



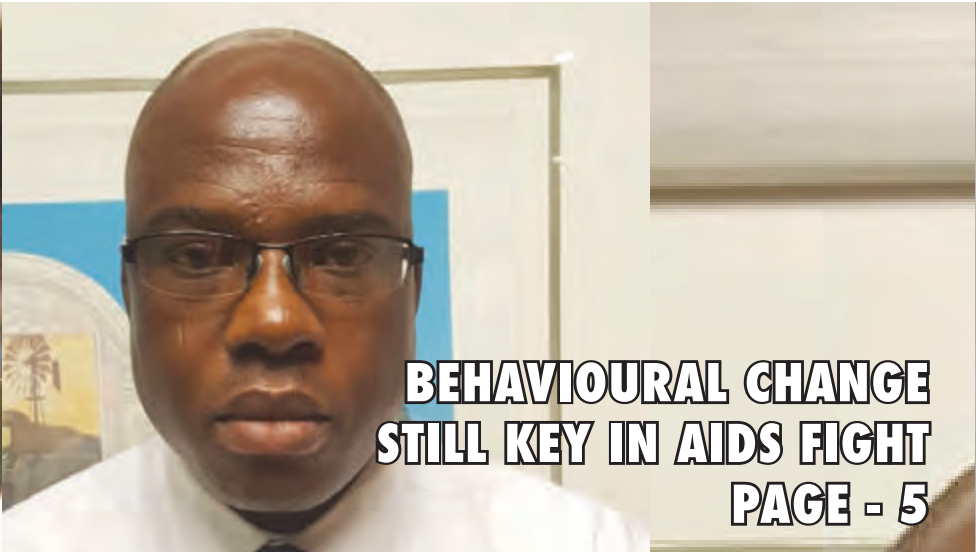
FREE STATE

The Weekly

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ANC RUBBISHES NOMPONDO GOLF 7 RUMOURS

- Provincial secretary says allegations work of haters
- ANC FS backs Nompondo's innocence in the matter

By: Ramosidi Matekane

ANC in the Free State has rubbished as unfounded, wild rumours circulating on social media insinuating that the Mangaung Metro has purchased provincial secretary Paseka Nompondo a brand new popular Golf 7 sport car.

The rumours, which have been dismissed as malicious and whose source remains unknown, had been peddled as truth in the social media amongst members of the ANC working in the metro as well as council officials.

However, an unfazed Nompondo did not mince his words yesterday when quizzed on the matter, stating that it is the work of those who are hell bent on tainting his image and frustrating his political work.

"I do not work at Mangaung. I do not even have a tender there, so why must I be

bought a car by the metro. This is nothing but attempts by those preoccupied with slander and character assassination motives against me," said Nompondo in an interview with The Weekly.

He said he was still trying to locate where the rumours stem from and there is nothing to worry him regarding "the baseless claims".

"They are trying, but they will never come right. They have tried in the past and failed, and they will still fail even today.

"This is the work of counter-revolutionaries who are hell-bent on tainting the image of leaders of the ANC. We are aware that following several conferences where they have been defeated their only hope is to slander those who have been endorsed by branches of the ANC."

Nompondo said it is nonsensical to suggest that Mangaung metro has purchased a vehicle for him "when I am not their employee...Please show the vehicle."

Nompondo was elected unopposed for the

position of provincial secretary of the ANC during the provincial conference that was held in Bloemfontein earlier in the year. His election followed a marathon of conferences that have been taken to court to challenge the legitimacy of the outcomes.

Before that he had been serving as the regional secretary of Motheo Region and was subsequently appointed by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC as co-ordinator of the Interim Provincial Structure. The unit was put in place to prepare the province for its conference after the court had nullified the December provincial elective conference that was held in Parys, Ngwathe Local Municipality.

Also perturbed by the rumours levelled against Nompondo was the ANC provincial spokesman Thabo Meeko, who shot them down as an attempt to drive a wedge between leaders of the ANC in the Free State and their members working for the metro.



I don't own a Golf 7 . . . ANC provincial secretary Paseka Nompondo

"We would like to refute with the disdain they deserve, the insinuations that a vehicle was bought for the provincial secretary of the ANC, comrade Paseka Nompondo," said Meeko.

He noted this was part of a smear campaign and dirty tricks employed by sinister forces to divert the focus of the party from efforts to unify and renew itself in the province.

"This is an attempt to create a buffer between ANC leaders in the province and those working for the metro. The ANC continues to give guidance to all municipalities including the Mangaung metro on issues of improved service delivery."

The spokesperson called on leaders of the ANC at the Mangaung metro to resolve whatever underlying issues which could have fuelled the false perception that a vehicle was bought for Nompondo.

Mangaung communications manager Qondile Khedama yesterday said the metro

bought a Golf 7 spot vehicle, not for Nompondo as alleged, but for the municipality's traffic department directorate.

Khedama stressed the said vehicle was not bought for any individual outside of the metro, citing such insinuations were both 'malicious' and 'unfounded'.

"This distorted information left a bitter taste in the mouths of members of the community, given some of the service delivery challenges we are currently attending to are still to be completed," he explained.

Khedama added: "The City has a valid finance lease agreement that it uses to purchase cars as and when there's a need from different directorates. This vehicle forms part of the fleet that the city is purchasing through the contract, which was subjected to all supply chain processes."

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AFRO FEST

28 JULY 2018

Afrotraction

Andy T

Lady Zamar

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Lady Zamar - Afro Sound Band
Deejay LeGoody

Venue: PACOFS | Time: 17:00pm
General: R200 | Golden circle: R350

MC: Tieho Khakhau & Rasta Eye & Eye

7.5 million people living with HIV in SA

The prevalence of HIV among people in South Africa has risen to 13.1 percent, according to figures released by South Africa's Statistician-General Risenga Maluleke on Monday.

"People living with HIV in 2018 are estimated to be sitting at 7.52 million persons. Of course we are looking at people in South Africa living a lot more healthier. With the proliferation and availability of ARVs, there are more people [with HIV] living so it's not a question of the numbers just increasing," said Maluleke in Pretoria.

"Certainly, we still have new infections, but the fact is that the people are living a lot more longer with ARVs. Over time, HIV prevalence among adults aged 15 to 49 is increasing while declining among youth 15 to 24 [years]."

The number of AIDS related deaths has been on a consistent decline from 276 921 in 2007 to 115 167 in 2018.

The total number of people living with HIV in South Africa has however increased from an estimated 4.25 million in 2002 to the 7.52 million by 2018. For 2018, approximately one-fifth of women in South Africa in their reproductive ages [15 to 49] are HIV positive, according to StatsSA.

Earlier, Maluleke revealed that South Africa's population has risen to 57.7 million.

"We are talking about mid-year population estimates which use the latest fertility, mortality and migration data to estimate the size of the population of the Republic of South Africa. Now, the mid-year estimates for 2018, we are sitting at 57.73 million people that are living in South Africa," said Maluleke.

"In 2017 we were sitting at 56.8 million. We had 1.2 million births, a 0.2 net migration and we had about half a million deaths."

Approximately 51 percent [about 29.5 million] of the people in South Africa are female.

About 29.5 percent of the population is aged younger than 15 years, and approximately 8.5 [percent (or 4.89 million)] of the population is 60 years or older. -*African News Agency*



Raring to go . . . ANC provincial spokesman Thabo Meeko

ANC ready for regional conferences: Meeko

By: Ramosidi Matekane

The ANC in the Free State is only awaiting a go ahead from its national headquarters Luthuli House before taking all the four districts of the party, with the exception of Xhariep, to their respective elective regional conferences.

The movement is awaiting an audit of the ANC members in the province to be completed

by national office before going ahead with the conferences.

ANC provincial spokesman Thabo Meeko said the organisation hopes the party will expedite this process so that the province can get done with its regional conferences in time to allow for preparations for a decisive electoral win in next year's national general election.

Meeko noted preparations for the regional

conferences in the province would go hand in glove with the list processes for leaders who will stand on the ANC ticket during the elections.

"On completion of the membership audits there will be branch general meetings which will look into the list processes as well as preparations for the regional conferences," he explained.

"We have since adopted a road map to guide us through the regional conferences and part of

it states that regions where leadership terms have expired or about to expire will be turned into task teams for those regions."

A point in case, the spokesman said, is the Maluti-a-Phofung region whose term of office had lapsed and was then converted into a regional task team by the party's provincial leadership.

He noted provincial deployees have been included in this particular team to work at uniting the region through the election of a collective leadership through conference and returning the area to political stability.

Converted regional leaderships would still be tasked with preparing for regional conferences in their respective areas, alongside regions whose mandates still stand.

"So far the process is going smoothly; our provincial deployees are currently engaging with regions on processes towards the regional conferences and are also briefing them on the list processes. The feeling we get from the ground is that members of the ANC are ready to go to their regional conferences," Meeko said.

Meanwhile, the ANC is still trying to engage with some of its disgruntled members that took the party to court earlier in the year to challenge the legitimacy of the movement's provincial conference.

Meeko said efforts to rein in members that expressed happiness with the organisation through courts are aimed at unifying the ANC and approaching the elections as a united front for a resounding victory in 2019.

"The provincial leadership of the ANC continues to engage disgruntled individuals in the movement with the aim of closing rank and uniting the ANC. We hope to use these upcoming regional conferences also as a platform for imparting political education and finding each other with the disgruntled members," he explained.

He added patching differences among members and aligning them behind the drive for an ANC win forms part and parcel of oiling the organisation's elections machinery.

'Qualified managers needed to run ailing councils'

Ntombela optimistic of turn arounds

By: Ramosidi Matekane

Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela says there is need to deploy seasoned and qualified municipal managers and chief financial officers to help ailing municipalities in the province come out of their current financial quagmires.

Local municipalities fared badly in the auditor general's report for the past financial year with no council obtaining a clean audit outcome.

But Ntombela is optimistic that the struggling municipalities can turn things around with the placement of experienced managers.

"Working together with the Department of cooperative governance and traditional affairs, we are prioritising basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation," said Ntombela during a live interview on national radio this week.

She noted, "We are optimistic that the deployment of seasoned and qualified municipal managers and chief financial officers will help us turnaround our municipalities."

The Premier was unpacking the challenges faced by the province regarding the performance of municipalities as well charting the way forward in overcoming them.

Ntombela has in the past met with the municipalities and treasury MEC Elsabe Rockman to dissect the outcomes of the auditor general's report on the province's councils.

A task team led by the provincial department of treasury was chosen to look into the financial

situations of different municipalities and to find ways of assisting them.

Ntombela's calls for deployment of seasoned officials to run the councils also come hot on the heels of a high level meeting between the minister of co-operative governance, traditional affairs and co-operative governance Zweli Mkhize and all municipalities in the province.

The meeting was also part of the nationwide drive by the minister to find facts around the below average performance of struggling municipalities across the country.

In the Free State Mkhize's Imbizo pointed out that the biggest problem facing municipalities in the province is low revenue collection due to a small base. These include Mafube, Masilonyana, Maluti-A-Phofung, Kopanong, Letsemeng, Mantsopa, Nketoana, Tokologo and Mohokare local municipalities.

Mkhize told officials attending the meeting, including municipal managers, mayors and chief financial officers to persuade people whose names do not appear on council indigent lists of those living below the bread line to pay for services they receive.

At the last count the total debt of the province's municipalities to power utility Eskom amounted to 40 percent of the total R16 billion owed to the parastatal by all council across the

country.

Matjhabeng Local Municipality which includes the gold-rich towns of Welkom and Virginia has an outstanding debt of R2.8 billion for electricity owed to Eskom.



Ntombela wants more action on Aids

By: Martin Makoni

Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela has called on municipalities to revive Local Aids Councils (LACs) so there is continued awareness about the pandemic at grassroots level and ensure people living with the condition receive constant support.

Ntombela said this when she addressed the Provincial Council on AIDS (PCA) in Tweeling on Friday last week. This was her first meeting with the PCA which she chairs by virtue of her position as the Premier of the province.

In a statement released by the PCA Head of Secretariat Tefo Tabi this week, the Premier said it seemed unscrupulous businesspeople were taking advantage of the inactivity of the LACs and were selling untested sexual products on the streets which promise magical results, thereby leading people to engage in risky sexual behaviour.

Some of these products included the so-called love portions to help bring back a lost lover, penis

enlargement creams, as well as anointed water or oils from some fake pastors.

"(Municipalities) should revive their Aids Councils and fast-track the establishment of Ward Aids Forums whose members will serve within 'War rooms,'" said the Premier in the statement.

She said there were posters all over the province promoting these products with some sellers even distributing flyers at street corners yet there are very posters on HIV and Aids awareness.

"The DACs (District Aids Councils and (LACs) should develop a programme of action that responds to HIV and Aids and Tuberculosis in line with the goals of HIV and TB Provincial Implementation Plan (PIP) for the period 2017-2022," said the Premier in her recommendations to the province.

Ntombela said the PCA's action plan called "Business Unusual" should be implemented fully to ensure progress in the fight against HIV and Aids, TB and Sexually

Transmitted Infections (STIs)

The Business Unusual Plan promotes the implementation of the "She Conquers Campaign" which is a three-year national campaign that aims to improve the lives of adolescent girls and young women in South Africa.

Business Unusual also seeks to promote social behaviour change interventions; drug abuse and human trafficking; up-scaling HIV/TB services targeting men; enhancing adherence to HIV, TB, STI and chronic disease treatment; decreasing incidence of non-communicable diseases and improve non-communicable diseases; intensifying focus on addressing incidence of mental illness and improving mental health treatment outcomes.

Tabi said by telephone that another important measure the Premier recommended was to ensure nurses were trained in sign language so they can effectively communicate with those who cannot speak or hear.

"The Premier said nurses should be taught sign language. She also wants doctors and

other healthcare workers to undergo the same programmes so that there is improved communication with patients," said the PCA Head of Secretariat.

The PCA is responsible for fostering dialogue and consensus between government, civil society and all other stakeholders in its strategies and programmes to turn the tide against HIV, TB and Sexually STIs in the province.

Its functions include among others, deliberating and recommending the provincial implementation plan for HIV, TB and STIs every five years as well as advocating for policy proposals from civil society, district and local government, private sector, technical experts and partners.

The Provincial Council on Aids is led by the Premier, who is the chairperson and other members include all MECs, all mayors, the Director General, all heads of departments and civil society organisations.

The Weekly

8 Genius Locci
CP Hoogenhout and Maretha Maartens
Street
Langenhoven Park
Bloemfontein
9300

T: (051) 446 4720 - F: (051) 446 4723
Email: newsroom@theweekly.co.za

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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION GROUP



A night of dance... DJ Lover's and What What set to rock Spotlite Lounge on the official launch.

Spotlite adds flair

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Entertainment joint Spotlite Lounge, now under new management, has vowed to add a new flair to the ever-growing showbiz industry in the province.

Located in Jagersfontein, the lounge has since reopening early this month made a mark in the hearts of the mixed audience in the small town.

The new management said patrons should expect mega entertainment from both local and national and disc jockeys during its official opening on August 5.

Headlining the heavy line-up during the official opening would be Lesedi FM's Lerato Mpompo and award winning muso and producer DJ What What. They will be supported by local acts Surprise the DJ, Twin-Cyber, The Saw, Dice

the DJ and Big Mo.

Speaking ahead of the official launch, owner Lucky Phuroe said as with the launch of all new night life venues, Spotlight Lounge has big plans to change the face of clubbing in Jagersfontein.

"More specifically, Spotlight Lounge wants to bring new fire to the party scene in the Northern dorpie. All is set to reintroduce a premium modern luxury clubbing experience to the Free State market," pointed out.

He added: "This new sexy, seductive and opulent lounge opens its doors on Friday 4th August for the first time. It's all systems goes for us. We've been working hard to ensure that all is in place ahead of the big day and we're happy that the day is finally upon us. We're more than ready to give people a good time in a safe and secure environment"

DJ What What said he was humbled to be among

entertainers on the night.

Needing no introduction to the industry having worked and produced for one of the country's most successful artists, DJ Cleo, What What noted patrons can expect a wild night from him.

Still working on new music, the popular disc jockey said there was a possibility of dropping new joints for the fans during the event.

"We always get caught up in the 'in moment' as DJs such that we drop new music unplanned and having been in the industry for so many years, I've fallen victim of that and am certain this will be the case on the night," he said joyful.

The fusion of deep, soulful and commercial house is set to cater greatly for the different expected revellers.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Her curvy body has made her a star of the red carpet and a favourite at clubs around the country.

But fame has not stopped Skolopad from telling horny men where to get off. Mzansi's self-proclaimed Beyonce said she is tired of men who think of getting under the sheets every time they see her.

"I am not a sex object!" said the socialite. Skolopad, whose real name is Nonhlanhla Qwabe, said event organisers were the biggest culprits.

"They want to have sex with me once they have booked me. But I do not work for sex and I do not sell my body. This has nothing to do with the clothing I wear. It happens because I am a nice person."

She said men often try to take advantage when a woman is kind to them. "They assume you want to sleep with them." She said men needed to start respecting women.

"If I provide a service and I am nice to you, I am only trying to build a working relationship, not a sexual one."

Although not all the promoters she worked with were sex pests, she said quite a few had tried to sweet-talk their way into her panties. "At the end of the day this reflects badly on all men," she said.

She encouraged men to protect women and children from abuse. "Assault is not the only form of abuse. A man can abuse you by giving you a look that suggests he wants to sleep with you."

Skolopad said fear should not prevent women from being who they are or doing what they love.

Since Mzansi met Skolopad in the yellow dress, she has kept her name alive with one nude snap or risqué pose after the other, but the entertainer says the bottom-line should always be about her talent.

"Women in this industry deserve to be respected. I deserve respect as woman in this industry. Even when my costumes are revealing... more than Skolopad the performer, I am a mother, someone's daughter and a talented woman. Being nude has nothing to do with my talent," said Skolopad.

The musician said people wanted to limit her to her body so they could overlook her talent.

She went on to question why that was the



I deserve respect . . . Skolopad

I'm not about sex, says socialite Skolopad

case when the same treatment was not given to other international and local female entertainers.

"There are other female celebrities that are almost always naked, but people don't just assume that is all they know. Even celebrities in America like Beyoncé hardly ever puts on clothes but they are still seen for their talent, why can't I get the same chance?"

