



FREE STATE

The Weekly

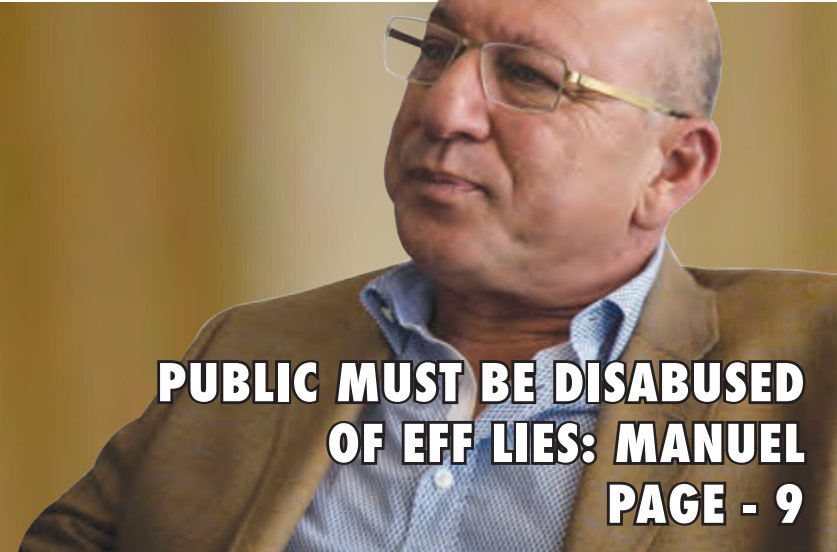
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OUR TIME IS NOW:

ANC YOUTH

- Denounce apathy, call for action
- Perennial poverty among young blacks lambasted

By: Ramosidi Matekane

ANC Youth League Provincial chairperson Makalo Mohale has made a passionate appeal to young people to shun apathy and instead work hard to shape their destiny.

Delivering a political lecture at the Batho Community Hall in Mangaung on Wednesday, Mohale called on young people within the ranks of the congress movement to campaign for change and not accept the current status quo of inequality fuelled by apartheid.

He said if the past generation of liberation fighters including the great Nelson Mandela had sat on their laurels and accepted the approach of some senior ANC leaders who continued to negotiate for their freedom instead of fighting for it from oppressors, South Africa would not be where it is today.

“The generation of Mandela deemed it necessary to adopt a radical approach, forming Umkhonto We Sizwe in recognition of the fact that there can be no liberation without a revolution,” he said.

He noted in the 25 years that South Africa has been a democracy, the question of whether strides had been made in changing the lives of the people is still relevant.

The youth leader argued that black people still do not own homes, cars, or even the clothing they wear as they are still paying them off as credit.

On the other hand, their white counterparts get to own cars at the tender age of 18, have

massive investments taken out for them by their parents, and only seek employment to wade off boredom and idleness.

“We always reflect that the organisation is getting weaker by the day. This is because others think being in a senior position in the movement should bring them closer to tenders and lavish lifestyles, and when this does not happen they become bitter and angry and start fighting among themselves,” Mohale contended.

He added lectures such as the one he was delivering were important in reminding young people of where the country is coming from, recounting the ANC was formed in 1912 to unite Africans and get them out of apartheid colonialism.

“The ANC was formed to create a better life for all, not for oneself first and then the people. Remember the movement was formed when conditions were not conducive, when the apartheid administration considered blacks to be nothing, something you can just toss around, and the ANC wanted them treated better just as everyone else,” he said.

He noted there is no way that there can be conversations about transformation without touching on the importance of blacks running the economy.

Mohale further pointed out that young black people should be able to think at the level of being owners of the means of production than just wishing to clinch a job where they will still be at the mercy of white people that pay their salary.

“Blacks have nothing, no land, have debts, owe their homes and the rest are just living

in plain poverty. Meanwhile white kids get cars at 18, have paid up homes and are debt-free, something that tells us that the struggle must go on.”

Makalo challenged any leader who claims that there is no evidence of white monopoly capital in the country, even within the ranks of the ANC, to have their heads checked again, slating the talk as a denial of oppression of blacks by a white minority.

“It is nonsensical to claim there is no white monopoly capital, including those ANC leaders that claim this; they are suffering from temporary amnesia in denying there is another colour of people oppressing blacks,” he maintained.

For real transformation to happen, Makalo said, the demographics of the country should be represented in every sphere and sector, business and government.

He called on young people to arm themselves with education in order for them to be able to supply the country with the needed skills for bringing development to the formerly oppressed.

There should also be a fair share of holdings in all businesses and development initiatives brought into townships by young people.

“We say we are the future as the youth, but we can’t be the future if we have accepted the status quo and only being ambitious up to the level of getting employment in extended public work programmes. We should not be content with mediocrity, but rather demand real change that will shift the ownership and controls of the economy of our country.”

The provincial youth leaders said apartheid



Calling for action . . . ANC Youth League Provincial chairperson Makalo Mohale

and colonialism led black people into thinking that anything white is good and that they needed white people to succeed in anything they do. This belief should be dismissed as an embedment of apartheid propaganda in the minds of Africans.

“The white apartheid regime deliberately refused blacks education, but the ANC on coming to power first attended to this deliberate act to deny us knowledge. Back in ‘94 the University of the Free State had less than a hundred students but today, courtesy of the ANC, over 20 000 studying at this university are now black,” he noted.

He added that young people must organise themselves and give meaning towards the implementation of ANC Nasrec conference resolution on nationalisation of banks and mines,

as well as repossessing ‘stolen’ land without compensation.

“Young people must defy the odds and refuse to have our children suffer the same way we did.”

Alliance partners in the form of the Congress of South African Students (Cosas), which also attended the lecture, expressed anguish at young folks’ interests being represented by the old in parliament.

Cosas called for more young people to contest the local government election in 2021.

Sasco, on the other hand, cried foul that there still is no municipal bursary in the Mangaung metro to supplement the help being offered to poor students by the National Student Fund Scheme (NFSAS).

METRO MUNICIPALITY

METRO MUNISIPALITEIT

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Easter Message from Executive Mayor Olly Mlamleli

On behalf of the council of Mangaung Metro, I would like to wish all residents of the city and visitors a safe and happy Easter.

Easter is a very special time of reflection for Christians, and I send my best wishes to you and your families.

To those who will be traveling, drive safe and arrive alive. I would also like to appeal to all motorists who will be using the N8 road to be extra cautious, especially during this period.

- Executive Mayor, Cllr Olly Mlamleli



Cyril takes fight to Malema's turf

President Cyril Ramaphosa made a mockery of the EFF's claim that it was the government in waiting as he took the ANC's election campaign to the red berets' leader Julius Malema's backyard in Limpopo.

With less than three weeks before the May 8 elections, campaigning has reached fever pitch.

On Tuesday, Ramaphosa spent the whole day addressing a number of community meetings in Malema's hometown of Seshego, outside Polokwane, flanked by ANC provincial chairperson Premier Stan Mathabatha and regional leaders.

Addressing hundreds of ANC supporters clad in party regalia in Zone 1 - where Malema comes from - Ramaphosa called on Seshego residents to reject smaller parties that had ambitions to remove the ANC.

"We must back the ANC government to retain the control of the province and the country. There must be no smaller, little parties that must think they can take over government," Ramaphosa said.

"There are small parties that are going around claiming that they are the government in waiting. There is no government in waiting here. It is only the ANC that is waiting. South Africans in their numbers - and these small parties will see - are saying the ANC will retain power with an increased majority," he noted.

Since the 2014 general elections, when it first contested power, the EFF has been eating into the ANC's support in Limpopo, including Polokwane, where it secured 28% in the 2016 local elections, while the ANC fell from 79% to 57%.

Ramaphosa said the ANC was still the only party with a plan and experience to take the country forward.

"Yes, there have been mistakes. But we have worked for the nation, and many people can see that the ANC has made the difference. If you don't see, you are blind, and if you don't hear, you are deaf," he told the crowd.

He said his campaign trail was a mimic of the listening tour embarked upon by former president Nelson Mandela, who went on a roadshow throughout the country to understand people's problems before he took over in 1994.

Ramaphosa said while jobs would be top of the list of what the ANC would push to deliver after retaining power under his leadership, he would push for consequences for those who had looted public resources.

"Most of the things that people are saying we must fix we are fixing, including governance at national level and at provincial and local level.

"We want those who have been appointed to work for the public to do so and not work for themselves and their family members," he added. -IOL

Mthembu not disciplined, says ANCYL Free State

● Calls party chief whip to order for remarks over controversial book

● Tourism minister also under attack



ANC Chief Whip Jackson Mthembu . . . Jackson Mthembu

By: Ramosidi Matekane

The ANC Youth League in the Free State has taken aim at the party's parliamentary chief whip, Jackson Mthembu, after he reportedly called for its disciplining following its aborted plans to burn copies of a controversial book by Pieter-Loius Myburgh.

The journalist recently authored a book titled 'Gangster State: Unravelling Ace Magashule's Web of Capture', which was widely condemned by the ruling party.

The ANCYL Free State had vowed to burn copies of the book in Mangaung on Monday this week but backed down after the ANC and its secretary general secretary Ace Magashule called for restraint.

ANCYL provincial spokesman Sello Pietersen said Mthembu should be reined in for speaking outside the formal platforms of the movement and taking to social media to criticise the youth league and calling for its leaders to be disciplined.

Pietersen said the likes of Mthembu are suffering from ANC Nasrec post-conference hangover and not working towards the unity of the movement.

"We are now all united behind securing victory for the ANC in the upcoming national and provincial elections on May 8, but there are those who continue to operate along factional lines and are still suffering from

post-Nasrec hangover. One of them is Jackson Mthembu, who chooses to speak outside of the leadership collective of our movement that the ANCYL in the Free State has to be disciplined," Pietersen said.

The hard-hitting talk by Pietersen follows 'unsavoury words' used by Mthembu in his condemnation of the planned book burning demonstration, wherein he refers to the youth league as 'thugs'.

Mthembu commented on his official twitter page, calling for stern disciplinary action to be taken against Free State ANC Youth League.

Pietersen charged that Mthembu cannot begin lecturing the ANCYL about discipline while he himself is not disciplined, pointing out to a previous case where the ANC chief whip was arrested for driving way above the legal limit of alcohol intake.

The ANCYL Free State also took a swipe at tourism minister Derek Hanekom over his remarks on the controversial book.

Pietersen accused Hanekom of also speaking outside of the formal structures of the party regarding his views. Hanekom had also described the action by angry young people who disrupted the launch of the book in Sandton recently and planning to do the same in Bloemfontein as "thuggery".

A bitter Pietersen said Hanekom is not a 'paragon' of political correctness, and accused him of having never supported dealing with the land question even during the Codesa negotiations for a new South Africa back in the early 90's.

He said noted Hanekom was a member of MK - the ANC military wing - by accident and became "something close to being a revolutionary".

Meanwhile, a defamation case involving the provincial leader of the Democratic Alliance (DA), Roy Jankilsohn, and the ANC Youth League in the province will be heard in Bloemfontein next week.

Jankilsohn is suing the leaders of the ANCYL for R1million for what he claims to be defamation of character.

Pietersen said: "Our take is that there are no black people that stand up to the likes of Jankilsohn in the DA hence the first thing they think of is to sue when they realise members of the ANC Youth League are not afraid of telling the truth. We are busy consulting with our lawyers so that the matter can be heard and be put to rest."

Free State mourns gallant top executive

● Seoke's death huge loss to all Free Staters

By: Ramosidi Matekane

A sombre atmosphere engulfed the office of the Premier in the Free State this week following the passing on of long serving executive, Maditsi Seoke.

Seoke, who is also the father of well-known radio personality and musician Thwasa Seoke, died on Monday morning after a long illness.

He was laid to final rest in his home-town of QwaQwa in the Eastern Free State, Maluti-a-Phofung local municipality on Wednesday.

His funeral service was attended by religious formations, members of the public, as well as hordes of government officials and members of the provincial cabinet.

At the time of his passing, Seoke was special advisor in the office of Premier Sisi Ntombela.

Seoke - who boasted a career spanning 40 years in the public sector - played a pivotal role in settling in the new administration after Ntombela took over the reins last year.

Ntombela expressed shock at the news of Seoke's death, describing him as a dedicated servant of the public.

"Our heads dip in honour of this fallen soldier of the public service. We have indeed lost a repository of knowledge, experience and wisdom," she said.

"Mr. Seoke was a dedicated and experienced public servant, with an experience that spans over 40 years."

On behalf of the provincial government,

Ntombela sent heartfelt condolences to the grieving Seoke family, friends, relatives and colleagues in a formal communiqué from her office.

"This is a loss to the entire province. May the soul of Ntate Seoke rest in eternal peace!" she noted.

Born in 1951 in the small farming town of Winburg in the Free State, the late administrator criss-crossed the two provinces of Gauteng and the Free State for his primary education. He spent some years in the Vaal, Sharpeville where he obtained his junior certificate before setting back home where matriculated in QwaQwa.

Thereafter he studied and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Psychology, Sesotho and Sociology at the then University of QwaQwa, now known as the University of the Free State.

His further studies included obtaining various certificate courses in among others, Performance Management, Occupational Health and Safety, as well as Public Service Regulations and Leadership Programme.

Seoke's work in government dates back to 1975 when he was an employee of the then QwaQwa Government Service, a position he held until he was promoted to head the Free State department of education in 1996. The position came with the amalgamation of three departments of education from the North West, Orange Free State and QwaQwa.

Seoke also had a stint serving the Thabo



Sad loss . . . Premier Sisi Ntombela

Mofutsanyane Local Municipality as a deployee of the African National Congress (ANC) working as Strategic Manager of Corporate Affairs. He did not serve long here as the duty call wanted him at the Naledi Local Municipality where he worked as acting Municipal Manager.

The globe-trotting administrator was later appointed by power utility Centlec as its executive manager of corporate services.

At the time of his death, Seoke's skills were being utilised in the office of the Premier where he was special advisor.

At a packed memorial service held in Bloemfontein on Monday, speaker after speaker

remembered Seoke with fond memories.

MEC Dr Benny Malakoane said: "It was a privilege for us to have lived with him. I am happy that we got to spend time with him. Let's celebrate his life and let's also celebrate having had him in our lives."

He recited a poem by Frances Ellen Watkins-Harper titled 'Bury Me in a Free Land', as a tribute to Seoke.

Director General in Ntombela's office Kopung Ralikontsane said, "He was a dedicated public servant, and together, we tried our level best to serve the people of the province with humility and ethical leadership."

Mashinini urges road discipline during Easter

By: Martin Makoni

Police, Roads and Transport MEC Sam Mashinini has urged drivers and other road users to be vigilant when they travel over the Easter holidays in order to ensure a reduction in accidents over that period and save lives.

"As the Easter holiday approaches, it is imperative for all road users to be vigilant and drive safely on our roads," said Mashinini.

The MEC said this when he officially opened a new set of traffic lights in Bronville, Welkom, last week.

The event also marked the launch of the Easter Arrive Alive Road Safety Campaign for the province.

Mashinini emphasised on the importance of providing efficient and quality services to the people, saying the installation of the new traffic lights on the R730 highway was expected to go a long way towards improving the flow of traffic and prevent accidents.

As part of the ceremony, a prayer service was held for all road users, law enforcement officers, health workers or emergency who

will be the first responders to accidents. Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) which collaborated with the provincial department for the event said it viewed road safety as very important and also urged all road users to follow road traffic rules.

"As a company having a significant fleet on the roads nationwide, road safety is crucial for CCBSA," said Public Affairs and Communications Manager Pinky Lebitso.

"CCBSA is committed to working alongside government in implementing its strategic plans to improve road safety and reduce congestion on our roads through a joint project aimed at improving the driving skills of truck and bus drivers," she added. The project will see CCBSA making available two of its state-of-the-art simulator trucks for use by the department and government broadly to aid in the competency levels of truck and bus drivers, as well as other public transport drivers across the country.

CCBSA will be availing these trucks for use one day a week throughout the year.



Encouraging road safety . . . Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport MEC Sam Mashinini, MEC for the Free State Department Health Montseng Tsiu and Matjhabeng Local Municipality Executive Mayor Nkosinjani Speelman opening the new robot in Bronville

The Weekly

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Long overdue... Renowned actor Jerry Mofokeng to be honoured by the University of Free State in June.

UFS to honour veteran actor Mofokeng

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Renowned actor Jerry Mofokeng will soon join the prestigious line of legendary artists to be conferred with honorary doctorates.

“Bra Moscow” as he’s affectionately known in the arts industry will be presented with an honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Free State during the June graduation ceremonies.

Speaking to *The Weekly*, the former artistic director of the Performance Arts Centre of the Free State [Pacofs] said he was delighted to be counted among the few who’ve already received the honour.

“If you ask me if I thought this was possible, I would have gladly told you to now...So for this to happen now, I can safely say am pleased and delighted to receive such an honour,” said Mofokeng in a telephonic interview with the paper.

Mofokeng’s body of work includes *Tsotsi*, *Fanie Fourie’s Lobola*, *Five Fingers for Marseilles* and *Four Corners*.

He will follow in the footsteps of other artists who have been honoured by South African universities including Caiphus Semanya, Letta Mbuli, Esther Mahlangu as well as John Kani.

Speaking about joining some of the country’s finest in the arts and entertainment industry, Mofokeng said, “Looking at the names of the people I’ll be joining, I can’t help but think I’ve done well for myself. To be mentioned let alone being counted among them alone is not only a privilege but an honour in itself.”

This will not be the first time the veteran actor gets to wear a robe as he graduated from Wits University with an undergraduate degree majoring in acting in 1987. He then went on to get his Masters degree in Theatre Directing at Columbia University, an Ivy League institution in the United States.

Currently he is lighting up the small screen with his brilliant turn as Bra Moscow on eTV’s *Scandal*, after also appearing in *Soul City*, *Yizo Yizo* and *Isidingo*.

Dr. Kani congratulated his friend, Mofokeng, sharing that the degree he will be receiving is not a favour.

He said it should not even be called an honorary degree because of the volume of work that the actor has contributed to South Africa.

“No one is more deserving than Bra Jerry. His body of work has shaped the industry in more ways than one and therefore his honouring is long overdue,” said Kani.

Mofokeng was nominated by the Dean of the UFS Drama Department Prof. Nico Luwes.

“After so many years of hard work and dedication, I think it is great for the university to associate with an artist and human being of his calibre,” Luwes said in a statement.

This one goes to my father: Twasa

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Radio presenter and musician Seipati ‘Twas’ Seoke finally got a seal of approval at the 2019 Liberty Radio Awards on Saturday night after 19 years of service.

The queen of the airwaves dedicated her long-awaited achievement to her late father who passed away last Thursday.

Despite it being a bittersweet moment for the veteran radio personality, the breakfast radio show victory was well deserved. Many envisaged SAFM Sunrise to scoop the award but it was Seoke and her crew that came out shining like stars on the night.

Taking her hard-earned victory to social media, Twasa wrote, “My dad passed away a happy man. He has been ill for a long time. Our hearts are sad, we are going to miss him, but we realise he’s also resting.”

“My mom died when I was eight years old and the privilege to then have lived with my dad for the past 32 years is such a gift for the family. My stepmother is such an incredible person,” she noted.

“I’m so elated about this win. I told the team when we started last year April that we are an award-winning programme. I’m amazed at God. This is my first radio win and I’m over the moon.”

Twas added: “We swam against the tide. We flew against strong winds and somehow the Lord crowned our efforts with success. Tsholo Leokaoko, Kagiso Sebudi, KGLive, Sebili Molefe Graced, thank you for believing, praying and showing up every day. Our listeners, we are at your service; your love is amazing. This is all about you. I’m so privileged to be alive at this time. I’m humbled.



The morning Queen.... Twasa crowned the queen of breakfast radio at the 2019 Liberty Radio Awards on Saturday night.

“I am grateful to the SABC for the incredible platform it has given us. Thank you, Ausi Stella Phetla. We won guys; Thapelo Jonas, Matshapo Mokobake - Thank you. I dedicate this award to “Bra Chippa” -the Legacy continues,” she continued.

This year’s biggest winners were Hot 91.9 FM in the community radio station category, Kaya FM 95.0 in the commercial category, Umhlobo Wenene FM in the public broadcasting service category and Tuks FM 107.2 in the campus radio station category.

The aim of the event is to promote excellence in radio, says Lance Rothschild, CEO of the

Liberty Radio Awards.

“Excellent performance and content reward listeners for the time they spend listening to a station or programme and compel them to remain tuned in for longer. They also reinforce the relationship between a station or programme and the listener, which contributes to the sustainability of radio.” Rothschild said.

He noted the standard of this year’s entries was exceptionally high and though the adjudication scoring was close, he is confident that the results reflect the best work in the industry.

Hot 91.9 FM was given an impressive 11 awards.

Darren responds to national anthem backlash

“Why on earth am I trending?” asked Kurt Darren during the Eusebius McKaiser show on talk radio 702 on Tuesday morning.

“I’m not going to disrespect our anthem, I love singing it. It is always an honour to sing our anthem. I woke up to this massive storm, and it’s so funny to me... is it really news?” he quipped.

The Afrikaans singer landed himself in hot water after wrecking the national anthem during the Varsity Cup finals between Maties and Tuks at the Danie Craven Stadium in Stellenbosch on Monday night.

In a video clip that went viral, the “Kaptein” hitmaker is heard stumbling over the isiZulu and Sesotho part of the anthem.

He sang: “Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso” instead of continuing with “O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho”, then he quickly reverted back

to the end of the first stanza, singing: “Yizwa imithandazo, yethu”, getting everyone confused even the spectators and the players were kept looking at each other with puzzled looks.

Twitter started bashing the singer for not knowing the national anthem: “You could have practiced. You could have. You could have asked someone to help you. You could have refused to stand there and insult us. But no...” tweeted @AnalysisPirates.

“Kurt Darren proudly & confidently belting out made-up lyrics to the national anthem in a packed stadium is the best example of the kind of peak mediocrity nurtured by a corrupt racist state (& its continued legacy),” commented another Twitter user @MaS1banda.

Responding to the backlash, Darren told McKaiser: “Yes I messed up one line in the anthem but singing in front of 20 000 students

at the Varsity Cup final is a completely different animal to singing to a test or super 15, it’s just crazy...I know the anthem, I know I was there to sing it and do it properly and it’s weird that it erupted this way.”

McKaiser then asked, “Why did you not know why lines though, it’s the national you had 25 years to learn it. To which Darren responded: “Are you carrying on with it now?”

But McKaiser pressed on, saying: “You are a professional singer, 25 years later, you had only one job to do.”

Darren sighed then said: “Anyway, alright have a lekker day” before dropping the line.

