysis (OCTA) approach, ensuring the "downward management of 'red dockets'".

Many dockets handed to senior members for investigation, particularly into high-profile, politically connected individuals, have been gathering dust on desks or filing cabinets.

"In this, dedicated detectives will be working around the clock to gather information and evidence to identify those responsible for committing serious and violent crimes. This

will be a 24-hour multi-disciplinary activation plan dubbed 'Squeezing the space for criminals through an offensive approach,' said Cele.

From now on, Cele vowed, law enforcement would ensure "high density visibility of uniformed police officers on foot and vehicles, supported by the SAPS air wing, continuous cordon and search operations, continuous roadblocks and relentless search for wanted suspects".

The clean-up of SAPS is key to combatting crime in South Africa. SAPS has long been a haven for criminals and the rot did not start after 1994. It is a persistent and dangerous part of its DNA and only radical surgery will help the organism to survive.

The co-ordinated plan has been met with widespread approval. SAPS is in ICU being attended to by a top team of seasoned men and women, this after lingering in the emergency unit with a knife in its head, for years now.

Cele's gravitas, unlike former Minister Fokkoll, brings with it a sense of deliberate focus and concern and not just hot Twitter winds combined with posed selfies and trite provocations.

Finally, the adults are in charge. And not a moment too soon.

Are top influential ANC members being poisoned?

Continues from page 14

professionals to find proof has been taken by some as a sign of incompetence and by others as conspiracy, but it is just as likely to be the result of a lack of evidence. McKenzie's book alleges that doctors at the Milpark Hospital pressured Mabuza to resign while under their care.

In all but Msibi's case the alleged victims claim to have taken the matter out of South Africa and to have subsequently been diagnosed and successfully treated in Russia. Magashule lamented that "if we had taken him [Msibi] to Russia he would still be alive today". Hansard records Mabuza telling the Mpumalanga legislature that he "got a lift" home from Moscow on a plane owned by Zuma's chief financial backers, the Gupta family.

If these allegations are examined within a medico-legal paradigm, it is important as to whether the toxicological evidence supports claims of deliberate and malevolent poisoning. In the modern era, poisoning is no longer a safe bet for those seeking to get away with murder.

In the introduction to *The Elements of Murder: A History of Poison*, John Emsley states that "forensic chemistry is now so sophisticated that it's possible to detect poisons at levels that previous generations would not have thought possible". If someone dies under suspicious circumstances, forensic chemistry will pick it up and find out the cause from analysing the body. When asked for an opinion on South African services, forensic scientist Dr David Klatzow observed that "the state laboratories are in decline but private sector laboratories are competent. If they can't find anything it is most likely not there. There is no reason to think that going to Russia would produce different results."

Several pathologists (within academe and the police services) who did not wish to go on the record expressed similar sentiments. Despite this, the alleged victims continue to state that South African doctors could not or would not find evidence of poisoning but that Russian doctors did. No data supporting these purported Russian findings have been provided.

Regardless of where the poison may or may not have been detected, the crimes were all allegedly committed in South Africa. If Russian toxicology reports found evidence of poison, these should have been presented to the South African police. Hawks spokesperson Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi confirmed in March 2018 that Mabuza, Magashule and Mchunu had not reported these matters to the police.

There is an alternative explanation for such cases, which neither scientists nor journalists have considered. Old concepts seldom die; they are reworked in a new context. Globally there are mystical understandings of poison that

predate modern science. Many South Africans recognise two similar but distinct meanings for the word 'poisoning'. Media reports have all dealt with the claims as if there had been poisoning in the scientific sense. But what if these accusations fit into a mystical, traditional world view?

In a scientific understanding of poisoning, a chemical substance which has been shown to consistently cause harm to a human body is deliberately administered. The toxin acts in a predictable manner to damage the physiological state of the victim. It will act in the same way on all the people to whom it is administered. The toxin is medically traceable in the victim's body. In traditional southern African cosmology, poisoning is often thought of as a form of "vengeance magic", which can be translated as *isidliso* (isiZulu) or *sejeso* (in Sesotho). Such poisons are called up by those with magical powers and can wreak both physical harm and social misfortune.

Generally, *isidliso/sejeso* will be directed to a particular individual such that many people may eat an adulterated birthday lunch but only the person for whom the poison is intended will get sick. Unlike scientific poisoning (where accidental poisoning can occur) intent is essential for all effects of vengeance magic to manifest. Many traditional healers will argue that such poisons are not detectable using Western allopathic medical techniques.