Skolopad said she was left disgusted by promoters who apparently judged her based on

her nakedness.

"Like one promoter told me to remove my request for accommodation because I can 'come sleep over' after I perform. Like just because I show a lot of skin, I am saying I am available to sleep with random event organisers. It's really disgusting but I know it's not an entertainment industry thing, but a South African men thing. To them a naked or half naked woman is an invitation for sexual advances," she added.

Soapbox

THE QUEEN

Harriet is tested in her own home. Jerry and Vuyiswa reach a stumbling block, while Diamond finds a partner. Shaka finds it difficult to come to terms with the death of a loved one. Jerry doesn't know how to comfort Cleo. Diamond recruits another member to his squad. Unexpected visitors arrive at The Khozas making demands, drama unfolds. Diamond pays the Big 5 a visit. Gracious issues a command.

SKEEM SAM

Lelo receives an unexpected guest at her doorstep which she rebuffs. Big Boy finds himself at the brunt of a woman's anger. Principal Thobakgale shocks Alfred when her lights switch off. Lelo finds herself in Lehasa's

bedroom yet again. A worried Alfred tells Celia that he may have let the cat out of the bag to Principal. Big Boy finds himself tapping into the cash box again to help a special someone. Something in Lehasa's past makes Lelo uneasy. Just as he's starting to relax, Alfred learns something unsettling from Principal Thobakgale. Big Boy treads on dangerous territory while Leshole remains oblivious to.

GENERATIONS

Okuhle gets her own back when she hears what was said about her. A client mistakenly leaves a file behind giving a vengeful sister the perfect ammunition she needs. Two former colleagues draw closer to each other. The Morokas are shocked to hear where Rori spent the night. Tshidi's visit to #hashtag isn't as innocent as it seems. The more Mrekza tries to help, the more it backfires on him. A man plots a devious, dangerous way of emerging the hero for his girlfriend's family. Hlengiwe piles on financial pressure in a bid to help her family.



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.



My fans' love kept me going: Bunu

When Khanyisa Bunu left her stable teaching job to follow her passion for entertainment, she had no clue how tough the road would be and how dependent she would be on her fans' support.

Chatting to TshisaLIVE Khanyisa explained that after leaving her full-time job to pursue her dreams, she was often just motivated by the love from fans when the industry hostility got too much to handle.

"I had a very rough path in this industry. It isn't the most welcoming, and I haven't always felt at home. It wasn't easy. So now people see me doing well and some may think that life has always been that way but it wasn't. It was my fans' support that validated my choice, it showed me I made the right one."

The comedian, who has opened up for comedy acts like Trevor Noah, has since flourished in her standup comedy and has had many successful one-woman shows.

Pushed by passion and the love from her supporters, Khanyisa also decided to take on acting, something she's wanted to do for a long time. She recently blew viewers out of the water with her stellar performance as Dambisa on Scandal!.

"I have received the most amazing love from total strangers and close friends alike. But I was really touched, when recently this one guy just sang my praises to me and to everyone who could hear him. He told me how my growth shows and



Showered with love . . . Actress Khanyisa Bunu

how I should keep up the good work."

Khanyisa said she'll forever be indebted to her fans and will strive to perfect her craft for their benefit and hers.

"I really want to tell my fans that they have fuelled me up to be better because this industry is not really kind. It's really tough here, today you can be here and tomorrow totally forgotten or at the very bottom."

-Tshisalive

Behavioural change still key in Aids fight

By: Martin Makoni

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) says despite a significant drop in the number of new HIV infections 2017 compared to previous years, people should not become complacent and engage in risky sexual behaviour or stop taking their anti-retroviral medication.

HSRC executive director for the HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB (HAST) Research Programme Dr Khangelani Zuma said it remains important for people to practice safe sex while those on ARVs should take them religiously in order to stay healthy.

Zuma said this in a telephone interview following the launch of the fifth SA National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Study findings by the HSRC last week.

"It's very important for people to get tested for HIV so that they know their status," said Zuma.

He noted while HIV incidence has significantly declined since 2012 by 44 percent when 378 700 new infections were recorded to 231 100 new infections in 2017, it remains imperative for people to change

their sexual behaviour.

"HIV is not just a health issue, it's also a behavioural and cultural issue. People should not be complacent even when they are on medication. They should continue protecting themselves and their partners from possible infections. And during cultural rituals such as circumcisions, there should be a high level of hygiene," he explained.

Overall, between 2016 and 2017 the number of new HIV infections dropped by 14 percent. This can be zrcumcised, more than half of these are medical circumcisions," said the HSRC executive director.

Among adults aged 15 to 49 years, HIV prevalence varies geographically across South Africa, ranging from 12.6 percent in Western Cape to 27.0 percent in KwaZulu-Natal. In the Free State, the figure stands at 25.5 percent.

South Africa has the biggest HIV epidemic in the world, with an estimated 7.1 million people living with HIV, according to the United Nations.

The country has the largest ART programme in the world, which has undergone even more expansion in 2016 with the implementation of 'universal test and treat' policy.

Zuma said South Africa's ART programme can only be successful if it is complemented with improved sexual behaviour. This was very important as the country still had a long way to go in achieving the 90-90-90 targets by 2020 set United Nations to ensure that 90 percent of all people living with HIV know their HIV status and that 90 percent of those with diagnosed HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART) as well as that 90 percent of the people receiving ART have viral suppression.

By 2017, South Africa had attained 85-71-86, which means more people living with HIV should be put on treatment.

"The burden of HIV continues to disproportionately affect different geographical regions and high risk groups, especially Black Africans, adolescent girls and young women. HIV incidence has decreased from the 2012 estimates, yet remains high, particularly among female youth aged 15-24 years," said Zuma.

The HSRC survey which provides a comprehensive assessment of HIV behavioural status of the people of South Africa is undertaken every three years. It is a population-based cross-sectional survey of households in South Africa and was designed to assess the prevalence and trends of key HIV-related indicators.

The survey was conducted between January and December 2017 and provides information on national and sub-national progress toward HIV epidemic control in the country. The report summarises the HIV epidemic and impact of South Africa's national HIV response.



Guard against complacency . . . HSRC executive director Dr Khangelani Zuma

DA's De Lille survives another day

Cape Town mayor Patricia de Lille, who so far has survived many attempts by the DA to see the back of her that one would be forgiven for thinking she has nine lives, will live to see another day as mayor following reports that the motion of no confidence that she was set to face yesterday has been withdrawn.

The City of Cape Town council was expected to bring a motion of no confidence against the embattled politician after lunch. However, the motion has been withdrawn after a deal was reached.

The agreement between De Lille and the DA, which states that the party will bring no further motions of no-confidence in the Cape Town mayor but will continue the council disciplinary investigation into her, was signed on Wednesday night.

In a separate matter, council speaker Dirk Smit is set to face a motion of no confidence, this one brought by the ANC.

This would have been the second motion of no confidence De Lille has faced at the hands of her own party. She survived the last one by a single vote, leading some to question whether she would have been able to make it out of this one unscathed.

Twitter Ads info and privacy

De Lille issued a statement on Twitter, saying the motions of no confidence "have been on the basis of untested allegations without evidence".

She also expressed her desire to "remain positive and continue to put the people of Cape Town first", ending the message on a philosophical note with the words "what must be, will be".

Last month, the party's removal of De Lille was declared unlawful and set aside with costs in the Western Cape High Court.

The judgment found there was non-compliance with the DA's own constitution in the handling of the disciplinary process that culminated in the removal of De Lille as a member of the party and then as mayor of Cape Town. The party's removal of De Lille was declared unlawful, and was set aside with costs.

The DA's refusal to give De Lille the opportunity to give evidence in mitigation was said to be an example of non-compliance in the matter by judge Andre le Grange. The party was meant to give De Lille a chance to make representations, "which in our view it did not do".

The judge said the process taken by the DA's Federal Legal Council (FLC), which handles internal matters, was legally incorrect.

The Citizen reported soon after that as a result of the ruling the party could face a review of several decisions made by its disciplinary body over the past three years, according to its federal executive.

If the motion of no confidence had taken place, and she lost, De Lille would have been forced to resign and dissolve her mayoral committee, causing deputy mayor Ian Neilson to step in pending the appointment of a new mayor.

The ANC said on Wednesday they did not plan to support the motion against De Lille. -Citizen

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E-mail: tumi@evgafrica.co.za

Restore FS agric, Ntombela urges farmers

By: Neo Ntsele

In a move to rally the farming community behind spirited efforts to return the Free State to its glory as South Africa's bread basket, Premier Sisi Ntombela has urged farmers in the province to work hand in glove with her government.

Ntombela made this passionate call at a meeting with farmers at the Glen Agricultural College in Bloemfontein on Wednesday morning.

"I'm pleading with you, both black and white farmers to join forces and work together to deal with challenges faced in your sector, I'm confident your partnership will help grow

your businesses as well as the economy of the province," she said.

"If you want to live like a king you have to work like a slave, and for us to achieve this goal we must start working hard as a collective."

The Premier said her office remains open to farmers wishing to address sector challenges, adding it was sad the province's agricultural sector today resembles a sorry shadow of its former self.

Ntombela recalled that agriculture used to be at the centre of the province's economy but the situation has since regressed so badly that Free Staters now buy produce such as vegetables and fruits from Gauteng and other provinces.



NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS ON THE CENTRAL SUPPLIER DATABASE (CSD)

In terms of regulation 14(1) of the Municipality Supply Chain Management Regulations and MFMA Circular 81, all prospective service providers of goods and services and infrastructure procurement are required to apply on **Central Supplier Database (CSD)** in order to do business with all organs of state in the Republic of South Africa.

Nala Local Municipality hereby invite prospective service providers to apply for CSD registration online at www.csd.gov.za or visit the Nala Scm office for assistance with the registration.

Key Information for registration:

- Business registration documents
- Identity documentation of directors
- Business Address (Residential & Postal)
- Business bank account information
- Tax reference number
- B-BBEE Certificate
- Cellphone number
- Email address

Please note that existing suppliers on the Nala local Municipality's database **MUST** also register on the CSD.

For more information contact Ms M P Soka on 056 514 9200 during working hours

B C Mokomela
Municipal Manager

NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

MANGAUNG MUNICIPAL LAND USE PLANNING BY-LAW (PROVINCIAL GAZETTE NUMBER 35 OF 03 JULY 2015)

The Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality hereby notify for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47(3) (a) and (b) of the Municipal Land Use Planning By-Law, read together with the relevant provisions of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013, that the following applications have been received from Ralph Rex Town Planner.

Any person who wishes to make an objection to the approval of the application, is hereby invited to lodge and substantiate their objection in writing to the Town and Regional Planning Sub-Directorate, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, PO Box 3704, Bloemfontein, 9300 or sent to patricia.maasdorp@mangaung.co.za Objection(s) stating comprehensive reasons must reach this office within a period of thirty (30) days from the date of publication hereof, i.e. from **27 July 2018** – provided that the objection stipulates the full particulars of the objector (s) (postal address, street address, telephone numbers(s) and e-mail address).

Any person who is unable to write may, during office hours, visit the offices of the Town and Regional Planning Sub-Directorate, Bram Fischer building, room 802 on the 8th floor, where an official of this office will assist those by transcribing their objections. Any person who submitted an objection will be notified in writing if a hearing will be held in respect of the application.

(a) Plot 30 Roodewal Small Holdings:

For the removal of restrictive conditions A. (a), A. (b) and A. (c) as depicted on page 2 of Deed of Transfer T14241/2004 pertaining to Plot 30 Roodewal Small Holdings (30 Jan Steyl Avenue, Roodewal), the subdivision of Plot 30 Roodewal Small Holdings into three portions (remainder included) and the creation of two 10,00-meter-wide right-of-way servitudes over respectively the proposed remainder of Plot 30 Roodewal Small Holdings in favour of both the proposed subdivisions 1 and 2 of Plot 30 Roodewal Small Holdings and over the proposed subdivision 1 of Plot 30 Roodewal Small Holdings in favour of the proposed subdivision 2 of Plot 30 Roodewal Small Holdings.

(b) Plot 14 Highveld Small Holdings:

For the removal of restrictive conditions B. (a), B. (b) and B. (c) as depicted on page 2 of Deed of Transfer T1249/2009 pertaining to Plot 14 Highveld Small Holdings (14 Seder Avenue, Highveld), the subdivision of Plot 14 Highveld Small Holdings into three portions (remainder included) and the creation of an 10,00-meter-wide right-of-way servitude over the proposed subdivision 2 of Plot 14 Highveld Small Holdings in favour of the proposed subdivision 1 of Plot 14 Highveld Small Holdings.

(c) Plot 5 Vaalbank Zuid Small Holdings: For the removal of restrictive conditions C. (a), C. (b) and C. (c) as depicted on pages 2 and 3 of Deed of Transfer T6928/2008 pertaining to Plot 5 Vaalbank Zuid Small Holdings (5 Impala Road, Vaalbank Zuid) and the subdivision of Plot 5 Vaalbank Zuid Small Holdings into three portions (remainder included).

(d) Erf 8530 Bloemfontein extension 55: For the removal of restrictive conditions B. (a) and B. (b) as depicted on pages 2 and 3 of Deed of Transfer T3442/2018 pertaining to Erf 8530 Bloemfontein extension 55 (20 Rindl Street, Universitas) in order to permit the owner, the opportunity to develop a second residential dwelling unit thereupon.



Addressing collective challenges . . . Farmers listen attentively during a meeting with Premier Sisi Ntombela at the Glen Agricultural College in Bloemfontein on Wednesday

Accompanying Ntombela during this engagement was agriculture MEC Dr Benny Malakoane.

Speaking before the main address by the Premier, Malakoane pleaded for sound working relations with the farming community in the province.

He said this would turn the tide of dependency and return the Free State to its heydays as the main supplier of agricultural products in the country.

"Be transparent and truthful in your engagements about what challenges you face in the sector," he noted.

The MEC added a distinction has to be made between animal lovers and farmers, jokingly stating that someone who owns dogs and cats

should not brand themselves as farmers.

Lefa Tlhapuletsa who hails from Xhariep district bemoaned what he called lack of support for black and emerging farmers.

Tlhapuletsa pleaded with the government to focus its support on black farmers through allocation of bigger hectares of land and financial aid to help them grow their businesses in this predominantly white male sector.

The farmer who deals in the production of red meat also cited widespread diseases affecting livestock as their main challenge, and called on the government to step up the distribution of animal vaccines to farms.

Another farmer, Mojalefa Mosho based in Wepener, urged young people to go into agriculture.

Other issues raised at the meeting related to limited working budgets, dire effects of drought, stock theft, and bad roads affecting production in different farming areas.

The meeting resolved to continue engagements between the MEC and farmers in the province, setting a deadline of three months to give a report back on the progress made in addressing the identified challenges.

The concerns would also form part of MEC Malakoane's departmental programme of action for the year.

Police MEC Sam Mashinini assured the gathering his department would work harder to fight stock theft and give feedback on its interventions.

Non-compliance worries department of labour



Promoting law compliance . . . Department of Labour provincial spokesperson Josial Ramokoena

By: Thina Tuane

The Department of Labour says it is working hard to ensure better working conditions for all employees registered with the Compensation Fund.

The department last week held a networking session with its stakeholders following reported incidences of employees being injured on duty, contracting diseases, and not being paid out, due to non-compliance by employers.

The session was part of initiatives to promote dialogue amongst stakeholders and seek amicable solutions to remedy the non-compliance of companies to the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act.

Department of Labour provincial

spokesperson Josial Ramokoena explained that the Compensation Fund's mandate is to administer the law relating to occupational injuries and diseases.

"The main objective of the Act is to provide compensation for disablement caused by occupational injuries or diseases sustained or contracted by workers, or for death resulting from such injuries or diseases, and provide for matters connected therewith," he noted.

He added: "Diseases such as TB from working with asbestos, low temperature conditions or those that work on farms, are graded according to the different industries, which then determines their premiums."

The scheme worked like any other insurance but it insured employers by giving

them the responsibility of paying returns from their earnings on an annual basis to the Compensation Fund.

"We are faced with the challenge that companies do not comply; they do not pay the annual return of earnings which is intended to be the payout for employees in the case of an injury or a disease. In other cases the correct documentation is not submitted," Ramokoena noted.

He added it was also important that employees regularly visited the department to ensure that their employers are paying contributions towards the Compensation Fund.

The department has partnered with the Free State Black Business Chamber as numerous businesses in the province are affiliated to the organisation and this would help advance the call for compliance.

Free State Black Business Chamber CEO Lucky Motsamai said it is also their responsibility to represent and protect the business community in the province from employers who contravene the law.

"We are exposed to the challenges that our businesses are faced with in regard to the Compensation Fund but we will strive to always ensure that they are protected," he said.

Stakeholders attending the meeting also showed enthusiasm in joining in the discussion to ensure employees receive what is due to them.

Compensation Fund commissioner Vuyo Mafata said the scheme would make sure that companies comply with labour practices by making use of labour inspectors and pay roll auditors that are sent out to companies to verify the information they receive.

"As an entity of the Department of Labour we have inspectors to enforce compliance, and we are recently employing pay roll auditors who verify the information the companies provide. This will allow us to see when companies do not comply," added Mafata.

Don't turn land debate into election issue – Cronin

By: Martin Makoni

The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Jeremy Cronin, says the ongoing countrywide discussions on the expropriation of land without compensation should not be used as a political weapon for elections as the country might not achieve the anticipated results.

Cronin said the country should look into the

matter holistically in order to come up with long-term results that meet the needs of all people, particularly the poorest of the poor.

He said this during a panel discussion on the politics of land reform at the University of the Free State yesterday. This was the fourth panel discussion in the inaugural Thought-Leader Series hosted by the university.

“Let us not turn this (land debate) into an

election issue,” said Cronin to a loud applause from the audience.

“Let’s approach the issue as South Africans faced with a serious problem of land which must be resolved for the good of the country,” added Cronin who said he was not participating in the debate on behalf of the ANC, but a South African.

Cronin said he did not find anything wrong with the country’s constitution presently as it allowed for the expropriation of land without compensation by government as long as it was done in the interest of the people.