Darren is not the only singer who has come under fire for messing up the national anthem, Reggae artist Ras Dumisani did it twice already, and Twitter dragged Ras yet again. -IOL

Soapbox

SCANDAL

Xolile and Chumani hatch a plan to discover the truth. Maletsatsi’s attempt at mediation results in escalation. An expected crowd doesn’t show. A mysterious box reveals a secret connection. An argument between two people gets out of hand and incriminates a third party. A long-awaited announcement is finally made. Mother and daughter hit each other with truths they cannot handle. Mlu alienates the people inside and outside his family. Gloria tries to guilt trip Ndu for an opportunity she wants but it backfires on her. Macingwane

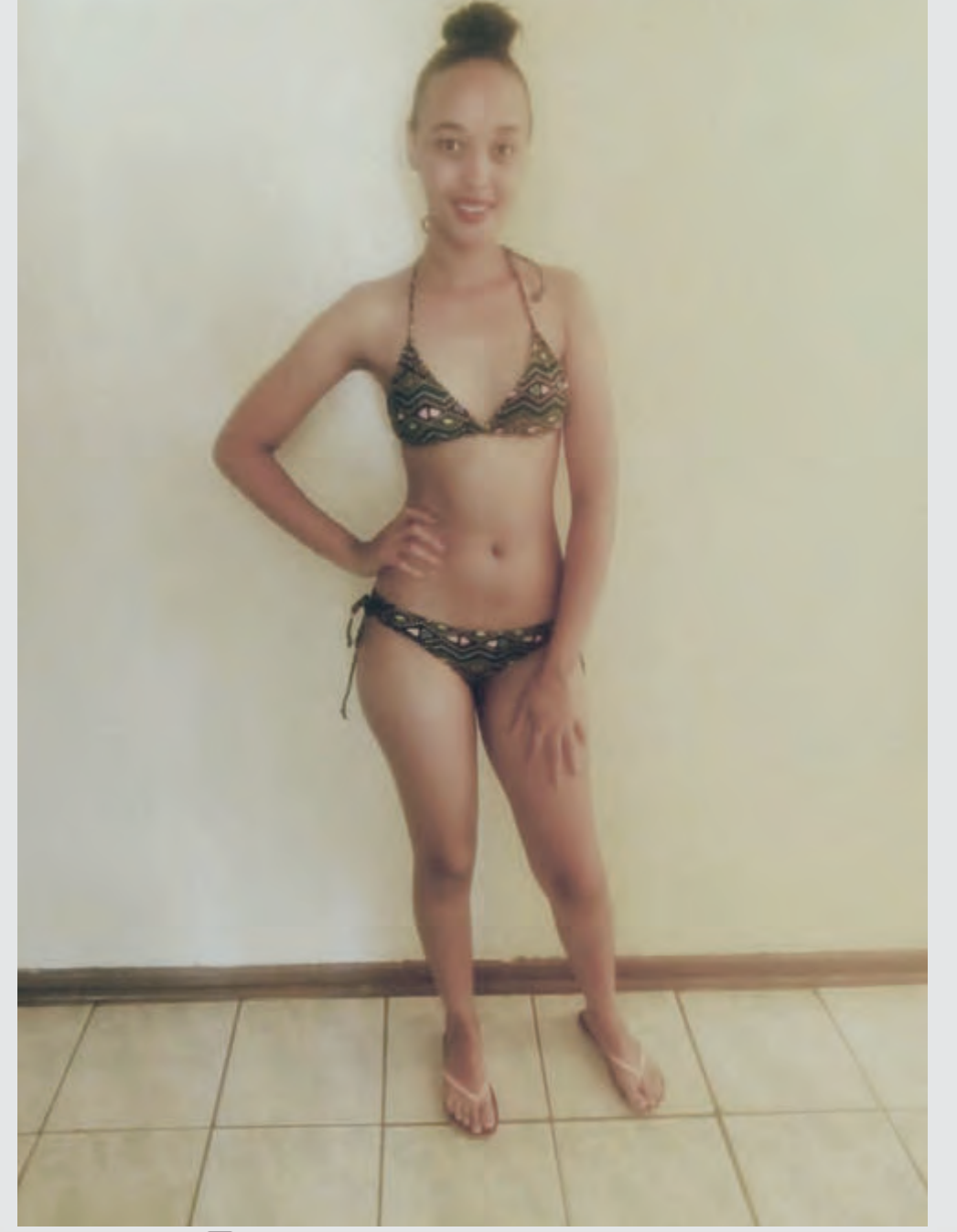
IMBEWU

of Lindiwe’s kiss with Khanyo. The Umemulo is about to begin. Nkululeko steals money and runs away. Pranav and Nirupa agree to give

their relationship another try. Macingwane warns the Bhengu family about their future. Ngcolosi and MaZulu are mugged. Thu Sheleni tells MaNdllovu that she reminds him of his grandmother. zaLindiwe and Khanyo come face to face and Lindiwe tries to make amends. A young man saves Ngcolosi and MaZulu but Ngcolosi is shot and rushed to hospital. Zithulele asks MaNdllovu about her sister. Zakithi smells a secret.

UZALO

Gabisile is caught between Qhabanga and Sibonelo, Nkunzi and MaNgcobo recruits Njeza for the heist, and Sbu goes to the ends of the world for Fikile. Gabisile decides to give Nokwanda the closure she so desperately needs, MaNgcobo takes full charge of the heist operation and Polite hits a jackpot, much to Fikile’s jealousy. Qhabanga’s guilt makes him reckless, Njeza gets confused when he learns why Nonka is crying, and Sbu starts questioning Fikile’s feelings for him.



This week’s model is Jo-neve Platjies. Apart from her studies, the beauty enjoys socializing and listening to music.



Fame has caused me problems: Sjava

While Mzansi is still shocked by the fact that Sjava and Lady Zamar were a thing for two years and broke up last month - all under wraps - TshisaLIVE had the unique chance to chat to Sjava about his approach to relationships and the strain fame puts on them.

Prior to his and Lady Zamar’s revelation, the *Ngempela* hitmaker spoke about all things music, passion, international recognition, fame and navigating romance and relationships.

The 34-year-old musician said he’s thought about marriage and settling down, but hasn’t found a way to make it work, on account of his career.

“Yes, I was thinking about it (marriage) but now because of this fame thing, there’s now a lot of things to consider. It (fame) has caused a lot of problems between me and my partner,” Sjava said.

“For example, if I say, ‘guys I can’t come for the interview because I promised my girl a date’, you guys will be angry and think I’m unprofessional. If I cancel the date and go to interviews, she’ll be mad and not understand. So now, either way, I’m a bad guy. All those things take something away from me as a person but you will never see that. But at the end of the day, it is what it is,” he noted.

Sjava explained that fame for him had come with a lot of sacrifices and that it was a constant battle of trying to balance work and life.

For him, honouring his talent and making sure his mother has food on the table, couldn’t take the backseat to love.

“There’s a lot of things that happen behind closed doors. On the outside people don’t know that my career may be going well but the side effect (fame) means my life is not going as well.

That’s why if you look at many relationships of people in the public eye, they hardly ever work out. It is because of the strain (of fame),” he added. -*Timeslive*



Fame cost him . . . Sjava

Elderly Welkom man defrauded

By: Martin Makoni

Welkom police are looking for two men and two women believed to have defrauded a 79-year-old man soon after withdrawing money from ATM.

No arrests have been made in connection with the matter and police are appealing for information that may lead to the arrest of the suspects.

Police spokesperson Captain Stephen Thakeng said in a statement that on January 30, just after 9am, the elderly man was walking from an ATM when he was approached by a man who smeared him with some unknown substance.

A woman is said to have suddenly appeared at the scene and told the victim she was also smeared. The woman was in the company of another unknown woman.

"They asked him if he has a coin with him and he took out five-cent and gave to them," said Thakeng in the statement.

"One of the ladies took it and scratched his bank card. After this they were approached some

unknown man who asked them if they were having a problem. They then explained to him what happened," he added.

Thakeng said the victim asked them to take him to the bank so that he can stop his card so that the criminals won't have access to his money. But they however told the old man that they won't be able to take him to a local bank as they are afraid the thugs will see them and maybe hurt them.

"They drove with him to Odendaalsrus where he withdrew two amounts at two different banks, the first being R4 000 and the second, R1 800. On their way back one of the ladies told the victim to give her money so that she can wrap it and he was also told not to open that until he reaches home," the police spokesperson explained.

The elderly man did exactly that, but to his surprise all his money, totalling R7 800 was gone. The suspects were driving a silver BMW with unknown registration numbers.

Thakeng said any person who might have information about the suspects or their

whereabouts can contact the investigating officer Detective Warrant Officer Lorette van Rooyen of Welkom Detective Services on: 057 391 6272 or 061 538 0308.

Meanwhile, an 18-year woman appeared at the Winburg Magistrate Court on Monday for the alleged murder of her 24-year-old boyfriend, Khotso Nelson Sejane.

It is alleged that on the early hours of Sunday, April 14, Sejane arrived home from a local tavern. His girlfriend who had been waiting for him opened the door and told him that it was over between them.

The couple, which had been cohabiting for some time, allegedly got into a heated argument and a fight ensued. Sejane allegedly threatened his girlfriend with a knobkerrie and she in turn stabbed him with a knife in the neck.

Sejane was pronounced dead on the scene. The 18 year old woman was arrested and charged with murder.

The matter continues.



Taking the stand . . . Murder accused Rob Packham

'Wife murderer' speaks on why he revealed extramarital affair

Wife-murder accused Rob Packham has come out guns blazing in a bid to poke holes in the state's case against him.

The 58-year-old businessman took the stand for the first time at the high court in Cape Town on Monday.

He explained his movements and peculiar acts – such as switching off his work cellphone and calling his colleague at a beverage production company to cover up for him – on the day his wife of more than 30 years, Gill, disappeared.

A calm and eloquent Packham took the witness stand and told the court what led to him disclosing his extramarital affair to his wife.

"My daughter had known about my affair for some time and she was encouraging me to disclose it to my wife," Packham said.

He said before disclosing the affair in October 2017, he first booked counselling and later he and his wife attended different sessions.

"I think we were making progress before Gill's death," said Packham. "It was a difficult process but we were making progress. All sessions were

difficult because it was full disclosures. [They were difficult] for me and for Gill to receive the information. Some hurt her ... but it was definitely constructive."

He further said there was an impasse between him and Gill on the evening of February 21 2018, ahead of her disappearance the following morning. Packham said the bone of contention was his work trip to Johannesburg the following day.

"She had trust issues. It wasn't exactly resolved, we agreed to disagree," said Packham. He added Gill raised the issue the following morning and threatened to call the CEO of the company he worked for. He told her "not to be silly".

Packham said he left his Constantia home at 7:30am – about 30 minutes after his wife had left – and went shopping for a car for her in order to surprise her on her birthday.

"It was something that had been a family joke, I knew [her car] was 20 years old and had to be replaced and wanted it to be a surprise to her."

Packham said he told one of his colleagues at work to tell Gill that he had been in since 7am because he did not want her to find out about the surprise. He told the court that he had two cellphones – a work phone and personal one.

"Gill was in the habit to track me. That morning I didn't want her to know what I was doing," said Packham. "She would phone me in my car and ask me to take a picture."

He denied killing Gill.

According to the state, Packham allegedly killed her, put the body in the boot of her car and set it alight at the Diep River railway station in February 2018.

He was allegedly tripped up by licence-recognition cameras showing him driving Gill's BMW, while cell phone towers indicated that he drove around Constantia on the day of her disappearance.

Gill's charred body was found in her car.

The trial continues. -Timeslive

Prosecutor removed from Durban bombings case

A prosecutor specialising in terrorism convictions was on Monday removed from the case involving 12 men accused of a spate of bombings in Durban and an attack at a Verulam mosque in 2018.

A Verulam court heard that senior prosecutor Adele Barnard, of the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) Priority Litigation Crimes Unit, was being removed from the case. A provincial prosecutor would replace Barnard, the court was told.

The 12 suspects are accused of planting incendiary devices across retailers in Durban – specifically Woolworths – as well as attacking the Verulam-based Imam Hussain mosque in May last year, which led to the death of one man and the injury of two others.

The accused were all released on bail in

November last year, with magistrate Irfan Khalil saying the state's reliance on an identity parade – deemed flawed in various respects – and a lack of clear evidence linking them to the crimes, did not warrant the group being remanded in custody.

The men face schedule six offences which include murder, extortion, and arson as well as charges under South African anti-terrorism legislation known as the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorism and Related Activities Act, while some face kidnapping charges.

They are also suspected to have links to international terror group ISIS.

At their appearance in February, KZN prosecuting authority spokesperson Natasha Kara told the media that the state intended to

bring an application for voice samples from accused number one – alleged ringleader and Durban businessman – Farad Hooper.

But during the brief appearance on Monday, the court heard that the state's voice expert was not available to take samples.

NPA communications head, Bulelwa Makeke, told African News Agency via telephone following the appearance that Barnard was removed from the case as a decision had been taken to refer prosecution of cases "to the relevant jurisdictions".

"There will be no prosecution by head office, but guidance will be offered by head office," she said, as this would enable prosecutors to gain experience within their jurisdictions.

The men will appear again on May 6, when a new prosecutor will be allocated. -ANA

'My son was slaughtered over R5'

Prominent Kimberley couple, 'Prof' Thapelo Sekonyane and his wife Bushy Sekonyane, were left both horrified and traumatised after their eldest son, Thabang, was killed following an apparent altercation with a suspect over R5.

"It was the most horrible feeling seeing my son lying in a pool of blood," Thapelo said on day, while trying to hold back the tears.

He said it was the most horrific scene he had ever come across. "It was really 'manslaughter'. There was blood all over the place. It was very traumatic."

It is believed that Thabang was stabbed multiple times. "Whoever did this really took

advantage of Thabang's size."

Thapelo went on to describe his son as "the most generous person, despite his shortcomings".

Bushy said that Thabang would always be her first love. "He was such a jolly person. Nothing got him down. We would always have these little spats about food. He really was special."

Thapelo went on to say that everybody looked out for Thabang.

Despite the grief that the family is currently dealing with, Thapelo called on the police, the community and political parties to come together and open a dialogue to stop the killings currently rocking the city.

"There needs to be an open dialogue with everybody, as everybody is affected by this. Everyone needs to have a voice and lasting solutions should be found. Prevention is better than cure. Security clusters need to be more prominent, ward councillors should also become more involved as well as religious leaders," Thapelo pleaded.

He also called on the government to assist in developing Operation Wanya Tsotsi in order to give them more power. "They are a beacon of hope to the community. They are a bright light in the dark. More needs to be done with them."

Thabang will be laid to rest on Saturday. -DiamondFieldsAdvertiser

Two arrested for illegal firearm

Staff Reporter

Two men are expected to appear in court soon after they were arrested on Sunday on allegations of possession of an unlicensed firearm.

The two were arrested at a house in Bohlokong's Extension 2 by members of Bethlehem K9 Unit. A 6.35 Baretta was found hidden under the bed.

In another incident, Bethlehem detectives arrested a man, 24, who was wanted in connection with a house robbery which occurred in December 2018. Police said the

suspect allegedly entered a house in Panorama at about 3:30 and threatened a 32-year-old female victim before fleeing with some valuables.

DNA evidence collected on the scene by police forensic investigators pointed to the suspect.

Following the arrests, Bethlehem Cluster Commander Major General Jan Tsotetsi applauded the police for their hard work.

"More humbling is the involvement of members of the community who provided information on the incidents and suspects," he said.

Burnt body found in Bronville

Staff Reporter

Bronville police are appealing to the public for any information that might help in identifying the charred body of an unknown woman that was found in an open field near the shrub at Winnie Park on Saturday.

The body was discovered at about 06:50.

Police said the deceased is estimated to be between 16 to 19 years and was wearing a black

and white sneakers, black skinny jeans, pink panties and long sleeve blouse.

The motive for the killing is unknown.

The body was burnt from the face to the feet and covered with a plastic bag.

Detective Constable Katty Motaung said Bronville police are investigating a case of murder and appealed to anyone with information to contact 072 124 0441.

Dros rape suspect 'stable' after drug overdose claims

The department of correctional services (DCS) on Monday said the man accused of raping a young girl in the bathroom of a Dros restaurant in September last year is stable in an external hospital, where he will likely be discharged soon.

"According to our records, the suspect reported at our health care facility in person for medical attention and was examined by DCS health care professionals who then recommended that he be transferred to an external medical centre for further examination," said spokesperson Singabakho Nxumalo.

"The department can confirm that the remand detainee's health is stable, waiting to be discharged back to our correctional facility."

Nxumalo said DCS had noted with dismay a statement from civil rights movement #NotInMyName alleging that the suspect overdosed on drugs.

"Sadly, DCS was never asked nor engaged by the #NotInMyName on the circumstances which may have led to the man being treated by medical professionals," said Nxumalo.

The suspect's trial has been scheduled from September 9 to 20 at the High Court in Pretoria. He was denied bail and is kept at the Kgosi Mampuru correctional facility in Pretoria.

In January, the suspect was referred for a 30-day mental evaluation mental evaluation at Weskoppies psychiatric hospital in Pretoria. He faces charges of rape, possession of drugs, assault with intent to do bodily harm and intimidation.

The accused allegedly followed the little girl from the Dros restaurant's play area to the toilets where he raped the child. The girl's mother caught him in the act after she



In court . . . Dros rape accused

went looking for her.

The court had previously heard that the man has mental issues, and has previously attempted suicide several times due to depression caused by bipolar disorder.

Police said the white powder they found on the accused was the drug Tik - medically known as methamphetamine - a potent central nervous system stimulant that is mainly used as a recreational drug. -IOL



Appearing in court . . . The 11 Maokeng suspects

Maokeng group faces public violence charge

Staff Reporter

A total of 11 people were arrested in Maokeng on Monday this week on charges of public violence, police have confirmed.

The suspects, aged between 18 and 29, were expected to appear before the Kroonstad Magistrate Court yesterday (Thurs).

Police from Welkom, Bloemfontein, and Sasolburg arrested the 11 at about 19:00 after a group of residents took to the street in protest

against the outcome of a public violence case that was postponed earlier during the day.

Angry residents started barricading all roads entering Maokeng with burning tyres, rocks and other objects. They also allegedly hit passing motor vehicles with stones.

Detective Sergeant Khobe Phiri of Executive Structure Unit said the suspects face charges of public violence.

He warned residents to refrain from blocking roads as it is against the law.

FS records nearly 4 000 new cases of HIV

By: Martin Makoni

Nearly 4 000 people in the Free State have tested HIV positive since the beginning of the year, health minister Aaron Motsoaledi has told parliament.

In a written reply, Motsoaledi said a total of 3 914 in the province have tested positive to the virus since January, an indication that more work needs to be done in promoting awareness about the epidemic.

The minister said nationally, more than 77 000 new people have tested HIV positive in the first few months of the year alone. KwaZulu-Natal recorded 21 267, the highest number of newly diagnosed HIV cases while Gauteng came second with 21 137 cases.

Free State provincial health department spokesperson Mondli Mvambi attributed the continued infections to a host of socio-economic factors including lack of information, gender based violence and the "blesser-blessee" phenomenon.

"Socio economic factors continue to affect the spread of HIV," said Mvambi in a written response to questions submitted by *The Weekly*.

"Issues of gender based violence and inequalities also have an impact. The inability to negotiate for condom use by women . . . Poor health seeking and testing behaviours by men remain a major concern and the "Blesser-blessee" phenomenon across different age groups and gender is another challenge," he added.

Mondli said in order to ensure a marked drop in new infections, the provincial health department has several intervention programmes

earmarked for key population groups such as educational campaigns targeting youths in and out of school; the distribution of male and female condoms; medical male circumcision, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs); HIV testing, initiation and retention of patients on antiretroviral treatment to ensure viral suppression; provision of Post Exposure Prophylaxis to victims of rape and sexual assault; testing of all pregnant women at first visit, and provision of ART to HIV positive women.

The department is also working to ensure HIV negative pregnant women are re-tested at every antenatal visit; elimination of mother to child transmission is less than two percent in the Free State and the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS, STIs and TB. He noted people should complement government efforts by ensuring healthy living standards and avoiding risky sexual behaviour.

"Consistent condom use by both men and women is very important as well as regular HIV testing including couple testing. There must be a culture of health seeking behaviour and testing amongst men and there should be open communication around HIV and AIDS prevention during community forums. Communities must destigmatise and support people infected and affected within communities.

"The LGBTIAQ community and sex workers should not be stigmatised as well. HIV programmes should be made available in all workplaces, including private and public sectors. Women should be capacitated in reproductive health matters and HIV preventative strategies



Encouraging responsible behaviour . . . FS health department spokesperson Mondli Mvambi

and prominent community leaders as well as civil society should be involved in disseminating HIV prevention messages," noted Mvambi.

In her State of the Province Address (SOPA) in February this year, Premier Sisi Ntombela said the Free State has adopted the triple 90 Strategy to effectively deal with the disease burden.

The strategy is aimed at ensuring that 90 percent of people living with HIV know their status, 90 percent of those who know their

status are initiated on antiretroviral medication. Another 90 percent of those on antiretrovirals should be virologically suppressed. The province, as part of a national drive, wants to achieve this by 2020.

The Premier said about 351 129 adults in the province are living with HIV and AIDS and that to date, 227 934 of them know their status. Of that number, 245 000 are on antiretrovirals and the HIV status of 141 267 people

is virally suppressed. The mother-to-child transmission rate of the virus has dropped from 1.3 percent in 2014/15 to 1.1 percent in the second quarter of 2018/19. The frequency of antenatal visits by pregnant women before 20 weeks improved from 58.6 percent in 2014/15 to 65 percent in 2018/19, according to Ntombela.

The death rate in children under one year, reportedly decreased from 14.4 to 10.9 per 1 000 live births in the 2014/15 financial year and in the 2018/19 financial year, respectively. In the same period, mortality due to acute malnutrition fell from 12.2 percent to 7.4 percent.

The 2018 mid-year population estimates released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in July last year put the country's overall HIV prevalence rate at approximately 13.1 percent. It estimated the total number of people living with HIV last year to be 7.5 million. Stats SA also said about 19 percent of adults aged 15-49 years was HIV positive. United Nations body, UNAIDS has applauded South Africa for considerable progress in its AIDS response in the past decade. It's believed more than 4.5 million people in the country were on life-saving antiretroviral therapy by the end of June 2018 which is 20 percent of the total number of people on treatment worldwide.

UNAIDS estimates show that as a result the number of AIDS-related deaths in South Africa has dropped significantly, from 200 000 in 2010 to 110 000 in 2017. However, there were 270 000 new HIV infections in 2017, including approximately 77 000 among adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years.

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 E-mail: tumi@evgafrica.co.za

**MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2013 (ACT
NO. 16 OF 2013)**

The application, relevant plans, documents and information will be available for inspection during office hours (08:30 – 15:00) at the office of the Administrator of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Room 1002, 10th Floor, Bram Fischer Building, Corner Nelson Mandela Drive and Markgraaf Street, Bloemfontein for a period of 30 days from the date of publication hereof.

Any person who has an interest in the matter or wishes to object to the granting of the application or who desires to be heard, or wants to make representations concerning the matter, must communicate in writing with the Town and Regional Planning Sub Directorate at the above-mentioned address, or e-mail: patricia.maasdorp@mangaung.co.za or post at P.O. Box 3704, Bloemfontein, within a period of 30 days from the date of publication hereof, quoting your name, address, contact details, interest in the application and reasons for your comments. Any person who cannot write will be assisted by a Municipal official by transcribing their comments.

NOTICE

a) Bloemfontein: Erf 9003 Bloemfontein Ext 55, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and consent use on the said erf. The site is located in Steven Street, Universitas, Bloemfontein.

b) Bloemfontein: Erf 9004 Bloemfontein Ext 55, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and consent use on the said erf. The site is located in Steven Street, Universitas, Bloemfontein.

c) Bloemfontein: Erf 12727 Bloemfontein Ext 76, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and consent use on the said erf. The site is located in Sergeant Street, Universitas, Bloemfontein.

d) Bloemfontein: Erf 536 Bloemfontein, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and zoning of the said erf. The site is located in Seventh Street, Arboretum, Bloemfontein.

e) Bloemfontein: Erf 8693 Bloemfontein Ext 55, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and consent use on the said erf. The site is located in Jim Fouche Street, Universitas, Bloemfontein.

f) Bloemfontein: Erf 8597 Bloemfontein Ext 99, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and consent use on the said erf. The site is located in Van Zyl Street, Universitas, Bloemfontein.

g) Bloemfontein: Erf 9069 Bloemfontein Ext 55, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and consent use on the said erf. The site is located in Pres Paul Kruger Avenue, Universitas, Bloemfontein.

h) Bloemfontein: Erf 9068 Bloemfontein Ext 55, District Bloemfontein.

It is hereby notified for general information in terms of the provisions of section 47 of Land Use Management By-law that an application has been made to remove restrictions on the title deed, and consent use on the said erf. The site is located in Pres Paul Kruger Avenue, Universitas, Bloemfontein.

ANC commits to fair play

By: Ramosidi Matekane

The ANC in the Free State has pledged to run a clean election campaign to ensure free and fair general elections on May 8.