Once administered, the *sejeso/isidliso* is in a battle to the death. In order to survive, the victim must engage a powerful healer of their own to repel the poison. The initial bewitcher must not know that the victim is attempting to disrupt the vengeance magic because then they can take steps to prevent such actions. Within this world-view, counter-magic is best administered by a foreign healer because they are too far away for the first agent to learn of their efforts and often they possess exotic skills that the first agent doesn't have the power to block. The traditional saying that "A witch doesn't cross a river" sums up this idea. We don't know what the Russian toxicology reports show (or if they exist at all), but we do know that these Eastern European healers are on the other side of the river. Perhaps this explains the desire of our politicians to travel for treatment.

Regardless of which cosmology is favoured, the impact of such accusations is to increase factional tensions in an already fraught environment. Whether *isidliso/sejeso* or ricin or nothing at all was used, the resultant political climate is poisonous.

- Dr Trapido is trained as a chef and anthropologist, and uses both disciplines in her work.

Children and youth: Our hope for tomorrow



A BAHÁ'Í PERSPECTIVE

FLORA TECKIE

to benefit therefrom".

Therefore, the purpose of education should be enhancing the potential capacities of our children and youth, rather than considering them as empty vessels that need to be filled with information and instructions.

The period of youth

The period of youth is a time for preparation. It is the time for personal change, the time during which the youth begin to consciously explore and apply their knowledge, values and beliefs about individual and collective life.

Youth have many wonderful powers, and channelling them properly is very important. According to the Universal House of Justice, the governing council of the Bahá'í International Community: "the transformation which is to occur in the functioning of society will certainly depend to a great extent on the effectiveness of the preparations the youth make for the world they will inherit".

Preparing the youth for the future will require new directions in education that emphasize their role as global citizens and guide them to act in the long-term interests of humanity as a whole. Such education, at the same time, should help to instil in them the awareness of the fundamental oneness of mankind. Nurturing the consciousness of our oneness and fostering a love for humanity must begin in the family, where children should be trained to rid themselves of various prejudices.

Encouraging youth to independently search for truth leads them to personal conviction, rather than merely imitating others, and will help free themselves from prejudices and preconceptions.

Acting in the long-term interests of humanity

A great responsibility to contribute to the betterment of society rests on the current

We just marked the National Child Protection Week and will be commemorating the National Youth Day on 16 June. These are reminders that children and youth are our hope for tomorrow, hence the need to explore how they can be prepared for the world they will inherit.

Obviously, education is the most effective way to shape the values, attitudes, behaviours and skills of our children towards creating a peaceful society and a better world. However, it is important that education whether at home or at school, leads our children and youth in their moral empowerment as well as to their intellectual development.

According to the Bahá'í Writings: "The proper education of children is of vital importance to the progress of mankind, and the heart and essential foundation of all education is spiritual and moral training". Through effective guidance our youth can be empowered to override the needs of their lower nature in keeping with ethical requirements, to control and channel their natural drives and urges and to transform them into human perfections.

Many of the approaches to education today treat children and youth in a very passive way, as receptacles of information rather than active members of their community. Yet young people are anxious to become partners in helping to plan the world they will inherit.

Our children and youth have great potential and capacities. We need to help them to develop and enhance those capacities. A candle, for example, has the potential to give light. But it does not give light without being lit. It has to be lit so that it can shine and illuminate its surroundings.

Bahá'u'lláh compares human beings to a mine containing many hidden jewels, waiting to be discovered. He says: "Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind

generation of youth. On them also rests the duty of fostering an environment in which the younger members of society can attain the spiritual and intellectual powers they need to build of a better civilization.

Effective education and guidance will prepare our children and youth to act in the long-term interests of their family, their community and the humanity as a whole.

It is the Bahá'í view that, "In selfless service to society is the possibility for both personal growth and enhancing capacity to contribute to social progress". Service gives meaning, purpose and stimulus to life and it helps changing one's life from predominately self-interest to one of sharing and caring for others. "Service to humanity is service to God", state the Bahá'í Writings.

Our youth need to be conscious of the interconnectedness of the many aspects of life and therefore avoid a fragmented approach to life. For example: to think that they should first complete their studies and then serve humanity is a fragmented approach. Such an approach can continue when the need for them to work and earn their living arises or when they have to look after their families - perhaps waiting forever for right conditions in order to start serving their communities and humanity.