It was also wrong for people to say the country was sold during Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) as all negotiations were done in the interest of the country.

“We didn’t sell-out at CODESA, but the question remains, have we sold out on the constitution? I think that is the question. I don’t think the constitution is wrong. I think... we have not implemented the constitution to the latter. So, as a result, land has now become a major focus of anger and frustration by the people. So, we need to understand that land is quite an emotive issue,” said Cronin.

Other panellists on the debate were Democratic Alliance (DA) Shadow Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Anette Steyn, Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Member of Parliament Kgotsa Morapela, Congress of the People (COPE) leader Mosiuoa Lekota and Freedom Front Plus MP Wouter Wessels.

But Morapela disagreed with him saying the current state of the constitution made it impossible for government to speedily implement the land redistribution exercise as it only allowed



Supporting present constitution... The Deputy Minister of Public Works Jeremy Cronin during the land debate at the University of the Free State

for land expropriation without compensation as a last resort.

He said if the land is not put under the custody of the state, it would be difficult for the state to acquire it for redistribution.

But Lekota disagreed with him saying he was prepared to support the present constitution because he finds it reasonable and just.

“I have no apology to make. I am firmly committed to the end of my life, to support this constitution. I have already lost over 30 years of my life supporting the struggle to achieve this constitution,” said Lekota.

Wessels argued that the history of land ownership in South Africa should not be oversimplified as it remains a very delicate matter that can stir emotions.

He said it’s important to establish, among others, whether the expropriation of land without compensation would address the plight

of the poor people of South Africa.

“What we need in South Africa is mutual recognition and respect amongst people and communities. That is essential for the peaceful, sustainable and prosperous existence for us all. If we are not interested in that, then we should be frank and say that to one another,” said Wessels who is also a member of the Free State Legislature.

“If we are interested... in a better future for this country, we cannot go on blaming each other for everything that is wrong. We should have this mutual respect for each other. It’s very easy to talk about a better past, but it’s not going to be easy talking about a better future. It’s very easy to try and blame and to try and redress the past, but it’s not that easy for anybody, especially for the government to create a better future by actually addressing the plight of the people,” he added.

ANCYL wants generational mix

League says young people will ensure continuity

Wants generational mix, not generational battle

By: Ramosidi Matekane

The ANC Youth League in the Free State has amplified its calls for more young people who are rooted in the party to be elevated into positions of responsibility both in government and the movement.

The youth league was however quick to caution against misusing such calls to create chaos and anarchy in the ruling party.

ANC Free State youth league spokesman Sello Pietersen said the call for more representation should be one of the messages members of the league carry with them as they attend different conferences in their respective provinces ahead of the national event.

“Generational mix in the structures of the movement is non-negotiable nor is it a favour to be granted to the products of the political training ground of the movement, it’s a must,” said Pietersen.

He noted that promoting the young members of the youth league into more affluent positions would ensure the continuity of the ANC and also help the party renew itself.

“The only certainty for the longevity and renewal of ANC is both the strengthening of its youth league as well as the ascendance to the leadership structures by those who have been politically trained and moulded by the congress’



Time for elevation . . . ANC Free State Youth League spokesman Sello Pietersen

youth league,” he pointed out.

Pietersen further called on all members of the youth league across the province to contest “this space with vigour and ensure that the ideals of a leadership encompassing all generations including young people is achieved in

both party and state”.

He however cautioned against confusing calls to fight for generational mix in leadership to asking young members of the congress movement to engage in a generational battle with their seniors in the party.

“We are not seeking a generational battle but generational mix. If there is resistance from any political corner, young comrades must then make use of the political militancy and energy to emerge; this is not a call for anarchy but a call for action.”

In all upcoming conferences of the ANC, young people must act with the agility of a cat and the precision of a cornered bull in driving their demands home, Pietersen said.

The league remains inspired by some members who have raised their hands to signal their readiness to represent young people’s interests. These needed support.

The spokesperson said the league understands that the younger generation is faced with myriad challenges which they did not create but are expected to provide solutions for.

He called on members to take the front line in advocating for the realisation of this quest.

The youth league goes to its national policy and elective congress from September 6-11 where a new leadership collective is expected to emerge.

QwaQwa radio taken off air

By: Ramosidi Matekane

QwaQwa Community Radio in Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality has been taken off air after it failed to comply with regulations to hold annual general meetings to elect new board members since 2012.

The spokesman for the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa), Paseka Maleka, confirmed the development to The Weekly yesterday.

Maleka said the station was taken off air because of non-compliance with the standing rules and regulations of Icasa, chief among them the holding of general meetings as per constitutions of community radio stations to renew mandates of sitting board members or election of new ones.

“What I can confirm for sure is that indeed the station has been taken off air and this is largely because of issues of non-compliance,” he said, adding that no general meetings were held

by the board of the station since 2012.

Maleka noted two weeks ago members of the community tried to save the station by holding a general meeting to elect a new board. However, only an interim board was elected since the old board was not present at the meeting.

Maleka said Icasa would only review the decision to scrap the licence of the station once evidence of compliance is presented to the body.

“Information at our disposal is that all members of the board resigned from it and that only one board member remains. We will also await the interim board to hold a legitimate general meeting before considering issuing an operating licence to the station,” he explained.

Meanwhile listeners of the station remain stranded as Icasa await the holding of a properly constituted general meeting.

The meeting to elect the interim board was held at the Phuthaditjhaba Multipurpose Hall on Saturday July 17.

Current chairman of the board, Mei

Selemane, has been accused of overstaying his term of office, having been at the helm for the past 10 years.

The new interim board chairman, Reverend Matebesi Lakaje, said in a separate interview they were going to work hard to restore the dignity and respect of the community broadcaster, which he claimed some people wanted to destroy.

He was also quoted as saying all suspended radio presenters would be asked to return as no evidence of wrongdoing was presented for their axing.

The interim board is comprised of Advocate Stanley Letshela, Attorney Motloli Molotsi, Kholeka Nzimande, Thite Titi, and Nhlapo Majoji.

The newly-appointed interim board and management are expected to report back to the community in the next month to present the state of the station’s daily operations and to formally inform the previous board about the community’s decision dissolve it.

PACOF'S PRESENTS
Comedy Show
THE GR8TEST LAUGHTER

PERFORMING ARTISTS
• Rasta Eye'n'eye
• Ticho Khakhau • Noko Mosweke
• Thenjiwe • Khanyisa Bunu • Kgomotso Lesemo

19:00
Sand Du Plessis Theatre
4 August

Tickets are now available at PACOF'S booking office
R100 & R150

pacofs

NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

RESOLUTION ON LEVING PROPERTY RATES IN TERMS OF SECTION 14 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT; MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ACT.2004. (ACT NO.6 OF 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICE

RESOLUTION LEVYING PROPERTY RATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 01 JULY 2017 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 14(1) and (2) of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004; that the council resolved by of council resolution number 15.1/30.05.217, to levy the rate on property reflected in the schedule below with effect from 1 July 2017

Category of Property	Cent amount in the rand determined for the relevant property
Residential property	0,01000
SS Residential property	0,01000
Business and commercial property	0,01999
SS Business and commercial property	0,01999
Industrial property	0,01999
Public organisation property	0,00250
Government properties	0,02999
Municipal properties	0,01000
Agricultural	0,00250
Education	0,02999
Guest House	0,01499
Crèche	0,01499
PSI	0,0250
Vacant	0,03998

Full details of the Council resolution and rebates, reductions and exclusion specific to each category of owner of properties or owner of specific category of property determined through criteria in the municipality rates policy are available on the municipal office during working hours from 07:30 to 16:15 Monday to Friday.

Regards,

Mr BC MOKOMELA
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

'Land can be legally expropriated now'

At the ANC Western Cape land summit in Stellenbosch last Friday, keynote speaker and ANC NEC member Ronald Lamola said there was no reason to wait for public hearings to end before expropriation without compensation could take place.

The ANC's youngest NEC member said the outcome of the party's national summit, held two months ago, was that President Cyril Ramaphosa would appoint a task team to assist with the land reform project.

Instances of expropriation would then need to be tested on a case-by-case basis in the Constitutional Court, Lamola added.

According to the politician, government departments and entities already had the means to test the Constitution by expropriating land within existing law.

Lamola, a lawyer by trade, sits on the party's subcommittee on economic transformation.

Clarifying his belief that expropriation of land could be carried out constitutionally, he said: "We don't believe the Constitution is a sell-out document. What is needed is that the issue of land expropriation needs to be properly spelled out. We need to provide clarity."

"All those [state] institutions already have powers to expropriate, so they don't need to wait for the public hearings [to end]."

"We can exercise that power now. Those who have the power to expropriate within the bounds of the Constitution, they can proceed," he noted.

According to Lamola, the ANC will now be attempting to finalise the passing of an expropriation bill that will properly clarify which land can be expropriated within existing law while also focusing on land restitution.

Lamola slammed what he saw as the bureaucratic nature of the registration and transfer process for land claims, and stated he believed various departments and state agencies already had the power to expropriate land.

"The departments of human settlements, basic education, public works - they have expropriating powers, as well as various state agencies like [roads agency] Sanral and Eskom," said Lamola while briefing journalists outside



Time is now . . . ANC NEC member Ronald Lamola

the Western Cape event.

"The challenge has been the use of market-related prices, which is not what the Constitution demands when you want to expropriate."

Lamola added cooperative governance and traditional affairs minister Zweli Mkhize would also hold a summit to inform municipalities and mayors that they could expropriate land based on the current provisions.

Lamola also disputed the commonly held view that the ANC wanted all land transferred to the state, stating the party instead preferred joint ownership.

"There must still be title deeds, to secure private deeds. Our policy is a mixture of ownership."

"The fact is the economy of the country is a mixed economy. In a mixed economy, you

cannot have all the land of the country owned by the state," he said.

According to another speaker at the summit, WA Mgodini, who served on the land reform commission from 1998 to 2003, there is already a precedent for the expropriation of public land legally seen to be a "commonage".

Mgodini noted that partial tracts of a golf course in Durbanville, Cape Town, had been used to build roughly 15 houses.

Most golf courses are owned by the municipality, and so approval from the City was given, and a deal was struck, allowing the homes to be built.

According to Mgodini, commonages by definition already belong to the state, and therefore expropriation can be carried out lawfully. -*Citizen*

Treasury announces inquiry into PIC

Public Investment Corporation CEO Dan Matjila is one step closer to learning his fate, as finance minister Nhlanhla Nene informed the board of the government-owned investment vehicle of an independent inquiry into the PIC's "governance issues".

Treasury announced earlier this week that Nene had completed his review of evidence and allegations against the PIC and its CEO and that he would before the end of the week announce the decisive steps aimed at addressing the PIC's governance issues and allegations against the PIC CEO.

Nene earlier said he would not cave in to pressure to preemptively suspend Matjila without a fair and due process after Matjila, in recent weeks, came under attack from United Democratic Movement leader Bantu Holomisa.

However, while Matjila has rejected allegations of impropriety and the Public Service

Association defended him, the matter escalated to Treasury.

Treasury said in a statement on Wednesday that Nene had met with the PIC board of directors and informed them of "the next steps in dealing with the governance issues at the state-owned fund manager and the allegations against certain PIC executives".

The steps are:

The institution of an independent inquiry into the affairs of the PIC; and

The directive by the Minister to the board of the PIC to commission a proper forensic investigation into the allegations against certain PIC executives.

Further details on the independent inquiry, including the name of its head as well as its terms of reference, will be announced in due course, the statement read. -*Fin24*

SADC won't endorse sham Zimbabwe poll

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) observer mission says it will not endorse a bogus election in Zimbabwe.

The 63-member SADC team, led by Angola's secretary of state in the External Relations ministry, Tete Antonio, said after meeting political parties in Harare at the weekend that they would not endorse a sham election as their mandate was to witness a fully democratic process.

Political instability in Lesotho, skirmishes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar - where elections are due in November - and Zimbabwe's military-engineered removal of Robert Mugabe have cast a bad light on the region in recent years.

"We spoke (to the parties) about consolidating democracy and we understood that democracy is a process and elections are only a part of the process. With the issue that was raised regarding reforms, we understand that steps were undertaken and we have taken note that 13 changes were done," Antonio said.

The MDC Alliance is leading protests over issues such as the design of the ballot paper and security around the ballot papers. These issues were raised by the SADC team at a meeting with

the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

Protests by the alliance were scoffed at by President Emmerson Mnangagwa who said that the July 30 poll would be the most transparent election in the history of the country. He urged the opposition to approach the courts with their grievances. "Government has no role in controlling or influencing ZEC at all."

They are guided by the Constitution and Electoral Act of the country. Those who feel that the ZEC has not complied with the law or constitution, our courts are open to deal with such issues," he said.

So far, grievances brought before the courts in relation to the polls have been thrown out, including the latest by visually impaired voter Abraham Mateta who sought an order to have the electoral body print a braille version of the ballot paper.

High Court Judge Charles Hungwe said according to law, a visually impaired person was allowed to bring a trusted assistant when casting their vote.

A 2014 report from the University of Zimbabwe said at the time that nearly 10% of the population was visually impaired. -*Timeslive*

SA gives China platform on trade

South Africa is likely to provide a platform for a Chinese-led fightback against Donald Trump's protectionist agenda as it hosts counterparts of the so-called Brics group of nations.

The annual summit of the coterie of emerging economic powers, first identified by former Goldman Sachs Asset Management Chairman Jim O'Neill, is the 10th since its leaders started meeting, and the first since the prospect of a full-blown global trade war became a real threat. The BRICS group encompasses Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has already used his visit to the country to forge friendships and consolidate influence with multi-billion dollar investments in Africa, including South Africa, which counts China as its biggest trading partner.

Xi's country has the most at stake in a potential trade conflict, accounting for the bulk

of the combined gross domestic product of about \$17trn that BRICS represents.

"I expect to see a bold, sweeping statement led by the Chinese side that will condemn protectionism and de-globalization with an intent to keep the global trading regime intact and predictable," Martyn Davies, managing director for emerging markets and Africa at Deloitte, said by phone.

"Access to the global economy through trade has underpinned China's economic success over the past 2 1/2 decades."

O'Neill coined the Brics term in 2001 to describe the four emerging powers he estimated would equal the US in joint economic output by 2020. Brazil, Russia, India and China invited South Africa to join the group in December 2010. The five countries' GDP is now more than 90% the size of US output. While they have combined foreign-exchange reserves of \$4trn, the group's

currencies, stocks and bonds took a hit from the trade war and Fed policy tightening.

"China is the most important trade country in this coalition, and is likely to offset the negative impact from greater US protectionism through increased domestic stimulus," Madhur Jha, head of thematic research at Standard Chartered Bank, said in response to emailed questions.

The BRICS nations would "reiterate their own domestic agendas at this meeting as well as commit to more trade and investment among these countries," she said.

On Tuesday, China pledged to invest \$14.7bn in South Africa and grant loans to its state power utility and logistics company. The rand gained on the back of the announcement, and traded a further 0.2% stronger at R13.25/\$ at 08:55 on Wednesday. -*News24*

have a set of rules we can rely on and leaves us exposed to the full power relations in the world economy," Davies said on Wednesday in a panel discussion at the 10th annual Brics summit in Johannesburg.

"For a small economy like ours, it's not a good place to be in. It means we need to find a solution to this in the African continent and in strengthening regional integration," he noted.

In June, the Trump administration imposed a 25% duty on steel and 10% levy on aluminum from South Africa, the European Union, Canada and Mexico, after refusing their calls for permanent exemptions.

The US says the tariffs are needed to protect its industry and national security. The government of Africa's most-industrialised economy is concerned that the US is considering a new wave of tariffs that could be extended to the auto industry, which is one of the cornerstones of South African manufacturing.

Escalating trade tensions are threatening to derail a global upswing that's already losing momentum amid weaker-than-expected growth in Europe and Japan as financial markets seem complacent to the mounting risks, the International Monetary Fund warned on July 16.

"South Africa is not a major protagonist but we are being hit by collateral damage," Davies said. -*Fin24*



Deeply worried. . . Trade and industry minister Rob Davies

US trade-war collateral damage hits SA: Davies

South Africa needs to strengthen its ties within the continent and establish a regional market as it gets hit by a developing trade war instigated by the US, trade and industry minister Rob Davies

has said.

There is "great skepticism against multilateralism" developing in the US, "which is not good for any of us because it means we don't

METRO MUNICIPALITY METRO MUNISIPALITEIT LEKGOTLA KA MOTSE



SPEAKER COUNCILLOR MXOLISI SIYONZANA

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given in terms of the provisions of Section 18(2) read in conjunction with Section 29(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No 117 of 1998), Rule 6.1 of the Council's Standing Rules and Orders that an Ordinary Meeting of the MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday, 31 July 2018
TIME: 10H00
VENUE: Council Chamber, First Floor
Bram Fischer Building

COUNCILLOR MXOLISI SIYONZANA
SPEAKER

Manana has shown remorse: Mthembu

ANC chief whip Jackson Mthembu says former MP Mduduzi Manana's resignation from Parliament indicated that he was someone who took full responsibility for his actions and that he showed remorse.

The embattled former deputy minister announced his voluntary resignation in a statement on Tuesday afternoon and said that he felt "exonerated" by the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) decision to not prosecute him for alleged abuse.

Manana was accused of attempting to push his domestic worker Christine Wiro down a flight of stairs in May, and later of attempting to fight her – allegations he denied.

On Wednesday, Mthembu said the party received Manana's resignation letter late on Tuesday and it was effective immediately.

"His voluntary resignation from Parliament, coupled with his resignation from the executive in 2017, is indicative of someone who has taken full responsibility and has shown remorse for his actions relating to his involvement in a gender-based violence case, where a court of law found



Alleges political smear campaign... Former MP Mduduzi Manana

him guilty," Mthembu said in a statement.

"We further note his public statement to the effect of actively participating in campaigns and initiatives to fight any form of gender-based violence and these initiatives have our full support," he noted.

"We wish Comrade Manana well with all his future endeavours."

On Tuesday, Manana claimed the charges against him were part of a "political smear campaign".

However, on Tuesday, DA chief whip John Steenhuisen said Manana's resignation was a tactic to avoid full accountability.

Manana was supposed to appear before Parliament's Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests on Wednesday – an appearance he will no longer have to make.