During the signing of a code of conduct at the Masselspoort Resort in Bloemfontein last Friday, the party said citizens need to be given a chance to vote for a political party of choice without fear or intimidation.

The country's elections organising body, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) requires political parties contesting elections to sign a code of conduct with every poll.

ANC Free State provincial chairperson Sam Mashinini represented the party at the signing event.

Mashinini said the ANC has always participated meaningfully in all elections that had been declared free, fair and peaceful since 1994.

He vowed the ruling party will once more ensure all its members abide by the elections code of conduct and encourage peaceful voting.

The code requires political parties contesting elections to pledge to counsel and advise candidates on their party lists so that each will in turn propagate a message of maximum tolerance.

It also instructs contestants to publicly promote the eradication of no-go areas for campaigns by parties and to desist from using speech or actions which will have the effect of provoking other parties' supporters or members.

The IEC also urges the general public against committing acts of intolerance and calls for collective efforts in achieving the objectives and goals of the code.

Mashinini said the ANC will not deviate from its conduct in past elections and committed the ruling party to defending the right of all franchised voters to elect a political party of their choice without fear or intimidation.

"The ANC commits to upholding the provisions of the code of conduct throughout its campaigns and interactions with the people. The ANC shall at all material times abide by the rules of the code of conduct," he noted.



Pledging tolerance . . . ANC provincial chair Sam Mashinini signs pledge for fair play in the run up to elections set for May 8.

The chairman added the ANC is honoured to be part of the signatories and against all forms of violence, intimidation and speaking out against other political parties.

"The ANC views the electoral code of conduct as a reflection of the Freedom Charter which states... 'We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know, that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people'.

Mashinini further said, "Our elections have always been declared free, fair and peaceful, and

the ANC shall ensure its members fully comply with the code of conduct in the May 8 elections."

He said signing the pledge affirms the ANC's resolve to building a free, democratic, united and prosperous South Africa.

"We are convinced that, through allowing all our people the right to vote for the government of their choice, we are implementing the provisions of the Freedom Charter."

Also present for the signing of the pledge were the Democratic Alliance, Economic Freedom Fighters and pressure group, Afriforum, amongst others.

DA march cheap political gimmicks: ANC

The African National Congress (ANC) has hit back at the Democratic Alliance (DA) after the opposition party marched to ANC headquarters Luthuli House over the inclusion of controversial names on the governing party's elections list.

The DA said "thousands of South Africans" had lodged their objections to the ANC list through their website, but the ANC, in response, said they found this claim questionable.

"The arrogance of the DA in believing that they are the South African public exposes their own elitism, misplaced superiority, and their undermining of due process," the ANC said.

"The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is mandated by the Constitution and the law to administer the processes of submissions and objections to party lists. The Commission received 52 written objections. One objection was upheld by the IEC and 51 overturned.

"A further chance was given to citizens and parties to take these matters to the Electoral Court. By the close of the deadline, not one ruling of the IEC was taken to the Electoral Court," the ANC further noted.

The ANC referred to the DA's antics as cheap political gimmicks.

"Marches on each other's headquarters smack of political immaturity, extreme provocation, and interfering with the rights of campaigning. We will make a formal complaint to the IEC about this interference with our rights.

"Nonetheless, the ANC will today receive the memorandum from the DA at its party headquarters by its staff. Unfortunately, leaders of the ANC are doing real election work, which is to engage with voters on the ground," the ruling party noted.

This follows the DA's Gauteng premier candidate, Solly Msimanga, alongside DA provincial leader John Moodey, on Wednesday marching to the ANC's headquarters to deliver public objections to the party's parliamentary list.

They submitted a memorandum to oppose the inclusion of several candidates on the ANC's list which have been implicated in crimes ranging from corruption and maladministration to sexual assault.

Msimanga, who led the DA group, said the ANC leadership belonged in prison, not parliament, while handing over a bunch of orange prison jumpsuits to ANC staff.

The DA earlier said their protest was prompted by weekend reports on a ruling by the ANC's integrity committee.

"Over the weekend, reports emerged that the ANC's own integrity committee reportedly recommended the removal of, among others, David Mabuza and Gwede Mantashe. Regardless of this fact, the ANC intends to send their list of criminals, failed public representatives, corruption-tainted officials, and unrepentant thieves to parliament after [the 2019 elections]. These are people who have stolen money from citizens while corrupting government and capturing the state," the DA added.

The party handed over a memorandum with allegedly more than half a million signatures from South Africans who had issues with candidates who had been implicated in the commission of inquiry into state capture.

-Citizen

METRO MUNICIPALITY METRO MUNISIPALITEIT LEKGOTLA KA MOTSE



PUBLIC NOTICE

REHABILITATION OF FORT HARE AND MOSHOESHOE ROADS

Mangaung Metro is currently in the process of rehabilitating some of the busiest roads in the city as part of the highly anticipated Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) system.

As a result, there will be temporary lane closures and Stop & Go's along Fort Hare Road in Batho Location and Moshoeshoe Road in Phahameng from February until November 2019 for completion of the construction work. The lane closures will change throughout the project and will only be in place when necessary.

Motorists are encouraged to use Dr Belcher Road as the alternative route to Batho Location and Phahameng.

Traffic will be accommodated at all times during the project.

Mangaung Metro apologises for any inconvenience caused.

Adv. TANKISO MEA
CITY MANAGER

INVITATION TO BID

Address: 9 Muller Street East, P O Box 551 Bethlehem 9700 Tel: 058 303 5732 | Website: www.dihlabeng.gov.za

Suitable offers are hereby invited for the following bids:

Bid Name	Bid No.	Compulsory Briefing Session	Evaluation and Adjudication Criteria and Preference Points	Closing Date	Enquiries
Appointment of a financial management company for the assistance in year-end procedures: compilation of 2018/19, 2019/20 & 2020/21 annual financial statements and external audit queries for a period of three (3) years from the date of appointment.	FIN004/2019	Municipal Side Hall, corner of Muller and High Streets on the 2 nd May 2019 at 11:00	Bids will be evaluated on: • Stage 1: Responsiveness • Stage 2: Functionality • Stage 3: Financial Offer and Preference Evaluation (80/20) • Stage 4: Risk Analysis	27 th May 2019	Me L. Mosia Tel: 058 303 5732
Appointment of a service provider for the supply of Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Equipment and installation of compatible software for a period of three (3) years from the date of appointment.	FIN002B/2019	Municipal Side Hall, corner of Muller and High Streets on the 2 nd May 2019 at 10:00	Bids will be evaluated on: • Stage 1: Responsiveness • Stage 2: Functionality • Stage 3: Financial Offer and Preference Evaluation (80/20) • Stage 4: Risk Analysis	28 th May 2019	Mr L. Mabula Tel: 058 303 5732
Appointment of a service provider for printing and distribution of monthly billing statements for a period of three (3) years from the date of appointment	FIN006/2019	N/A	Bids will be evaluated on: • Stage 1: Responsiveness • Stage 2: Functionality • Stage 3: Financial Offer and Preference Evaluation (80/20) • Stage 4: Risk Analysis	20 th May 2019	Mr L. Mabula Tel: 058 303 5732

Bid documents for will be available from **12:00 on Wednesday 24th April 2019**, Bid document for upon payment of a cash non-refundable document fee of R1 000,00 per set, at the Dihlabeng Local Municipality, 9 Muller Street, Bethlehem, 9700.

Bids are to be completed in accordance with the conditions and bid rules contained in the bid documents and must be sealed together with supporting documents and externally endorsed **WITH THE CONTRACT NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION** and placed in bid box, on the Ground Floor, the Dihlabeng Local Municipality, 9 Muller Street, Bethlehem, 9700 not later than **12:00 on or before the date stipulated above.**

Bidders' attention is specifically drawn to the provisions of the bid rules and evaluation criteria (including Functionality) which are included in the bid documents. The highest or any bid will not necessarily be accepted and the Council reserves the right not to consider any bid not suitably endorsed or comprehensively completed. Bids completed in pencil will be regarded as invalid bids. Bids may only be submitted on the documentation provided by the Dihlabeng Local Municipality.

Bids will be opened in public as soon as possible after the closing time. The municipality reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time.

CUT honours Dr Blekie with Chancellor's Excellence Award

Staff Reporter

Central University of Technology (CUT) Chancellor Justice Mahube Molemela honoured Dr Ellen Blekie with the Chancellor's Excellence Award at the autumn graduations for her remarkable contribution to the community of Thaba Nchu.

Dr Blekie is the third recipient of this award since its inception in 2017. The award is conferred to individuals who have contributed profoundly to the progress of human society based on their leadership abilities demonstrated consistently and their capacity to guide and motivate others to excellence, with a proven commitment to serving and improving the community.

She distinguished herself by successfully setting up numerous community service initiatives and innovations in the area.

In her acceptance speech, Dr Blekie expressed her sincere appreciation and thanked the CUT for thinking of her contribution to society.

"I am overwhelmed and excited about what is happening," said Dr Blekie.

She added: "I would like to thank the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, the Senate and everyone at CUT for thinking of me. I never expected this. To me, I was just doing my job and helping people. I hope the students who are here will take it to heart that whatever you do someone is watching. It is up to you to see that this country is becoming a better place to live in, and I hope that you will try to have the qualities that will one day land you on this platform."

Born and bred in Nigel, Heidelberg district, Dr Ellen Blekie attended school at the Lovedale Education Centre in Alice, Eastern Cape.

Upon matriculating, she furthered her studies at the University of Fort Hare where she completed her BSc in 1953. She then joined Wits University to pursue her medical studies and was one of a small group of black women who were the very first to be allowed to study Medicine.

After completing her studies, she served as a medical doctor in Durban, Benoni and the Baragwanath hospitals. From 1968 to 1971, she was invited to work in Swaziland, where she met several exiled members of the ANC. She became part of the struggle for liberation from the apartheid regime.



Central University of Technology Chancellor Justice Mahube Molemela presenting Dr Ellen Blekie with the Chancellor's Excellence Award during the autumn graduation ceremony. The two are flanked by Professor Alfred Ngowi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, left, and Prof. David Ngidi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, right, and other academic employees

REFLECTIONS ON 2019 CUT AUTUMN GRADUATIONS

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PROUD FATHER DRAPES HIS DAUGHTER AT GRADUATIONS

Daughter of Prof. Henk de Jager, CUT's Vice-Chancellor and Principal Melandie van Heerden was among the 4 251 students who walked the stage with pride to receive her B'Tech: Project Management qualification at the autumn graduation ceremonies. This was an exciting and memorable moment for both father and daughter.

Melandie holds BA in Industrial Psychology and Psychology. The postgraduate qualification offered at CUT has a stellar reputation according to the newly capped alumna. She is Operational Manager at Sereni T People Development.

Images

1: A special moment for dad Prof. Henk de Jager, Vice-Chancellor and Principal as his daughter, Melandie van Heerden graduated with her B'Tech Project Management.

2: A proud moment for the De Jager family

as the daughter and sister graduates at the 2019 Autumn Graduations. From left: Henko (brother), Prof. Henk, Vice-Chancellor and Principal (father), graduate Melandie, and Dr Miemsie de Jager (mother).

CUT SRC PRESIDENT CELEBRATES HIS GRADUATION DAY

Leading by example and living the CUT value of excellence, Sabelo Robert Ngwenya, Student Representative Council (SRC) President also graduated with his Baccalaureus Education

(FET) Specialisation in Technology. Members of SRC were at the CUT autumn graduation ceremony to support Ngwenya during his walk across the stage.

TWO CUT GRADUATES TURN THEIR DISABILITY INTO ACHIEVEMENT

Two CUT Alumni were left wheelchair-bound during their study years when on different occasions they were in accidents that resulted in the loss of their mobility. Mojela Isaac Vena and Mbulelo Lee-John Boko became friends and

graduated on the same day, 09 April 2019. Vena graduated with his Baccalaureus Education (FET) Specialisation Technology qualification and Boko received his Baccalaureus Education (FET) Specialisation: Natural Sciences. "I never lost hope because when I started, I had a goal and a million dreams. Life threw me many curve balls, but through hard work, determination and patience I made it, look at me now," said Boko.

Message to our graduates is that they are now released to go and make a meaningful lasting impact on society.





Owed apology . . . Patricia de Lille

DA guilty of electoral misconduct

Ordered to apologise to De Lille

The Democratic Alliance (DA) has been found guilty of violating the Electoral Code of Conduct for spreading false information about former Cape Town mayor Patricia de Lille.

The information was spread via their telecasts to voters, and claimed that she was fired from the DA.

De Lille - who has since started a new party, Good - said the DA had also been ordered to issue a public apology.

Last month, De Lille and Good lodged an official complaint against the DA for being in breach of section 89(2) of the Electoral Act, and section 9(1)(b) of the Electoral Code of Conduct.

She said the offending script was brought to her attention during campaign visits to the North West, Northern Cape and Gauteng.

De Lille said at the time that the claims by the DA were designed to damage her name.

"The script provided to their call centre agents and election agents publishes false and defamatory statements about me, and their intention is to influence the outcome of the election," she said.

De Lille stepped down as mayor of Cape Town at the end of October after a lengthy

conflict with the DA, and launched Good several weeks later.

In its findings released on Monday, the commission said that the statement that De Lille was fired was false.

"This finding is based on the agreement concluded between the parties on August 4 2018 and the resignation letter of Ms De Lille, dated August 3 2018," the commission said.

The commission noted the DA, in its own submissions, admitted that "Ms De Lille resigned as mayor in exchange for the DA dropping the disciplinary charges against her".

The commission said the DA's claim that the script was not to be read out verbatim was disingenuous.

"The fact of the matter is that the script supplied to call centre operators provides guidance and direction on how to answer particular issues or questions raised by the person with whom the call centre operator is communicating.

The commission said it was a violation of the Electoral Code of Conduct for the DA to make a manifestly false statement.

"With regard to the complaint that the

canvassing script constitutes a contravention of sections 89 (1) and (2) of the Electoral Act, this is a matter for the courts to decide," the commission said.

The commission directed the DA to cease and desist from making any further false statements in relation to De Lille having been "fired" from the DA.

It also ordered the party to issue a public apology for the false statement within three days after receiving the order.

"The commission's directive ... does not limit either party's right to pursue any other remedies in the Electoral Court."

Mike Moriarty, the DA's representative at the IEC, said although it took note of the IEC's decision, the party felt the matter could be challenged.

"We are seeking legal advice in this regard," Moriarty said.

He said the DA maintained it had fired her. "We did not want her to be part of our government anymore. That is tantamount to firing her," added Moriarty. -*Timeslive*

Gauteng vows to stamp out school violence

The Gauteng provincial government has promised to stamp out crime and violence at schools, saying school premises had become a battleground.

Gauteng MEC for community safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, said Tuesday: "Gauteng schools have become terrains prone to crime and violent incidents, this is a threat to the successful achievement of educational goals.

"Many schools are grappling with increasing disciplinary issues, while at the same time society is struggling to understand the complex factors that are creating fresh generations of these unruly behaviour," she said ahead of a crucial summit called to address the issues plaguing Gauteng schools.

Amid recent violent incidents in Gauteng schools, questions have been raised as to whether parents, teachers and the community were losing the battle in raising disciplined children.

The Gauteng government has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders to address the ongoing instability and agreed to hold a school safety summit under the theme "Safer schools to support learning and teaching."

According to the provincial government, at all forums stakeholders have agreed that such an intervention is long overdue and pledged their support for a coordinated initiative to rescue the education system.

The summit which will be held at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre this week is expected to address topics such as improving classroom teaching and learner performance, how to bring back a climate of

discipline, safety and social cohesion in schools, ways of improving school governance and management, and ensuring a political climate that fosters a spirit of learning and teaching.

"These problems persist despite the South African Police Service, the Gauteng Department of Education and Department of Community Safety having several Safer Schools initiatives in operation," Nkosi-Malobane said.

Research has shown that violence in schools, such as bullying, physical violence and sexual abuse, often have negative effects on mental health, physical health, sense of well-being, sense of social isolation, depression, frustration and academic achievement.

It also indicated that 57% of South African students have been bullied at some time during their high school careers.

"Our schools used to be institutions of academic excellencies and one of the safest places for learners and teachers. However, in recent times our schooling environment has become a haven for learners to commit criminal elements."

Nkosi-Malobane said the recent incidents of bullying, gangsterism and serious violent crime such as murder were nerve-wrecking and must not be allowed to prevail.

"These problems make learners and educators feeling unsafe and negatively affect the development of learners as well as teachers doing their jobs effectively and efficiently. I call upon the teachers, the members of the community and the law enforcement agencies to rid learners of this inhumane behaviour.

'SOEs shouldn't get bailouts'

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) in SA that have had billions of rand looted through state capture should not be bailed out by the central bank even as they pose a significant fiscal risk, Reserve Bank governor Lesetja Kganyago says.

"The challenge of dealing with too-big-to-fail SOEs, of combining cash injections with conditionality measures, needs to be dealt with by the elected authorities - as it has been in the latest budget from the National Treasury," Kganyago said in an e-mailed copy of a speech on Tuesday.

The Bank's "power to say no was greatly enhanced by its independence," he said.

At least seven SOEs are "either on their knees or touching the carpet" as institutions were damaged due to state capture, public enterprises minister Pravin Gordhan said in February.

As much as R500bn has probably left SA due to state capture, he said, as the government announces a record R69bn bailout for power utility Eskom to help it service its obligations.

Credit-ratings companies have singled out the central bank's independence as a sign of

institutional strength in the country. The ruling ANC wants to nationalise the Reserve Bank, one of the few worldwide that is owned by private investors.

President Cyril Ramaphosa says the move to bring it under the control of its citizens will affirm SA's sovereignty.

"A small portion of leaders are bad, and if you understand probability, then you know sooner or later most countries will get a bad leader," Kganyago said.

He added: "There is nothing undemocratic about buying some insurance against this eventuality, and independent central banks, like judiciaries, are useful parts of those insurance policies." -*Bloomberg*

Social ills part of apartheid legacy: ANC

The ANC says South Africa's social ills are part of the legacy of apartheid.

The party said this at its manifesto briefing on Social Cohesion and Moral Regeneration on Sunday. The briefing was part of its series of manifesto engagements.

"The ANC leadership recognise the deteriorated moral fibre and social ills which is the part of the legacy of apartheid," chairperson of the ANC's culture and religious affairs sub-committee, Mathole Motshekga said.

Motshekga said in order for the social ills to be addressed, a social movement for renewal was now in place, and would be complemented by the resuscitation of the gender machinery.

He noted a team of 15 women have been appointed to review gender machinery in South Africa, followed by an open conversation with women organisations to tackle the gender based violence, femicide, and drug and alcohol abuse.

The establishment of the team was an indication that the ANC is committed to creating safer communities for women and children.

"The 2019 elections are taking place against the backdrop of the ANC's 25 years in government. The ANC is celebrating a break from a pariah past of colonial and apartheid oppression, that had a scant regard to fundamental human rights, including the right human dignity. At the very heart of the colonial and apartheid project was

the conviction to compartmentalise South Africa along racial and ethnic lines," said Motshekga.

Motshekga also touched on the party's 2019 manifesto saying the party remained committed to, development and promotion of indigenous languages and would sponsor legislation that dealt with hate crimes and ensured that there was unreserved enforcement once enacted into law.

He said the hate crimes referred to would include the broader spectrum such as those perpetrated on account of the victim's race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation (and sexual identity), or albinism, among others.

"In the next term, the ANC will fast-track the promotion and implementation of indigenous language programmes, including finalisation of language legislation in provinces for inclusion in the school curriculum."

The ANC would also be taking particular care in the memorialisation of all veterans of the liberation struggle - those sung and unsung.

Motshekga said the move was all about changing the meta historical narrative that was white and eurocentric.

"In so doing, it is to say, we too matter. Some distinguished amongst them will have been conferred with national orders - and some are still to be identified for this honour," he said. -*News24*

Cape Town nurse uses her pension to open clinic

A Cape Town nurse has left her job to open her own clinic using her pension money.

Olivia Pharo, 49, from Saxon Sea, worked at the Wesfleur State Hospital for almost 24 years but took a leap of faith to assist her community.

She says on March 1, on the day her nursing career kicked off exactly 29 years ago, she opened Sister Pharo's Clinic in the Atlantis City Centre building in Wesfleur Circle.

"I handed in my resignation last year in September because I just had enough of the bad service residents in our community were receiving," Sister Pharo says.

"I was in a managerial position and having to deal with all the complaints and the staff crisis and I just got so irritated."

Sister Pharo, who is married with two daughters aged 18 and 22, says it has always been her dream to open a healthcare facility that caters to the needs of all residents.

"I left the hospital and never could I ever have imagined I would be leaving with a big smile on my face," she says.

"I have an amazing team assisting me who share the same vision as I do."

These are three qualified nurses, two administrative clerks, one assistant clerk and a cleaner work at the clinic, which operates from Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm and Saturdays from 9am until 2pm.

"I have been funding the clinic from my own pocket using my retirement fund. I wanted the clinic to be seen as a one-stop shop for all your needs.

"I am fortunate enough to have landed an investor, after he heard my story from someone."

Most services are free but patients do have to pay for certain things, like pap smears, as it requires outside lab work.

Services include everything patients would receive at a traditional clinic, like diabetic and TB care, family planning and pregnancy, but

they also have a dial-a-nurse programme.

"Many people do not have transport to get to the hospital, so they call us and we go out to their homes and assess the patients and treat them as best as we can," Sister Pharo adds.

Admin clerk Pieter Pieriga, 47, says the support from the community has been overwhelming.

"Since March 1, we have seen over 250 patients, young and old," Pieter says.

Resident Marianne Isaacs, 38, says she initially went to the clinic for family planning, but the caring nurses discovered she had a bladder infection and treated her for that as well.

She could not stop raving about the great service, saying: "A definite 10 out of 10. I will most definitely be back." -*Daily Voice*



CT's Florence Nightingale . . . Olivia Pharo

Quality thesis lands Durban scholar a PhD at 25

Durbanite Sulaiman Saleem Patel was the youngest graduate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal to be awarded his PhD in electrical engineering.

The 25-year-old was awarded his PhD after his master's thesis was deemed to be at the level of a doctoral thesis.

Having earned his BSc in engineering, Patel registered for his Master's in electronic engineering, specialising in wireless communication.

Patel was 24 when he submitted his Master's thesis called "Uncoded Space-Time Labelling Diversity: Data Rate and Reliability Enhancements and Application to Real-World Satellite Broadcasting".

However, due to the high standard of his work, examiners recommended he transition directly to a PhD.

Patel said his first real exposure to the field was when he made the decision in Grade 10 at Durban High School to study information technology.

"There's an indescribable feeling that comes with taking an idea, implementing it and seeing

it work in the real world. I first experienced that feeling after completing my first programming project in IT class," recounted Patel.

As an engineer, Patel strives to be less foolish today than he was yesterday. Regarding wireless communications, the internet has revolutionised how people live, interact and conduct business.

Hailing from Sherwood, Patel said he was not raised in an affluent family and his academic drive and perseverance stemmed from him fighting to secure bursaries.

"I wanted to ease the financial pressure placed on my parents, it subsequently became a habit thereafter.

"Every accolade I have today is because of their sacrifices, and no matter where life takes me, I will always remember that I started off as a humble kid behind the shop counter of my parents' store," noted Patel.

Dr Tahmid Quazi, one of Patel's supervisors, said PhDs generally take around three years, however Patel was allowed to build on the foundations of his Master's thesis. -*SundayTribune*



Tipped for victory . . . President Cyril Ramaphosa

Nkadimeng family endorses ANC

The family of ANC veteran John 'Joe' Nkadimeng has endorsed the ANC for the upcoming May 8 general elections.

This took place at the stalwart's house in Johannesburg, after ANC president Cyril Ramaphosa bestowed the highest honour of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe to the 92-year-old. In the family's acceptance speech by Nkadimeng's daughter, Shirley, she said they were behind the ANC and confident that the party would retain power post the elections.

