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BACK WITH  
A BANG

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Free State Weekly

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# ACE FIGHTS SUSPENSION

It's fatally flawed, he insists

By: Ramosidi Matekane

**A** defiant Ace Magashule, who has indicated he will not back down but fight his suspension this week as ANC secretary, has found solace in voices calling on him to stay put emanating from his home province of the Free State.

Magashule was served with a letter of suspension by the ruling party on Wednesday following a national working committee (NWC) meeting on Monday for failing to step aside after a 30-day deadline to do so.

The former Free State premier has rubbished his suspension from party activities as “fatally flawed” and questioned his deputy, Jessie Duarte’s authority to issue him with the letter.

The veteran politician said in Johannesburg he would appeal the party’s decision and expressed confidence that he will emerge triumphant in his bid.

Here at home, the troubled Magashule’s unwavering support to fight back came from Member of Parliament (MPL) Vutha Ntsube who spoke against the step aside resolution in Botshabelo last Friday, a few days before the SG’s suspension.

“If Ace Magashule is charged he will be made a hero; if he is assassinated he will be a martyr, and if he survives both charges and the assassination he will be the next President of the ANC and the state,” said Ntsube.

He made these remarks while addressing scores of ANC members gathered in Ward 12 where campaigning for elections to pick the next regional chairperson of the movement was taking place.

A former president of Congress of South African Students (Cosas), a militant student body that has been known for closing rank with Magashule, the MP said calls for the SG to step aside were far-fetched and only meant to ensure

he is sidelined from the main political playing field in the country.

He noted the agenda of those seeking Magashule’s removal from office is to frustrate the implementation of the party’s resolutions on the Radical Economic Transformation (RET) as allegedly instructed by the proponents’ ‘White Monopoly Capital (WMC) handlers’.

The step aside resolution in its current form could be used to target internal political opponents in the ANC and should be refined and reviewed by branches, not to be used as a weapon in the party’s factional battles.

“The South African Constitution states clearly that a person is innocent until he is proven by a competent court of law. The step aside resolution in its present form negates this and seeks to ostracise people merely on the basis of allegations which have not been tested in court; this can’t be,” charged Ntsube.

He pointed out the call for Magashule to step aside should rest with the branches of the movement as they are the ones that elect all the office bearers of the organisation.

“Only a properly constituted national elective conference of the ANC through branch delegates can make a call for a particular leader of the movement to step aside. Alternatively, a National General Council (NGC) of the party should be called to decide on this resolution and its potential use as a weapon at targeting undesirable leaders and in the process weakening and dividing our glorious movement”

Ntsube added there were attempts to stall the calling of the ANC elective conference or the NGC by the current leadership of the party using the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse to push their anti-Magashule mantra unperturbed.

Magashule indicated he would be fighting his suspension, arguing that as secretary general of the ANC he was elected by the branches of the party and as such only they can remove him.

He also said that he had suspended party



Fighting his suspension . . . Ace Magashule

president Cyril Ramaphosa “in full compliance with the relevant conference resolutions” and that he would appeal his “fatally flawed” suspension as SG.

Queried about the letter by the Mail and Guardian, Magashule apparently referred the newspaper to the ‘step aside’ resolution where it states all those who are alleged, reported and charged must step aside.

“Why don’t you read those 10 points (sic in the ANC resolutions?” he reportedly said.

The unapologetic Magashule also spoke out on the troubles bedevilling party political heavyweights Supra Mahumapelo, Bongani Bongo and Lindiwe Sisulu.