"Now he seems to have jumped before being pushed, resigning less than 24 hours before having to face the ethics committee," Steenhuisen said in a statement.

In a separate incident, Manana was convicted of three counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm in September 2017.

Video footage emerged of Manana assaulting a woman at Cubana in Fourways, Johannesburg, on August 6, 2017, which went viral on social media and sparked demands for his arrest.

He admitted during court proceedings that he also assaulted two others, saying the women had called him "isitabane", a term used to derogatively refer to gay people.

The Randburg Magistrate's Court ordered Manana to pay a R100 000 fine, or face 12 months in jail for the Cubana incident.

He was also ordered to complete 500 hours of community service, complete a rehabilitation programme and pay the victims a total of R26 680.46. –News24

Cabinet ups committee meetings attendance

President Cyril Ramaphosa's Thuma Mina (Send me) call apparently includes his ministers' attendance at parliamentary committee meetings and now the Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG) documented a rise in ministers' attendance at these meetings.

Comparing the first six months of 2017 to the same period in 2018, PMG noticed a 9.7% increase in attendance in 2018.

"Both these periods had their shake ups: the 'midnight reshuffle' in March 2017, and President Ramaphosa's Cabinet announcement in February 2018. A comparison shows a 9.7% increase in executive attendance in 2018.

"Of the 11 ministers and deputies with no recorded appearances, six were relieved of their duties on 15 February 2018," reads a statement from the PMG.

According to the PMG's records, the member of the executive who most diligently attended committee meetings was the minister of water

affairs and sanitation Gugile Nkwinti, who attended 10 meetings.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister Senzeni Zokwana attended eight meetings, and social development minister Susan Shabangu and police minister Bheki Cele each attended six.

"Attendance of Cabinet members in committees has been historically underplayed, but with the assertion of the oversight role of parliamentary committees, the pressure on ministers to attend key committee meetings has seen a rise," reads the PMG's statement.

"This was highlighted by the furore caused by the lack of appearances by then social development minister Bathabile Dlamini and her home affairs counterpart, Malusi Gigaba, during parliamentary committees' efforts to get clarity on the Sassa debacle and the Gupta family naturalisation."

On March 8 this year, not a single member of Cabinet was present in the National Assembly

for members' statements - one of the ways in which Parliament exercises oversight over the executive.

Furthermore, the only deputy minister (deputy ministers are not members of Cabinet) present was Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi, who is a National Freedom Party member.

Opposition MPs were outraged and the ANC asked Speaker Baleka Mbete to take the matter up with deputy president David Mabuza. The situation later improved.

According to the PMG, Mbete indicated earlier this year that she had written to Mabuza, to "complain about the absence of ministers during question time in the National Assembly".

"The deputy president responded in April 2018, announcing measures to deal with non-attendance including an attendance roster, and three ministers appointed to monitor their contemporaries. We hope that the attendance roster will be made public," reads the PMG's statement.

"Unknown to the public, a 2014 joint rules committee decision requires House attendance to be published once a year. But four years on, Parliament still has not once achieved this. The Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG) has been chasing this up for years without success." –News24

Zille's return to selection DA panel ruffles feathers

The DA has remained adamant that Western Cape Premier Helen Zille's spot on its selection panel to choose party representatives in Parliament is not in contravention of her suspension agreement.

Zille was suspended from all party activities last year following a series of tweets in which she defended aspects of colonialism.

The City Press on Tuesday quoted DA spokesperson Solly Malatsi saying they would not have signed off on it if it contravened the agreement.

DA Federal Executive chairperson James Selfe told the Cape Times to refer to Malatsi's response. When pressed, Selfe said: "We are making use of her experience."

This, however, was in stark contrast to DA leader Mmusi Maimane's statement when announcing the sanctions imposed on Zille following her tweets.

Maimane had said it was clear Zille did not share the same attitude about the DA's mission for 2019, adding: "Zille's social media commentary and public utterances in connection with colonialism undermine our reconciliation project."

"There is no question that Zille's original tweets and subsequent justification have damaged our standing in public," he noted.

Approached for comment, Zille said: "Membership of the selection panel is bound by clear criteria and key indicators in ranking candidates in the 'pool' elected by the electoral college.

"Everyone knows that I do not allow any other issues to get in the way of proper processes. I have prevented people trying to hijack selection panels for their own agendas in the past."

Maimane's spokesperson, Portia Adams, referred questions relating to the selection panel to Selfe.

"The leader of the DA is here to build a strong, diverse leadership, not argue about the



Return divides opinion... Western Cape Premier Helen Zille

past," Adams said.

ANC provincial secretary Faiez Jacobs said Zille was brought in through the back door.

Her being allowed on the panel was a show of the DA's default setting, "that black people are good enough to vote, but not to lead".

He said Zille was "ruling from the grave". "They are all scared of her, and the white 'baasskap' mentality still exists within the DA."

Black people must stop being fooled; they don't care about the people on the Cape Flats, Jacobs said.

The latest controversy follows statements by former DA MP Lindiwe Mazibuko who reportedly told a gathering last week Zille had often failed at nurturing new leadership, that Zille had undermined her and was doing the same thing to Maimane.

Adams did not respond to a request for comment on Mazibuko's remarks.

Following Mazibuko's statements, Zille said in a radio interview she had told Mazibuko she wasn't ready to lead the party.

Zille went on to say she herself should not be on the party's federal executive.

"I said to them, 'peak late', and when Lindiwe wanted to stand as the leader of the caucus after only two years on the caucus, I said I think it's a bit early. I think it's wrong that I should be sitting, for example, on a federal executive

"It is a bit difficult when you're trying shape your own vision and your own direction and give your own leadership, to have the former leader sitting there. I completely understand that, and that's one of the reason why I stepped back." –IOL

Mbete going nowhere says Parliament

Parliament says media reports that National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete may be resigning are false.

This follows comments Mbete made at the ANC's land summit at the weekend, which Parliament says some reporters misinterpreted.

Speaking in Stellenbosch on Saturday, Mbete said that she would continue serving her constituency in Khayelitsha, as well as the general public, in any capacity after the 2019 elections.

According to Parliament, Mbete's "comments were made as Parliament nears the end of its 5-year term, including the

tenures of its Presiding Officers and other elected public representatives, ahead of next year's elections. Regrettably, some reporters misinterpreted her to suggest that Ms Mbete intends resigning as Speaker or departing from Parliament."

Mbete has been the National Assembly Speaker since May 2014. She is one of the longest-serving Members of Parliament since the first democratic elections were held in 1994, and has survived numerous skirmishes with opposition parties over the years.

She was also a candidate in last year's hotly contested race for the ANC presidency. –IOL



Urging firearms amnesty... Police minister Bheki Cele

Police minister requests firearms amnesty in Sept

Parliament's portfolio committee on police says it will formally consider a request by police minister Bheki Cele to have a firearms amnesty in September.

Committee chair Francois Beukman said the process followed on from a letter Cele had sent to the speaker of the National Assembly requesting that the portfolio committee on police consider the matter.

"The proposed amnesty could potentially assist in the reduction of firearms in circulation in the republic. The biggest challenge is still, however, to address the matter of illegal firearms in circulation, and to prevent legal firearms being stolen and getting lost in the pool of illegal firearms," Beukman said.

He emphasised that the South African Police Service (SAPS) had to ensure that strict control measures were in place when members of the public handed over firearms during the amnesty.

"The portfolio committee needs to be assured that strict protocols will be put in place for the storage, testing and destruction of the said firearms. The proposed amnesty should be an effective mechanism to ensure that unwanted firearms are removed from the streets."

Following the committee's consideration of the Cele's request, the matter would be forwarded to the National Assembly for approval, Beukman said. The amnesty will run for six months. –BusinessDay

Activities lined up for Shenge's birthday

With IFP leader Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi celebrating his 90th birthday next month, those close to him say his leadership is still needed in the country's political arena.

Buthelezi's political awakening can be traced back to the 1930s when he was active in student politics.

He later joined the ANC Youth League alongside former president Nelson Mandela. Anton Lembede was the president of the youth league at the time.

Mandela became the league's first secretary-general.

With the blessings of the ANC's longest serving president, Oliver Tambo, Buthelezi left the ANC and formed the IFP in 1975.

Buthelezi has been IFP president since its formation.

Celebrations have begun weeks before his actual birthday on August 27.

Congratulatory messages have been flowing in for the leader of the Buthelezi clan.

Baleka Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly, described him as a leader who spoke sense when other MPs veered out of line.

"He is one of the MPs who rescues our Parliament when chaos erupts. He is full of respect and he respects everybody regardless of who they are. That is the kind of leadership we need in this country," Mbete noted.

Bantu Holomisa, leader of the United Democratic Movement, said Buthelezi has played a father figure role in local politics and in Parliament.

"We say happy birthday to the old man; may



Birthday man... IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi turns 90 next month

he see many more years to come," he said.

Holomisa lauded Buthelezi for his unwavering support for democracy and nurturing young members of Parliament including him.

Festivities are lined up for Buthelezi, culminating in the main celebration at Ulundi Regional Sports Complex on August 27.

His son, Prince Zuzifa Buthelezi, said the festivities for Buthelezi were the family's way of saying thank you to him. –SundayTribune

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CONVERSATIONS

WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING: DR TUMI



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I'M NOT MZANSI'S SHADE QUEEN: ZAHARA



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ONE ON ONE WITH TLOU RAMARU



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Listening attentively . . . An active crowd listens as speakers engage at the UCT Graduate School of Business last Friday

A DAILY STRUGGLE: THE BUSINESS OF BEING BLACK

If you are black in South Africa's world of work, it is a daily struggle against a system that constantly alienates you, aiming to exclude and sideline you. If you are black, you are never good enough."

This extract from Wiseman Magasela's *The Invisible Black Professionals*, published in 2000 in the *Mail & Guardian*, formed the inspiration behind a discussion called *The Business of Being Black*, at the weekend at the UCT Graduate School of Business.

Professor Shadrack Mazaza, the founder and CEO of the African Consciousness Institute (ACI), which hosted the event, questioned why is it that black people in South Africa still feel alienated, excluded and taken for granted in the workplace over 20 years into democracy?

Why is it that black people in South Africa can still relate to Magasela's article?

Mazaza is an associate professor at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School. He currently teaches on authentic leadership and personal transformation.

"The work that I do is self-knowledge. Being you where your power lies, whatever you want to do in life."

Mazaza believes that the key to black people taking their power back in the workplace is to take back "personal powers" first. He says that black people should be rooted in themselves and be confident in their African identity.

He used the analogy of a tree and the fruits that it bears to describe business organisations and the many arguments that people have had against affirmative action unequally benefiting black people.

"If you see things such as BEE (Black Economic Empowerment) and Affirmative Action as fruits, and yourself as a tree, no one can take your power away from you. People can take the fruits, but they cannot move the tree."

Mazaza said that it is important that black people see themselves for who they really are and not for who people have said they are for over 400 years. "Let's look at what contribution we've had in the world, where did the US and Europe get their wealth from? Us. Minerals, education, principles, even religion, most Western religions are founded on Egyptian religions, it dates all the way back to Egyptians. We are powerful," he said.

Mazaza said that it was important that Africans unite, regardless of which part of Africa they come from. He argued that national boundaries are not real. "I like to joke and say they (national boundaries) were drawn by some drunken Europeans in Berlin years ago. They're not real."

The four panellists were Andile Nomlala, Aisha Jackson, Phumelele Ndzuta and Christine Quanta.

Nomlala, who is Black Management Forum (BMF) Chairperson for the Western Cape and founder and CEO of Ngwayibanjwa

Consulting Services. Nomlala, spoke about how black people often feel suffocated in the workplace.

"You are overlooked, taken for granted, and when you point that out you look ridiculous. Don't ever make the mistake of pointing out an individual white person as racist, you will look ridiculous, Point out the system. Let's attack the system," he said.

Nomlala said that black people often tolerate mistreatment and racism, and such conformist attitudes have a spillover effect, affecting the next black person.

"The dispossession of black people has always been linked to legislation and it is important that black people reverse the same system via a legislative element," he said.

Nomlala announced that BMF is currently in the process of setting up a litigation fund, where they will open offices around the Western Cape so workers can consult legally if they feel that they are being mistreated.

Nomlala was followed by Aisha Jackson, one of Mazaza's students, who shared notes on her Master's thesis, which is based on being an African woman in the workplace and experiencing bias based on appearance.

At her last corporate job, Jackson decided to go natural, a moment she described as life-changing because she has been relaxing her hair since she was 12 years old.

Jackson was working for black women-owned business and surprisingly her boss told her that she did not like her natural hair. "She said the clients won't like it, she told me to take it off." Jackson then decided to braid her hair because she felt that was more socially acceptable and because she had been forced to conform.

This inspired her to base her thesis on black women's experiences in the workplace and the prevalence of appearance bias.

Jackson's study contained interviews with creatives and corporates, most who had spent time in Africa or were African. The study found that based on these black women's experiences, gender and race bias existed, and that black women were affected the most.

The bias was more prevalent in conservative and European environments. There was a perception bias, where certain stereotypes were attached to black women with natural hair. These stereotypes implied that the black women with their natural hair were more "ghetto" or unclean, that they lacked ability and intelligence and that they were likely to be more aggressive.

Jackson said that there was also bias based on attire, skin tone and body shape and black women were often subjected to looks of disapproval.

The black professional women interviewed said that they were expected to look as close to white women as possible, and if they did not assimilate, most would at times end up being made to doubt their own ability and intelligence.

"A lot of these women that I spoke

to said that they often felt the need to be over-prepared, to work harder, some even explained it as a continued nightmare... I saw myself in their identities," she said.

Jackson said that the study concluded that appearance bias does hinder opportunity.

Phumelele Ndzuta, the third panellist, founded the Black Organisational Culture Connection (BLOCC). BLOCC aims to organise spaces where black people can interact and connect in African working environments where they can be themselves.

"If you put someone who is used to driving a manual car into an automatic car, they will struggle even if the performance of that car is better. It is about the environment that you are put in. It's the guy who is used to interacting with that car will be the better driver, he's used to it," Ndzuta said.

Ndzuta used this example of a manual versus an automatic car to explain how black people can sometimes feel out of place in the workplace. He said that interactions in the workplace often affect performances.

"When we (black people) are back home, we greet everyone but when you get to the office people don't. Have you ever sat in a meeting and felt uncomfortable, and thought that maybe if you had walked in and greeted everyone you would feel better? White people's interactions in the office are usually more transactional. I only speak to you when I need something. There's a lack of emotional connection."

Ndzuta said that the Western system of work is very different from the African system of work, and that the well being and emotions of the worker should become more of a priority.

"The Western system is not necessarily a good system because look how many of us it has left outside. That's why we as black people should try and incorporate more of our culture in the workplace," he said.

Ndzuta also said that the Western system is built to make black people compete against each other and to shoot each other down to get to the top, but at the end of the day, everyone in the workplace is trying to achieve the same goal. He said that it was important that people remember that in the workplace, you are a team and not competition to the next person.

"Last week I was back home and we were trying to move a truck as the men of the family and the mission was achieved by helping each other, by laughing and working together. And at the end, there was the reward of beer, but no one said, I deserve two sips because I did most of the work."

Christine Quanta, who is an author, lawyer and former anti-Apartheid activist, said that these kinds of spaces that the ACI had created are important, especially in Cape Town and Johannesburg as there is a huge sense of alienation among black people in the bigger cities.

After returning from exile in 1993, Quanta worked at Sanlam Law. She often felt out of place, because her colleagues were only

used to interacting with black women who were domestic workers. Quanta authored the book, *Who's afraid of affirmative action? A Survival Guide for Black Professionals* in which she speaks about her experience in the professional world, and how, for example, she felt alienated when her colleagues would speak Afrikaans in meetings.

Quanta spoke about 1994 and how she believes that it was not complete liberation for black people, but a removal of apartheid legislation. Even though some things have changed and 1994 has brought some relief, she believes that South Africa was given the form of democracy but not the substance of it because the middle-class black people are still indebted and the white minority is still in control of the country. Quanta said that there needs to be more trade unions for the middle class.

"The limited power of government is constrained by the economic power of the minority. The problem is the system. I looked this up the other day and 68% of white people make up top management but only 14% of black people make up top management. I think the solution is for black people to start their own businesses. Let's think strategically."

Quanta said that companies often only hire black people because they have to comply with Employment Equity legislation. These companies will have a majority of white people in top management positions because they assume that white people are more experienced.

"The first wave of BEE had a lot of white top management because those were the people who knew and had experience, but that was true in 1994 not now," she said.

Quanta said that we cannot move forward as a nation if there is not an emphasis on justice.

"The emphasis was placed more on forgiveness and not justice in 94. It was a compromise because they did not want more of our people dying. But I think that the 94 settlement did not stop what will eventually happen. People's anger, humiliation, white arrogance, exclusion, their 'investors won't come if you touch the land' comments will lead to an upheaval, and it will be a racial one," she said.

She added, "You can't use unscientific, irrelevant concepts like rainbow nation, reconciliation, how do you forgive people who have not asked for forgiveness? People who have not acknowledged their wrongness?"

Quanta said that black people need to start their own businesses to address the flaws in the corporate world. They need to think strategically and fight the unequal system of this country at a legal, political and social level.

The *Business of Being Black* was held to challenge the ideology of black people who find themselves in alienating workspaces and to suggest solutions on how corporate South Africa can be more transformative. -DM



Changing people's lives . . . Dr Tumi

We are blessed to be a blessing

Normally when people celebrate their birthdays they expect to be dined and wined, to go away on holiday or be showered with gifts.

Not Tumishang Makweya, popularly known as Dr Tumi.

The popular gospel artist decided to host a charity concert on his 37th birthday on Tuesday, where he received donations for a charity of his choice as his birthday gift.

The intimate concert was held at the Rockwood Theatre in Pretoria.

Dr Tumi gave away 400 free tickets to his supporters, but the catch was they had to donate something to the less privileged.

"We are blessed to be a blessing, not to just drive fancy cars. I never celebrate my birthday, so I thought if I am going to do it I will have people come celebrate and it is going to be for a good cause," he said.