"All we can say is ... we know that there is no doubt that the ANC is going to take it. It is going to win and we wish leaders success as they go around campaigning and we are behind you," said Shirley.

"We are so humbled to be in this occasion and it is very emotional for us, my mom, my father, my brothers and my sisters to finally witness something as great as this accolade.

"We really appreciate it. It goes to show that the selfless contribution that my dad made to

the struggle for freedom has paid off. When you plant a seed there is time to grow and then there is pruning time and then there is time for harvest and I think now is the time for my father to reap the fruits of the hard work he has put towards the struggle," added Shirley.

Ramaphosa was accompanied by four other members of the ANC top six, with only deputy president David Mabuza missing in action.

National chairman of the governing party Gwede Mantashe thanked Nkadimeng for his role in the struggle against apartheid.

Said Mantashe: "Thank you JJ [Nkadimeng] for all the work you have done. You have built the ANC, you have built the Communist Party and you built everything and that is why this award befits you in all respects.

"You were selfless, you gave it and we are where we are because of your efforts and we are grateful to your contribution and we are hoping we can take the ANC to new heights with hard work," he added. *-Timeslive*

Cyril dismisses speculation about his impending removal

ANC president Cyril Ramaphosa has responded to EFF leader Julius Malema's claims that he would lose the ANC internal battle during the party's national general council (NGC).

Ramaphosa said Malema was talking "fables" just like those who had said he was going to lose in the ANC conference in Nasrec where he was elected president.

The president was talking on the sidelines of an ANC rally held in Swaneville in Kagiso on the West Rand on Saturday.

"There are fables, all sorts of fables as there were fables as we were going to Nasrec saying 'that one is history he will never win and is going to be crushed,'" said Ramaphosa.

"There are many fables around town but what we do is to carry on with the work we have been given by our conference, that is all that guides me," he noted.

ANC acting spokesperson Dakota Lekgoete added that Malema's assertion was just "wishful thinking".

During the rally, Ramaphosa promised people that the ANC government would create jobs and build them houses.

The joblessness scourge, he said, was a global phenomenon not only affecting South Africa.

Ramaphosa said it was "of great concern" that nine million South Africans were jobless.

"When we came into government in 1994, there were only 8 million employed in the country but the ANC has created jobs and doubled that. Today we have 16 million people with jobs," he said.

The ANC government had also increased social grants for the elderly to R1,780 monthly from the R500 they got every three months under the apartheid government.

"That is the gift that our father Nelson Mandela gave us because it is him, as the first democratic government president, who started it to address poverty," added Ramaphosa. *-Timeslive*

APC aiming for one million votes

The African People's Convention aims to garner at least a million votes out of the more than 26 million registered voters in the May 8 general elections, APC leader Themba Godi said on Saturday.

"The issue for us striving for a million votes is a decision of the central executive committee of the APC... with a million votes we will have at least 25 seats in the national assembly and representation in all the nine provinces. This we believe will be a good enough number for us to have a substantive impact on government policy and governance issues," he said while on the campaign trail in Motlhabe, about 83km from Rustenburg in the Moses Kotane municipality.

The ACP obtained 30,676 votes in 2014, giving the party one seat in the national assembly, less than the 35,867 votes it received in the 2009 general elections. In the North West, the APC increased its share of the votes to 4398 in 2014 compared to 3744 in 2009.

Godi told party supporters in Motlhabe that Africans had not benefited from the gains of

democracy over the past 25 years.

"The economic trajectory in the country has not been changed. The majority party has not been able to transform the economy. For the past 25 years the majority party has always sought to appease white people and what has happened is that it is the Indians in the main who have taken advantage of the democratic space to move up in the economy ladder.

"It is this two groupings which constitute about ten percent of the population that has possibly benefited from this democracy," he claimed.

In its 2019 elections manifesto, the ACP commits to good governance, fighting corruption, transforming the economy, creating jobs, and delivering basic service to the people.

Godi also did a walkabout at the Moruleng and Boitekong malls.

On Sunday he will attend a church service at the Apostolic Church in Itsooseng, near Lichtenburg, before conducting a door-to-door campaign at Tlhabologang in Coligny. *-ANA*

Mzansi laughs off Maimane's 'muti' photo

There is less than one month left until the 2019 general elections and politicians are pulling out all the stops to get South Africans to vote for them.

From singing and dancing to handing out cash on door-to-door campaigns, politicians have been busier than ever.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane is the latest to send Twitter into overdrive after a picture of him standing outside an "African muti" shop was shared by President Cyril Ramaphosa's spokesperson Khusela Diko.

It's unclear when the picture was taken or if it was taken in KwaZulu-Natal, where Maimane is currently on the campaign trail.

Tweeps wasted no time to share their hilarious responses to the picture, with some suggesting that Maimane was visiting a sangoma out of desperation to win the upcoming elections. These are some of the hilarious reactions. *-Timeslive*



'Desperate measures' . . . DA leader Mmusi Maimane

DA wants campaign posters removed

The Democratic Alliance wants the EFF, GOOD, ACDP and Cape Party's election posters removed and replaced in the Western Cape for "not complying with electoral law".

News24 has seen a letter the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) sent to the Cape Party indicating that there had been a complaint that the parties were not complying with the Electoral Act.

The letter of complaint states that "the DA alleges that the lamp-pole posters that you have erected in the Western Cape are not compliant with Section 107 of the Act, that your posters do not display the name and address of the printer and publishers of the posters, as required in terms of the Act".

It continues: "We hereby request that you remove the posters from the lamp poles with immediate effect."

Section 107 of the Act states that, among other requirements, "any printed matter intending to affect the outcome of an election must state clearly the full name and address of the printer and publisher".

GOOD party secretary general Brett Herron responded to the complaint by saying that: "Clearly the DA is feeling threatened by the competitive campaign. I guess the fact that we erected such great posters so quickly surprised

them. Well, I have news for them - we have more great posters coming."

Herron said the DA's complaint - sent in a letter signed by DA provincial manager Ananda Nel - was "frivolous".

"We have informed the IEC that we will rectify the oversight - by pasting a small sticker on each poster which complies with the regulations. The sticker says the posters are issued and printed by GOOD."

Jack Miller, leader of the Cape Party - a political party which is campaigning for the Western Cape to secede from South Africa and become a separate republic - called the DA's complaint a "pathetic legal matter".

He accused the party of trying to "silence opposition voices" and said they would be taking legal action and submitting a counter-claim to the IEC.

If there is an infringement, it must be dealt with

However, DA national spokesperson Solly Malatsi denied claims that the party was attempting to silence opposition parties, saying "nothing could be further from the truth".

"If there is an infringement of the electoral process, then that must be dealt with so that campaigning can take place fairly."

Malatsi said the party was not aware of any

counter-claim, saying "it is the responsibility of the IEC".

If found that there is an infringement of the same section of the Electoral Act, Malatsi said the DA would "robustly respond to that".

'Complaint was written by an excited junior typist'

Miller maintained that the DA's allegations were unfounded.

"We believe the DA has launched this attack against the Cape Party because they fear that the people of the Western Cape are resonating with our message of an independent Cape. We are winning over the support of former DA voters, and so we are a threat to their dictatorship. They want us gone.

"We believe that we comply with the regulations and, what is even more embarrassing for the DA is that our research suggests that they are guilty of breaking the very same law they claim against us. We have not seen any printer details on their posters," Miller added.

EFF general secretary Godrich Gardee said he had spoken to DA federal council chairperson James Selfe, who was "not aware of the complaint", adding that "the probability is that the complaint was written by an excited junior typist". *-DM*

Public must be disabused of EFF lies: Manuel



War path . . . Trevor Manuel and Julius Malema

Former finance minister Trevor Manuel has asked the Gauteng High Court to urgently hear his application - before 1 May - to demand that the EFF desists from defaming him in relation to his role in interviewing a new SA Revenue Service commissioner.

"I have contracted the time periods required. I have done so because it is urgent that the public be disabused of the lies the EFF is perpetrating," says Manuel in court papers before the Gauteng High Court. He has called it a "semi-urgent" application.

"Mr (Edward) Kieswetter assumes office on May 1, 2019. I believe it is in the best interests of SARS, and therefore in the public interest, that there should be no cloud hanging over his appointment process, and no doubts as to whether he was appointed as a result of a nepotistic process."

The defamation suit relates to a statement by the EFF in March in which the party's spokesman Mbuyiseni Ndlozi said that the process of appointing Kieswetter had been "corrupt", "nepotistic" and in which he alleged "secret interviews to select the SARS Commissioner".

In a letter to the EFF on 2 April, lawyer Dario Milo, acting for Manuel, demanded that the EFF desist from making further defamatory statements, that it remove the defamatory statements from Twitter and other media and that it apologise unconditionally and retract the allegations.

The party refused and the case is now headed to court. Manuel will ask the court to compel the EFF to remove the offending statement from their media platforms and to interdict and restrain the respondents from "publishing substantially the same false and defamatory statements about me again".

"Given the respondents' continued publication of the statements, I also ask that the respondents be ordered to publish an unconditional public retraction of, and apology

for allegations made about me in the statements."

Manuel is claiming monetary compensation from the EFF for damage to his reputation and says that should he be awarded damages, he will donate the entire amount to a worthy organisation. "Given the respondents' stubborn refusal to remove the statement (despite the clear absence of any factual basis) I ask for attorney and client costs."

The case is the first which references the power of Twitter and the social media influence of the EFF which has the biggest digital political footprint of all South African parties.

"The EFF, Dr (Mbuyiseni) Ndlozi and Mr (Julius) Malema wield a considerable amount of public influence. Their statements have a reach far greater than ordinary members of the South African public," says Manuel. He adds: "This influence was exacerbated by the fact that they used Twitter to publish the information. The EFF has over 725 000 Twitter followers. The defamatory tweet was also "retweeted" 237 times from the EFF Twitter account. The statement would thus also have appeared automatically to each person that follows each of the 237 users that retweeted it.

"Mr Malema also tweeted the statement. He has over two million Twitter followers. Accordingly, the statement would have appeared automatically to each of these two million people... clearly, the effect is exponential."

After reporter Annika Larsen tweeted Manuel's first statement opposing the EFF statement, Malema replied: "He can go to hell, we are not scared of him."

Manuel says the statement injures his name, reputation and standing in society. "I would like to make myself available to serve my country in some or other capacity in future. But the statement makes it less likely that I could ever do so, for it says that I acted in a corrupt and nepotistic manner. This is deeply unjust to me, but also, I believe, does a disservice to the

country, which will lose the benefit of a person who has always been committed to serving it."

The EFF has refused to apologise or to take down its statement. Instead, the party has demanded further details of why Manuel recused himself from interviewing Kieswetter.

He chaired the panel to make a recommendation to President Cyril Ramaphosa of a SARS Commissioner.

The panel consisted of seven interviewers which included Judge Dennis Davis, business leaders and lawyers. Manuel recused himself because he has a relationship with Kieswetter but still observed the interview. His papers note that Kieswetter had the support of the entire panel.

The EFF wants to know why Manuel stayed on as an observer during the interview and the party's lawyers have tabled a long list of requests for information detailing the relationship between the two men.

Earlier, the EFF alleged that the two men had a business relationship which Manuel denied and said that they had not even served on a non-profit organisation's board together.

The EFF is facing a number of significant court cases related to its harsh political rhetoric. The South African National Editors Forum is pursuing a hate speech case against the party in the Equality Court. The professor of journalism Anton Harber and the SABC economics editor Thandeka Gqubule have asked the High Court to interdict the party and force it to apologise for calling them "Stratcom" agents. Stratcom was the apartheid security branch disinformation and dirty tricks campaign using the media.

Leading journalists Karima Brown and Adriaan Basson have both laid criminal complaints against EFF supporters who abused them online. Brown also has a case against the party in terms of the Electoral Code after Malema publicised her telephone number, after which she received rape and other violent threats. *-DM*

Scholarship for women engineers launched

The University of Johannesburg vice-chancellor and principal Professor Tshilidzi Marwala has launched the Tshiano Marwala scholarship for women in honour of his grandmother.

The scholarship is targeted towards women from underprivileged backgrounds who are pursuing studies with a focus on fourth industrial revolution-related (4IR) studies at postgraduate level.

Prof Marwala, himself a professional engineer and one of the country's leading experts in 4IR, said his late grandmother Tshiano Marwala was his first engineering teacher and his inspiration.

"Vho-Tshiano Marwala did not go to university in the US to study mechanical engineering as I did," he said.

"She did not go to the University of Cambridge in England to study for a doctorate in artificial intelligence (AI) as I did. She never even left South Africa. Despite these limitations, she taught me engineering at an early age. She taught me how to predict the failure of buildings in advance," Marwala recalls.

Born in 1925 at Makhonde village in Venda, Limpopo, Tshiano Marwala was popular as a skilled artisan and a traditional engineer who made floor mats using reeds and clay pots -

an art rich in lessons for engineering, such as supply-chain management, metallurgy, applied mathematics, thermodynamics, and AI.

"Even though she didn't go to school, my grandmother's understanding of scientific principles such as vibration to assess clay pots was outstanding. She was able to apply the annealing process without knowing the Boltzmann equation invented by the Austrian scientist, Ludwig Boltzmann," Marwala said.

He explained the aim of the scholarship was to grow the number of women in the engineering field.

"South African women have made many advances in industry in recent years, but much more work needs to be done to attract and retain women, particularly in areas such as engineering," he said.

"The search for qualified and talented engineers remains one of the greatest challenges faced by companies across the globe. Even greater difficulty is experienced in attracting and retaining women engineers who comprise of a small percent of the available workforce in the sector. It's important that women are visible in all areas of study, especially as we embrace 4IR." -ANA



Gone for good . . . The video of 'Elliot' and Alph Lukau went viral, ultimately leading to fraud complaints and the man fleeing South Africa.

'Resurrection man' took his secrets to the grave'

Brighton "Elliot" Moyo - on the run after being exposed as the lead character in a "resurrection" drama involving a self-proclaimed prophet - succumbed to pneumonia after fleeing to Zimbabwe.

TimesLIVE retraced his journey home after the scandal to a remote Zimbabwean village in Lupane, Matabeleland North. The closest urban centre is Bulawayo, over 150km south.

There, Moyo was known as Thabiso Mlanje, 28, who in his formative years at the local Gogo Primary School was known for his football skills. He took the name Brighton Moyo when he got to South Africa.

Unbeknown to his grandmother and everyone back home, he became infamous for taking part in a "resurrection" ceremony performed by Congolese preacher Alph Lukau of Alleluia Ministries.

"He went to South Africa in 2011 to look for a job. He married a girl from a nearby village. When they had children, they sent them back home and we never knew what he was up to ... what we are being told now," said Emily Moyo, his grandmother.

The revelation came after Thabiso succumbed to pneumonia at the local referral hospital, St Luke's. His relatives had known for some time that he was not in good health, with news filtering through that he had been bedridden in South Africa.

His death certificate record is 49/19 - meaning that he was the 49th person to die at the rural hospital this year.

"Now when I look at it, the time he was said to have been resurrected is the time he had been in hospital in Johannesburg. I think he was a perfect candidate because he had shed a lot of weight," said his grandmother.

His brother, Stanley Mlanje, who also works in South Africa, said Thabiso did not get proper healthcare in South Africa because he had been on the run from police since the resurrection scandal. That's why he agreed with his wife to go home to find some peace and quiet.

"He always ran away from hospital when he heard there were police around. It was in connection with the 'miracles'. We decided not to ask him about it because we wanted him to fully recover. I guess the truth has gone with

him," said Stanley.

Moyo is survived by his wife, Simelweyinkosi, and two children, aged six and four.

His wife distanced herself from the resurrection fiasco.

"What he did during his spare time is not my business. I am not in a position to talk about that issue because I am in the dark. With him gone, we will never know the truth - but I have to go back to South Africa, where I work," she said.

"He died three days after he was admitted in hospital with severe pneumonia," she noted.

According to media reports in Zimbabwe, the police visited his relatives after the burial to ask questions in connection with the "miracle" scandal in South Africa.

Police spokesperson Siphiwe Makonese confirmed that they got wind that a fugitive from the justice system had been buried in the area.

"The deceased had a case to answer in South Africa, where he is understood to have fled from. It was standard procedure from the police to find out how and why they housed someone on the run," she said. -Timeslive



Strong warning . . . Minister Bheki Cele

Poll violence will be dealt with harshly: Minister Cele

Police minister Bheki Cele said that security cluster officials have contingency plans for violent protests ahead of and during the national elections, and those who cause havoc will be dealt with harshly.

Cele said police officers are ready to quell violent protests and will ensure that the upcoming poll is held under peaceful conditions.

The police minister was speaking during a current affairs show on Ukhozi FM on Monday morning.

Violent protests have taken place in areas ranging from Alexandra and Tshwane in Gauteng, to the eThekweni municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, as well as in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape.

Three weeks ago angry mobs in Durban raided homes and businesses of foreign nationals and burnt trucks, complaining that local companies were employing foreign nationals and drivers at the expense of locals.

Political analysts say residents see this period as an opportunity to voice their grievances as politicians and parties are more likely to listen to their demands.

"We want to warn communities that while everyone has a right to peaceful protest, those who burn and destroy private and public property and prevent others from exercising their rights, including a right to vote, will be dealt with severely," Cele said.

Ministers and officials from the security cluster, including intelligence, home affairs and defence met last week to discuss the service delivery protests and contingency plans for ensuring that elections are peaceful.

Cele noted hot spots have been identified and a team made up of officials from different departments and other state agencies would be working together with the electoral commission of SA to ensure that voting districts are secured and are fully operational throughout the country.

He added the contingency plan would be operational during the period leading up to the elections and would cover the aftermath of the polls, until after the presidential inauguration.

Cele dismissed a report that tensions between

himself and police commissioner Khehla Sitole have reached fever pitch and the two are not on speaking terms.

A City Press report two weeks said the friction between the two escalated after Sitole suspended Lt-Gen Christine Mgwanya, the deputy national commissioner for human resources management. The report suggested that Mgwanya was close to Cele, having served as his chief of staff when he was national police commissioner between 2009 and 2011.

"I don't know where is that report coming from because I have a cordial relationship with the police commissioner. Due to our respective roles, the two of us have to meet every two weeks and we do so. During these meetings, we discuss ways to tackle crime in the country. We get along very well and I don't know from where the reporters invented the stories that we are at loggerheads," Cele explained.

He also said Sitole informed him before serving Mgwanya a notice to suspend her and even informed him when he had suspended her. "I have had no problem with that."

Cele said he felt vindicated after last Tuesday's order of the North Gauteng High Court setting aside former president Jacob Zuma's decision to fire him in 2012 when he was national police commissioner.

The ruling brought to an end a seven-year effort by Cele to clear his name after his dismissal in relation to procurement of accommodation for the SA Police Service.

"I feel that a huge weight has been taken away from my shoulders because I was vilified and accused of all sorts of things, including corruption.

"Now that the decision has been set aside, perhaps it is time that you guys, the media, go to those people who took the decision and ask them why they took it because clearly the court does not see the rationality of their decision.

"I am happy that many South Africans stood by my side throughout my ordeal. They supported me and they still support me now as I embark on this new journey to fight crime in this country," Cele said. -BusinessDay

Planning for rapid urbanisation crucial for safety

In order to create safer cities, governance structures need to look beyond policing and take an integrated approach that recognises the social and structural drivers of crime and violence.

This was the key message of the SA Safer Cities Network which launched its third report on urban safety at the Metropolitan Centre building in Johannesburg on Thursday last week.

The launch, attended by Deputy Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Andries Nel and Johannesburg member of the mayoral committee for public safety Michael Sun, as well as representatives of the eight metros that make up the Cities Network, called on cities to recognise the role that inequality plays in safety.

Furthermore, according to the report, safety promotion strategies and interventions must be evidence-based to have a sustainable impact.

The report identified 11 social and structural drivers of crime in the cities - rapid population growth, social incoherence/family disruption, poverty, income inequality, youth unemployment, deprivation of services, informal housing, infrastructure, school conditions, violence, and last, access to alcohol, drugs and firearms.

Despite ranking first among the cities for most urbanisation factors (rapid population growth and social incoherence) Johannesburg performs relatively well for the objective indicators of crime. This may be in part because it ranks number one for police activity.

Relative to other cities, robbery is Johannesburg's key crime problem, with 435 cases reported per 100,000 people, followed by assault at 295 cases per 100,000.

Cape Town performs well compared to the other cities in terms of poverty, income inequality and youth unemployment, but has the highest rates of murder (69 murders per 100,000), robbery (484 per 100,000) and property-related crimes (1,475 per 100,000). Therefore, understandably, Cape Town residents reported experiencing more crime/violence and feeling more unsafe compared with residents in other cities. They are also the second-least

satisfied with law enforcement, after residents of Buffalo City.

The 2016/17 report suggested that what might be driving the increase of crime in Cape Town is the disproportionate access to alcohol, drugs and firearms, which is more than double that of other cities.

Nel said it is key to take note where most of the murders in Cape Town occur - in townships. He said this was another remnant of apartheid.

Ekurhuleni did relatively well compared with other cities. It has the lowest rate of property-related crime and the highest percentage (66%) of residents who are satisfied with law enforcement. Its challenges lie in urbanisation factors, such as rapid population growth (which is at a similar level to Cape Town), as well as income inequality and informal housing.

Among the nine cities, Ekurhuleni is ranked second (after Johannesburg) for income inequality at 0.651 per 100,000 and second (after Buffalo City) for informal housing, which makes up 19% of the housing there.

Tshwane has the lowest rates of contact crimes - murder (17 per 100,000), assault (207 per 100,000) and sexual offences (58 per 100,000) of all the nine cities - but has fairly high levels of property-related crime (coming third after Cape Town and Buffalo City) with 1,074 incidences per 100,000.

Compared to the other cities, residents of Tshwane feel the safest, but are not correspondingly satisfied with law enforcement - only 50% are satisfied, which is a similar level to satisfaction with law enforcement in Cape Town (49%).

Researcher for the Cities Network Sipelele Ngobese stressed the need for this data as it would result in targeted strategies in the effort to combat violence and crime in cities. Furthermore, she said the research can be used "as a tool for advocacy" in this regard.

One of the findings of the report was that, nationally, there has been an increase in violent crimes such as robbery at residential homes, as well as carjackings. According to the report, failures of policing, with crime intelligence

operations that are failing to dismantle organised criminal networks and police who are poorly equipped to catch perpetrators, could be one of the reasons for this.

Ngobese said the increases in violent crimes could also be a result of a phenomenon known as "target hardening". Essentially, increased security, such as a higher wall around your home, increases the desire of someone to commit a crime and to do so more aggressively. She noted that this was proof that security doesn't necessarily equate to safety.

Nel said rapid urbanisation - two-thirds of South Africans now live in urban areas - is a huge factor in high crime rates in South African cities. He said that "there is a commitment in our national development plan to pursue evidence-based policies. And this report helps us to do exactly that".

Nazira Cachalia, manager of the City of Joburg's Safety Programme, said the report is very important for the work they do as it "begins to help cities plan financially (with regard to implementing safety and security measures), as this data is released before the financial year" in contrast to official police crime statistics that are released during the financial year.

Cachalia also stressed that collaborative efforts from provincial and national counterparts would go a long way in assisting cities to create a safer environment.

Tshwane Metro Police Department director Aline Birkenstock offered an alternative to rapid urbanisation, saying that government should look at improving rural areas so that they are on a par with urban areas.