There are powerful social forces that threaten to weaken the powers of our youth and to distort their purpose. To counteract that, they have to enhance the ability to create an atmosphere of mutual support and assistance among themselves and in their communities; and, of course their reliance would be on God's unfailing assistance.

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'No more Russia nuclear agreement'



Maintaining court decision . . . Energy minister Jeff Radebe

Minister of energy Jeff Radebe has said South Africa no longer had an agreement with the Russians to procure for the development of nuclear energy for the country.

Speaking to journalist and political analyst Karima Brown on the *The Fix* show, Radebe said he was of the view that government did not appeal the court ruling in 2017 which invalidated the nuclear deal at that time.

The energy portfolio in national government has seen unparalleled instability with at least five ministers of energy in the past eight years, and a subsequent lack of clarity as to whether the Intergovernmental Framework Agreement which mentions nuclear would still be pursued and what role nuclear would play in the energy mix.

Brown asked Radebe for clarity on the status of the nuclear deal, in light of Deputy President David Mabuza's official visit to the Russian Federation in May and the BRICS Summit taking place in Johannesburg this week. Radebe said any deal for nuclear procurement was set aside in court.

"That question was decided by the high court in the Western Cape last year, where the submission of the intergovernmental agreement of Russia, the United States and South Korea was tested in court. The court decided the submission was unconstitutional, unlawful and set it aside," said Radebe.

Brown asked if there was an expectation on the part of the Russians that the deal be concluded and followed. Radebe said South Africa was back to square one and the pending Integrated Resource Plan would determine the role of nuclear in South Africa's energy mix.

"There was an Intergovernmental Agreement that was signed in Russia, but that has been tested in the High Court of the Western Cape," he said.

Despite the fact that Intergovernmental Framework agreements were signed long ago, these agreements could not be followed if invalidated by courts and could not be implemented without being ratified in Parliament.

"If you mean by deal that there was a contract for us to procure nuclear, there is nothing like that, but there was a cooperation agreement signed by the former minister of energy which has now been set aside by the courts," said Radebe.

He noted he was of the view that government did not appeal the judgment of the Western Cape High Court that the nuclear deal was unconstitutional. —*News24*

New Mining Charter to be revealed today



New chapter . . . Deputy minister of mineral resources Godfrey Oliphant

A draft of the revised third Mining Charter could be unveiled today, but there is a sticking point around a "free-carry" element in the unchanged empowerment ownership level of 30%, says mineral resources deputy minister Godfrey Oliphant.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Junior Indaba, Oliphant said the Department of Mineral Resources had set a date of June 8 to complete deliberations around the charter and hold a summit to present the final draft of the third iteration of the charter.

The 30% ownership level remained unchanged from the original version of the third charter, which former mines minister Mosebenzi Zwane gazetted in June 2017. This provoked an outcry from the mining industry, which brought a legal challenge in court to review the document and have it set aside, claiming it was damaging and badly drafted.

The council postponed its court challenge to give the new talks a chance of success. It could revisit the courts if, in its view, the charter is once again flawed.

Zwane's charter lifted the black ownership level to 30% from the 26% contained in the first two charters.

Zwane was fired by Cyril Ramaphosa, who replaced Jacob Zuma as the country's president, and replaced in February with Gwede Mantashe, a 30-year veteran of the mining sector. Mantashe immediately started talks with the industry's lobby group Minerals Council SA (formerly the Chamber of Mines), along with labour and communities.

There has been scant information about the progress of the talks, but Oliphant said on Tuesday the biggest sticking point with the council was the free-carry element of empowerment ownership.

Under Zwane's charter, employees should

hold eight percent of companies, communities around mines eight percent and entrepreneurs 14%. Oliphant suggested this configuration could be changed.

The percentages have been changed to five percent each for communities and employees, meaning companies were expected to give these parties a free carry of 10%.

Free carry means there is no cost, participation in capital raising or expenditure related to that holding, which means the other shareholders owning 90% of the company would have to fund 100% of such developments.

A 10% free carry could render marginal deposits uneconomic and push SA further down the investor friendliness rankings.

The new charter would be gazetted in June, Oliphant said, confirming statements from Mantashe that the industry would have policy certainty in June.