It was a wonderful concert, with a great atmosphere for any gospel music lover. The audience enjoyed performances from musicians such as the energetic Lucas Maloma, Joyous Celebration's Sbu Noah, Breathe, Lebohlang Kgaphola, Pastor Lungi Ndala and the marvellous Jesse Priestly, who was loved by the crowd so much that he had to perform twice.

The host for the night, Lesedi FM's Seipati 'Tswa' Seoke performed her turn-up gospel song, Busy, which had a house music touch to it.

The fire song got everyone dancing; even the little children were off their seats.

The atmosphere changed from hyper to a calmer one when Dr Tumi graced the stage and performed songs from his albums – Love and Grace, Heart of a King and his latest offering, The Gathering of Worshipers.

Songs such as Nothing Without You, You Are Here, Speak A Word, Because Of Jesus and There Is No Other Name had the most impact on the audience.

With the help of the audience, the musician and Universal Music managed to raise more than R55 000, which was donated to Matshidiso Sekuwe, the owner of Refilwe Legae Home that is based in Alexandra. The one-roomed home supports 18 children with no funding.

Dr Tumi also offered to take Sekuwe away on a holiday, just to relax.

It is clear that him being a medical doctor and a musician was not by accident; Dr Tumi was meant to spend his life changing people's lives. **-Chanel24**

Mazwai claps back at troll

Musician Thandiswa Mazwai has made it clear that her name will not be used to bash other women.

Better known by her stage name King Tha, she has always been vocal in her advocacy for women empowerment and it's no wonder that the songstress did not take lightly to a troll using her name to bash other women.

In the tweet, a Twitter user wrote about missing the late afro-pop singer Brenda Fassie and her ability to produce music that would inspire the masses.

The writer added the only thing that the current female musicians had learned from Brenda Fassie was 'how to get naked' rather than her music content.

The tweep then concluded the tweet by commending Thandiswa for still 'holding it down' and not allowing 'greed' into her heart.

The 42-year-old musician who celebrated her birthday in a womxn-only event, did not take kindly to the tweep's words and in a heated response wrote, "I would rather you didn't use me to bash other women. Interesting also

that you don't put men to the same standard! Shouldn't they also be making music to uplift the masses! Shouldn't you also be looking at your own self and what gifts you have that you could use to uplift people?"

Many fans agreed with the musician's response and the troll later went on to apologise for the statement and all the women it offended.

"My apologies if my statement if it made any female feel less of who she is but I realised, women are the only creation that can change man, a world full of good women automatically grows man full of good. You give life you correct it it's your birth power!"

I'm not Mzansi's shade queen: Zahara

Music superstar Zahara is not about that throwing shade life, but she isn't gonna just sit around and watch her career get disrespected.

The singer had the internet in a stir earlier this month when she responded to a fan questioning whether she was still relevant by bringing the receipts of her successful career so far.

Zahara's fans were quick to hail her the Queen of Shade for her comments and told the follower not to come for their idol.

Speaking to TshisaLIVE, Zahara said she had to put the person straight and would not tolerate people coming for her career.

"They can say things about me and I really don't care. I have heard it all and I know it is not true. But they mustn't say that I am not relevant or don't sell music. I am one of the most successful artists in the country," she noted.

Zahara has spoken out before about the "lack of respect" she sometimes got from fans in Mzansi, saying that she often travelled overseas where she was more appreciated.

"I have taken my music across Africa and I have won many awards. I have done everything I could here and now people have started to tear me apart. They focus on my private life instead of my music and they don't give me the same respect," she said late last year.



In self-defence . . . Zahara

She said the success of her latest album has convinced her that some people are still listening, even though the hate really hasn't stopped.

"I have to be loved if I went gold in six hours. People both her and overseas love me and listen to my story. That is enough for me to be happy." **-Tshisalive**

Ms. K Unrestricted



Reasons long distance relationships fail

Does distance make the heart grow fonder or nah?

Long distance relationships (LDRs) are a challenge, even when you and your partner are totally and completely in love. Distance tests even the strongest couples, so it's no surprise that many LDRs end prematurely – but yours shouldn't have to. Here are the most common reasons long distance relationships fail – and how to make sure yours doesn't.

1. Regular communication starts feeling like a chore. When attempting an LDR, many couples immediately set up an intense communication schedule involving a phone call every night, texting all through lunch and chatting on social media during office hours. That's a lot of contact, even for couples that live in the same city.

How to fix it: Talk when you want to talk. Don't hold each other hostage over an 8pm phone call when you both have lives outside of each other. Make communication something you want to do, not something you have to do.

2. Jealousy gets in the way. It can be insanely difficult to know that your partner's social life involves, well, not you. And if it often includes someone you have serious difficulty trusting? Well, that's a recipe for disaster. Being apart can make anyone feel insecure, even when you have no reason to be.

How to fix it: Instead of worrying, talk about it.

3. You have to deal with differing social lives and schedules. It's one thing if you're both studying at different varsities and your lives are

following similar structures. It's another thing entirely if you're working an exhausting nine-to-five every day while he completes his Masters in another city, hitting student night at 10 different bars after every study session. Different lives can easily result in resentment.

How to fix it: Remember that your partner can't be punished for the fact that you feel lonely. It's nobody's 'fault' that your lives are so different. Just be honest about your feelings and remind yourself that he's not doing anything wrong, and neither are you.

4. There's no set reunion date. Long distance dating is the absolute worst when there's no end in sight and neither of you are willing to compromise on it. You both have a life you love in different places, and you can't see either of you leaving that behind. You want to be together... but you also want to stay where you are.

How to fix it: Try to reach a consensus. Be honest with yourselves about whether this relationship is going to work. Are you serious enough about the relationship to uproot your lives for each other? If not, is there any point continuing?

5. You feel yourselves growing apart. Chances are you're doing long distance because you're at different stages in life. Now, both of you are growing... but in opposite directions. You can't make anyone change, and you can't stop anyone from changing.

How to fix it: Discuss your future. Establish exactly where you see yourselves going to know if you're still on the same page. Try to remember

why you fell in love with each other in the first place, and exactly what it is you have in common.

6. Your sex life becomes non-existent. Being in a sexless relationship for months on end can be rough. If you're in a healthy relationship with a great person, you both crave not only sex, but any sort of affectionate, romantic touch. It's awful to feel lonely even when you're with someone.

How to fix it: Don't pretend it's an issue that doesn't exist. Talking about it may feel awkward, but you have to address the issue of sex instead of adopting a don't-ask-don't-tell policy when the two of you are apart, but this is the worst thing you could do. Remember, you don't have to agree to anything that makes you feel uncomfortable when you're apart. But the lack of physical contact isn't something you should pretend doesn't exist.

7. Financial strain is very real. Dating someone who lives far away is expensive. There's the phone bill, the fuel and the flights that need to be taken care of. You aren't living together, so there's no rent split. It can be seriously tough on your pockets to love someone who doesn't live down the road.

How to fix it: Find more inexpensive ways to stay connected. Don't resent your partner because your long distance love is depleting your bank balance. You don't have to be flying up and down every few weeks to stay in a successful relationship. There are endless ways to stay in touch, and not all of them cost upwards of a grand.

Are Babes, Mampintsha really back together?

Babes Wodumo and Mampintsha's controversial relationship has had the entire country confused for the last two months.

Now, it looks as if the former lovebirds may be back together.

Some of the latest reports in local tabloids seem to be suggesting that Babes and Mampintsha are back together. These claim that the two have put their differences aside after discovering that Babes is pregnant.

Durban-based newspaper Isolezwe claims that Babes is currently four months pregnant; a development which has seen the two West Ink musicians give their relationship another shot.

One of the newspaper's sources claims that Babes and Mampintsha have been visiting a gynae in Durban.

Babes's manager was contacted for comment and although he could not confirm the speculation around the singer's pregnancy,

he did confirm that both his client and Mampintsha meet up frequently for business purposes.

"I don't know if Babes is pregnant. Therefore I cannot say much on that topic. As far I know, she is not pregnant. I do know that both Babes and Mampintsha are still business partners and they still meet each other for that; they have never been enemies."

While we have no confirmation of Babes and Mampintsha giving their relationship a second try, we have been following the rumours of the singer's pregnancy with interest.

More and more people are noticing that her body has grown over the last few months, leading to increased speculation that she could be expecting.

If she and Mampintsha are back together, would it be fair to assume that he is the father? **-Citizen**



Social Scenes

AMUSING AND IDIOCY... THE ORDER OF THE DAY

Without a doubt, Windburg offered a night a lot of Bloem's entertainers will remember for years to come. The humility, fun and craziness was out of this world. But damn, for a small dorpie, you sure know how to party!



Forver on point... Dj Glenstar-International rocked the boat this past Friday much to the delight on patrons.



King of the deck... Ever since his departure from Thought's Lounge, Show D has kept a rather low profile. The drama we've come to know him of has been swept under the carpet. But thing he has not done is surrender his drive when it comes to the deck. Showing up at Windburg, he proved that he remains one of the most consist disc-jockeys the game has ever seen. With his charm looking-but!



Getting younger... Dj Finzo and Victor Mokgosi at Cappello during his birthday celebration.



Looking the part... Mpho Misslouw Makomo and Pertunia Boity Sehume looked the part at this year's fund-raising party in held in HaMshonza, Windburg. Girls were extremely hot and owned the night so much their own hubbies were left drooling.



King's birthday... The King, alongside DJ LeGoody have vowed to bring the City of Roses to a standstill this coming weekend. Well, never has the King failed, and with LeGoody right next to his curve and the City's top crop DJs, hell will break loose.



Man of the moment... DJ Hlethe and Kibiti Ramotsehoa had a super awesome night. Man of the moment Mr. Ramotsehoa was happier than a three year-old who's just got a new toy. Goodness gracious!



Killer sleepest... Well, he might have infected a lot of entertainers when it comes to sleeping after sipping a few beverages, but Bushveld is not to be outplayed with when it comes the deck. Love and respect this man!

"Generational mix in the structures of the movement is non-negotiable nor is it a favour to be granted to the products of the political training ground of the movement, it's a must."

ANC Free State youth league spokesman Sello Pietersen calling for more representation of young people in both government and the party.



"We have since adopted a road map to guide us through the regional conferences and part of it states that regions where leadership terms have expired or about to expire will be turned into task teams for those regions."

ANC provincial spokesman Thabo Meeko commenting on the party's preparations for regional conferences in the Free State, in an interview with *The Weekly*



"HIV is not just a health issue, it's also a behavioural and cultural issue. People should not be complacent even when they are on medication. They should continue protecting themselves and their partners from possible infections."

HSRC executive director for the HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB (HAST) Research Programme Dr Khangelani Zuma following the launch of the fifth SA National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Study findings

The Weekly

Editorial

15 million ANC votes in 2019 not far-fetched

While the ANC continues to make positive strides in inculcating a sense of political maturity and acceptance of conference leadership outcomes among the rank and file, this sort of education is long overdue, and has cost the movement dearly in years gone by.

Case in point is the recent hotly-contested electoral battle between President Cyril Ramaphosa and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma in December.

It was rather shocking, as well as discomfiting to see members of the same organisation get so deeply divided over personalities than policy, gender than prowess and sentiment over reason.

The only conclusion one could draw from the highly charged emotions that preceded this conference, where Ramaphosa emerged victorious, is that there is still a long way to go in terms of helping ANC members appreciate democratic practices and the political contexts within which these leadership contestations take place.

For starters Ramaphosa and Dlamini Zuma belong to the same glorious movement and have both through time proven their commitment to its ideals, and not their own personal inclinations. Both leaders, however, could only be the drivers of the larger ANC consensus that comes from the conference resolutions as mandated by members to implement, create or repeal any legislation acting as stumbling block for meaningful change to happen.

Far from false opinions expressed therein, there was just no way in history that either of the two leaders could have come up with their own policy positions which are foreign to the dictates of the movement that deployed them into office, and try to implement same.

Given the centrality of the ANC, there is virtually no room for any president of the organisation to act in an individualistic manner, disregarding the national executive of the party and its counsel on what needs to be done.

There is no way any leader of the ANC could abandon founding principles of equity and justice which are its founding cornerstones.

Given the above, it is pure fallacy for campaign managers of different leaders prior to conferences - to project their preferred candidates as islands who can act on their own without expressed support of the collective.

It is also dangerous politicking to incite supporters of one candidate over the other in an antagonistic manner, in a manner that seeks to portray political opponents as reactionary forces out to derail the national democratic revolution.

The danger here is that while the ANC-on-ANC attacks may work to achieve set agenda in the short term, their long term effects are devastating in that they risk sinking the entire ship under sea, and drowning everyone irrespective of faction.

Pathetic tricks such as painting each other with dirty brushes during leadership contests, and hanging each other's linen in public for all to see, plays right into the hands of anti-progress forces hell-bent on using everything to twist the truth and project the ANC as a movement at war with itself.

The only real contest that there is during conference is a contest about who will be the best driver to implement a package of ideas called 'resolutions' in government, and ensure they become real, live programmes that can be used as instruments to turn the tide against poverty and inequality.

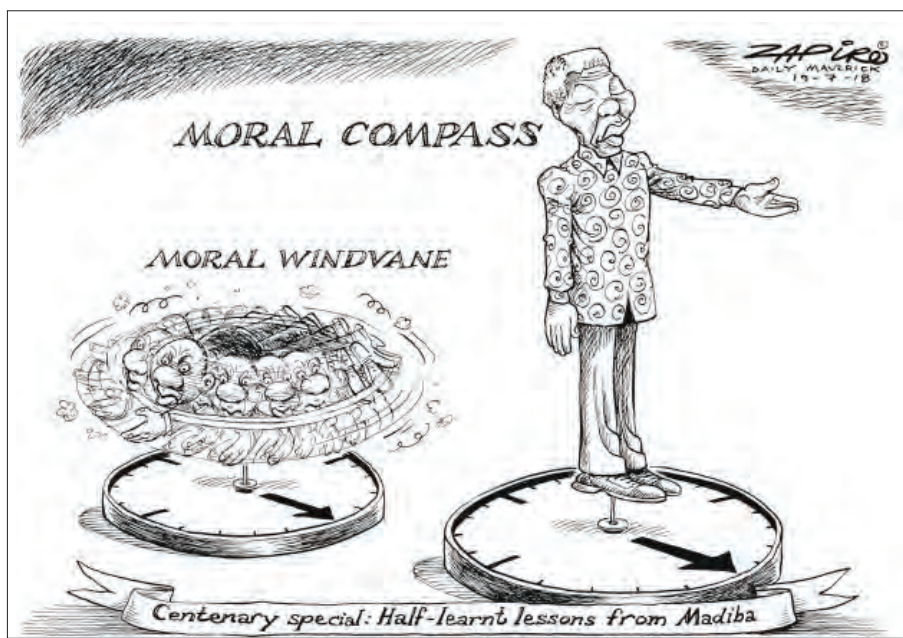
While it is an open secret that the ANC is blessed with a large pool of credible, tried and tested cadres that are forever ready to take on leadership roles when called upon, it is still not everybody in the organisation that view this with appreciation. Some choose to frown upon leaders they did not prefer - and engage in all sorts of mudslinging and costly litigation in courts trying to subvert democratic conference outcomes over leadership.

It was hence refreshing to listen to President Ramaphosa over the weekend at the occasion of the Gauteng ANC provincial elective conference where he made it clear that he and Dlamini Zuma were inseparable allies rooted in the same movement and that their working and personal relationship was at its best.

Ramaphosa who endorsed the newly-elected provincial executive of the ANC in Kwazulu Natal made it clear to any confused soul out there still clinging to the CR17 and NDZ17 divide that they are living in the dark ages since the policy conference is now done and over with.

"Me and Nkosazana sit together in cabinet meetings. She sits right next to me, and we hold hands, under the table, while in the meeting"... Ramaphosa joked educationally told the Gauteng policy conference is an effort to bring members on board regarding the noble ideals of unity and renewal as captured by the 54th elective conference that elected him President.

With this trajectory which goes to the heart of the need for intense political education among members in surviving pre conference mobilising and campaigning, it will be sooner than later that members of the ANC come to a realisation that change in leadership does not mean change in the direction that the organisation is taking.



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



The question Mandela would not answer

OPINION



SUNTOSH R PILLAY

At the recent 15 year anniversary celebration of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation, the guest speaker, Graça Machel spoke about the corrupting effects of power, and urged the audience of youthful African leaders to remain rooted to their values and stay close to their communities. This idea of power and how power ought to be used responsibly, took my mind back to 10 years ago, when I first had the opportunity to meet Nelson Mandela. He taught me, indirectly, an important lesson about power.

Imagine the scene. The Mandela Rhodes Foundation had selected me as

one of 23 young post-graduate students from across Africa to receive a scholarship to further my studies. We were christened Mandela Rhodes Scholars and had the honour of meeting the living patron of this controversially named organisation.

It was 4 March 2008, and my family's domestic worker for over 20 years had just passed away. She was so excited at this opportunity I had been given, so it was a bitter-sweet morning as I boarded the plane from Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg for the much-anticipated meeting in Madiba's Houghton home. The 23 of us waited in the small auditorium and the media was in full

force. Cameras went crazy as the former president walked in, as if he'd not already been photographed a million times over before this.

Thankfully, due to my surname, I was lower down the alphabetical list in terms of the order with which we'd be called to have our few minutes of conversation with the global icon. I rehearsed a couple hundred possibilities of how I hoped this dialogue would go when my turn arrived, but they all melted into the ether as the moment morphed into a slightly dissociative and surreal space. After all, Madiba's famed hype had turned him into the stuff of legends and, despite his protests, his socially-sanctioned saintliness certainly created the expectation that one would be in the presence of a supernatural force.

Perhaps I'm overstating it, but I was only 22 and had only just begun my Masters' degree - so the privilege of this meeting felt like the ecstatic climax of my young existence.

So far, he'd been quite casual to my peers. He asked jokingly whether Robert Mugabe was still president of Zimbabwe, asking that his regards be passed to Ugandan President Museveni, reinforcing the importance of education and studying hard ("Don't stop at one PhD", he said), and asking one scholar whether she was related to a boxer with the same surname.

However, beyond my own encounter, it is that of Lindokuhle Nkosi, a scholar from the University of Zululand, that remains

Continues on page 17

Why talking about TRC is still important

Twenty years have passed since the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) presented its condemning report of the politically motivated atrocities and gross human rights violations perpetrated between 1960 and 1994.