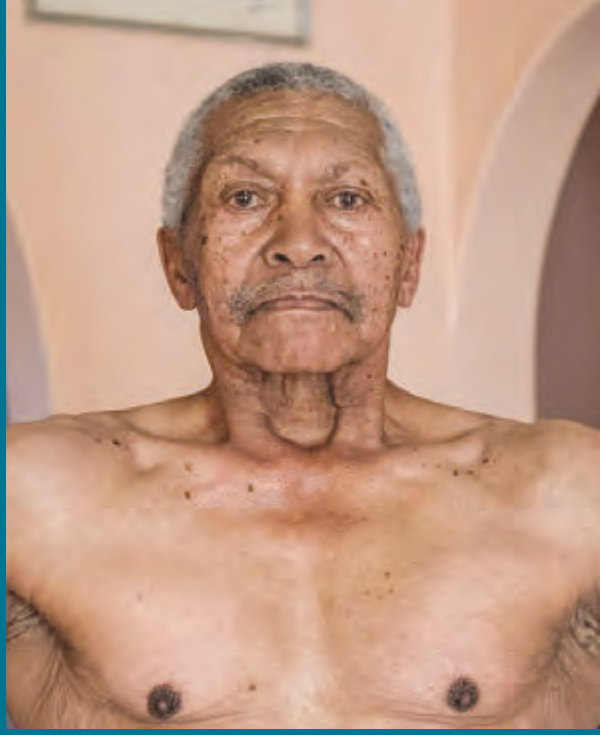
However, Nel countered that "no amount of rural development will stop urban migration" as it is something that has been around for centuries, and it is not unique to South Africa.

Ekurhuleni Deputy Police Chief Goodman Mzolo stressed the need to focus on safety in the process of town planning. He said that when structures such as malls are built, the open spaces that surround the structure "are left unlit and usually surrounded by trees", but are neglected as a possible safety hazard. -DM

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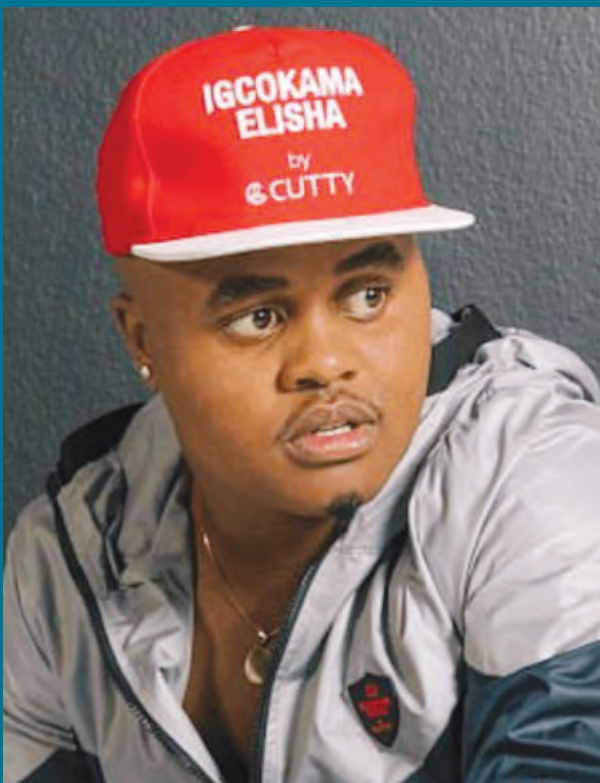
CONVERSATIONS

BODYBUILDER, 80, CONTINUES TO DEFY ALL



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MASKANDI ARTIST NAMES ALBUM 'DOG STYLE'



PAGE 12

ONE ON ONE WITH LUNGILE DUKWANA



PAGE 16

TACKLING THE HIGH PRICE OF MEDICINE

US citizens pay about six times what Europeans do for insulin, the cost of which has almost tripled over a decade in that country, according to the American Diabetes Association.

Meanwhile, Humira, the most popular arthritis medicine in the US, costs patients in the region of \$50,000 (R700,000) a year, and pharmaceutical company AbbVie has lodged an astounding 136 patents to keep competitors away.

"A patient could fly first class to Paris, stay at the Ritz, dine at a top Michelin restaurant, buy a one-year supply of Humira at local prices in France, fly back home and finish with enough profit to hire a registered nurse to administer the injection every two weeks," according to rheumatologist Dr Lonnie Hanauer in a recent letter to *The New York Times*.

Anne-Marie O'Connor, also writing in *The New York Times*, says that her life-saving asthma inhaler cost \$100 in the US, but only slightly more than \$9 in London.

Doctors without Borders (MSF) reports that Tunisia and Morocco pay more for the pneumonia vaccine than France does.

How pharmaceutical companies set the prices of their medicines is surrounded in secrecy, but their general approach seems to be to make them as high as the various markets allow.

Over the past few years, both the United Nations and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have launched global initiatives to reduce medicine prices – the latest being the WHO's second Fair Price Forum, which ended its meeting in Johannesburg on Saturday.

But stopping pharmaceutical companies from profiteering from sick people is complicated. Lack of transparency about how prices are arrived at – including how much research and development of new medicines and production costs – is a key obstacle. How do you dismantle something that is constructed out of secrets?

As with the first Fair Price Forum two years ago in Amsterdam, the Johannesburg participants – from governments, civil society and the pharmaceutical industry – grappled with this lack of transparency, as well as the price negotiations countries engage in with pharmaceutical companies, which are often smothered by confidentiality clauses.

"There was consensus that countries can take an initial step towards fostering greater transparency by sharing price information," the WHO noted in a media statement issued on Saturday night after the forum.

"Countries from the so-called Beneluxa network have already joined forces to share such information, and the results have been promising. The data highlights discrepancies in what different countries are paying and can serve as a powerful tool to negotiate reduced prices."

The forum also discussed other examples of how countries could collaborate to lower medicine prices, including



High costs . . . Stopping pharmaceutical companies from profiteering from sick people is reportedly complicated

"pooled procurement".

"If several countries in the same region purchase medicines as a block, they can negotiate reduced prices due to the larger volume of medicines purchased," according to the WHO.

Although the drug companies like to evoke the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (Trips) to protect their products, Trips does allow countries flexibility to waive patent rights in the face of serious public health challenges.

Eighteen years ago, members of the World Trade Organisation adopted the Doha Declaration, which clarified that the Trips agreement allows member states to "take measures to protect public health", including the right to issue compulsory licences to third parties to make medicines without the consent of the patent holders where warranted – such as during health emergencies.

But few governments have had the courage to go this route, often because of threats from the pharmaceutical industry, according to a High-Level Panel set up by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2016 to address "incoherence between human rights, intellectual property rights and public health objectives".

"WTO Members must make full use of Trips flexibilities as reaffirmed by the Doha Declaration on Trips and Public Health. This is essential to promote access to health technologies," said Michael Kirby, a member of the High-Level Panel and chair of the Expert Advisory Group at the launch of the panel's report in 2016.

"In particular, governments and the private sector must refrain from explicit or implicit threats, tactics or strategies that undermine the right of WTO Members to use Trips flexibilities. WTO Members must register complaints against undue political and economic pressure."

Opening the Fair Price Forum last week, health minister Aaron Motsoaledi nudged delegates to make decisions based on health needs rather than profit.

"Those of us that are WTO members committed ourselves to the Doha Declaration on Trips and public health. However, sadly

this commitment has been forgotten and decisions are based purely on commercial benefit," said Motsoaledi.

The minister also raised the lack of transparency in the pricing of medicine:

"We hear from the pharmaceutical industry that the argument for the excessive price relates to the cost of research and development for new products. What we do not have is transparency from the industry around the cost of their research and development and how they calculated the price that we are expected to pay.

"It is only fair that the suppliers of the product share such information with the purchasers of the medicine. There needs to be a trust relationship since we need each other in order to improve global health," said Motsoaledi.

The excuse of the high cost of research and development – R&D in pharma lingo – of new medicines was exposed in 2018 in a WHO report on cancer medicine pricing. The report found that, by 2017, the 99 cancer drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration had each made an average "return" of \$14.50 for every \$1 of R&D money spent.

In the report, the WHO also condemned the huge cost of cancer medicine, revealing that many treatments were only available in countries if patients paid the entire cost themselves.

"In the absence of insurance coverage, cancer treatment is unaffordable for many patients. A course of standard treatment for early-stage HER2 positive breast cancer (doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, docetaxel, trastuzumab) would cost about 10 years of average annual wages in India and South Africa," according to the WHO report.

Doctors without Borders (MSF) says that "price transparency is both possible and desirable", and that it has been done for antiretroviral (ARV) drug pricing.

"Price transparency for ARVs has enabled competition and fair price negotiations, and the price of HIV treatment has dropped dramatically – from around US\$10,000 per person per year in 2001 to around \$100 today – enabling treatment scale-up to over 22 million people living with HIV/AIDS and

saving millions of lives," said MSF.

"One thing is very clear: when countries know what others are paying for medicines, they have the leverage they need to demand fairer deals and increase access to treatment."

South Africa has had particular success in negotiating some of the cheapest antiretroviral (ARV) prices in the world. Key to this success was the development of a price reference list which listed what government thought were fair prices for ARVs.

Anban Pillay, Deputy Director General of Health, explained this approach in an earlier interview:

"We, as the Department of Health, working with Treasury and others, decided to evaluate the cost of production of ARVs and work out what was reasonable. We developed a reference price list that included a reasonable margin of profit, which we published as part of the 2009 ARV tender."

Pillay also travelled to India and met with generic medicine manufacturers to encourage them to tender to supply the ARVs and, since 2010, those supplying the country's ARVs have been a mix of local and international companies, as well as generic and patented medicine.

One of the solutions to the runaway prices suggested by the UN High-Level Panel was for the WHO to set up and maintain an accessible international database of the prices of patented and generic medicines and biosimilars in the private and public sectors of all countries where they are registered.

But Daniela Bagozzi, senior communication manager in the WHO's access to medicines department, warns that "prices in databases are not the real prices paid – negotiated prices between governments and companies for different medicines are confidential".

"We have done what we think is much more useful for countries – namely, we have promoted sharing of price information between countries through networks and promoted publication of estimated cost of production," said Bagozzi.

Much information sharing has been happening over the past few days at the Fair Price Forum, but much more progress still needs to be made if patients' rights are to be prioritised over profits.

The WHO has undertaken to "launch a public online consultation in the coming weeks to collect views and suggestions for a definition of what actually constitutes a 'fair price' from relevant stakeholders".

"Fair pricing depends on fair negotiations, and there cannot be fair negotiations without transparency," said the MSF ahead of last week's forum.

"MSF is joining patient advocates and healthcare professionals worldwide in calling on governments to make bold commitments to fair medicines pricing and mandate complete disclosure of the real prices at which medicines are sold. It is time for leaders to prioritise people's health over pharmaceutical industry profiteering." -DM

Heroin use shooting up in SA: report

Research has found widespread and problematic use of heroin in South Africa's small towns, big cities and rural areas. The illicit trade in the opioid drug may have an annual cash turnover of billions of rand. But the rapid emergence of this thriving industry and its national importance have been largely ignored or misunderstood by police and government.

The new study by the ENACT project is based on fieldwork in South African communities, including interviews with gang members, drug dealers, heroin users, health workers and police. ENACT is an EU-funded initiative that builds knowledge and skills to enhance Africa's response to transnational organised crime.

The research found that heroin has become a key commodity underpinning the criminal economy in South Africa. The trade has a severe corrupting effect on police, who have interdependent relationships with gangs, drug dealers and users. The problem is exacerbated by poor or sometimes complicit policing, limited crime intelligence, and the failure of the state to provide social care or adequate education and health services.

Data on drug use is limited, and measuring heroin use is made more complicated by different regional names for drug combinations which include heroin, among them *nyaope*, *sugars* and *unga*. Nevertheless, it is likely that the 2015 figure of 75,000 people injecting heroin and 110 000 smoking the drug has grown significantly. This puts South Africa at risk of following

drug patterns in sub-Saharan Africa, which is expected to have 20 million users of hard drugs by 2040.

The growth of the heroin market in South Africa has been compounded by poor policy, with severe social, economic and political implications. Government needs to recognise that it faces a heroin crisis that is taking a heavy toll on communities. In major urban areas, people are subject to extreme violence as local gangs compete for control of drug markets.

Heroin creates high dependency, with a reliable income stream from repeat customers. South Africa's heroin economy is a spin-off from the growing international drug smuggling route down the East Coast of Africa for shipment to international markets in Europe and the US. This follows an increase in heroin production in Afghanistan, better enforcement on other routes, and persistent impunity for African drug traffickers in countries like Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya.

Tanzanian networks have played a pivotal role in developing the South African heroin market. They make wholesale deliveries of the drug to South African gangs in Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Bay, and distribute it to a network of dealers in Johannesburg and Tshwane.

The Tanzanian dealers appear to have eclipsed Nigerian networks as the primary suppliers of heroin, and may have developed connections to Pakistani merchants who source the product from Afghanistan.

The nature of these networks and their interconnections, as well as the kingpin figures who make the bulk of the profits, are not yet clear.

Heroin is not the only drug that feeds these markets, but it is a hugely important one. In Cape Town – a city which is an important vector for nationwide drug use – heroin may now rival crystal meth as a mainstay of the drug trade.

The cash-based nature of the drug business is a lubricant for low-level police corruption. In Cape Town, dealers in gang-controlled neighbourhoods told ENACT researchers that police visit their selling points for small cash bribes. Interviewees in Tshwane spoke of corrupt junior police confiscating drugs and selling them to other dealers.

Heroin is highly addictive and injecting it raises the risk of HIV infection and transmission of Hepatitis C. Drug users in South Africa generally have poor access to services, as a result of neglect, marginalisation and deliberate policies. Because they are criminalised, people who are dependent on heroin become socially marginalised and many end up living on the street, where they face assault and extortion by police.

Responding to the illegal drug trade falls to authorities who are under-prepared and under-resourced. Interventions need to encompass both law enforcement and political strategies. Police investigations should be intelligence-led and focused on organised crime networks, secretive high-

level facilitators of the trade (including money launderers), and the traffickers that reap the bulk of the profits. Political leaders in Southern Africa need to tackle the corruption that facilitates the heroin transit route through neighbouring countries.

The criminal justice response must also be aligned with the harm-reduction ambitions of South Africa's drug policy. And a national approach is needed that reaches into communities on the ground. Heroin use is driven by living in economically depressed and socially fractured neighbourhoods where anxiety, depression and physical pain are features of daily life. Government's failure to provide social care and health services to communities where drug use is prevalent has allowed the heroin market to grow.

Responses must, therefore, go beyond law enforcement to include public health and social development strategies. Despite commitments to harm reduction in the government's drugs master plan, the strategy is not based on evidence or international best practice. Provision of less harmful substitutes to heroin, and needle and syringe exchange programmes, are successful and accepted internationally, but only Tshwane currently has these programmes.

In the short term, rather than criminalising users and trying to cut off supply, a more effective community-level response would be to provide health services, including access to regulated substances for users. Social programmes that reduce the vulnerability of communities to problematic drug use and gang recruitment are also needed. -ISS Today

Bodybuilder, 80, continues to defy all odds

He's been bodybuilding since he was a teen – now Calvyn Fortuin is teaching youngsters the value of his sport.

Most men pushing 80 might greet you with a handshake and the offer of a cup of tea, but the man before us is upside-down with both legs in the air, moving his limbs back and forth in a frog-like motion.

Calvyn isn't your average 79-year-old – in fact, he isn't your average anything. He may be a great-grandfather but he's fitter than most men half his age, as wiry as a teenager and an avid participant in bodybuilding competitions.

Calvyn, who lives in Heidedal, Bloemfontein, won his first title in 1964 at 25 when he was crowned Mr Free State and intends being a lean, mean, musclebound machine until his last day on Earth.

Even more remarkable is the fact that Calvyn's gym at the back of his home is filled with equipment he's mostly made himself. Homemade weights consisting of cement-filled tins lie among the benches and dumbbells, and a punching bag swings from a metal frame. Money is tight, the pensioner says, lying back on one of the benches, a dumbbell in each hand.

'My years are old but I'm not old'

He starts lifting the weights with ease. "It's nice when you're fit," he says. "You enjoy life. I always tell the guys, my years are old but I'm not

old. I still feel young."

Calvyn lives by a set of golden rules. His daily ritual starts every morning at the crack of dawn. "I get up 05:00, go to the bathroom and I pray. I get in the bath, I make a cup of tea, I make up my bed and then I'm in the gym."

He works out five days a week, working on a split day on his and the lower body next his upper. When it comes to

food, he doesn't restrict himself. He's a vegetarian but apart from not eating meat he says, "I eat anything. I believe you burn it when you train."

The lounge of his home is stacked with some of the 300 trophies and medals he's won over the years. In one corner is a framed photograph of him as a younger man, oiled muscles glistening, posing in nothing but a pair of red briefs.

"This was when I won the SA title in 1983," he says. "I was 45. I was overwhelmed. The bonus is I got to go to England to take part in the world champs. It was the first time I went overseas – and the last."

'I was awarded Springbok colours'

He shows us the green blazer he received. "I was awarded Springbok colours but I got the green and gold jacket with only the South African emblem on it," he says. "The Springbok emblem was only for the white man at that time."

Recently he competed in the National Amateur Body Builders Association's dual event with the World Fitness Federation at the Bloem Classic and came third. He also came first at the Free State and Northern Cape Provincials in September. "They gave me R1 000. It's the first time I won money."

Calvyn's lasting love affair with body-

Still going strong . . . Calvyn Fortuin

building began when he was growing up in the Karoo town of Noupoort.

As a scrawny teenager he became fascinated by a power lifter in the area, admiring his muscles and his passion for the discipline.

"My dream was to become strong too. My dad was a builder and he made me some weights with cement in paint tins, then he added a bar," he says. "I picked it up every day and I became strong. I can't remember how heavy it was but by the time I was 18, I was the strongest man in our community."

Father-and-son pair win the South African Championships

He saved money to buy bodybuilding books so he could educate himself about the sport. Calvyn believes his muscles helped him attract the attention of his late wife, Ethel. "She was very beautiful," he says. They met in 1958, were married for 53 years and had six children, some of whom Calvyn encouraged to get involved in bodybuilding too. "My son, Grimek, competed. We were the first and last father-and-son pair to win the South African Championships back in 1982.

He died at 21 in a motorbike accident. "My other son, Melvyn, was involved as well but had too many other interests so he never became a champion. My daughter, Diana, also competed."

Calvyn credits Ethel, who died 18 months ago, for a lot of the success he's enjoyed. "She supported me so much. She always came with me to competitions. The only time she didn't was when I went to London," he says. "I miss her a lot."

But Ethel also had her concerns and would fret that Calvyn was putting strain on his heart with all the exertion. "One day I had a pain in my chest just under my collarbone and my

sister-in-law, who was a nurse, advised me to get checked out at hospital. The doctor stripped me, put monitors on me and told me to run up and down the steps. After half an hour he told me he wished he had my heart!"

The 7 D's

Calvyn loves to spread his passion for bodybuilding and opened his little home gym to the people in his community years ago. He currently trains about 30 youngsters, which he sees as a way to keep them off the street. He teaches them what he calls his "seven D's": desperation, determination, dedication, devotion, desire, dream and discipline. These, he says, can help them achieve their goals. "I also tell them if you want to live to a ripe old age, you must always honour your parents and believe in God."

You must stay away from drugs and alcohol and try not to lose your temper. Always be calm and humble. "The guys come every day for about 90 minutes. I charge R5 a day and I save that money to compete."

Calvyn, who used to work as a carpet fitter and tiler before he retired and still does the odd flooring job, says competing is expensive but there's no way he'll stop. With the little money he has, he pays for his entrance fees, competition cream to rub on his body and special briefs to wear on stage.

Right now he's training to compete in the Bloem Show in April next year. He also hopes to represent South Africa again.

Calvyn's muscles may be big but his faith is even bigger and, after his wife, that's the most important thing he's relied on over the years. "If God spares me to 100 [years old], I'll still compete. I enjoy it very much."

-Drum

Ms. K Unrestricted

Getting over a fling

Break-ups are certainly difficult, but what about the ending of a fling that never quite graduated to a relationship? Whatever the case may be, flings eventually come to an end and it's quite possible you could end up crushed when this happens. Here's what to do.

Accept it

Before you can move on, you will need to physically, mentally, and emotionally accept that the fling has come to an end. When the day comes that you accept what has happened, you'll feel a huge weight lifted from your shoulders as well as from your mind. There's a reason acceptance is always the first step.

Cut ties completely

Once a fling ends, it's only wise to cut contact

with the person ASAP because temptation will be there. To check up on this person on social media will put you back into the same circle of hurt and disappointment. Remove the number from your phone's contact list, block the person on all your social networks and allow yourself to move on.

Never ask why

When a relationship ends it can be tempting, to get some feedback on what went wrong? But don't do it, simply because you might not get the clarity you're looking for. Even if you do get an answer, the response is not likely to be one that you want to hear, or the one that will make you feel any better.

Cry it out

Even after talking about it, writing about it, and blocking this person, sometimes there is nothing that helps more than a good cry. Crying allows you to release every single emotion that has been building up inside of you. You're able to release all of those bad emotions and put yourself in a better position to move on from all of this.

Give yourself time

Even if the fling didn't last for months, there was still time, energy, emotions, and effort put into it. So you can't expect to feel better the day after you two end it. Instead, allow yourself time to feel sad, mad, and any other emotions. Time heals all wounds, so don't short change yourself when it comes to healing and moving on completely.

Tumi taking radio by storm

It's official, Tumi Morake is back on the radio.

This week listeners were spoilt for choice following the SABC radio's annual reshuffle which saw the likes of comedienne and television presenter Tumi Morake joining Motsweding FM family.

Morake who is no stranger to radio is already making waves at her new home.

Morake is hosting the breakfast show Di Rage alongside former Metro FM presenter Amon Mokoena.

The former Jacaranda FM presenter says in spite of the mixed reactions with the recent changes, she is thrilled by the staggering support she has received thus far.

"I've been very surprised by the amount of positive feedback we've received, and obviously, there will be some people who would want what they're used to but I'm convinced they will eventually come around," she announced.

The 37-year-old resigned from Jacaranda FM in 2018 following the alleged racist comments that sparked social media outrage, with some listeners threatening to boycott the station. Fast forward to 2019, the #WTF!Tumi star is ready to take her broadcasting career to the next level with the guidance of her co-host.

"Amon is amazing, I keep saying I feel like I'm in a master class when I'm with him, he's incredible. I literally can't wait to see what our show is going to be like, I'm giving it at least three months. It's going to be a whole beast to be reckoned with," Morake said.

When asked about the difference between Jacaranda and Motsweding, she says in between the chuckles: "I'm at home, that's the difference, I am speaking my mother tongue."

"And also when I started at Jacaranda I didn't know anything about radio technically speaking because I had no radio background."

Though Morake had formal training months before she went on air, she admits the lack of experience had put her in a disadvantage because she had not interacted with the listeners before.

"I'm at an advantage now because I know what it's like to be on radio, I also have a better sense of the intimacy of the medium," she noted.

On what should be expected of her, Morake enthused: "The listeners will get to experience the other side of me. They will get to know that Tumi is not the constant clown, a lot of the time I do have sensible things to say, I like to part of a bigger conversation."

She continued: "Radi has always been bucket list thing and at the time of going to press (she chuckles)...Jacaranda was the only one at the time who gave me an offer, if I had other offers from other stations it would have been interesting to see where I would have ended up. This is an exciting journey"

Catch Tumi Morake and Amon Mokoena on Motsweding FM, Monday to Friday from 7am to 9am. The show will also shift to a new timeslot of 6am to 9am from June 1. -IOL



Talk of the town . . . Mthandeni 'Igcokama' Elisha

Maskandi artist names album 'Dog Style'

Maskandi musician Mthandeni's album is the talk of the town.

No matter how much your brain exists outside the gutter, the mention of 'dog style' will most often drag your mind right back to the dark side. That was why when Maskandi artist Mthandeni 'Igcokama Elisha' announced the phrase as the title of his new album, things descended into chaos.

The maskandi artist had been hyping up his latest project by asking fans what the name should be but when he finally revealed on Friday that it will be titled *Dog Style*, fans were shooketh.

Some found it funny, others claimed it was something only intellectuals would understand. And then there was the group that said it

reminded them of the sex position, which is where the problem began.

A debate of whether dog style and doggy style mean the same thing split Mthandeni's fanbase.