Another element that could be included in the charter is a deduction from the turnover line to fund a junior development fund for which the Department of Mineral Resources had secured commitments of R100m each from the Industrial Development Corporation and the Public Investment Corporation, said Oliphant.

The size of the percentage coming off mining companies' turnover was not finalised and it was not certain it would be included in the charter, Oliphant said.

The Zwane charter had demanded a one percent deduction from companies' turnover to fund the 30% empowerment partners. With the communities' shareholding, to be held in a Mining Transformation and Development Agency that Zwane was going to set up, 8% of that revenue flow would go into that fund to be managed by the state on behalf of communities.

It's not clear whether this agency would be in the new charter. —*BusinessDay*



Not moved . . . Finance Minister Nhlamhla Nene

Nene unfazed by UDM court threat

Finance Minister Nhlamhla Nene is unfazed by a threat of court action from Bantu Holomisa's United Democratic Movement (UDM), which wants to compel the suspension of PIC CEO Dan Matjila over allegations of corruption.

While the UDM is insisting on an independent investigation of Matjila, the Public Investment Corporation's deputy chairman, Xolani Mkhwanazi, says nothing new has come to light to justify the board reopening its examination of the allegations.

Nene told BusinessLIVE that he would not respond to the UDM's demands. "That's not how we operate. We don't act on the basis of just letters, we act on the basis of evidence and the situation at hand."

He was speaking on the sidelines of the launch of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority in Pretoria on Monday.

On Tuesday UDM attorney Eric Mabuza said his clients were preparing to file papers in the High Court in Pretoria.

But Mabuza declined to comment on the UDM's argument. "You will see it in the [court] papers," he said.

Mkhwanazi told Parliament's finance committee on Tuesday that nothing new had come to the fore to justify reopening the board's probe.

Matjila has been accused of facilitating financial transactions for an alleged "girlfriend". The board investigated this and exonerated him of any wrongdoing. However, there have been reports that its investigation did not consider all the facts.

Mkhwanazi told the finance committee that for the board to revisit the matter, it would have to be presented with new facts or be shown that it took a bad decision. This had not happened.

Mkhwanazi said the board was very concerned about the sustained negative media publicity about the PIC. Finance Minister Nhlamhla Nene had requested the board for clarifications, which it had provided.

The UDM is pressing ahead with court action after Nene ignored an ultimatum to respond by Thursday last week to a letter demanding Matjila's suspension.

In the letter dated May 28, Mabuza Attorneys on behalf of the UDM wrote: "Serious allegations of misconduct have swirled around the name of Dr Dan Matjila, the chief executive officer of

the Public Investment Corporation, involving gross misuse of funds under the administration of the PIC."

The attorney said the allegations included that Matjila had arranged financial assistance of about R300,000 for a company owned by a woman alleged to be his former girlfriend. This was facilitated by a company previously funded by the PIC.

In another allegation Matjila was instrumental in facilitating a loan of about R21m to a technology company, also allegedly in breach of PIC procedure.

The PIC, the largest asset manager in Africa, manages nearly R2-trillion in assets consisting of public-servant pensions and funds.

PIC chairman Mondli Gungubele said that he would inquire further about the allegations at the PIC annual general meeting this Friday (today).

The UDM said it was unclear on what basis the board had reached the conclusion that there had been no wrongdoing.

The party said it was, however, "instructive" that recently the police and the finance minister had called for proper investigations of the allegations.

"If it is correct that Dr Matjila used his influence to secure payments for the benefits of his current or former girlfriend, that constitutes gross misconduct, deserving of a disciplinary action and possibly, dismissal from his position."

The UDM called for a credible, independent body to conduct the new investigation, saying it did not believe in the board's credibility.

Matjila should also be suspended to protect the integrity of the investigation.

"We request that you respond to this letter ... by Thursday, May 31, failing which urgent proceedings for the relief will be brought against the minister of finance, the PIC board and Dr Matjila."

Mkhwanazi also told Parliament that, with regard to the controversial investments made by the PIC — for example in Ayo Technologies, VBS Mutual Bank and Steinhoff — the board had revisited these investments and found that there was nothing untoward about them.

Delegations, due diligence, risk management and legal processes were examined. —*Businesslive*

SA's 1 first cryptocurrency ATM launched

SA's "first cryptocurrency ATM" was launched in a Spar in Johannesburg on Monday.

The machine allows customers to buy cryptocurrencies - including bitcoin, litecoin and ethereum - using rands, according to Vendibit, the company that launched the ATM.