What was hailed as an international benchmark for restorative justice is now harshly criticised retrospectively by many. The commission has been lambasted for its failings to adequately address the systematic structural violence perpetrated by the apartheid regime. The painfully slow process of monetary reparations for a shocking minority alongside the almost immediate freedom enjoyed by those who were granted amnesty through the process, adds further insult to injury.

An important criticism levelled against the commission is that the process failed in sufficiently raising and addressing the inherent, deeply racist nature of the apartheid system of oppression and neglected to highlight how the effects thereof informed and continue to inform life chances, access to resources and decision-making power of the majority of South Africans. It failed to address the various forms of everyday violence experienced by many South Africans.

During the time of the commission and in the years that followed, national government has through various messaging, unflinchingly linked reconciliation with national unity, non-racialism and the negotiated settlement. Even though there have been some pro-poor social policies geared toward addressing certain dimensions of poverty, the ANC government's economic policies post-1994 have neither been sufficiently oriented towards, nor laid the foundations for, fundamentally addressing inequality. Since the transition direct social and economic change has come to be viewed as

merely a component of reconciliation and not a core pillar thereof.

And this is where the feelings between youth and their parent generation about the commission and its processes diverge. Despite the numerous criticisms against the TRC process, the majority of the parent generation and those who lived through the years of the commission, still recognise why such a process was important at that historical point. Many understand why certain compromises, however difficult, needed to be made to facilitate a peaceful transition and the choice to build a new democracy on a foundation of reconciliation rather than retribution.

Many youth, however, have come to regard the TRC as a process that served only to appease those who had benefited from apartheid and an exercise that served to maintain existing power imbalances with only cosmetic changes.

So why then are we still talking about an imperfect process that clearly has many shortcomings? It is necessary that we do so because it has become an interesting point of generational disjunction.

Many young people associate the TRC process with the failings of the current government and prevailing notions of reconciliation are often limited and hinged on misguided assumptions which have been informed by the delinking of reconciliation and social justice. This has dire consequences for any efforts of nation building that promotes a shared future.

It is also important that we reflect on the legacies of the TRC and explore its generational dimensions because despite the criticisms, it signified an important moment in the history of this country, and offered a beginning to a process of healing not only for individuals who had been victims of gross human rights violations, but for the whole of South Africa.

It created a space which did not exist

OPINION

before in this country; a space where diverse and agonising narratives of suffering could emerge, allowing greater understanding between South African society, fractured by the brutalities of apartheid.

The TRC, for all its short-comings and despite the numerous criticisms lodged against it, leaves a model of healing that we as South Africans should try and emulate in our homes. It teaches us that the process of reconciliation is not an easy one. It necessitates an opening up and exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the pain, the degradation and the truth.

False reconciliation can only ever bring false healing and that reconciliation without material change and access is empty. It teaches us that through talking, telling of stories and sharing of memories, we can get closer to healing. But if we want to change the view that reconciliation is merely passive peace or a unity without cost, then this talking must also result in addressing exclusionary economies and disproportionate wealth.

This telling of stories and sharing of truths mirrored to South Africans, gradually, the reality of our collective past. As difficult as this process was, and still is, it is important because a healthy new country cannot be built on a denial of the past. As James Baldwin so poignantly said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

Younger people who are understandably disillusioned by failed promises must hold

society to account when their generation cannot prosper. At the same time not being there when the TRC was happening means a significant context eludes many. Inter-generational dialogue therefore offers a space where their parent generation can offer insights into the context that informed the decision to go the TRC route and to engage in discussion on what the alternatives would have been.

This is particularly important at this point in our history where fear mongering has become the order of the day and where people are retreating to enclaves of difference because of fear, prejudice and hate.

The purpose of the TRC was to promote reconciliation and not to achieve it. And in this promotion of reconciliation, there are still many stories that need to be told. Stories of our time which that of children who head up households because of the ravishes of HIV and Aids, of women who continue to live in fear of sexual assault, of models of toxic masculinity that continue to inform the life choices of many young men on the Cape Flats and of fellow African brothers and sister who cross our borders only to be met with violence and Xenophobia.

It is up to us, ordinary South Africans, to continue this work of promoting reconciliation in our homes, schools, places of employment and places of worship.

Eleanor du Plooy runs the Ashley Kriel Youth Desk at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation



ELEANOR DU PLOOY

One on One

with Tlou Ramaru

The Department of Environmental Affairs in collaboration with the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs recently hosted the Free State provincial stakeholder engagement workshop on the National Climate Change Bill in Bloemfontein. The purpose of the Bill is to build an effective climate change response and ensure the long-term, just transition to a climate resilient and lower carbon economy and society. **The Weekly's Martin Makoni** asked the **Department of Environmental Affairs Acting Deputy Director General** for climate change **Tlou Ramaru** how the proposed new laws were likely to affect people and businesses and if the country was ready for the changes. Excerpts:

How important is this Bill to South Africa and how is it likely to impact on people's lives and businesses?

Everyone in this country, particularly the poorest of the poor are affected by extreme events such as heatwaves, flooding, droughts and other extreme events related to climate change. So, when we implement the Bill, it will assist at a local level for mayors and other authorities in building a response plan to counter some of the extreme weather conditions. Such plans could include early warning systems so that residents can be prepared for any extreme changes. People will also be taught, for example, to stay indoors if there is extreme heat and the system can also inform the building materials that can be used in a particular area.

What would you say are the major contributors to climate change and is South Africa facing any significant danger?

The major factor that contributes to climate change are greenhouse emissions. This is because once you change the composition of the atmospheric gases, it affects the climate. And I think what should be understood is that climate change has a global effect. These greenhouse gases are not just from South Africa, but from across the world. That's why the international community has to come together and address the issue.

South is presently discussing land redistribution, did you get any contributions as you went around the country, which pointed to the likely effect of climate change on agriculture and land redistribution in general?

As you know, the two processes are run differently. The process of land is being run by parliament and climate change is the responsibility of the department of environmental affairs. In relation to the Climate Change Bill, we haven't had contributions touching on the land issue. The focus was on climate change. However, the impact of climate change has a direct impact, not just on land but on the various sectors of the economy. Climate change will impact on our agricultural sector. We have been experiencing drought in the western parts of the country, the Northern Cape was hit hard and it's still struggling as well as this province. Limpopo was also affected as well as the North West. So, this has affected the agricultural sector in terms of the yield as well as the timing for harvesting the next planting season. It has an inherent impact in terms of our ability to meet the food security requirements. That's why this Bill is important so we can address the issue of climate change so that people might start also consider moving towards smart agriculture. And if the early warning systems are in place, farmers can be warned upfront and



adequately prepare for the weather and climatic changes. It's important for them to know how the season will look like. Such information is very important for our farmers.

Are you not worried that these issues are not being raised in your meetings yet most people are saying they want the land, they want to farm. Do you think people know about the threat of climate change and its impact on agriculture?

I think they do because people mostly focus on the material impact of climate change than the land question which is managed by a different process. People are talking about how we are affected by climate change. We have a number of projects on the ground. We have a fund called the adaptation fund. We have a projects in Limpopo that are currently being implemented around climate smart agriculture. These look at things like tapping into rainwater harvesting and link it to agriculture, sustainable livelihoods and drought resistant planting and others. We also have some small scale projects in the Northern Cape addressing the issue of drought. You will see a lot of people participating and becoming the beneficiaries of some of these projects.

How are you going to ensure that once passed into law, the new measures aimed at preserving the environment are adhered to both at the provincial and municipal level?

There is an institutional mechanism that is

proposed in the Bill. At provincial level, there will be a structure that you have the relevant MECs and mayors participating in that set-up and taking the lead. There will be certain things that the province will be expected to do, such as the risk and vulnerability assessment and the climate change response plan that will be in place. Similarly, at a local level, the mayors will be expected to do the risk and vulnerability assessments and the response plans. That will help in facilitating the implementation. They will also be expected to report on a four year basis to provincial and national structures in order to evaluate progress.

Does South Africa have adequate equipment and expertise to study climate change and issue early warnings when necessary?

Well, we do. We have done what's called long term adaptation scenarios. This is research work in which you work with universities and people who are able to model and tell you what the climate will look like in the foreseeable future like in 10; 20 and 30 years' time. They can also tell you the sectors that will be most affected by the anticipated climatic changes and the ideal adaptation responses required. We are working with the South African Weather Service and they have a number of radars across the country as well as weather stations. These radars are helping in putting together this information to



allow us to develop the early warning systems. They are able to warn use before extreme weather conditions come.

We are having quite some significant changes to the seasons. The rains are coming late and winter periods are not as cold as people anticipate and at times the cold spells come late, are we on track in terms of reading these changes?

All those changes have been projected in the long term adaptation scenarios. We have projected that our region will become a bit warmer. The weather service are able to tell us on a daily basis that there will be a cold front and we need to keep ourselves warm and maybe indoors. They also warn us if a storm is coming

and so forth.

Geography is not very popular in most schools, yet the issues you are referring to are taught in this subject, any plans to have geography being more available in schools?

It's important that we have more people taking environmental courses as well as geography at school. As a department, we have been providing bursaries to enable more people to go and study in the environment field and eventually contribute to the sector. But we are also working, through our capacity building programme in the department to share quite widely, with key stakeholders such as the department of education to ensure some of these issues are more widely known.

SA plans to sue US over import tariffs on cars

South Africa is to launch a lawsuit against the US, arguing that proposed US tariffs on South African motor car imports will violate South Africa's rights under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Trade and industry Minister Rob Davies said that "interested groups" planned to challenge this latest US move in a growing global trade war.

Davies told journalists at the BRICS Forum in Sandton that the international trade war, launched by US President Donald Trump, was "no longer a phony war. The first shots have already been fired."

And he added that though South Africa was a "non-combatant" in that trade war, it was already suffering "collateral damage". He referred specifically to the large tariffs on steel and aluminium imports which the US has imposed, mainly directed at large economic competitors such as China and the European Union.

These had also, however, impacted on South Africa, even though its exports of steel and aluminium to the US represent a tiny percentage of US imports.

And now, Davies has explained, the US is planning to open a new round in the war by

imposing new tariffs on vehicle imports. He said he had met US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in Washington recently to urge him not to impose these tariffs on SA car imports, explaining that those constituted only about 0.4% of total US auto imports.

And he said one of the SA companies that had been exporting cars to the US had recently stopped doing so, because it had changed the models it was making in SA. He did not say which company but it has been reported that it is BMW.

Davies did not say what Ross's response was but he evidently did not respond positively as Davies indicated that the dispute was still continuing.

He pointed out that when South Africa gave quotas to the US in 2015 for exporting chickens and other meat products to this country, it was on the basis that South Africa would be allowed to continue exporting cars and other products to the US duty free under AGOA.

Davies said he had told Ross that "interested groups" in South Africa would be launching a legal challenge to the car import tariffs on the basis that they would breach SA's AGOA rights.

"We'll have to see what the court rules," he said, without specifying who the interested

groups were.

Earlier he had indicated to Daily Maverick that the South African government would consider terminating chicken and other meat import quotas if the US went ahead with the car tariffs regardless.

The BRICS Business Forum which Davies co-chaired on Wednesday, bringing together about 1,000 business leaders from the five BRICS countries, is part of the wider 10th BRICS summit which South Africa is hosting.

President Cyril Ramaphosa and Chinese President Xi Jinping were due to address the business leaders later. Apart from Ramaphosa and Xi, these include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Michel Temer who will participate in the core BRICS summit.

Today the five BRICS leaders are due to meet invited African and non-African leaders in two outreach sessions. Most of them represent various regional organisations.

At Wednesday's briefing, Davies said the BRICS countries had decided to increase their co-operation to help them mitigate the effects of the growing trade war. One way it would do this would be to increase their co-ordination of policy positions in international

trade negotiations, such as at the World Trade Organisation.

These positions would be in favour of trade decisions being made by all nations, not just the big powers, and in favour of developing countries. He noted that the WTO Doha round of trade negotiations, which was meant to help developing nations and which started in 2001, had still not been completed.

He added that one way South Africa was trying to insulate itself against the hazards of a global trade war was to broaden its trade base by accelerating the formation of regional free trade areas in Africa, especially the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which Pretoria recently signed.

Davies said South Africa hoped the AfCFTA and other African free trade deals would help African countries establish regional supply chains for manufacturing goods. South Africa now sold about one-quarter of its exports to Africa and about 56% of these were finished goods.

But South Africa wanted other countries to increase their production of manufactured goods, especially intermediate goods, which could be traded within the free trade areas to jointly produce manufactured goods. He noted

that about two-thirds of global trade was now in such intermediate goods.

South Africa intended to increase its investments in African countries to boost these value chains, based on the principle of investment-led trade rather than vice versa. This would also boost industrialisation, especially manufacturing, in Africa.

And Davies said he would like the same investment-led trade to increase among the BRICS countries.

Despite SA being by far the smallest of the BRICS economies, it has accumulated investment in those countries of some \$60-billion, while they have only invested a combined \$18-billion in SA.

However, he welcomed Xi's announcement on Tuesday that China would increase its investment in SA by \$14.7-billion, though he said it was not yet clear how this total would be comprised, apart from the \$2.5-billion loan from China Development Bank to Eskom which was announced after the meeting between Ramaphosa and Xi on Tuesday.

Eskom officials said this would help complete the huge Kusile coal-powered electricity plant.

Other Chinese loans and investment agreements signed at the same time include:

A \$297-million loan from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China to Transnet, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited Facility Agreement;



MELANIE VERWOERD

Why the crooks will fail to get rid of Cyril

OPINION

I am often asked why I'm passionate about politics. I don't like the power games politicians play and despise the lies and corruption that are so often part of the political fabric. Yet, I'm passionate about politics.

Listening to Barack Obama last week at the Wanderers I was reminded why.

He reminded us that politics answer and determine some of the most fundamental questions that people ask. Every day, people all over the world want to know one thing and that is whether they are going to be OK.

They want to know if they will have somewhere to live, if they will be able to secure food for themselves and their children, if they will be able to get medical services when they are sick and if their children will be able to get an education. They want to know if their lives will be OK and, if not, whether they will be made better in future.

When it comes to these fundamental questions people look towards politicians for the answers. This is because politicians, through their actions, determine the positive

or negative outcomes to these questions. So, the first duty of politicians through their words and actions is to give people hope.

Secondly, politicians – and in particular, top political leaders – have a responsibility to help nations create and define their collective identity. Why is this important? Because collective identity holds enormous power.

If the right identity is created it mobilises nations to do the right things the right way – it even allows nations to speak to the world and mobilise them in some way. Cultivate the wrong identity and things go very wrong – think Rwanda, apartheid South Africa and even the United States at the moment.

In South Africa in 1994 we experienced a titanic shift in our nation's history during which our collective identity changed almost overnight from a divided, racist nation to one that embraced and celebrated being the rainbow nation.

We believed we could be the best of the best, that we shared a common humanity, that we were going to behave differently from those who

came before us and that we were going to be moral and ethical as a nation. With that identity shift we not only became a symbol of hope in the international community but also individually and collectively felt enormous hope for the future.

That was largely (although not exclusively) thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Nelson Mandela, who embodied so much of these values.

But a lot has changed since then and to put it mildly, not all for the better. Particularly during the Zuma era our collective identity started to change again and like a thief(!) in the night the idea of a racially fragmented nation took hold yet again. The moral fabric of our nation also started to deteriorate once more as politicians and citizens started to follow their leader's example.

Just as we got to the cliff and stared into the abyss

of hopelessness we thankfully pulled back and a new leader was elected.

For the first time in almost nine years we again have a leader who believes in humanity, compassion and justice and someone who

can be in the company of Barack Obama and not embarrass us. Someone who demands that things should change again and that we should re-knit the moral fabric of our nation.

Yet, many of his detractors in the ANC and opposition want to get rid of him. They exploit the needs of the poor to argue that he doesn't care and is in the pocket of big capital. They are trying to set him up to fail when it comes to reforming some key policy issues (such as land), hoping that in their never-ending hunger for power and corruption the masses will support them in getting rid of the president.

I hope that Cyril Ramaphosa's detractors were watching the event at the Wanderers last Tuesday. It was extraordinary to experience the people's reaction to him. When he came on stage the crowd of 15 000 people went crazy and gave him a lengthy and very loud applause. Every time his name was mentioned during the event it happened again. When he finally got up to speak, the crowd burst into song and it took a long time before he could continue with his speech.

Yes, Obama was the main event of the day, but what became very clear is that if those trying to move against Ramaphosa think they will be allowed to do so by the majority of people in the country, they will be making a big mistake.

Some would argue that the audience at the Obama event was a fairly selected audience. That might be true of the VIP section, but certainly can't be said of all the people filling the stands. Even if it is true, opinion polls tell us that Ramaphosa's personal approval ratings are around 76-79% – numbers that only Madiba had reached before.

It is clear that Ramaphosa, as a good politician should, has given the majority of people a flicker of hope for a better life again and has stirred the memory of how we can once more aspire to be moral and principled.

Which is why the crooks who want to defeat him will increasingly find themselves isolated from the majority of people in this country.

** Melanie Verwoerd is a former ANC MP and South African Ambassador to Ireland.*

On the road back to Nelson Mandela's progressive values

The recent celebration of Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday and former US president Barack Obama's address at the occasion brought warmth to my heart, but also caused me to ask with Obama: Were we who believed in a progressive vision of tolerance, a common humanity, a caring, open society and social justice naïve? Is this vision dead?

"Progressive" is the key word here. Many associate it with left-wing political thinking, others with liberalism, yet others claim the title but are anything but progressive.

To me a progressive political ethos simply means a desire and agitation for continuous progress towards a better and more caring society with the emphasis on openness, social justice, human dignity and solidarity rather than populism or identity politics. These values were not a mirage in Mandela's world.

Five days after his release in February 1990 he invited me for tea at his humble Soweto house. He was a world famous 68-year-old Xhosa speaking man, a revolutionary who had

just been released from prison after 27 years; I was a middle class white Afrikaner more than 40 years younger.