While it raged on for most of the weekend, Mthandeni has been capitalising on his name's popularity to sell his albums.

Taking to Instagram, the artist said the title had nothing to do with the sex position. He admitted that he knew it would get people talking but the meaning behind it was for each individual to interpret themselves.

The social media streets may be divided but from the looks of his real-life situation, people are loving the music.

-Timeslive



Social Scenes

BLACK, SEXY, BEAUTIFUL PURPLE



Black Beauty... The duo shut it down as they walked through the club with see through tops. Ey, look, even we must admit they looked good, really good for that matter. Take a bow girls, you rocked!



Queen Stunner... The one thing we all agree or should agree on is that Naledi Moremane is one fine looking stunner. No debate. No level of hate can denounce that. Yes girl!



Purple Rain... Abuti decided to rock up in purple, not that it's a bad thing but the last time we saw a man rocking purple was the late Prince during live performances of the song Purple Rain. The liver ya some men lona. Iyho!



Everywhere You Go... Is there a place where Dynamo-Deej can't be found or seen? Never mind that, abuti was all smiles this weekend. We wonder what could have got him in such a good mood. Heee Dynamo!



The dancer... Other than always looking the part, Brooke loves her dance moves to bits and showing them off.



Shaking It... Well, sisters these days are so heavily into this Amapiono genre they cannot help but shake what their mama gave them and the Queen was no different as she went crazy on us. Yesss girl, show them!

"White children get to own cars at the tender age of 18, have massive investments taken out for them by their parents, and only seek employment to wade off boredom and idleness."

ANC Youth League Provincial chairperson Makalo Mohale delivering a political lecture at the Batho Community Hall in Mangaung on Wednesday



"Our heads dip in honour of this fallen soldier of the public service. We have indeed lost a repository of knowledge, experience and wisdom. Mr. Seoke was a dedicated and experienced public servant."

Free State Premier Sisi Ntombela passing condolences following the death of veteran administrator Maditsi Seoke on Monday this week



"There are those who continue to operate along factional lines and are still suffering from post-Nasrec hangover. One of them is Jackson Mthembu, who chooses to speak outside of the leadership collective of our movement."

ANCYL provincial spokesman Sello Pietersen blasting ANC chief whip Jackson Mthembu for reportedly calling for the League's disciplining following its aborted plans to burn copies of a controversial book by Pieter-Louis Myburgh.

The Weekly

Editorial

Celebrating Jesus and our fallen heroes this Easter

The Easter Weekend is here again and multitudes of South Africans will be embarking on pilgrimages heading to different destinations to worship and remember both the crucifixion and resurrection of the son of God.

This is the period when Jesus Christ of Galilee rose from the dead after three days following his crucifixion through the hand of his own people!

As the nation remembers this, it becomes prudent on all of us to reflect deeper within our conscious to determine if we are aiding or abetting the progression of our country towards attaining the goal of a better life for all, propagated chiefly by the Messiah Himself.

It is very clear from all the teachings about Christ that he stood for the virtues of truth, compassion, forgiveness, equality and justice.

These are the same values which got Him into trouble with those against his enlightening teachings, primarily because they benefitted from the status quo, posturing as high priests and experts of the law who had no shame in targeting Christ, cooking up lies about Him and eventually getting to kill Him in Golgotha.

A holy man of God, who performed untold miracles in full view of his fellow countrymen, their eyes and ears bearing testimony thereof, yet they still did not believe Him.

This hardness in believing even if one can see brings us to the present day situation wherein one more, like always, the Almighty sends and uses angels in the form of man to take His mission of deliverance forward, and they still get targeted, planned and then executed.

One legendary Rastafarian music singer puts it bluntly in his song asking ... "How long shall they kill our prophets while we stand aside and look?"

In this particular song, the lyrics speak to African activists who lost their lives in the line of duty fighting and representing the aspirations of millions of their enslaved countrymen.

The Easter Weekend this year comes hot on the heels of the commemorations of the fallen liberation fighters in South Africa, including Chris Hani, Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, Tsietshi Mashinini, and the ridiculed mother of the nation, Mama Winnie Mandela's passing.

It behoves on us to acknowledge the link, even though risking being accused of misplaced blasphemy, between the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and the killing of anti-apartheid activists by the barbaric apartheid regime.

To briefly explain the barbaric part of the white settler regime would be disingenuous since history has already proven them so. Just as the then Jewish people stood on the foot of the cross and hurled insults, spewing saliva at the Lord and Saviour, just to buy face of their corrupted handlers hell-bent on spilling innocent blood, the same happens in our country even though in a different format.

We are talking self-hate practices by a people whom the liberation sought to free, now finding it difficult to distinguish between friend and foe. Today one finds an adult person who has never owned a house before, and who by the look of things would have gone to the grave without owning one, speaking ignorantly and without a sense of gratitude to the generous in building him or her an RDP house to provide roof over their families.

Then there are those that receive monthly Sassa grants, without lifting a finger to work towards earning them, but still speak ill of how little the money is, and being the first to threaten not going to the polls to vote in instances where the money is delayed for whatever reason in reaching them.

We also have unappreciative South Africans whose children benefit from the schools feeding programme, no fee schools and free higher education up to the level of a junior degree, who still join the bandwagon seeing red in everything the government does. These are people who are almost similar to the ones that stoned their Lord and Saviour years back, and come back and mourn His passing.

These are the same hypocrites the Bible speaks of, two edged swords who won't blink twice before they shift allegiances to the ones with the largest purse, and who can be bought by the highest bidder to forget their fundamental struggles and go into battle with their own leaders.

While Easter Weekend is celebrated countrywide through prayer, intercessions, worship, sermons and praises, it should also be celebrated in cognisance of the other fallen heroes of our struggle in advancing the course of freedom.

Easter should be used to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the coming, existence and eventual departure of Jesus, much as it must remind us of others who came after Him and were instrumental in bringing freedom to our shores.

Mandela, Biko, Sisulu, Gwala, Lembede, Moroka and others are highly regarded in many African scholarly circles as legitimate agents of goodness sent by the Almighty to help advance the revolution - and should be celebrated with same vigour alongside the Son of Man this Easter.



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



How white corruption gave birth to so called 'Black Corruption'

Ungenaphi u Pieter-Louis Myburgh?

We must question the sudden interest on why white reporters, authors, investigators, researchers and academics, invest their time, energy and resources on black matters.

We must also ask why do they have an interest in black life and "corruption" yet do not have interest in white corruption which manifests itself as the real state capture of all tiers of the state.

In a paper titled 'WHITE MAN, YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN' which I delivered on the 6th of July in 2011 at the University of South Africa, I opined that "It is actually very imperative that black man creates his own knowledge because he must not trust a white man. It is not an understatement to suggest and advice that black man should not trust a white man because of our political history and our current economic experience actually provide us with enough evidence and motivation for that. Even God cannot trust a white man with power because he has a bad history of abuse of power, therefore, a white man has

lost moral authority over everything having to do with race, corruption, equality, justice, economic emancipation, and so on".

However, what I want us to concentrate on is "white interest" in so-called "black corruption". We must ask why do they have interest in Jacob Zuma, Julius Malema, Floyd Shivambu, Ace Magashule, Nomvula Mokonyane, Bathabile Dlamini, et cetera?

My conclusion is simple; there is a white agenda to divide blacks and to plant seeds of suspicion and mistrust amongst us. It is operation "don't trust blacks to lead". It is a project aimed at sending a message that before 1994 there was no corruption as suggested by the likes of Helen Zille yet having amnesia on colonial, apartheid and post-apartheid corruption by Whites.

The white amnesia on White Gangsterism, Mafianism, Collusion, Monopoly and Corruption have given whites the guts and arrogance to speak boldly on black matters yet without a view on White Corruption. Whites now have a license on black matters and are even experts on black life. According to them,

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PROFESSOR BOITUMELO SENOKOANE

there is no history of corruption before 1994, we have started in a clean slate.

It is in our division as blacks that people such as Pieter-Louis Myburgh has that nerve and guts to speak about "black corruption" to a point that he declares anything black as a "Gang" or "Gangster". Myburgh like many whites, equate blackness with corruption yet sugar-quoting it as ANC or the Black State itself. This is not a surprise or nothing new. But it is important to remind Myburgh and his fellow whites that the South African Economic System and mess that we find ourselves in is a product of whiteness, their constitution and all the institutions and structures that maintain and sustain White privilege.

It is a project to tell us that "the Black State" is of a "Gangster" yet having amnesia of "the White Mafia State" during and after apartheid.

The word "corruption" has

become a replacement of the word "Impimpi" (an informer or traitor) which was used by whites to sow division and suspicion among blacks. The rationale and purpose was to divide blacks and to ensure they suspect one another yet trust white oppressors and the success for whiteness from 1994 was an invention of "black corruption" as a new language aimed at dividing and confusing the black majority.

It was through the South African Constitution imposed on the black majority without a referendum that white corruption gave birth to "black corruption" and psychological enslavement of the black majority to doubt and mistrust each other. The key negotiators of the same constitution which betrayed the aspirations of the black majority become wealthy in the process whilst blacks were given civil

Continues on page 17

Cyril's presidency drawing voters back to ANC

The latest research into the voting preferences of South Africans finds that trust in the country's president is the single most important predictor of the potential party choices at the ballot. If voting behaviour follows suit this could be the key to understanding the success of the African National Congress (ANC) on election day - May 8.

These findings come from the second nationally representative study conducted by the Centre for Social Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg. The survey was completed in the fourth quarter of 2018. The first study was done in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The findings suggest that recent leadership changes in the governing party and government have bolstered trust in the presidency of Cyril Ramaphosa compared with his predecessor Jacob Zuma. The research suggests that this factor is expected to be a significant predictor of voter behaviour.

To understand what the influence of Ramaphosa's presidency is likely to be in the upcoming elections, researchers from the Centre for Social Development in Africa compared the most recent survey results with those of an earlier survey conducted during Zuma's presidency. Trust in the presidency under Zuma was at 26%. This time round that number had gone up to 55% - 29 percentage points higher than under Zuma.

Two models for control

The study was done based on a nationally representative sample of 3 431 respondents. This is considered reliably representative of over 38 million potential voters. It's the second of a three-part study to understand



LEILA PATEL

the links between socioeconomic rights and what drives voter choices in the coming elections.

To understand the shift in support for the ANC versus the opposition parties the researchers constructed two models for analysis of the most recent survey results. This was to control for the change in leadership.

When Ramaphosa was removed from the equation, governance or trust in institutions such as parliament and the courts was no longer a predictor of voter preference. But when inserted as a factor on its own and independent of trust in institutions, trust in the presidency emerged as the single most important predictor of voter preference for the governing party in the upcoming elections.

These findings echo other recently released studies and polls which predict that the ANC is likely to win the upcoming general election.

Differences between first and second survey

Our first survey in 2017 was conducted at the height of the leadership contest in the ANC. At that time party loyalty wasn't found to be a predictor of voter choice. But it emerged as a predictor in the 2018 survey.

Given this, it appears that trust in

President Ramaphosa may have rekindled loyalty to the party that brought freedom and democracy to South Africa.

The findings seem counter-intuitive or contrary to what one might expect given the social, economic and political instability in the country. For example, how does one account for the changes in voter preferences at a time of growing economic insecurity, near-daily exposure of corruption in high places, loss of trust in institutions, and poor government performance in service delivery?

The answer is that voters make decisions based on a complex set of variables.

The reasons for voter choices in this election appear to be more nuanced and complex than usual as citizens are struggling to make difficult choices. On the one hand, trust in the presidency is a predictor of preference for the ANC; on the other hand, it's clear that factors such as corruption also hold sway for voters. Over 70% of all respondents in the recent survey thought that corruption had increased in the past year.

Given this, it's likely that trust in Ramaphosa's leadership may be based on the respondents' favourable perceptions of his personal attributes as a leader such as his personal integrity, his knowledge and

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skills and experience. Other factors that might have worked in his favour include the establishment of commissions of enquiry to investigate corruption. For some voters, these factors will trump their concerns about corruption.

The data also shows that women voters (who in the first survey were more likely to vote for the opposition) have shifted their support back to the ANC. A highly significant factor in voter choices is the fear that they would lose their social grants if another party came to power. This clearly speaks to securing personal, family and material well-being.

High expectations

The survey results present a nuanced picture of the complicated decision-making at play where potential voters are weighing up the issues and making conscious choices of who to vote for based on these judgements.

In spite of the numerous constraints that the Ramaphosa presidency faces, the shifts in voter choices reflected in the study suggest a degree of hope that the ANC under new leadership can still lead the country towards better days.

Should the president and the ANC win the election, the natural next question will be: can Ramaphosa meet these expectations and rebuild public trust and confidence in government, the economy and democracy?

Considering the structural constraints that he faces, as well as those imposed on him by his own party, it will be a tough task.

* Leila Patel is Professor of Social Development Studies at the University of Johannesburg.



"Socio economic factors continue to affect the spread of HIV. Poor health seeking and testing behaviours by men remain a major concern and the "Blesser-blessee" phenomenon across different age groups and gender is another challenge."

Free State provincial health department spokesperson Mndli Mvambi commenting on reports that a total of 3 914 in the province have tested positive to HIV since January



"The ANC commits to upholding the provisions of the code of conduct throughout its campaigns and interactions with the people. The ANC shall at all material times abide by the rules of the code of conduct."

ANC Free State provincial chairperson Sam Mashinini speaking at the signing of the elections code of conduct in Bloemfontein



Is there media freedom in South Africa?

One of the most prolific thinkers of the 19th century, Dr. Karl Marx, once wrote; "The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas". In simple terms, Marx taught us that those who control the means of production also have control over mental production, and those who do not have means of production at their disposal are subjected to the ideas of the former.

What is the ruling class in the South African context?

At its National Consultative Conference held in Kabwe, Zambia, in 1985, the ANC declared the South African social formation as 'capitalist'. In addressing the unique nature of the ruling class, the movement stated, "The ruling class does not rule on its own, since it is a minority within the white minority. In order to secure its position, it has had to come to terms with other class forces; make deals and reach compromises with class forces and fractions whose interests temporarily intersect with its own."

From such alliances has emerged what we can refer to as a bloc led by the ruling class, which wields power. The matrix that holds this bloc together is the ideology of white supremacy which projects the particular interest of the ruling capitalist class, as the general interest of all whites.

According to this discussion document, the relationship between white capitalists and imperialist forces created a matrix of control over the economy and state. Even in the current epoch, the South African economy continues to be characterised by large corporations, mostly white owned, which not only dominate the economy, but operate as a monopoly, completely

making free enterprise impossible.

The ruling class, as it happened in the 1980s, has co-opted black petty bourgeoisies as junior partners, but remains white, and its main interest in white supremacy. This ruling class, like its colonial predecessor, control mental production. Through its oppressive tendencies and aversion to competition, it seeks to obliterate any form of competing agenda, narrative and ideas.

Who owns the media in South Africa?

According to an article by the Mail & Guardian titled, 'Who runs South Africa's media is a black-and-white issue', published on 4 January 2019, our media is an exclusive preserve of white South Africans.

"An analysis of ownership structures, demographics and funding models shows that the boards of media houses comprise 41% white, 24% African, 17% coloured, 16% Indian and two percent of people from elsewhere", the article goes.

The analysis makes the following shocking revelations about different media houses;

More than 70% of Daily Maverick's employees are white 100% of top management at Amabhungane consists of Whites 89% of Caxton's top management consists of whites, and 11% belongs to non-South Africans 50% of employees in Mail & Guardian's Top Management consists of Non-South Africans, and another 50% consists of Indians. Of the 10 media houses analysed, four of them have no Africans in their Boards.

It is therefore clear that the South African media, at least in terms of ownership and control, mirrors the nature of the South African economy.

The media is still proxy of a white capitalist class which can be seen in others aspects of the economy. As in the pre-1994 era, the media and the economy at large reflects a white men's club.

Since the media is one of the tools used by the ruling class in the processes of mental production and distribution, it is clear that the media is biased to the white capitalist class, which is the dominant class in the South African context. The poor, working class majority, majority of whom are Black and African, are mere subjects in the process of mental production and distribution.

Earlier this month, a journalist working for Daily Maverick, an institution whose staff complement is more than 72% white, released a tabloid book titled 'Gangster State' to much fanfare by fellow media houses. My name was abused through distortions and lies in the book.

I subsequently wrote an eight-page response to this useless book and, even today, none of the major media houses have published my response. It was only community newspapers which had the courtesy to publish a different view to the book. As matters stand, all those opposed to the book have been ridiculed, rubbished or simple censored, using the biased control of the media by a white establishment. Myburgh has been allowed a lone platform in society. His ideas are dominant, because they serve the agenda of the dominant class.

The working class do not have a voice. Because of the property relations in South Africa, the dominant class has afforded itself the sole jurisdiction of determining what is to be debated, how it should be debated, and what the outcome should be.

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The working class are left literally with no voice. The DA, a mouthpiece and bodyguard of the ruling class, has used capital to ensure that a book seeking to expose corruption in the DA is banned. The author, Mike Hampton, has also been a victim of several threats to his life.

Hampton wrote the following on his website; "Bad people are trying to destroy me. They'll probably succeed. But I'm hitting back as hard as I can. By publishing these books, I'm breaking several court orders issued by questionable magistrates benefiting the interests of a political party. Warrants of arrest will be issued. But I can't be silent. I must warn you".

Conclusion

The expectation that the working class must use the media to engage in mental gymnastics with the elements of the ruling class is noble, but unrealistic. This expectation is not informed by the materials conditions characterising the South African situation.

Whilst it is a noble ideal to have an equal opportunity society, it is evident that such a society is impossible in a capitalist society. A capitalist society, like ours, has the similar trends of other capitalist societies elsewhere in the world. Capitalists thrive on the sweat of the workers to quench their greed, and thus poverty, inequality and unemployment becomes a reality

in those states.

If there is an expectation that we must debate in the battle of ideas with the ruling class, the revolutionary forces must take over, undermine oppression of the working class by a capitalist class create a fair society and expect fair debates. In the current context, we are expecting a man without feet to contest in a soccer match with professional footballers.

Based on the evidence above, it is clear that media freedom is only for the haves in South Africa. The working class can but rely on social media, community radio and print to raise their views. The dominant ideas enjoy prime time TV and print, and receive the most airplay on radio, commercial and otherwise. The working class must use any method necessary to have their voice heard.

The burning of materials associated with oppression is, and has always been, a symbolic act of burning the oppressive character of the ruling class in mental production. The acts of burning are not a denial of freedom of expressions, but an explicit expression if those who are unable to use courts and media houses to shape the national discourse.

Makhele is an African Marxist and a member of the ANC in Mangaung Region, Free State. He writes in his personal capacity

TISETSO 'AFRIKA' MAKHELE



BRENDA MADUMISE-PAJIBO

Dear Helen Zille,

I saw on the website of the provincial government the letter from the Speaker of Parliament, Baleka Mbete, in which she, on behalf of all MPs, congratulated you for among others, completing "over 200,000 housing opportunities".

I then remembered that you, in your last State of the Province address, claimed that your administration "has delivered 212,967 housing opportunities across the Western Cape". (Interestingly enough, this is the same number and line that appears on Page 47 of the DA's election manifesto.)

Because this number does not say how many housing units your administration built, I then decided to go through the annual reports of the Human Settlements department.

I studied all nine since 2009/10 and after calculating each and every housing opportunity, I found that your administration only managed to build 103,756 housing units, provide 74,613 serviced sites and 4,606 "other" housing opportunities. This brought the total to 187,975, almost 25,000 "opportunities" fewer than you have claimed in your State of the Province address.

For the nine years since 2009, you have built on average 11,528 houses and provided 8,290 serviced sites - that is an average of 19,818 housing opportunities a year.

Delivering the 2017/18 budget speech for Human Settlements, MEC Bonginkosi

Zille and Western Cape housing statistics

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Madikizela agreed that "we can only assist around 20,000 families a year" and later, in the same speech, that the department can only provide 18,000 housing opportunities a year.

Based on the above, I then assumed that your 212,967 would include the delivery record for 2018/19 that is not yet known by the public.

In the budget speech, delivered on 26 March 2019, Madikizela confirmed that "since 2009, almost 213,000 housing opportunities were created" and that this "translates into approximately 850,000 households' lives having been changed for the better". (850,000 households? Seriously? 850,000?)

I then looked at your previous state of the province addresses as well as the budget speeches delivered by Madikizela.

As recently as 2018, on the 28 March, Madikizela told the Western Cape Legislature that "since 2009 to date, my department delivered 166,693 housing opportunities". This, Madam Premier, means that since 29 March 2018 until the day before Madikizela's last budget speech in March 2019, 46,274 housing opportunities were created.

This is almost 25,000 opportunities more than the department is capable of delivering. Do you perhaps mind explaining this discrepancy?

While at it, can you also explain how, in his 2014 budget speech, the MEC claimed that "this administration has delivered almost 122,000 housing opportunities over 16 programmes since 2009" (in your state of the province address

of that year, you put the total at a lower 119,674), but the following year, he announced that "during the last term, we've laid a solid foundation - providing 101,011 housing opportunities across 16 programmes within our housing code"?

What happened to the 21,000 housing opportunities? Did it disappear during that year or did he simply inflate the number because it was also during an election campaign?

The above confirms my suspicions that you inflate the number of housing opportunities created before an election and, as shown in 2014, retreat to the real numbers as a continued lie then would serve no purpose.

Let me now turn to the "catalytic projects" as announced by Madikizela in his 2016 budget speech.

"The premier again spoke about catalytic projects that will yield just over 105,000 housing projects by 2022, beginning in the 2016/17 financial year and at a cost of just over R10-billion," he said.

These projects would include the Southern Corridor, the George Municipality Catalytic Project, Saldanha Bay's Vredenburg Urban renewal Project, the North-Eastern Corridor, the Voortrekker integration Zone, Breede Valley's Transhex project, Drakenstein's Vlakkeland project, De Novo and Belhar CBD.

I am very interested in progress on these catalytic projects because in 2019's state of the province address you did not provide any update on it, but instead simply repeated what Madikizela said three years ago and with three years left, you simply stated "a total of 105,500 housing opportunities are in the pipeline for completion by 2022 as part of our catalytic projects, which

are at various stages of construction, design and planning".

Again, because it is three years after the projects were supposed to begin and because it seems as if you use housing optimally as an elections tool and inflate housing delivery depending on whether there would be an election that particular year or not, I cannot help but wonder, was this project only mentioned because it is an election year?

Now allow me to turn to "the fact that since 2009 more than 100 000 people have received title deeds across the province".

According to the annual reports of the Department of Human Settlements department from 2014/15 until 2017/18, your administration managed to deliver only 29,097 title deeds. No data is provided in the preceding annual reports.

In your state of the province address in 2014 you announced that "between 2009 and 2014, the department issued 88,263 title deeds, which has drastically reduced the backlog we inherited from the previous administration". Madikizela agreed a month later in his budget speech.

Two years later, in 2016, without giving an update, Madikizela simply said that the Human Settlements department "have reduced the title deed backlog from 86,350 in 2009/2010 to the current level of 55,000 and will continue to reduce the backlog until everyone has their title deed".

But surprisingly, in his 2017 budget speech, he announced that "in total, we've delivered over 75,300 title deeds to beneficiaries since 2009". This is 13,000 less than what Madikizela announced three years ago.

During last year's budget speech, Madikizela

announced that "since 2009, 91,000 people have received title deeds".

But it becomes more bizarre, Madam Premier.

In your 2019 state of the province address, you then announced that "since 2009, 103,000 people have received title deeds across the Western Cape" and Madikizela said the same last month.

Can you also clear these irregularities up for me?

Housing is an emotive matter. Access to it and a right to it are important to those who do not have it. I can come to no other conclusion than the fact that you are manipulating statistics, using terms like "housing opportunities" and provide confusing statistics in any year depending on whether there is an election or not. In the process, you are playing the most dangerous game with desperate voters and in doing so, exploiting their desperation and hopes.