The ATM would also allow for peer-to-peer transactions that did not rely on banks, Vendibit said.

"In the USA, Europe and Asian countries, businesses are rapidly expanding their acceptance of cryptocurrencies in day-to-day peer-to-peer and business transactions," Vendibit senior blockchain consultant Daniel Capiello said in a statement.

The machine is inside the Spar at Northwold Junction Shopping Centre in Randburg. Transaction sizes would initially be limited "for security reasons", Capiello said.

In Africa, cryptocurrencies could provide a more cost-effective way of transferring money, Vendibit noted. —*BusinessSay*

Sars showing its teeth

The South African Revenue Service (Sars) has taken out one of its most powerful weapons against tax avoidance and tax evasion — the Section 50 inquiry in terms of the Tax Administration Act.

It has approached the Johannesburg High Court for an order to conduct an inquiry into the tax affairs of Bravura Equity Services, Bravura's director Ian Matthews, Bravura Treasury and 126 others. The court has granted the order.

In terms of the act a judge may grant an inquiry order if he is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person has failed to comply with a tax obligation; has committed a tax offence, and relevant material is likely to be revealed during the inquiry which may prove non-compliance. During such an inquiry taxpayers are questioned under oath.

Elle-Sarah Rossato, associate director at PwC, says the courts are not in the habit of granting these orders, unless there is sufficient evidence in the application to back Sars's allegations.

Sars said in its application it has been investigating the financial structures of Bravura, an independent investment and advisory firm, for many years.

It claims Bravura has, since inception, been devoted exclusively to designing, marketing, selling, and implementing tax avoidance schemes.

The Sars investigation showed that Bravura created special purpose vehicles to facilitate the flow of income, or to house offsetting assets and liabilities. It has identified simulated transactions, "round-tripping" and cross-border arrangements involving convertible capital loans.

Bravura "vehemently denied" these claims. They said the business provides corporate advisory services to clients in relation to "corporate finance, mining and property-related transactions, mergers and acquisitions and Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) requirements".

Keith Engel, CEO of the South African Institute of Tax Professionals (Sait), says this dispute is indeed a seminal area to be watched closely.

"Sars has, for many years, been seeking to root out aggressive advisors. This is the first time we are seeing real action."

The first Bravura structure to be investigated was the Hudaco BEE scheme. Following the investigation Hudaco reached a settlement with Sars and agreed to pay an amount of R312 million.

Hudaco stated at the time that Bravura had used special purpose vehicles with no apparent commercial role "but to effectively convert interest into exempt preference dividends". The purpose was to shield taxable interest from tax.

Engel says cases like Hudaco are an "unfortunate hangover" of days gone by for many advisors who are now stuck in a "post-base erosion profit shifting" era.

"The legal and publicity risks of aggressive tax practices are simply too great. Still, Sars's action is a reminder for both listed companies and high-powered firms to stay away (from these practices)."

The victory in the Hudaco case invigorated the Sars investigations and numerous requests for documentation were made. To date all but one of the known Bravura structures have been investigated by Sars.

Sars has concluded that all the structures constitute a reportable arrangement. If an arrangement has not been reported the promotor and participant in the structure can receive heavy penalties running into hundreds of thousands of rands.

Sars argued in its inquiry application that despite the threat of penalties none of the Bravura entities involved in the investigated structures complied with their reporting obligations.

Sars says there are certain structures entered into by Bravura of which it only has code names such as Project Fox,

Project Feather and Project M-Power.

Rossato, vice chair of the tax administration work group of Sait, says an inquiry is a drastic enforcement step for Sars. It is a costly and lengthy process.

"It would seem that Sars is sending a message to taxpayers and their advisors that they are refocusing their efforts on enforcement investigations."

The court found that even though Sars has already investigated most of the Bravura structures, and despite Bravura's "protestations" that they have provided all relevant material, it was satisfied that Sars does not have full information about its tax affairs.

Bravura has asked the court to dismiss the application describing it "far-reaching, open-ended and invasive". It indicated that it would be similar to an "interrogation involving coercion".

Bravura has argued that Sars rely on broad, vague, general and unsubstantiated allegations. It further argued that Sars draws "factual bereft" conclusions of its case.

The court however found that the application was not "factually bereft", nor was it based on generalised, vague, and unsubstantiated averments.