Mandela spoke to me in Afrikaans after apologising for what he called his Xhosa accent. It was just him and me and he made and poured the tea – far too much milk and sugar to my taste, but I would have drunk a cup of bile with a smile that day just to be in his presence.

He gave me a lesson in Afrikaner history and said he not only needed Afrikaners to buy into his vision of a new society, but he thought they would make good allies and eventually feel at home and be active in a new, inclusive nation. If only they could remember their own struggles with British imperialism and overcoming poverty, he added.

But more importantly, Mandela shared some of his ideas of a more loving, compassionate society where all citizens, especially young people, would have the possibility to live to their full potential.

I remember finding it astonishing that this human being who was so fresh out of an

apartheid prison could talk to me about love and compassion. He wasn't an ideologue, he was a progressive humanitarian.

In the years after this meeting, Mandela practiced and preached these ideas and ideals; and in the process inspired many millions of people all over the world, including a young American lawyer who would become the president of his country in 2009.

But over the last decade or so, South Africa has regressed into an erosion of our democracy, cheap populist politics, a culture of entitlement, selfishness and corruption, ethnic nationalism, polarisation and intolerance.

It wasn't much different in other parts of the world. Obama speaks of the "politics of fear and resentment and retrenchment", of growing authoritarianism, the undermining of free speech, the contempt for truth and facts and of strongman politics.

In South Africa the narrative of black emancipation was abused to cover up the abuse of power, maladministration and corruption and to mobilise people around

OPINION



MAX DU PREEZ

narrow ethnic chauvinisms.

On the side of the white minority there were far too many who chose to remember Mandela's forgiveness and reconciliation but to forget his insistence on social justice and redress. They started withdrawing with the self-pity of a newly discovered victimhood into their privileged ethnic trenches from where they are firing shots at the rest of society.

The world's most prosperous and successful societies, says Obama, the ones with the highest living standards and highest levels of satisfaction among their people, happen to be "those who have most closely approximated the liberal, progressive ideal that we talk about and have nurtured the talents and contributions of all their citizens".

He adds: "The fact is that countries which rely on rabid nationalism and xenophobia and doctrines of tribal, racial or religious superiority as their main organising principle, the thing that holds people together – eventually these countries find themselves consumed by civil war or external war."

I agree with Obama that the road back to progressive values would be a tough and possibly long one, but one that has to be tackled with courage and perseverance.

We have to fight harder to reduce inequality, says Obama, and do a lot more to promote lasting economic opportunity for all. He favours an "inclusive market-based" system but warns against "unregulated, unbridled, unethical capitalism". I agree.

Obama quotes from Mandela's teachings that the most important universal principle is that we are bound together by a common humanity and that each individual has inherent dignity and worth.

Embracing our common humanity does not mean that we have to abandon our unique ethnic and national and religious identity – Mandela himself never stopped being a black African South African of Xhosa heritage.

I think Obama would have understood what we meant when we embraced the principle of non-racialism in the 1980s.

I hope we South Africans will use this year of remembering Nelson Mandela to ponder how we could see beyond the thunder and lightning and imagine a better future for our society.

I can recommend reading matter for this purpose: The Founding Principles and Bill of Rights of the South African Constitution.

The question Madiba would not answer

Continues from page 14

etched in my mind.

Lindo was mesmerised by the moment and could not contain her bliss. She then asked Madiba directly to give her "a mission" that she would carry with her for her entire life and make it her life's singular goal.

Wait. What?!

We were all on tenterhooks due to the enormity of her question – was she really going to take what Madiba says and make it her raison d'être? And what exactly would Madiba say – "go build 1,000 new schools!" or "End poverty" or "Cure cancer" or "Raise a billion dollars for my charities"? And would we all feel obligated by association to help Lindo in this new mission thrust upon her? Did Madiba have a whole lot of missions just waiting for the asking and was he going to answer with razor precision? Did Lindo have the right to refuse or change the terms and conditions? Madiba paused thoughtfully and made us wait for his response.

I've shared this story many times at talks I've been invited to give, and I always throw it back to the audience: "What do you think Madiba said?" Before reading ahead, what do you think he said?

Nobody has ever given me the correct answer. I've used this as evidence that his emotional intelligence and generosity of spirit was indeed difficult to emulate.

Madiba gave the most morally honest answer one could imagine. He told Lindokuhle that he did not know her well enough to answer that question.

We were horrified! Give us a mission, dammit! We had all, in those few seconds he took to consider his response, become so emotionally invested in his reply, that at the time it was wholly unsatisfying and a massive anti-climax. I remember thinking that he'd just passed up a new opportunity to change the world – 23 times over if we all took up the challenge!

In hindsight, Mandela modelled one of the most valuable lessons I have learnt in leadership: humility and empathy will ensure that you use your power maturely.

Sure, Madiba could have urged Lindokuhle to spend her life working for an NGO back home in rural KwaZulu-Natal. He could have told her to do a myriad of things that, given the moment, would have unfairly burdened this young woman

with somebody else's crown. Instead, he displayed enormous humility by being honest: he neither knew her well enough nor was he egotistical enough to give her a life mission. How could he? What were her values, her political beliefs, her intellectual pursuits, her family background, her own dreams, fantasies and desires? To answer such a question glibly would have been a gargantuan display of arrogance.

And that is where the rub of power lies – in the interpersonal.

Power corrupts when we fail to consider our fellow human beings as humans being in the world, figuring out life, pursuing dreams rooted in intimate personal histories that nobody can know fully unless they have empathetically entered into that person's world.

To have given an answer to Lindokuhle would have been a denial of her own humanity, her own personhood, her sense of self and self-direction, her agency and ability to develop mastery over her own dreams. Instead, Madiba read the moment with emotional, intellectual and moral honesty, and showed a singularly unique display of humility and empathy. He honoured Lindokuhle and he honoured us, 23 bright-eyed young people, on the cusp of our careers, by refusing to answer a question unfairly asked of him.

As we remember Mandela in his 100th year, this is what stands out for me.

**Suntosh R Pillay is a clinical psychologist working in the public hospital sector*

Another beginning, another election to be fought by the ANC

Continues from page 15

not be ignored. Khawe, the new secretary, is notorious for failing to turn things around in the troubled Emfuleni municipality. He was firmly in the slate that opposed Makhura and Lesufi and he would be the person who determines the intra-party dynamic going forward.

The ANC in Gauteng was criticised because only one woman was elected to its top leadership structure but the conference itself didn't seem too fazed. At the same time, results of who made the 30-member provincial executive committee was not announced at the closing of conference as the elections took longer than expected.

Makhura concluded by telling delegates that the focus onwards is the 2019 general elections which he believes, given the outcomes of conference, the ANC has a strong chance of securing the majority in the province. When

Magashule addressed the conference he said the ANC in Gauteng has a huge responsibility to recover lost ground.

"If we do not work together the ANC will loose the whole of Gauteng and therefore entrust the leadership role of this metropolis into the hands of the forces of reaction and doom," the secretary-general said.

Some polling data has predicted that the party is on the rise in the province but President Cyril Ramaphosa warned at the start of the conference that they shouldn't be complacent as a result.

It's not the need of the fight for Makhura and those around him – and he knows it because the election campaign is dependent on a complete turnaround within the party.

Qaanitah Hunter is an EWN reporter.

Eskom inks R33.4 billion loan deal

Eskom has signed a \$2.5bn (R33.4bn) government-backed loan with the China Development Bank, which will be used for construction of Kusile power station.

The loan agreement was signed on Tuesday following bilateral talks between the Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Cyril Ramaphosa.

During the address by the two heads of state, Ramaphosa announced that China and South Africa also signed a number of trade agreements totalling \$14.7bn (about R196bn at current exchange rates).

Eskom chief executive Phakamani Hadebe said the loan was part of the cash-trapped power utility's funding requirement for the financial year, which is currently at 62%.

He said the loan demonstrated confidence in Eskom's new leadership since the appointment of a new board in January.

"This is a normal loan, effective as from the day of the signing... the loan would help us ease some of the liquidity challenges we are facing," said Hadebe.

"What has been happening is that as up until last year, Eskom was under a lot of pressure when it comes to funding.

From the beginning of January when a new board was created, we began to see an increasing appetite in investors. This loan is just in line with that," he added.

Once complete, the coal-powered Kusile power station - which has been under construction since 2008 - will have an output of 4 800MW.

The loan comes as global financiers such as the World Bank had said they would no longer be funding coal power projects, as they have shifted their focus to renewable energy.

Hadebe said he was comfortable that the power utility would in two months' time be able to reach up 80 to 90% of its funding requirement.

"We are in a better position than before."

On Monday, Eskom announced a net loss of R2.3bn for the financial year ended March 31, with R19bn in irregular spending since 2012.

Xi's visit to South Africa came ahead of the Brics summit, which starts in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

Prior to coming to Pretoria, Xi visited Senegal and Rwanda, as part of a whistle-stop tour to cement relations with African allies. **-Fin24**



Supporting women's emancipation . . . Social development minister Susan Shabangu

SA hosts women's economic forum

South Africa is next month set to host the first Women Economic Forum in South Africa, targeted at entrepreneurs and senior managers from sectors such as education, health, agriculture, natural resource management, and financial services.

The WEF is a global conference which aims to foster empowering conversations and connections among women committed to constructive change, and its vision is to inspire every woman to become a businesswoman.

The theme of the Sun City meeting will be "Women and Technology".

Social development minister Susan

Shabangu said the participation of women in the economy was essential if we are to achieve universal development and social justice in communities.

"I am personally passionate about overcoming barriers to women emancipation such as comparatively low investment in female health, education and SMMEs (Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises)," Shabangu said.

She added: "I look forward to engaging firsthand with women who are at the forefront of changing the tide in the business world." **-ANA**

Forex trickling back into bond market: analysts

After nearly three months of unabated selling, foreign investors are making a cautious return to South Africa's bond market.

Non-residents were net buyers of the country's government debt for the second week running last week as emerging-market sentiment improved and inflation in South Africa fell short of analysts' estimates.

The inflows have been small: about R1.6bn since June 9, compared with almost R60bn of outflows in the second quarter, according to Johannesburg Stock Exchange data. But it marks a turnaround from 11 straight weeks of outflows sparked by a stronger dollar and rising US Treasury rates.

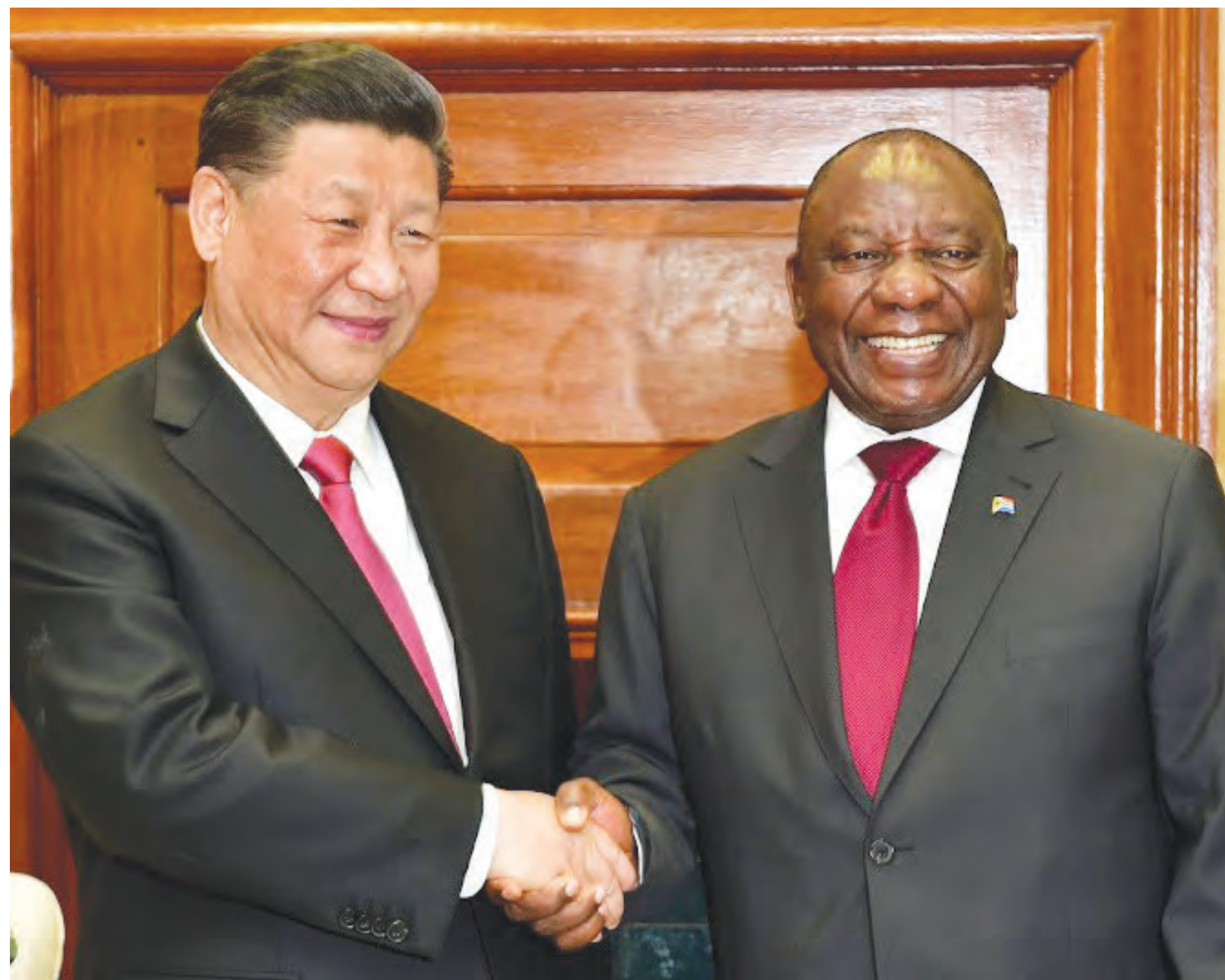
"Stabilisation of sentiment has led to a reversal of flows back into bond markets" across most developing nations, said Richard Segal, a London-based senior analyst at Manulife Asset Management.

"In South Africa, though, the lower-than-expected June inflation data was a positive and bullish surprise. Assuming the news flow remains relatively quiet then probably yes, inflows will continue."

While the threat of more tariffs between two of the largest economies in the world still lingers, South Africa's yields are high enough to compensate for the uncertainty in global markets. Among major emerging markets, only Brazil and Turkey, both rated sub-investment, offer better returns. South Africa's local-currency bonds are rated Baa3, the lowest investment level, at Moody's Investors Service.

The second-quarter sell-off saw foreign ownership of South African bonds dwindle to 40.2% in June, from as high as 42.8% in March, according to National Treasury data. Benchmark yields climbed about 85 basis points in that period as the debt lost 17% for dollar investors.

So far this quarter, the country's bonds have earned a 3% return, the fourth-best after Argentina, Brazil and Mexico among 19 emerging markets tracked by Bloomberg Barclays indexes. Those gains could accelerate in coming months, with Standard Bank Group forecasting the yield on benchmark 2026 bonds at 8.3% by year-end, from around 8.75% on Monday. **-Fin24**



Fruitful engagement . . . Chinese President Xi Jinping and SA's President Cyril Ramaphosa greet each other at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Tuesday

China to invest nearly R200 billion in SA

China will invest \$14.7bn in SA, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Tuesday, after talks between the two countries.

The news led to the rand firming 1%.

At 2.15pm the rand was 0.95% firmer against the dollar, at R13.3324 from R13.4595. It was at R15.6075 to the euro from R15.7356 and at R17.5027 to the pound from R17.6332.

At that exchange rate, the Chinese investment is worth R195.9bn.

Speaking at the same event, Chinese President Xi Jinping said the world's second-biggest economy would take active measures to expand imports from SA to support development in Africa's most industrialised economy.

Ramaphosa said that "Xi has indicated that

China is ready to invest and work with SA in various sectors".

Eskom, which reported a swing into a full-year loss on Monday, received a \$2.5bn (or R33bn) loan from the China Development Bank.

Ramaphosa has focused on revitalising Eskom, Africa's largest public utility, which was embroiled in corruption scandals under former president Jacob Zuma and narrowly avoided a liquidity crunch early this year after banks halted lending.

Transnet also received a cash injection, as well as other sectors of the economy, officials said.

Xi said China and South Africa were important emerging economies with similar

perspectives on many global issues hence the need to strengthen cooperation.

Ramaphosa has set a target of attracting \$100bn in new investment in SA over five years, from local and foreign investors, to spur growth in an economy that is in danger of teetering into recession.

He returned from a trip to Saudi Arabia two weeks ago and announced SA had clinched the first R12bn of a promised \$10bn in investment from the kingdom.

As the Financial Mail noted, he has raised \$20bn from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates combined, mainly in energy and tourism; R850m from the UK; and R10bn from Mercedes-Benz to expand its East London manufacturing plant. **-BusinessDay**

Inflation contained, say analysts

South African consumer inflation reached its fastest pace so far this year in June, after higher fuel prices stoked transport costs, limiting room for the Reserve Bank to consider cutting its benchmark rate on Thursday last week.

The annual inflation rate was 4.6% compared with 4.4% in May, Statistics SA said the previous day.

The rand had its worst month in more than two years in June as the US and China exchanged tariff blows at a time when the prospect of rising American rates also weighed on emerging market assets. The weaker currency and higher oil prices added upside risks to inflation.

The inflation rate has exceeded the 4.5% midpoint of the Bank's target range of 3%-6% for the first time since December. The monetary policy committee has made it clear it also prefers to see expectations for future inflation close to 4.5%.

But, despite the acceleration, inflation remains well contained in the target range, and analysts expect rates to remain unchanged at 6.5% at Thursday's announcement.

The JSE was flat ahead of the Bank decision, with interest rate-sensitive stocks, including banks and retailers, mixed. Banks were firmer, despite a slightly weaker rand.

Meanwhile, retail sales have also pointed to a weaker economy, which will also discourage the Bank from embarking on interest rate hikes.

May's retail sales growth recovered to 1.9% from April's sharp slowdown. However, the three-month seasonally adjusted figure, used to calculate GDP, for May came to a negative 0.1%.

This has further fuelled arguments that SA is headed for its first recession since the start of the financial crisis.