When you took office in 2009, you stated that the housing backlog in the province was 410,000. Last year, during your budget speech, you said that "at present, our backlog is hovering above 575,000 families, with a budget that only enables us to create about 18,000 housing opportunities".

This essentially means that the shortage grows annually by around 18,000 and unless you get back to the delivery record of the ANC during 2004-2009 when 16,000 houses and 16,000 serviced sites were supplied, you would never address the housing crisis and you would keep close to 600,000 families homeless or landless.

Lionel Adendorf is a PEC-member of the ANC Western Cape. He started the Better Bonnievale Initiative seven years ago.

Letters to the Editor

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

President Ramaphosa on track, but should do more

My comments are based on an article title "Ramaphosa, man of concrete action" by Rebone Tau.

I totally agree with the contents of his well-written article on the solid concrete works done by our honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa.

I further give our President the following mandate to make sure that more work is continuously completed under his leadership:

1. Ensure that women in active capable businesses are given preference at all times when it comes to bidding for state

resources or any related services in our country.

For instance, there should be a percentage allocation of 40% reserved for women when it comes to allocation of state resources, services or any financial or technical support.

There should be a Women's Desk able to

monitor and track empowerment of South African women in the country.

State departments and municipalities should have budgets only reserved for women-owned businesses.

In the agricultural sector there should be

an allocated number of farms and support to women run agri-businesses. This should apply to the mining and commercial/financing sector.

As a true active citizen of the Republic of South Africa, I dearly love our country and looking forward to be continuously led by our honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Tracy Marobobo

One on One

with Lungile Dukwana

Quite often, people cry foul when they find their inventions being used by other people without their permission or knowledge. Seeking recourse has often proved a futile exercise as legal costs could be prohibitive while some people simply don't know what to do if they find their ideas "stolen". **The Weekly's Martin Makoni spoke to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) Executive Manager: Strategic Division Lungile Dukwana** during the media launch of the World Intellectual Property Day in Bloemfontein about the importance of patenting one's work and the downside of not doing so. Makoni also asked Dukwana about the best ways of protecting one's work and how to go about it. Excerpts:



How would you define a patent and how important is it?

A patent is a form of intellectual property which gives its owner the right to exclude others from making, using, selling, and importing an invention for a limited period of time. You can talk about a lot of things, whether you want to register a certain type of medicine and form a patent around that. That would assist you in deriving the value of Intellectual Property (IP) to the patent. So, everybody who is interested in that will have to talk to you as the owner or the developer, that's one of the aspects of IP. Secondly, we have what we call a design. This is another form of IP that we deal with at the CIPC which you can also register. There is also copyright. Music, for example, is one form of copyright. We normally take it for granted. We don't register it at the CIPC but it is automatically protected when you publish that music. So, it's one of the most important aspects that we must look at. A trademark is also another form of IP. The reason why we call a product Nike or Coca

Cola is because it has a certain unique identity, different from others. That also gives it a certain value. So, you cannot just use it as and when you want.

How important is it for one to understand those aspects and protect their work?

I think that it's important to understand those points I mentioned because if you don't, you will not know when to derive the value that comes with ownership. In fact, the question of IP is so important that in some of the countries, when you have an IP that you have registered, you can actually use that as collateral. You can go to the bank and say I own this IP, can I be given a mortgage or loan of this amount... because I own this IP. That is when you would have reached a stage where you understand and appreciate the value of IP and its role in the development of any nation.

So, how easy is it to protect a patent in terms of cost and the rest of the work involved?

It is very expensive to protect an IP. In fact, it is one of the issues that has been raised several

times before. If you have to do a patent, there is a lot of money you have to pay to protect it. And sometimes you work through a lawyer to do that. But CIPC has been working on some of those things to make sure that we are able to develop programmes that are going to assist people with the registration of intellectual property. For example, there is one called the Inventors Assistance Programme that CIPC has developed in order to assist upcoming investors and all those people who want to enter that space but may not have adequate resources.

Obtaining IP protection is one thing and commercialising it is another because not all inventors can be good businesspeople, what sort of support can they get?

I think that's one area we are not doing very well as a country. As you may have heard, the speed gun/tracker used at the start of a race, was invented by a South African, but the question is how much did the country benefit from it? There are many inventions done by South African institutions and funded by government. But



in most cases, when the research is done, the product is packed away and some intelligent person from the US, Australia or elsewhere, may find potential in that and take the very same research we have done here, overseas and develop a product. Another example is the Kreepy Krauly used to clean swimming pools, is one such product. It was developed in South Africa but when these products were supposed to be commercialised and put in production, things did not happen the right way. This means we are not putting IP where it's supposed to be. So, we need collaborations to help us ensure that we put IP where it's supposed to be in the economy of the country.

Are there any significant gains for the country from IP if things were to be done differently?

Indeed, it can do much in dealing with our economic challenges when we manage the issue of IP better. In fact, South Africa invests a lot of money in IP. We do a lot of research. A lot of money is given to research institutions in the country. I think we invest about three percent of our GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in research. But the output of that is not necessarily used in South Africa, or does not give us the kind of results that we need. If we can start focusing there, we can have a better output in terms of IP success.

The theme for the World Intellectual Property Day is "Reach for Gold in Sport" why was this found to be important?

There are so many things happening in sport but at times not much benefit is derived from the activities involved. For example, there is gym equipment that needs to be upgraded all the time in line with the needs of the people using it. That's an area that needs to be covered by IP. There are sportspeople who develop soccer boots, others develop underwear branded in their names and some have perfumes named after them. What this tells you is that when you are a sportsperson,

you are not just a sportsperson because you are playing soccer, or any other sport. You begin to be a brand in your own right.

How important is this to sportspeople? Is this something different sportspeople can do and what does it take to really make some headway in that?

When you begin to be a brand on your own, you are able to develop products that can be identified with you and give a certain value or capital because they identify with you and the successful person that you are. Though we have not reached that stage in our own country, it is something that we can do. In fact, if there is something that we need to do, we need to make that the sports personalities in the country, are actually trained so they are able to develop their own brands and realise the full potential of their brands. This is because they become brands on their own. So, I think it's very important that we look at the issue in that manner.

And how exactly do you ensure that, when one makes claims that they have invented something, they are making genuine claims and that research in similar fields are not compromised?

If you come with a certain product claiming it's a patent that you have developed, and you want it registered, what most countries are now doing is that they would first establish that you actually developed the product and that you are not making false claims. This is to ensure that you don't close the space for others. In South Africa, the CIPC is currently working on the establishment of a search and examination capacity unit within the organisation. What this will do is, you will be able to narrow the space in terms of what you will be working on rather than crowds the space with claims you cannot develop. We believe once we do that, it will improve the quality of South African patents and eventually, the products produced.

SA has new weapon in drug-resistant TB fight

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has welcomed the recent news that a much-needed drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) medicine called delamanid has been registered for use in the country by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), and is calling on the National Department of Health to speedily activate existing plans to make delamanid routinely available within the public health system for those who need it.

"South Africa has one of the best DR-TB programs in the world yet many patients are still not effectively treated and as many as 1 in 2 people with multi-drug resistant TB are dying because the options for treating DR-TB remain limited," says Dr. Laura Trivino-Duran, the medical co-coordinator for MSF in South Africa, adding that delamanid can be a life-saving drug for many patients.

Only two new DR-TB drugs have been approved in the last 50 years – bedaquiline and delamanid – and both are now registered for use in South Africa, with bedaquiline having been incorporated into the standard treatment for DR-TB in 2018. This was a historic decision to improve patients' chances of being cured and make DR-TB treatment more tolerable, however, bedaquiline is not yet approved for certain groups, including children under the age of 6, who can suffer from side-effects of the available treatment options.

"Delamanid is safe for use in young children, and with easy access to the drug TB doctors will be able to do more for our kids,"

says Trivino-Duran.

Delamanid is also an important treatment option for people with extensively drug resistant forms of TB, as well as patients experiencing serious side-effects from other DR-TB drugs. Recognizing its importance, the National Department of Health launched the Delamanid Clinical Access Program (DCAP) in March 2017 with the pharmaceutical manufacturer Otsuka, providing selected patients in 5 locations across the country with access to delamanid while processes to register the drug locally were underway. However, strict criteria were put in place preventing many who would have benefited from delamanid from qualifying for access.

While working in a TB unit in a state hospital Dr. Hanneljie Ferreira applied to the Delamanid Clinical Access Program on behalf of a patient who had already spent years on treatment for extensively drug-resistant TB, without success. After the application was turned down Ferreira secured a six month course of delamanid for the patient by applying for compassionate use access, but another six-month course was needed, and with delamanid not yet registered for use in South Africa there was no way of getting it.

"This was devastating because without delamanid the chances of the patient being successfully treated were significantly lowered," says Ferreira, who ultimately reached out to the MSF HIV/TB project in Khayelitsha, which has been supporting access to new and re-purposed

drugs for strengthening DR-TB treatment regimens since 2007. MSF donated a six month course of delamanid, helping to keep the patient on effective treatment, and on March 29th, 2019, the patient was declared cured.

"Given the scale and urgency of the DR-TB problem in South Africa and the limited tools that doctors and patients have to fight with, the registration of delamanid is something to be celebrated," says Trivino-Duran.

"However, registration doesn't equal access and the true celebration will come when delamanid becomes easily available for all those in need," she says, adding that the demand for delamanid will have to be accurately established by the National Department of Health in order to ensure that sufficient stock is procured.

"The price of delamanid must also be addressed with the manufacturer, as it is currently very high at US\$1700 (approximately R23,750) for a 6-month course, and this could limit the extent to which delamanid ultimately becomes available," Trivino-Duran says.

A 2017 study estimated that the cost of generic delamanid, if the production of generic delamanid were allowed, could be up to 98% lower than the current pricing.*

"The push for access to delamanid has been a long one, with government playing a leading role. Having easy access to this drug will be another big step on the even longer road towards being able to offer patients a treatment regimen for DR-TB that is drastically shorter and more effective," says Trivino-Duran. -SANAews



REHAD DESAI

Copyright Bill: Don't throw the baby out with the bath water

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The right to create means very little without freedom of expression. South African legislation is now on the cusp of finally being brought into the digital age, kicking and screaming all the way. Conversations and debate surrounding the Copyright Amendment Bill have ironically invoked fear in those that it seeks to protect. As complex as the Bill may be, there has been a lack of understanding regarding its provisions.

Collections Management Organisations (CMOs) have lobbied furiously around provisions such as fair use and have done so to deflect away from the fact that the Bill will for the first time see CMOs become accountable for how they pay royalties to underpaid creators. The fear-mongering surrounding the Bill is unjustified – no piece of legislation is perfect but this Bill is far from the junk status the camp who stand against it would have us believe.

When legislation involves as many stakeholders as does this Bill, it's difficult for parties that do not have shared material interests to be content. That said, the Bill makes a solid attempt at balancing all the interests of the various stakeholders, namely the disabled, educators, authors, producers, actors, musicians, filmmakers etc. Therefore, to classify the Bill as good or bad from any one particular sectoral viewpoint ignores that this is a Bill with many

complex layers.

So why the controversy?

1. The payment of royalties where royalties are due

The payment of royalties is not a new nor foreign concept. What the Bill does is that it aims to regulate the way in which royalties are paid out. Why should one complain about the payment of perpetual royalties if middlemen or corporations are receiving perpetual profits from a work while backbone creators and contributors who have created the actual work receive a once-off payment?

If a work does not continue to generate a profit beyond that initially budgeted, then no royalty will need to be paid. The royalty provision in the Bill will be regulated by a written agreement between parties following a prescribed manner and form that must include: the rights and obligations of the contracting parties, the share of royalties, the method and period of payments and dispute settlement mechanisms in cases that the issues may arise.

Opposition to codifying the payment of royalties is support for a status quo that has benefited a few elite CMOs who want their cake while creators and contributors continue to pick

up the crumbs. In a nutshell, the royalty sharing provision is good for creators of works as it ensures that they are adequately compensated every time their work generates a profit.

2. The reversion of assigned works

The reduced period of assignment that is in the Bill is a reversionary right, meaning that the ownership of works assigned by creators will revert to the original creator after a period of 25 years. This provision is not to be conflated with the provisions regarding commissioned work. If one commissions a work that is not a reversionary right, ownership of that work will be determined by agreement between the contracting parties. If a producer commissions a work for the film that they are making they can by contractual agreement become the owner of such a work.

3. Fair use is not free use

Much nonsense has been said about the fair use clause in the Bill. Fair use will not be a problem in South Africa in the same way it has not been a problem in jurisdictions such as South Korea and Singapore that have adopted it. There has been one case involving the defence of fair dealing under the current outdated Copyright Act, that of *Moneyweb v Media 24*, which borrowed the concept of fair use from international law to adequately define a defence for fair dealing.

Fair use is NOT free use. The provision

is clear on the fact that any use which harms the ability of the original creator to generate commercial interest in the work is not fair use. CMOs have been the driving force behind the misinformation campaign against fair use, allowing them to distract musicians and creators from the bigger picture of the Bill that will regulate the manner in which they collect and pay royalties.

4. The change from the default commissioned works provision

Creators have been calling for more than a decade that the default position of "he who commissions owns" is morally bankrupt and anti-constitutional and therefore must be scrapped. The Bill makes a positive change to this default standard by requiring the issue of ownership in a commissioned work to be discussed upfront in the contractual agreement between parties.

This ensures that all parties are aware of who owns the copyright within a particular work. The amount of service work received will not be affected by this provision. Those who still need to commission works for purposes of newspaper articles, script writing etc will still commission those works, but the only difference now is that an agreement will have to be reached by the parties as to who owns the copyright in that work instead of the default being that the commissioner owns the work.

5. Sub-licensing is not a licensee going rogue

The sub-licence provision in the Bill makes it explicitly clear that such a sub-licence may only be granted for any act that falls within the terms of the licence. The licensee would have received permission from the copyright owner to carry out specific acts in relation to the original licence agreement. Where does the issue lie in the licensee entering into a further sub-licence agreement to help carry the burden of the load?

6. Regulations

One important factor that may have slipped by many of those who have applied their minds to the issue is that this Bill will not become the law tomorrow should the president sign it. There is a process of subordinate legislation that still has to be undergone that will further flesh out the finer details of the provisions of the Bill. Such regulations will have to be crafted by industry experts whom we can trust to ensure that the protocols set an adequate minimum standard.

The review process began over a decade ago and following acrimonious debate we now have a Bill containing numerous rights for which artists have argued and fought in this period. There can be no turning back now.

Rehad Desai is the author of Miners Shot Down, a film about the Marikana massacre.

SA stands on right side of history in Israel

The recent announcement by South Africa's Foreign Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu that South Africa will not replace its ambassador to Israel and that its office in Tel Aviv has no political, trade or economic development co-operation mandates is an unprecedented step in support of the Palestinian people at a global, political level.

This choice comes from the South African people themselves and is a grassroots response to Israeli occupation. At the ANC's national conference in December 2017, members came from across the country to discuss and adopt policies - including the resolution directing the South African government to downgrade its embassy in Tel Aviv. The ANC accurately described the resolution as "a practical expression of support to the oppressed people of Palestine" - a move that goes beyond symbolic support for Palestine.

Pretoria's implementation of this groundbreaking resolution is a refreshing change and goes against the current international trend of shielding Israel and protecting it from repercussions for its apartheid policies and its disenfranchisement of millions of Palestinians.

While the people of the world sincerely pledge support and solidarity with the Palestinian people

and our liberation struggle, their governments are quick to placate the Israeli occupation regime. As we have seen - particularly in the Arab world - political and financial interests on the international stage have led many leaders to normalise relations with Israel and welcome the Israeli apartheid regime.

South Africans feel - and we have heard from many of them directly - that they owe a debt to the Palestinians.

"South Africans drew courage and strength from the support so generously given by the Palestinian people even though they themselves lacked freedom," Nelson Mandela said in August 1998.

"Now that we have achieved our freedom, we have not forgotten our friends and allies who helped us liberate ourselves. As former beneficiaries of selfless international support, South Africans have a duty to lend a supportive hand to others seeking justice and equality," Mandela continued.

South Africa's move is, effectively, the launch of an official international boycott campaign against Israel. History teaches us that there are no easy victories in the fight for justice. Successes were achieved only after years and decades of struggle, ignited by brave moves in

courageous countries. South Africa's history and struggle against the apartheid regime is proof of this. Its beginnings were difficult and costly. It faced fierce resistance from the international community, especially in the West.

Governments in North America, Europe and elsewhere placed South Africa's freedom fighters on their terrorist blacklists, and closed their doors on them. But in the end, the apartheid regime succumbed to growing popular pressure.

A shared history connects South Africa and Palestine. Our freedom fighters trained alongside each other in camps in North Africa and Eastern Europe, where both stood in mutual solidarity for self-determination. Like you, we are also the targets of well-funded, sophisticated media campaigns waged against us throughout the world that seeks to isolate and falsely label us as "terrorists".

Heeding Nelson Mandela's warning from 1998, South Africa has not forgotten its friends and allies, and consistently provides diplomatic solidarity with Palestine at international forums such as the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, BRICS and SADC. At the African Union (AU), South Africa has stood firm and spoken out strongly against Israel's normalisation campaign on the continent and its attempts to

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obtain observer status at the AU.

The achievement of Palestinian unity is also important to South Africans. Several efforts have been made in South Africa to bring the Palestinian parties together to achieve reconciliation.

We Palestinians appreciate what the South African government is doing and we recognise the importance of reducing its diplomatic representation in the Israeli occupation regime.

With the re-election of Benjamin Netanyahu and his racist, right-wing coalition, we will see the worsening of the situation of Palestinians - whether in the West Bank, Jerusalem, in the Gaza Strip or inside the Zionist state.

As we brace ourselves for further onslaughts from the apartheid state of Israel, we hope that South Africa's downgrading will, ultimately, result in the implementation of full sanctions on Israel - just as numerous states in the 1970s and 1980s downgraded and severed relations with apartheid South Africa to achieve the liberation

of South Africans.

Palestinians require such strong action to end more than half a century of occupation and 12 years of siege and blockade so that we might see the return of all Palestinian refugees and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The world has been fooled by 25 years of negotiations that pretended to be about addressing Palestinians' right to self-determination but was, in reality, an excuse for Israel to create Palestinian Bantustans that it controlled. These are not negotiations based on a balance of power; they demand the complete surrender of Palestinian rights and dignity.

History will remember those who stood by us in our struggle against apartheid and occupation; those who did not equate the occupier and the occupied. South Africa stands on the right side of history.

Dr Basem Naim is a member of the International Relations Bureau of Hamas.



BASEM NAIM

Freedom belongs to those who create it

The 45th edition of the National Arts Festival in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) will take place two months after the city and Sarah Baartman District host the national celebrations of Freedom Month.

April 27, 2019 - just days before the sixth national elections - marks 25 years since the birth of hope for freedom by many disenfranchised people of this land. To many, this year is a milestone, the coming of age.

In recent times artists have themselves reached some freedom milestones: The Performers Protection Amendment Bill has been passed and awaits the last hurdle before it is signed into law, and the debate around the Copyright Amendment Bill is giving all sides the opportunity to engage and make their views known. It's another sign of our healthy, vibrant democracy that such debate around issues so critical to the creative sector is happening.

Historically, artists played a key role in securing the freedoms which we now enjoy. They stood up and fought the battle and won not by

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burning theatres, studios, galleries or libraries but through tenacious determination inspired by where their hearts are - the fulfilment of their trade.

For young artists, this achievement should be an indication that each generation faces unique challenges and that it is up to them to deal with and defeat these barriers. It is in the realm of the arts that true freedom is protected. Our artists are the crafters of freedom, the ones who really "get it".

I am always in awe of how, when the performing arts move our souls, our minds

follow. I'm in awe of how one night in a theatre can change a lifetime of prejudice or preconceived notions; of how a passing glimpse of an artwork can call out your name and somehow root you to the spot.

Sadly, much of our lives are filled with the mundanity of work and traffic, social media and live-stream television, a blur of sameness on constant repeat. But the arts and artists have a way of challenging this boxing of life along neat, immovable lines. Through creating work, they ask how could it be otherwise, how would it be if we didn't go to work that day and instead

had the courage to take that taxi to the other end of now.

Artists also ask us to stare into the heart of humanity and acknowledge that it is made from choices and circumstance, right turns and wrong turns, gifts and curve-balls. We really need to fight for that individuality, the right to be a mass of contradictions, if we are going to connect with and truly understand one another.

We are preparing now for the 45th National Arts Festival and our artists are again reflecting on the sticky, hot mess that it is to be human. Key themes emerging in 2019 are those that echo our news stories and dinner table conversations. Many of the works we are presenting are threaded together around the issue of land - what land means to identity and what our interactions with land, earth and soil mean. These works look at how land can be a burden, an albatross around our necks or something which entraps us. But they also acknowledge how deeply land is embedded in our souls, and how we, as Africans, must have our feet rooted to the ground when we look up at the vast sky to feel truly capable of reaching up and walking forward.

The National Arts Festival has always been the

space to play out our issues. The festival managed to escape censorship during apartheid and was a place where freedom was able to be expressed - through satire or hidden in storytelling - but it has always been a place where freedom slips through and makes it on to the stage.

It is the freedom the festival continues to defend. So many survivors of war or imprisonment say that they defied their captors by cultivating freedom in their minds. No matter what happened to them in their cells or on the fields of destruction, they made the choice to be free from within. This is the freedom we honour and should remember. That we are also free to express what is on our minds is what we should be celebrating most of all.

So here's to National Arts Festival's 45th edition: A celebration of *ebumnandini*, "a place of enjoyment, a place which is Amazing!" We look forward to hosting you when we celebrate the most exhilarating of all freedoms - that of our minds.

The National Arts Festival runs from June 27 to July 7, 2019.

Nobesuthu Rayi is Acting Executive Producer of the National Arts Festival.



NOBESUTHU RAYI

How white corruption gave birth to so called 'Black Corruption'

Continues from page 14

liberties such as the right to marry Whites, eat with Whites, stay in the suburbs with whites but not share the wealth of the country.

Inclosure, before anyone starts to sing about me protecting or promoting corruption, I will in future provide my view on how to deal with "black corruption". I am equally against corruption as it takes away the fundamental right to service delivery but as it is, blacks are trapped into the agenda and web of whiteness

especially since Whites have not learned to challenge their undeserved privilege.

Therefore black man must be very careful not to trust a white man to run his politics, economy, religion, and society. We can never entrust a white man to represent the interest of a black man, even the white liberals. Remember, we learn it from our past experience that: "The biggest mistake the black world ever made was to assume that whoever opposed

apartheid was an ally". We must never avoid asking: why is this white man interested in me, even if it is a genuine interest. We must never stop being suspicious.

A black man must, therefore, take it upon the self to educate himself, write his own books and equip himself to become economically, socially, religiously and culturally independent of whites. This is not easy, but it is achievable, and it is for the right course, black man you

are on your own. For whiteness operates without a knowledge and with the innocence of black pain, black poverty, inequality and "white corruption", it (corruption) is often used as the sole cause of the problems in black communities yet forgetting to mention that corruption is everywhere and created by white countrymen, imperialists and their corporations, especially when it comes to natural resources and arms trade.

The story about corruption on the General Secretary of the ANC, Ace Magashule, is therefore part of a bigger white agenda in the name of transparency against any black who is confronting whiteness (politically, economically, theologically, constitutionally, socially).

Professor Boitumelo Senokoane, an Associate Professor at the College of Human Sciences, UNISA.

Airline plans direct flights between Cape Town, US

Chicago-based United Airlines plans to operate three direct flights a week between New York and Cape Town.

The airline said it had applied to the US Department of Transportation for permission to launch the service.

"United plans to operate nonstop three-times weekly flights to Cape Town starting in December 2019," it said.

"We're thrilled to announce the addition of Africa to our global route offering," said

Patrick Quayle, United's international network vice-president. "This new flight will provide customers with the only nonstop service between the United States and Cape Town," it noted.