It authorised Sars to conduct an inquiry into whether Bravura entities have failed to submit tax returns and to pay income tax in respect of the fees charged by them, whether they have failed to pay secondary tax on companies and VAT and whether they have "dishonestly evaded their tax obligations".

Sars will now convene an inquiry, chaired by Renata Williams SC and commence to issue subpoenas to the identified individuals or witnesses who can be called to reveal certain documents or information required by Sars.

Rossato says on the face of it, it is going to be a large-scale tax inquiry. —*Citizen*

Unmatched passion displayed during Shield Sbonis trials



Transformation needs to start at primary school

Siya Kolisi impressed me immensely last week when he spoke to the media in Johannesburg for the first time after being named captain of the Springboks for the England series.

Towards the end of his press conference, he was asked about his growing up in a township in the Eastern Cape and how much his life had changed since those days. I couldn't help but nod my head at everything Kolisi said in answering the question.

What stuck out for me was what the new Bok skipper said about how going to Grey High School in Port Elizabeth had changed everything for him. Now, it's not so much the fact he went to a school with the name Grey in it that stood out, but the fact that had Kolisi not gone to a school where sport was deemed important and played a big part in the daily activities, he might not be where he is today.

He said only when he got the chance to play organised sport - in his case, rugby - at a school that offered it to their learners did he start to dream about rugby being a part of his life.

"Coming from the township where I didn't have a lot ... at Grey my dreams started to become much bigger. In the township you don't have dreams like that ... where I could believe I could be whatever I wanted to be." He continued: "Going to Grey absolutely changed everything for me.

"And, every child deserves that, whether at Grey or in a township school ... to be able to dream big. I wish for kids in the township to look up to other people in the township, and not to be taken away and put elsewhere to look up to people ... that is how I see transformation."

Kolisi hit the nail on the head. He was able to dream big because he was given an opportunity ... to dream and then turn his dreams into reality. Not everyone in this country has those opportunities.

It is a fact that those who are privileged enough to go to a school where there is such a thing as organised sport have an advantage over those who go to schools where there is no such privilege.

Also, a child who starts playing rugby at primary school level will have a better chance against a child who only starts playing the sport at high school, or after school. And, that doesn't matter whether you're white or black.

Transformation is something everyone involved in sport has to be aware of and strive towards getting right, and Saru and the sports ministry have a huge role to play, but so, too, does the education department.

They need to try ensure that young kids everywhere have an opportunity to play sport. Linking up with the corporate world to help build, and maintain, fields (and courts etc) is crucial to help grow our young sports stars.

Of course, it's easier said than done, and this country is in dire need of male teachers, too, who can serve as school-level rugby coaches. They are few and far between nowadays.

Some children are privileged enough to be in schools where sport is everything; others don't have the same opportunities. Closing that gap will take time and effort, but it needs to be done. Every child in every school in this country deserves an opportunity to play organised sport, and an opportunity to dream big. That's all they are asking for.



Hard at it... Players being put to the test at the fourth leg of the Shield Sbonis' iDiski trails in Bloemfontein.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

This past weekend Shield conducted the fourth leg of the Shield Sbonis' iDiski regional trials in Bloemfontein.

The campaign is in its second year, after it was launched by Shield in partnership with Chelsea FC and Orlando Pirates FC in Johannesburg on March 22, 2018.

The project aims to give a platform to young aspiring football players to showcase their talent, champion soccer development in South Africa, and expose them to international football.

A total of 140 hopeful players from Bloemfontein battled it out on the soccer field at University of the Free State in Bloemfontein this past weekend. As the Shield Sbonis' iDiski regional trials intensify, the talent was quite

evident on the ground. However the Shield Sbonis' iDiski coaches are looking for much more than that.

"We are looking for players who are prepared and have the confidence to deliver and perform under pressure. Our mission is to aid the players with life skills, technical training and leadership skills to be ready to train with Chelsea and better their chances be absorbed into the Orlando Pirates Development team," explained Shield Sbonis' iDiski head coach Siphiwe Mkhonza.

"We have seen players impress the coaches in Johannesburg and Cape Town, but the hard work and dedication displayed by the Bloemfontein players could not be ignored. It is our aim as Shield to bridge the gap between grass roots football and professional football both locally and internationally," says Gareth

Marshall, Shield Brand Manager at Unilever South Africa.

The trials had a successful kick off in Johannesburg on May 12 with more than 135 aspiring players showing up. Cape Town was graced by 120 players who took on the challenge.