"The data is still extremely weak against the backdrop of high wage settlements and well-contained inflation, and it seems hopes of a consumption-led economic recovery are fading," said FNB senior economic analyst Jason Muscat.

He said inflationary pressure was coming from the exchange rate and the oil price-sensitive component. This saw the Bank adopt a more hawkish tone at the last meeting of the monetary policy committee.

There is also an inability to pass costs on to the consumer. An interest rate hike would put additional pressure on the economy, Muscat said.

Weak economic data released over the past few weeks signals that there are limited demand-driven pricing pressures that have

resulted in lower inflation, said NKC economist Elize Kruger.

"The tone of the statement is likely to be more hawkish, given recent exchange rate developments," she said.

However, Absa senior economist Peter Worthington said the overly hawkish policy expectations were contributing to the weakening currency along with falling global risk appetite and the strengthening dollar.

The rand has depreciated by about 7% since the last monetary policy committee meeting.

"Underlying economic activity remains subdued, which would tend to support either steady to lower interest rates," said Nedbank economist Johannes Khosa.

"Policy easing is unlikely in the medium term as inflation is likely to pick up in the coming months on the back of higher fuel prices and a weaker rand."

Khosa added, however, that inflation was expected to remain in the target band for the next three years.

In the context of weak economic data, analysts also expect the Bank to revise down its growth forecasts for the year from 1.7%. **-Bloomberg**

Economic prospects looking brighter

The investments sought by South Africa through President Cyril Ramaphosa's special investment envoys is intended to support inclusive growth and increase actual productive capacity in the country.

The president's economic adviser Trudi Makhaya said in the past few months South Africa had seen a significant reevaluation of South Africa's economic prospects.

"It is no secret that in the past few years the economy has performed beneath its potential and now we have a unique opportunity to ensure that we reach that potential, given the many opportunities that exist for investment and for taking this economy forward," said Makhanya at the BRICS Business Council Annual meeting in Durban on Monday.

BRICS Business Council chairperson Dr

Iqbal Survé said South African business people and citizens tended to be unusually critical about the country's conditions.

He noted, "We do not fully appreciate the value proposition we hold which included political and macroeconomic stability, favourable government construction, deep capital markets, world class transport and strong regulatory institutions among others." **-JOL**

Celtic deal off, says Augousti



Deal called off.... Bloemfontein Celtic chairman Max Tshabalala refuses to budge as talks collapse.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Attempts by the Augousti brothers to rescue the troubled Bloemfontein Celtic are officially off. This comes after current Celtic chairman Max Tshabalala and the brothers failed to agree terms during negotiations which were officially concluded over the weekend. Tshabalala has been looking for a local buyer for some time to avoid a situation where he is forced to sell the club to someone outside the province, which at the moment is high possible. This triggered interest from the Augousti brothers, Jimmy and Ikie, who sold Celtic to Tshabalala four years ago. Speaking to *The Weekly* on Monday, Jimmy

confirmed that the proposed deal had been called off after unfruitful discussions behind closed doors. "We won't be getting involved. There were discussions, but the deal didn't materialise," he said. "We couldn't agree terms, bottom line." Ikie declined to give reasons for the failed deal but said they would reconsider if the two parties find common ground. However sources close to the negotiations said money led to the talks collapsing. "Max refused to accept anything less than R65 million," said the source. The proposed offer from the brothers was R50 million, not anything more."

It has been reported that Tshabalala bought the club from the Augousti brothers for between R50-million to R60-million and he's apparently looking for a similar deal, but the brothers are unwilling to meet his demands. "Max felt the offer was too little for a team in the premier league and called off talks as the brothers made it clear that the club was a liability as it comes with no prominent sponsorship," added the source. Celtic's financial woes hit a new low last month when seven players were not paid on time, which resulted in the whole team absconding from training. SA Football Players Union (Safpu) intervened and a meeting was held earlier this

month between the parties concerned, paving the way for the players to resume training under new coach Steve Komphela. Tshabalala, however, apparently told the players during the meeting that he was hit hard in the pocket last season and had to spend R21-million from his own money after the main sponsors, MTN, pulled out of their contract with Celtic. It remains to be seen if Celtic will honour all players' salaries this month and more importantly, whether the team would remain in the City of Roses. But with time not on their side, chances of Celtic remaining in the province are highly unlikely.

Onfire Virginia scoop Engen Knockout Challenge 'La Décima'



Total dominance.... Virginia Sports Academy bagged their 10th Engen Knockout Challenge title on Sunday.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Virginia Sports Academy won their 10th Engen Knockout Challenge title dubbed 'La Décima' on Sunday after accounting for Grey College in

a tense final in Bloemfontein. As expected, the Engen Knockout Challenge Bloemfontein leg produced extremely competitive football, before hosts Grey College and pre-tournament favourites Virginia locked

horns in the final. Grey College went into this year's competition having upped the ante in their football department by recruiting former Bafana Bafana and SuperSport United skipper Ricardo Katza as their director of football. The move seemed to have brought the desired results as Grey went through the group stages unbeaten. They faced their first real test in a quarterfinal against Jumentro FC, who they defeated 4-3 on penalties. In the semi-final, the Katza-coached team overcame fancied Bloemfontein Celtic, again via a penalty shootout following a 1-1 stalemate at full time. With scouts from top professional clubs such as SuperSport United, Mamelodi Sundowns, Bloemfontein Celtic and Ajax Cape Town in attendance, favourites Virginia lived up to their early billing. After breezing through the pool stages of the competition, Virginia edged a stubborn Brebner High School 1-0 in the quarterfinals. Like Grey, Virginia needed penalties to win their semi-final against Thota Gauta Secondary. The final had the spirited supporters on the edge of their seats as Grey led 1-0 at the break and appeared on track for their second-ever

Engen Knockout Challenge title. Virginia, however, had other ideas, netting an equaliser under dubious circumstances. The goal followed a break in play due to the on-field treatment of a Grey player. Miscommunication amongst the Grey defenders after the referee's drop ball resulted in the ball hitting the back of the net to level the scores. Virginia went on to win the resulting penalty shootout 2-1 to clinch a record 10th title to once again become the Free State representatives at the 2018 Engen Champ of Champs later this year. Their mentor, Pitso Mokoena made sure the boys didn't rest on their laurels going into the tournament. "We have seen improved performances at this tournament from all the teams," said Mokoena. "I told my players that we will have to keep shape and that mental strength will be key factors in succeeding at this year's Engen Knockout Challenge." The field for the Engen Champ of Champs is close to completion, with just the Johannesburg winners still to be decided. The Johannesburg leg of the 2018 Engen Knockout Challenge takes place at Wits Marks Park Emmerentia from Friday 27 to July 29.

Individual Awards	
Referee of the tournament	Malefa Moholo
Defender of the tournament	Moeketsi Dlamini (Thota Gauta Secondary)
Midfielder of the tournament	Molimooarabetshe Moeti (Virginia Sports Academy)
Top goal scorer of the tournament	Tumelo Monyanda (Virginia Sports Academy)
Goalkeeper of the tournament	Lesedi Mokwena (Grey College)
Coach of the tournament	Ricardo Katza (Grey College)
Fair Play team of the tournament	Uptown Football Academy
Player of the tournament	Lesedi Mokwena (Grey College)

Stars seek funds CAF safari

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Ahead of their debut in the CAF Confederation Cup, Free State Stars are pondering how to carry the financial burden that comes with participating in the continental club competition. Stars boss Mike Mokoena told *The Weekly* that Ea Lla Koto have approached the Free State government with a proposal for financial assistance.

"We are speaking to the provincial government to at least help us with flight tickets and accommodation. If they can't, it will be difficult for me," said Mokoena, whose side qualified as the Nedbank Cup champions. Kaizer Chiefs are South Africa's other representatives in the second-tier competition after they finished third in the Absa Premiership last season. With the CAF competition unfamiliar territory for Stars, Mokoena could not commit

on expectations, saying only: "We'll see when we get there." He, however, said he was relying on coach Luc Eymael's continental experience to help Stars to swim with the sharks. "Luc has the knowledge but we can't go all out if we don't have enough depth. This is one of the areas we are looking into to make sure we have the players who can survive playing in the PSL and in CAF. I still need a Bunene Ngaduan type-of-a-striker," said Mokoena in reference

of his star striker of the late 90s from the then Zaire, now DR Congo. In his eight-year spell in Africa since arriving from Belgium, Eymael guided unfancied clubs like Kenya's AFC Leopards, Rayon Sports (Rwanda) and Al-Merrikh (Sudan) to Champions League and Confed Cup qualification. His best run was progression to the second round in the 2016 Champions League with Al-Merrikh. So far, Orlando Pirates and SuperSport United are the only South African clubs to have reached the Confed Cup final.



No excuses from Kevin Anderson as he earns his spot amongst the giants

Sport can be cruel, sometimes. It is one of the few, gloriously infuriating pastimes in our lives, capable of lifting our spirits, and inspiring millions with a kick of a ball, a swing of the shoulder, or the swiftness of foot. Kevin Anderson won't care about all of that when he rises, somewhere in London this (Monday) morning. He might not even care about the unforgettable Wednesday and epic Friday that he had on the way to the Wimbledon final. He won't even try to use the heavy mileage accrued in those two titanic tussles as some sort of excuse for the slow start that compromised him against Novak Djokovic.

At this level, they don't believe in excuses. Certainly not in a sport where the best women's player, and possibly the greatest ever, survived childbirth, and then willed herself to a Wimbledon final just 10 months later. Djokovic himself has suffered plenty of misery and setbacks over the last two years, and there has been little in the way of excuses. It is a measure of the small margins that exist that both men were so generous towards each other in the speeches. Just as Anderson was to John Isner after the semi-final and, indeed, how gracious Roger Federer was in defeat on Wednesday. Rather than excuses, respect is the currency of choice at the highest level. And, over the past week, and indeed over the past few years ever since he dedicated himself to being the best Kevin he could possibly be, Anderson has certainly been earning it by the fistful. He has added subtlety and style to his repertoire, supplementing the sledge-hammer serve that has always been his trademark. To be sure, Anderson lost to one of the greatest returners in the game. There is no shame in that, even if he might have winced as the first two sets whizzed by before he could say, 'Askies'.

The final was tough to watch, if you took it in isolation. But, observed alongside Anderson's body of work, it was, perhaps, understandable. In any other year, climbing back from match point down to the King of SW19 and then defeat him would be enough to just about seal the championship. But, we are in the midst of one of the most competitive ages of men's tennis, dripping with quality and character. Anderson now sits at No 5 in the world rankings, firmly in that conversation. Respected, if not quite revered.

You would hope, upon reflection, that Anderson's disappointment is assuaged by the knowledge that he has climbed even higher than most optimists thought he might. His feats have fully vindicated his decision to go solo and, on the back of this latest run, his balance in international respect is rivalling the dollars that his endeavour has been rewarded with. What is more, he made a sporting nation prouder still, lifting our spirits and inspiring many a tennis braai. He even made a tennis connoisseur out of Morne Morkel

Celtic deal off, says Augusti

Attempts by the Augusti brothers to rescue the troubled Bloemfontein Celtic are officially off.

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SPORT

KARATEKERS DRAW POSITIVE LESSONS FROM TOURNAMENT

Positive learning curve KSA senior head coach applauds his team after engaging tournament in Japan.



Positive results... KSA senior head coach Shine Banyane along side the team in Kobe, Japan.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Karate South Africa (KSA) national coach Shine Banyane has given his team a pat on the back despite their unsatisfactory showing at 11th edition of the FISU World University Karate Championship recently held in Japan.

The 11th edition of the FISU World

University Karate Championship ended on a high for hosts Japan, especially in the two events that they will also make their debut appearance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics: Kata and Kumite.

Day one's schedule included elimination and repechage until the semifinals in the individual Kata male and female categories. Later the Kobe Municipal Central Gymnasium witnessed the start of the Kumite event, with fights in the lighter weight categories of -60 kg and -67

kg for men, and -50 kg and -55 kg for women respectively.

After five consecutive days of compelling action at The Kobe Municipal Central Gymnasium, the individual competition gave way to the highlight events of the tournament - the team competitions.

Perhaps along expected lines, hosts Japan managed to make it to the finals in three out of the four team events. In the Kata Team contest,

Japanese men took on Austria in the final, while the women took on Spain.

Spain did really well to also make it to the final of the women's Kumite Team event, in which they were pitched against France. The women's Kumite Team event was the only one in which the Japanese fighters did not reach the final.

In the end, it was gold in Kata Team for both the Japanese men and women, and also gold for

Team Japan's men in the Kumite Team, where they beat a strong challenge from Iran. It was France that took the honours in the women's Kumite Team.

Despite falling short on expectations, South Africa's head coach Shine Banyane said their expectations were more than just winning medals, but improving the quality and ability to compete at high levels amongst the best in the world.

Following his arrival in the country, the Botshabelo-born coach expressed appreciation for his troops, despite a disappointing tour.

"I am extremely happy by the performance of these young athletes. They have proven that they are ready to be considered for the KSA senior team and I hope this competition helped them to gain the necessary experience needed for Olympics," said Banyane.

He noted the performance by the team was outstanding as they featured in the tournament for the first time. The only experienced athlete on Team SA was Michiel Du Plessis, who is also in the Karate South Africa (KSA) senior national team and has competed in these kind of competitions previously.

"Against the best in the world, the team showed dedication, commitment and am proud to have led them in the battle," he added.

Banyane said the tournament also afforded him an opportunity to sharpen his skills before the Olympic qualifications event to be held in Rwanda.

"This has come and gone; we're now preparing for the Olympic qualifying games."

It was without doubt a special week for Japan to be hosting the best student athletes from the world of karate, a sport that is intertwined with the Japanese identity. The last time Japan hosted the World University Karate Championship was in 2000. Nearly 300 athletes from 32 countries and regions had been welcomed, in a run up to the biggest sports festival - the Olympic Games - to be held in Tokyo in 2020.

PRO 14 fixture released

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Wales will host the opening night of the new Guinness PRO14 season on August 31 when the first of 152 international club rugby games take place in Cardiff and Swansea.

The Welsh capital will play host to a clash of European Champions as Cardiff Blues (Challenge Cup winners) welcome defending Guinness PRO14 title holders and Champions Cup winners, Leinster Rugby, to the Cardiff Arms Park as Premier Sports and eir sport screen Championship action live for the very first time on their channels (Premier Sports 2 & eir sport 1 & TG4).

The second game on August 31 will see Ospreys open the campaign with a visit of Richard Cockerill's Edinburgh, who reached the Guinness PRO14 Final Series for the very first time just two months ago (Premier

Sports 1 & eir sport 2).

Round One opens a full set of terrific matchups with two clashes of former champions when Connacht Rugby host Glasgow Warriors (live on TG4 & eir sport 1 & Premier Sport 1) while Scarlets, 2017 title winners and last season's beaten finalists, travel to Kingspan Stadium to face the 2006 Celtic League winners Ulster Rugby (live on Premier Sports 1, S4C and eir sport 2).

Munster Rugby will take on the Toyota Cheetahs (live on eir sport 1, Premier Sports 2 & Super Sport) while the Cheetahs' South African compatriots, the Southern Kings start their season in Parma, Italy when they tackle Zebre Rugby Club (live on Free Sports, SuperSport & eir sport 1).

Finally, Dragons fans will have high hopes to see what the region can achieve in season two of Bernard Jackman's tenure as they face

a challenging opener against Benetton Rugby (live on Premier Sports 1 and eir sport 2).

Dragons are aiming to build on last season's record number of wins to make a real push for the Guinness PRO14 Final Series.

For the first time ever the Championship has also been able to announce Kick-Off times and dates for the first 17 rounds of the Guinness PRO14 which is a big win for clubs and their supporters.

This year's opening round marks a brand new era for the Championship where every single game will be broadcast live across the UK by Premier Sports & Free Sports - a true first for the Guinness PRO14. In Ireland, eir sport will bring coverage of the Championship to new levels while Super Sport will continue to give South African fans a real taste of the Guinness PRO14 every weekend.

GUINNESS PRO14

DATE	LOC TIME	HOME	AWAY	GROUND	HDS TV	SECONDARY TV
Fri 6 Apr		Cheetahs	v. Cardiff Blues	Toyota Stadium		
Fri 6 Apr		Leinster	v. Zebre	RDS Arena		
Fri 6 Apr		Scarlets	v. Glasgow	Parc y Scarlets		
Fri 6 Apr		Edinburgh	v. Ulster	Munster		
Fri 6 Apr		Benetton	v. Dragons	Stadio Maniqa		
Fri 6 Apr		Southern Kings	v. Munster	Nelson Mandela Bay		
ROUND 20						
Fri 13 Apr		Glasgow	v. Connacht	Scottish		
Fri 13 Apr		Zebre	v. Dragons	Stadio Lanfranchi		
Fri 13 Apr		Cheetahs	v. Munster	Toyota Stadium		
Fri 13 Apr		Leinster	v. Benetton	RDS Arena		
Fri 13 Apr		Ulster	v. Ospreys	Kingspan Stadium		
Fri 13 Apr		Edinburgh	v. Scarlets	Munster		
Fri 13 Apr		Southern Kings	v. Cardiff Blues	Nelson Mandela Bay		
ROUND 21						
Fri 27 Apr		Munster	v. Leinster	TBA		
Fri 27 Apr		Connacht	v. Leinster	Sportsground		
Fri 27 Apr		Cardiff Blues	v. Ospreys	Arma Park		
Fri 27 Apr		Edinburgh	v. Glasgow	BT Murrayfield		
Fri 27 Apr		Dragons	v. Scarlets	Rodney Parade		
Fri 27 Apr		Benetton	v. Zebre	Stadio Maniqa		
Fri 27 Apr		Southern Kings	v. Cheetahs	Nelson Mandela Bay		
PLAY OFFS						
Fri 4 May		Play-Off	v.			
Fri 4 May		Play-Off	v.			
SEMI FINALS						
Fri 18 May		Semi-Final	v.			
Fri 18 May		Semi-Final	v.			
FINAL						
Sat 26 May		Final	v.			

Additionally, PRO14 Rugby is proud that games will still be broadcast live on native language channels TG4 (Republic of Ireland) and S4C

(Wales) to ensure Free-To-Air access among two stations that have supported the Championship from the outset.