The service would decrease the current travel time from New York to Cape Town by more than four hours, United said. It would also provide customers from more than 80 US cities with easy one-stop access to Cape Town.

The service would be operated with Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. **-Businesslive**

Fitch warns South Africa over high unemployment

Fitch Solutions, a unit of the Fitch Group, has warned that South Africa's high level of unemployment would continue to weigh on private consumption and real gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2019.

The firm said in a research note that a weak macroeconomic backdrop and poor labour market conditions elevate risks to social stability.

"We forecast an average unemployment rate of 26.3 percent in 2019, remaining above the average of 25.2 percent recorded since 2008," Fitch said.

"We expect structural constraints to economic reforms - including the potential restructuring of highly indebted state-owned enterprises such as power-utility firm Eskom - will continue to weigh on business investment and employment levels in 2019," it noted.

Fitch's country risk index, which evaluated political stability and economic outlook as well as long-term potential and operational barriers to doing business, scored South Africa above the regional and global average.

Capital Economics economist John Ashbourne said South Africa's unemployment rate continued to be a result of structural factors.

"Many factors are at work, but we think that one of the most important is the skills mismatch in the economy - and the failing education system that perpetuates it," Ashbourne said.

In February, Statistics South Africa said its Quarterly Labour Force Survey for the fourth quarter of 2018 showed that the unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percent to 27.1 percent.

However, it said the labour market remained under pressure, mainly against the backdrop of weak economic growth - with the economy

having not grown above 2 percent since 2013.

Fitch further warned that high unemployment in 2019 would slow growth in private consumption, limiting the expansion of domestic demand and thus further weighing on South Africa's GDP prospects this year.

"Crucially, given that only 43.3 percent of the working-age population is employed, and that youth unemployment has risen to 54.7 percent, economic growth is likely to remain below its potential until those who are willing and able to work are better integrated into the economy."

The National Development Plan's (NDP) target to slash unemployment to 14 percent by 2020 and to 6 percent by 2030 seems to have fallen flat as the economy remains in the doldrums. To ignite economic growth, the NDP has set a target of 90 percent of new employment opportunities to be created by 2030 to come from small businesses. However, a study by the World Bank and the National Treasury released last month showed the finance gap between supply and demand in the micro, small and medium enterprises sector in South Africa to be \$30 billion (R417.41bn).

Tanya van Lill, the chief executive of the South African Venture Capital Association, said South Africa had to use venture capital (VC) industry to enable entrepreneurs to expand their businesses and to drive employment opportunities.

"While small businesses are vital job creators, many require growth capital to do this effectively. And because young companies generally don't have access to more traditional sources of funding, investments by VC firms become an essential form of financing," Van Lill said. **-BusinessReport**



Another hike coming . . . Motorists expected to pay more for fuel

Another shock petrol price hike looms, warns AA

Unexpectedly strong international fuel prices have raised the likelihood of an unwelcome fuel price hike for petrol users in May.

This is according to the Automobile Association (AA), which was commenting on unaudited mid-month fuel price data released by the Central Energy Fund.

The figures suggest that petrol may increase by 56c a litre in May, while diesel is showing a reduction of 5c and illuminating paraffin is down by a cent. If the increases take place it will be the third successive increase in fuel prices in 2019.

"The international product price of diesel climbed somewhat in the first half of April, while petrol has made a substantial jump," the AA says.

"Diesel's smaller increase is likely due to variations in international refining capacity, as well as the approaching end of the northern hemisphere winter when demand for diesel for

use in peaking power plants and as a heating fuel diminishes."

The association says that the rand has appreciated quite strongly against the US dollar since the end of March, with the daily exchange rate used for fuel price calculations improving from over R14.60/\$ on March 31 to under R14/\$ currently.

"The ground gained by the local currency has cushioned some of the blow, with diesel currently showing a slight decrease. But petrol users are in for a shock," says the association.

"Price stability in illuminating paraffin is welcome as SA heads into winter, during which many households will be using paraffin for heating. But the rise in petrol price is a cause for concern when our economy is already in difficult waters," it further notes. **-BusinessDay**



Drought continues . . . Money managers paying closer attention to investment in climate change

Pension funds should invest in climate change: lobby groups

Pension funds in SA have a legal obligation to account for the financial effects of climate change on their investments, according to two groups lobbying money managers that pay closer attention to the issue.

Shareholder activists Just Share and environmental law organisation ClientEarth have written to more than 50 funds in Africa's most-industrialised nation about their duty to savers. The local industry oversees about R4.2-trillion in retirement investments, according to the groups.

Legal opinion commissioned by the campaigners shows that failing to meet the requirement on climate change "would likely amount to a breach of duty by the board of a pension fund", they said on Monday.

Oil companies and Norway's sovereign wealth fund are responding to climate change through steps ranging from planting forests to

divesting from fossil fuels. SA is dependent on coal for almost all of its power generation, and with unemployment at about 27%, it complicates the debate about reducing this reliance, should it lead to mine closures and job losses.

The ultimate effects of climate change and the cost of transitioning to a low-carbon economy should form part of money managers' investment strategies, Tracey Davies, executive director for Just Share, said.

"The primary reason is the fiduciary responsibility for the funds to invest in the long term."

SA's 2030 energy plan sees coal-generated power dropping to less than 50% of the total, as investment increases in renewables such as wind and solar.

However, SA companies have been highlighting some of the potential costs. Anglo American Platinum, the world's biggest producer

of the metal, said on April 9 that a planned carbon tax in the country will add cost pressures for marginal and loss-making operations.

Sasol, the biggest manufacturer of fuel from coal, wants to "be part of the solution" in terms of what SA agreed to in the Paris Accord, co-CEO Bongani Nqwababa said. The company, which is held by a number of pension funds, plans to set its own emissions targets in 2020, he said.

Reaction from funds that responded to the campaigners' questions ranged from interest in discussing the issue to asking whether they were being accused of doing something wrong, Davies said.

The initial purpose of the letters was to raise awareness.

"You've got to understand how exposed your portfolio is to climate policy," **-Bloomberg**

Pessimism over Eskom grows: institute

The Institute of International Finance (IIF) says there was a growing pessimism regarding Eskom's financial and operational challenges with investors wary of the plans to unbundle the power utility.

The IIF said that domestic analysts had become more pessimistic about Eskom's financial woes after the utility's leadership indicated it would need additional financial support above the annual R23billion allocated to it in the Budget speech.

IIF associate economist Gregory Basile said discussions with Eskom and the National Treasury had failed to give an indication of a clearly defined plan to move forward with the restructuring.

"As a first step, to have a clarity of Eskom's restructuring plan, a chief reorganisation officer will need to be appointed, who will then likely unveil plans and a timeline for splitting Eskom into three subsidiaries," Basile said.

"Although there seems to be widespread agreement that Eskom's restructuring should introduce a shift toward more private sector participation, it is also expected that such a shift will not be a straightforward or politically easy process," he noted.

The IIF further warned that while analysts expected an announcement about Eskom's restructuring plan after the May 8 elections - it believed that the plans would likely fall short of market expectations, particularly on the utility's wage bill.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced early this year that Eskom would be split into three separate entities responsible for generation, transmission and distribution under Eskom Holdings.

South Africa's economy depends on electricity produced by Eskom, primarily from its coal-based generation plants, nuclear power station and some hydro power and a small percentage of renewables.

The embattled power utility's operational and financial challenges saw it implementing stage 4 load shedding last month.

A few days later, Eskom chairperson Jabu Mabuza and Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan said that load shedding would be avoided or at worst stage 1 would be implemented over the coming winter months.

The two said Eskom planned to increase supply at its power plants and to ensure proper maintenance and increase diesel supply.

Goldman Sachs chief executive for sub-Saharan Africa Colin Coleman in a Future for South Africa report said he did not favour the unbundling of Eskom.

"We have a crisis that cannot wait three or four years of market restructuring.

"As we've seen from overseas markets, you need real transactional capabilities to unbundle even less complicated structures than Eskom successfully," Coleman said.

The IFF said policymakers were concerned about potential strikes across the country in the event of an aggressive move to reduce Eskom's wage bill and to procure more renewables.

Energy expert Tobias Bischof-Niemz said the transition from coal to renewables would take years and that there was time to shift jobs from coal to renewables through reskilling programmes.

"To appease labour, many of the jobs in coal can be replicated in green energy - mechanical, health and safety, engineering, for example.

"To bring coal mine owners on board, perhaps we should be open to the idea of giving them preferred access to equity in large renewable projects," Bischof-Niemz added. **-BusinessReport**

Council assures Samwumed members

The Council for Medical Schemes on Monday assured members that the South African Municipal Workers Union National Medical Scheme (SAMWUMED) was not affected by the union's financial woes.

The South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) is reportedly insolvent and has been struggling to pay staff salaries since last August.

SAMWU has tasked its national office bearers with dealing with its finances, including ensuring that provincial allocations are paid on time.

The medical schemes regulator's spokesperson Grace Khoza said SAMWUMED had 33,000 principal members, R1.3 billion in

reserves and a 105 percent solvency ratio.

"This, in our view should confirm to all current and potential members and service providers that SAMWUMED is able to meet its financial commitments in line with the business of a medical scheme and that it will continue to do so for the foreseeable future," Khoza said on Monday.

"SAMWU has no access or control over SAMWUMED's member contributions or reserves and under no circumstances may the SAMWUMED's member contributions or reserves be utilized to further the business of SAMWU."

Khoza said SAMWUMED did not share

any resources with SAMWU and nor did the two share contributions or debts. She noted SAMWU had no direct control over the affairs of SAMWUMED except through the trustee representation on the board of trustees.

Should SAMWU be liquidated, this would not affect the financial status of SAMWUMED as medical schemes were governed by the board of trustees and half of the members of the board of trustees were elected by members of the scheme, Khoza added.

The Council for Medical Schemes appointed Joe Seoloane as curator in October 2018 after removing the previous curator Duduza Khosana in the face of allegations of misconduct. **-ANA**



THAPELO MOLEBATS

Mthethwa's obliviousness to reality is deplorable

With PSL relegation heating up and speculations flying around as to which teams will be relegated, sports commenters have joined the discussion and expressed their view on the matter at hand.

While everyone is entitled to their opinions, I'll be the first to admit that I've concluded that SuperSport commentator, Baba Mthethwa's view that Kwa-Zulu Natal (KZN) will continue to have three teams in the Premier League come next season is a sponsored.

First, let me state that for a commentator who's been in the industry for years to deny the reality facing Maritzburg United will be axed from the league is absolutely shocking. One would think with the resources at their disposal, one would be able to put them to use and see things for what they are.

I'll be the first to confess that my response to all his nine tweets all posted on March 12 where personal, extremely personal. And no, I was not the only one who went on full attack. As I've stated before, it's okay to have an opinion but when ignorance comes to the fore and seemingly it's imposed on us, you're bound to be on the receiving end.

In his response to one of my comment, he tweeted: "If u have a different opinion on which teams will be relegated and you disagree with my view, state your facts, not emotions." The man should know that you can never separate football from emotions, therefore, this falls outside the window.

And no, I don't presume to know what the final outcome will be, I am however disappointed at the level of ignorance from someone I've come to love and admire over the years. They lost to 2-1 to log leaders Mamelodi Sundowns during the weekend, forget the fighting spirit, at this stage of the league that means very little. What matters is the 3 points, not fighting spirit and they failed to collect that against Sundowns.

Next is Bloemfontein Celtic and Orlando Pirates. Anyone who sees the Team of Choice collecting all six points here is without doubt operating outside his mind, Baba Mthethwa included. There is no way in hell that United can and will beat both these two teams. No way. Now to those reading this and thinking, Thapelo is dreaming, United can win one of the two games and salvage a draw in the other games. Well, let me tell you this Sir, feel free to check yourself into nut house because that is where you belong.

Neither Celtic nor Pirates are going to drop points against United and this is no disrespect to coach Eric Tinkler. Come to think of it, United were in the exact same position last season when they escaped the chop. Oh, now I see where the so-called hope comes from. It all makes sense now.

Well am sorry to burst your bubble but truth is, this season is a whole different ball game as compared to last season so not, that view or logic, if you want to call it, does not apply.

To make matters worse, Tinkler still has Highlands Park (a), Black Leopards (a), SuperSport United (h) and Baroka (a). To put it like it is, this is an absolute nightmare for the team of choice taking into account that Baroka and Leopards are also fighting for their lives and both sides are far better sides than United. I'll tell you what, only one thing can save United in this case and no it's not Baba Mthethwa's tweets, no. Its prayers and prayers and more prayers and that's the honest truth.



Decision time... Cheetahs head coach Franco Smith to decide on whether to remain with current home team or head to greener pastures.

Smith's future hangs in the balance

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

The Italian national team has declared interest in Cheetahs head coach Franco Smith starting from 2020.

The Cheetahs coach, who previously coached Bennetton Treviso in the Italian league, has not indicated whether he will accept the offer but it is known that his contract expires after this year's Pro14 tournament.

Smith, who was also assistant coach to the Springboks under Allister Coetzee and has a solid coaching reputation, has had mixed fortunes in the Pro14 since the Cheetahs entered the competition last year.

While the Cheetahs did make the playoffs last season, they have missed out this season after losing close to 20 players in the off-season.

The Cheetahs acknowledged the approach for Smith in a press statement saying, "The

Management of the Free State Cheetahs (Pty) Ltd is aware of the offer made to the Franco Smith, head coach of the Toyota Cheetahs, to coach the Italian national side as from 1 January 2020," the statement read.

"The situation will be handled at the highest level with the Board of Directors of the Free State Cheetahs (Pty) Ltd.

"Management wish to assure stakeholders, suite holders and supporters that the coaching

structures will be properly structured to ensure success," the team announced.

"Management of the Free State Cheetahs (Pty) Ltd will swiftly deal with the situation and the Board of Directors will see to it that the Cheetah teams perform at the highest levels in all the competitions that they participate in," it added.

Smith has not commented publicly on the offer.

Arrows finally home

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Lamontville Golden Arrows will play at home for the first time in this season's Nedbank Cup after having played all three of their previous fixtures in the competition away from home.

This will be the second Nedbank Cup semi-final in three years for Golden Arrows, who were also drawn at home to Orlando Pirates in 2017, but lost 1-0.

Steve Komphela's side will be meeting lower league opposition for the third time in this year's competition, having seen off third-tier Tjakastad Junior Shepard in the Last 32 and National First Division side Witbank Spurs in the Last 16, before their quarterfinal victory over Bloemfontein Celtic.

None of Golden Arrows' last 22 Nedbank Cup matches have ended in a draw; they secured 13 wins and lost nine times. Their last draw was in 2009 when they went out on penalties to Platinum Stars.

Abafana Bes'thende have played 12 home matches in the Nedbank Cup since 2008, and

have seven wins and five defeats in that time.

Komphela is still seeking a first trophy win of his coaching career after leading unfancied Manning Rangers to the final of this competition in 2004, where they lost to Moroka Swallows.

TS Galaxy is hoping to emulate second-tier sides Mpumalanga Black Aces (2008), University of Pretoria (2009) and Black Leopards (2011) in reaching the Nedbank Cup final. None of them ended up on the winning side.

This will be a third Nedbank Cup semi-final for coach Dan Malesela, who led NFD outfit United FC to the Last 4 in 2013 when they lost 2-1 to Kaizer Chiefs, and Chippa United to the semis in 2017, where they were ousted on penalties by SuperSport United. On both of those occasions, Malesela's opponents went on to lift the trophy.

This will be the fourth round in a row that Galaxy are away from home, having won at Umvoti FC (3-1), Jomo Cosmos (1-0) and Cape Umoya United (2-1). It is also the first time they are playing top-flight opposition in this year's competition.



Finally home... Lamontville Golden Arrows coach Steve Komphela gears for battle on home ground.

Pro 14 tougher than Super Rugby: Vester



Pro14 much tougher ... Toyota Cheetahs chief executive Harold Verster believes Pro 14 much tougher than Super Rugby.

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Pro 14 competition has proven to be much tougher than Vodacom Super Rugby, much to our surprise, says Harold Vester, Toyota

Cheetahs chief executive.

With Cheetahs set to finalise their second season in the competition, Verster concedes that the competition, has proven to be more challenging than anticipated, saying the team

has since learned a lot in the process.

Since taking part in the completion, the local side has proven to be worthy competitors in the bigger competition and Vester is adamant that his side can only grow from strength to strength on the international front.

"I am certain that the future does look bright for us on the international front and we are looking forward to playing a more central role in the competition in the future," said Vester.

The soft-spoken Vester noted their first thought of the tournament was that it would be much softer than the Super Rugby.

"At first glance, we thought that the competition would be less demanding than Super Rugby but we found it to be tougher than the previous competition. Most of those players played for Ireland and beat the All Blacks last year. For Wales - all of those players play Pro14 and they won the Six Nations. Scotland almost hammered England and all those players played Pro14," Verster said.

However, the competition has struck a balance among participating teams, who've equally proven to struggle with adjusting to different weather conditions which in some way has levelled the playing field.

Vester said, "One must always acknowledge the balance the competition brings. Much as we find it difficult to play in New Zealand due to the cold weather, they find it equally tough

when coming to play here due to hot weather conditions, so there's a balance in all of this."

In South Africa, the tournament has not received the same attention to that of Super Rugby, a fact that seems not to bother Vester, who confidently expressed his view of the competition growing in stature and eventually going on to become one of the best competitions in world rugby.

A huge plus for the local franchise was finalising three-year sponsorship with Toyota. Part of the reason why the local franchise has found itself losing players and why it was kicked out of Super Rugby was primarily due to lack of sponsorship.

While Cheetahs have never struggled to draw numbers to the stadium, it's been a different ball game with Pro 14 as fans have not warmed up to the competition as yet, a situation Vester acknowledges will have to be changed in the future.

"It goes without saying that we need to pull in the necessary numbers during home games during the Pro 14 tournament. Seemingly the fans have not warmed up to the tournament, the numbers speak for themselves but this is something that needs to be addressed. We draw crowds during the Currie Cup tournament, and we must at least draw a quarter of that, if not half, for Pro 14," he cited.

It remains to be seen how the team will go around getting large crowds to the stadium ahead of Pro 14 next season.



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SPORT

CELTIC FACE PSL WRATH

Heavy punishment on the cards for Siwelele sa Masele after emotionally charged fans clash with police

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

Bloemfontein Celtic supporters' running emotions which came to the fore this past Sunday have inevitably landed the team in hot water.

Celtic now face a heavy and unprecedented sanction from the Premier Soccer League (PSL) after their league match against Cape Town City on Sunday had to be abandoned when fans went on a rampage.

Match referee Victor Hlungwane and commissioner Stephen Moshotele called off the fixture at the Dr. Molemela Stadium after home fans invaded the pitch. Match reports were handed in by Hlungwane and Moshotele on Tuesday which saw the league issue a statement later on that day.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, PSL confirmed that Celtic had been charged with "failure to provide adequate security for the match and bringing the league, sponsors Absa, SA Football Association, Confederation of African Football and football governing body Fifa into disrepute".

The statement stated that the club would appear before the PSL disciplinary committee on April 25.

Fans confirmed that the violent boycott was a collective decision taken during a meeting held earlier on Friday.

"Our mission was to send a clear message to the management that we are a sick and tired of their games. One day Celtic is being sold, the next it's not. We are tired of this inconsistency which by the way has created so much confusion even among the players and ourselves as supporters. We do not know what exactly is going on and the so-called management is not giving us a clear answer," said Thami Maseko, a fan who was present at Friday's meeting.

Kaizer Chiefs fans have in the past gone on the rampage at the Moses Mabhida Stadium while Orlando Pirates supporters have vandalised the Loftus Versfeld Stadium. Their games were played until the regulated 90 minutes while the incident in Bloemfontein is different in that the match was called off in the 23rd minute.

The PSL spokesperson, Luxolo September, said such behaviour had no place in football, citing not only does it pose a threat to the league's image, but also on the lives of supporters and

ordinary soccer fans.

"There's no way we are going to condone such behaviour; it has no place in football and we must set an example as the league that we are indeed serious about ridding it of hooliganism," September told *The Weekly* in a telephonic interview.

While he could not predict the outcome of the PSL disciplinary committee scheduled for next Thursday, September said an example would be made out of the perpetrators.

"We need to send a strong message that we cannot allow things to go on like this and for that to happen, indeed a clear message must be sent out to ensure that we bring an end to this nonsensical behaviour," he added.

During an interview with Metro FM, Celtic CEO Khumbulani Konco also lambasted the behaviour of the fans.

"This is very disappointing because we have been meeting with the fans regularly and we never expected this," Konco said. "We know there has been a boycott and it seems this time they wanted to intensify their boycott," he noted.

Bloemfontein Celtic Supporters' national chairperson Pule Mabena said the management and supporters have not met, adding a supporters meeting would be held to discuss what transpired on Sunday and find workable solutions going forward.

He said it was also unfortunate that the management has not met with supporters to discuss the matter. "This is a serious matter and by now the management should have met with us to discuss and find solutions but sadly this is not the case."

Mabena noted the supporters will continue with their peaceful protests until a permanent solution has been found. Also on the card is a meeting with Free State Director General, Kopung Ralikonksane, Max Tshabalala, Sinki Leshabane and the team's national executive committee (NEC) members to discuss a way forward.

Mabena confirmed the meeting, saying it will be held sometime next week.

Despite the club's dire financial situation, Celtic are fighting to reach the top eight as they currently occupy 10th spot with 31 points from 25 games under the guidance of Lehlohonolo Seema and John Maduka, who took over following the untimely departure of Steve Komphela.



Fans outraged... Supporters dash with police this past Sunday in Bloemfontein.

Lions wary of winning-less Knights

By: Thapelo Molebatsi

With their last game abandoned due to heavy rain,

VKB Knights will be baying for blood when they face Bizhub Highveld Lions today (Fri).

Aware of the opposition's clear intention to collect maximum points, Lions batsman Rassie van der Dussen has urged caution as they take on Knights in Potchefstroom in their latest CSA T20 Challenge.

Without doubt, the Bloemfontein side will be the hungrier side, having fallen short of expectations in the previous tournaments. At the present moment, the Central franchise remains the only side yet to win and remains condemned at the bottom of the table.

But despite being rooted at the bottom, Van der Dussen knows exactly what the dangers are about writing off any opposition.

"They're obviously desperate for a win," he said speaking to the team's website.

"If you observed them in the (Momentum) One-Day Cup, they had a difficult competition,

but when they beat the (Multiply) Titans in Bloemfontein chasing 300 odd runs, it lifted them big time.

"It also showed that when they get it right they really can be a difficult team. They always come into games as underdogs, which makes them dangerous, so we'll definitely not be taking them lightly," Van der Dussen noted.

On the other hand, the Lions were looking for their first win midweek and managed to get it with a clinical win over the Hollywoodbets Dolphins in Durban. Wiaan Mulder was the star performer for them and Van der Dussen praised him for his display.

"We're obviously very pleased after that," he stated. "It was a bit of a tough wicket, but Wiaan Mulder obviously produced what we all know he is capable of."

"It was the first time he's done it for the Lions and that was what really put us in a strong position. It was good to win and get that first one under the belt."

The Lions had lost their opening match to the World Sports Betting Cape Cobras and Standard

Bank Proteas star Van der Dussen wants them to continue learning and rectifying errors they made in that game.

He said: "For us, the focus will be more on our processes and improving the areas where we have been short. We've improved a lot from the Cobras game and there are some aspects that we'll look to further improve going into the game in Potch."

Knights' assistant coach Werner Coetsee said their camp remains upbeat despite the results over the opening week.

They lost to the Dolphins before a washout against the Warriors and Alan Kruger's No. 2 admits there is little time to mull over what may have been.

"There's not much time to sulk about what's happened, we just need to move on now and focus fully on the job that needs to be done against the Lions," he said.

"The mood is still very good and everyone is in a good space. The Lions will be a tough proposition, so we have to respect them," he added.



Tough battle... Lions' batsman Rassie van der Dussen calls for vigilance against winning-less Knights.