Speaking after the Bloemfontein trials Marshall said, "There is so much passion and talent in the country; what we are doing with the Shield Sbonis' iDiski is help players to be mentally prepared, eat healthy, and build their confidence to compete on a global stage to be the next champion. It is incredible to see the players coming out in their numbers to make use of the platform."

Shield took the campaign to Durban on Saturday and will visit Pretoria on June 9. Players will be selected from the regional trials

to attend the finals week, where three players will be chosen to travel to London and train with Chelsea Football Club.

Once these three players return from London, one of them will stand a chance be given a one-year contract with Orlando Pirates FC development team to continue a career in football.

"We want to encourage all South Africans to move with Shield, because when you move with Shield, you move with purpose - much like the young hopefuls who came through last Saturday. We're looking forward to journeying around the country to uncover even more great home-grown football talent," concluded Marshall.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Former Kaizer Chiefs coach Steve Komphela is a wanted man, locally and abroad.

The Kroonstad-born coach resigned as Chiefs manager after succumbing 2-0 to Free State Stars in the semi-final of the Nedbank Cup at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban.

He resigned with immediate effect after the match, bringing to an end three fruitless seasons at Amakhosi as he failed to deliver any silverware.

His agent, Tim Sukazi of Quality Talent, says Komphela is a wanted man.

"There's interest in Steve's services but we haven't opened up official talks with those teams that enquired about his services. At this stage, I can't reveal the names of the clubs who have enquired about him. I have inquiries locally and there's one team overseas" Sukazi said, without mentioning names.

Other than Chiefs, SuperSport United and Polokwane City are currently the only teams in top flight football that don't have coaches. Matsatsantsa a Pitori parted ways with Eric Tinker in the middle of the season, while Bernard Molekwa has been an interim coach at City since the departure of Luc Eymael.

Baroka FC had a vacancy but are reported to have hired former Kaizer Chiefs striker and Zambian international Wedson Nyirenda. Nyirenda vacated his post as the Zambia head coach in May.

Komphela has been around the coaching circles for a while having managed clubs like Dynamos, Manning Rangers, South Africa's Under-23 national team, Free State Stars, Platinum Stars and Maritzburg United.

He has also served at the senior national team as an assistant coach to Stuart Baxter and Pitsso "Jingles" Mosimane.

The former Bafana Bafana captain is still searching for the first silverware



Steven wanted man... Former Kaizer Chiefs coach Steve Komphela is a wanted man locally and abroad.

Komphela a wanted man

of his coaching career.

SuperSport United did also enquire about Eymael but they have yet to open official talks with Free State Stars boss. The Belgian is still contracted at Stars and has a buyout clause on his current deal with the club.

It wouldn't come as a surprise if United are interested in the services of Komphela. The club's CEO, Stan Matthews, opened up about the desire to ensure stability in the coaching structure.

Matsatsantsa a Pitori have been changing

coaches freely since the departure of Gavin Hunt in 2013. Gordon Igesund, Cavin Johnson, Stuart and Eric Tinkler all came and went in a space of five seasons. Hunt spent six seasons at the club during his successful spell in the country's capital city.

Unmatched passion displayed during Shield trials

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Komphela a wanted man

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sport

'AFRICA WILL NOT WIN WORLD CUP'

Who will win the World Cup? Africans don't think Africa will, except in the qualifying nations

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

The 2018 FIFA World Cup roars into life from June 14 to July 15 in Russia and Africans are most expecting Brazil or Germany to win the prestigious soccer fiesta, with very few expecting an African victory.

An estimated 43 per cent of Nigerians think Nigeria will win, and 49 per cent of Senegalese think their country will prevail, according to a poll across six African nations released by GeoPoll, an African research organisation.

"Across Africa, World Cup fever is running high, with the majority of Africans planning to watch the contest. However, GeoPoll data highlights interesting facts that very few are aware of which African nations have qualified, and even fewer are predicting an African win," said Nick Becker, CEO of GeoPoll.

In a survey of 2400 respondents across Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and South Africa, GeoPoll found that respondents were fairly evenly split in believing that either Brazil or Germany was most likely to win the cup, with 22 per cent predicting a win by Brazil and 20 per cent forecasting a German win.

However, in South Africa, 26 per cent of men believe Brazil will come out glorious and 26 per cent believe Germany will. But South African women lean more towards Brazil, with 20 per cent predicting a win for the South American nation, while just 13 per cent think Germany will triumph.

From Africa's five qualifying teams - Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tunisia - the South African public is expecting little, with the greatest hopes being the one per cent of men and three per cent of women predicting a Nigerian win.

Other African teams get a smattering of win predictions, with one per cent of South African women believing Senegal will win, another one per cent predicting Angola, Namibia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia and Zimbabwe will win, none of whom are participating, and 19 per cent forecasting a South African win, with South



Akpeyi makes the cut...The Absa Premiership will have one representative at the World Cup after Chippa United's Daniel Akpeyi was named in Nigeria's 23-man squad.

Africa also having failed to qualify.

Across South African men, six per cent are expecting a win from non-qualifiers - four per cent for South Africa, and two per cent for Ghana - but, apart from the small hopes for Nigeria, none are predicting a win from Egypt, Morocco, Senegal or Tunisia.

The same assessments are fairly similarly reflected in Kenya, Ghana and Tanzania.

But in Nigeria and Senegal, football followers see it differently. According to 43 per cent of the men of both nations, their own teams are set to win. In Nigeria, 44 per cent of the women are of the same view in predicting a Nigerian win.

However, the greatest patriotism and optimism vote goes to Senegalese women, 66 per cent of whom are expecting Senegal to win the World Cup.

"Clearly, for nations that have seen their own teams through the qualifying rounds, national

confidence is high. But for the rest of Africa, not tied by national patriotism or influenced by the celebrations in qualifying thus far, the perspective is more global - and fans are not rating Africa's chances too highly," noted Nick.

Yet, despite the division between the 'ins' and the 'outs' on the chances of an African win, passion is running high for the event continent-wide, with more than 70 per cent of Africans planning to watch the contest, and the majority of them from home.

Set to be watched by a home audience of more than 600 million in Africa, and, overall, by more than 850 million African viewers, the World Cup remains the continent's largest single entertainment, drawing on football passion continent-wide, even as Africans watch with Brazil, Germany, and to a lesser extent Spain, in their sights as the likely winners.

Jelusic dumps Celtic as club awaits buyer

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

There appears to be more headaches for bankrupt Bloemfontein Celtic after coach Veselin Jelusic bought a one-way ticket back to Serbia amidst uncertainty regarding the sale of the club.

Jelusic was appointed in July last year by Phunya Sele Sele and handed a two-year contract.

But it now appears that the club, under pressure to give answers on their next move following the shock announcement by chairman Max Tshabalala that he was struggling to keep it afloat as well as pay salaries and has therefore put it up for sale two weeks ago, will have to search for a new coach.

Celtic finished in 11th place in the Absa Premiership after a tough second half of the season, which was in complete contrast to the first half.

Jelusic guided the club to the Telkom Knockout final, but lost 1-0 to Bidvest Wits.

The move by the Serbian coach who was outstanding in his debut season in the PLS does not come as surprise after being half his salary by the club for the past three months.

He purchased a flight ticket to Serbia soon after the end of the season earlier this month to enjoy the break, but he has told those close to him that he will not be returning. The club has remained mum on the coach's departure.

Meanwhile, calm has been restored in the streets of Mangaung after it nearly went up

in smoke last Sunday with fans disgruntled following reports that a Northern Cape businessman would buy the Premier Soccer League club and relocate it to Kimberley.

Tshabalala had reportedly long agreed with the Sol Plaatje Municipality to host Celtic's home games in the upcoming season, a deal said to be worth R1.5 million.

During another general meeting held again on Sunday, Tshabalala who has been accused on bankrupting the club due to reckless spending, said he wanted a businessman in Free State to consider buying Celtic instead of having it relocate to Kimberley.

The sale will still be subject to approval by the PSL before it can be given a stamp of approval, but what is guaranteed is that Jelusic will not be coming back.

Provincial government has also come in to try to come up with ways to keep the club in Mangaung.

Tshabalala has insisted he was not so reckless to sell the club to someone who would destroy its history.

The club has contributed to the growth of the Macufe Festival, the annual soccer tournament, music and cultural jamboree.

"All of this has been taken in consideration. As I said before, I have three offers for the club but I am yet to sell to anyone because I want what's best for Celtic and the supporters," he noted.

As Tshabalala waits for a local business person to buy the club, the last resort would be to accept an offer from outside the province.

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