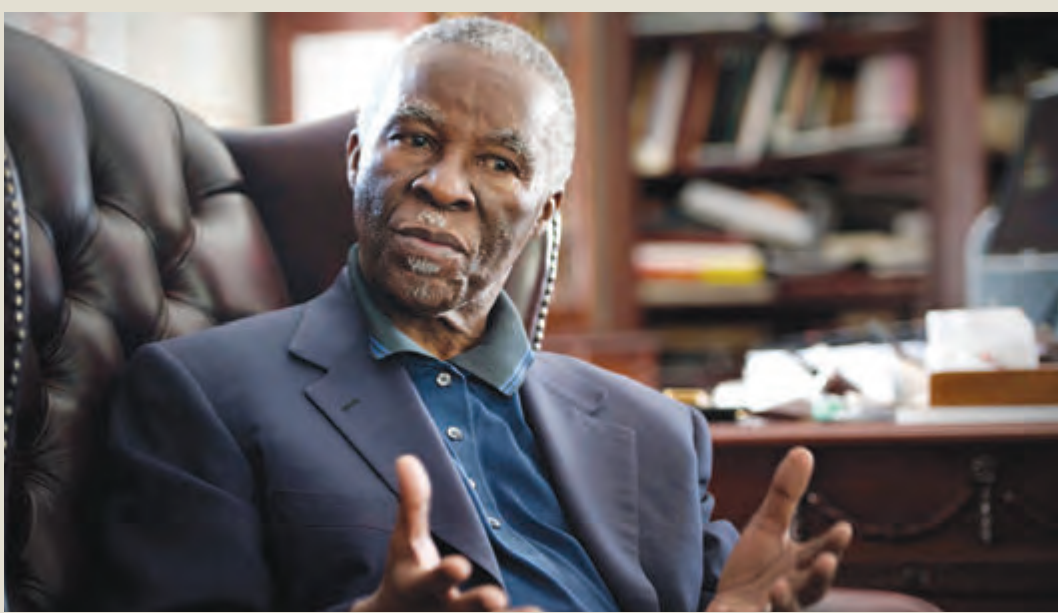
He claimed state resources were being used to tackle political opponents and that “we know what is cooking”.

Meanwhile the SA National Civic Organisation in the Free State, the ANC youth league and Women’s League together with the Umkhonto We Sizwe Military Veterans

Association (MKVA) have thrown their weight behind Magashule’s decision to challenge his suspension.

ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe said the NEC will be meeting over the weekend and will accordingly respond to Magashule.

“The ANC requests that the secretary general respect the decisions of the NEC and subject himself to the discipline of the organisation,” he added. HowerHis



Strong caution . . . Former president Thabo Mbeki

Former president Thabo Mbeki has slammed as “reactionary” suggestions by some parties, as well as from within the ANC, that national, provincial and local government elections be held on the same date.

Such a “synchronised” election would

disregard the importance of the local government sphere, as provided for in the Constitution, and would undermine South Africa’s constitutional democracy as a whole, Mbeki said in his May newsletter published by the Thabo Mbeki Foundation.

## Synchronised elections aimed at overthrowing ANC

He wrote: “This would finally collapse the excellent and special vision for local government which the ANC had, and which in large measure the [constitutional assembly elected in 1994] had accepted.”

The ANC’s national executive committee (NEC) said after its meeting in June 2020 that it supported an initiative by the party’s officials and the national working committee “to engage in the development of proposals on a synchronised national, provincial and local government elections to enable better coordination and implementation of policies across spheres of government”.

‘The people shall govern’

Mbeki said the intention of the ANC leaders and members who worked on drawing up the Constitution - which he insisted was not an ‘elite document’ as detractors claimed - was to give local government “a particular place within our system of government”.

He noted it was in this sphere of government that the ANC saw the fullest expression of the Freedom Charter’s objective that “The

People Shall Govern”.

Mbeki indicated in his newsletter that the ANC tried to involve as many of its members and supporters in the process of drawing up the Constitution.

“It therefore took the deliberate decision that the constitution-making should not be confined to its leadership, its elite, but would involve the millions immediately grouped within and around the movement,” he pointed out.

‘Framework of rules’

The former president said the “naysayers”, those like the Economic Freedom Fighters and some from within the ANC who have been pushing to overturn some constitutional provisions, have been supporting the synchronisation of the elections, but added: “It is a reactionary proposal!”

He further wrote: “The argument that a constitutional democracy is a threat to democracy itself and a subversion of the will of the people makes no sense and is not supported by any evidence, both in our country and elsewhere in the world.”

This argument, he said, “is not advanced because of a love for democracy and respect for the will of the people”, but rather is “part of a counter-revolutionary offensive which aims first to overthrow the ANC as a governing party” and to install another power in its place that would “proceed to manage our country as it wishes, without the ‘framework of rules’ provided by our Constitution”.

Mbeki said some of the “naysayers” wanted to form a task team to run the ANC and replace the current NEC, rebuild the ANC security structures, reschedule the local government elections, and expel all “foreign nationals” within 90 days.

This appears to be a reference to a group opposed to President Cyril Ramaphosa’s leadership calling themselves the ANC Cadres Forum convened by retired military intelligence chief, Mojo Motau.

The group has been criticised by the military for inviting members of the South African National Defence Force to its meetings.

-Citizen



## Mbalula promises solution to Gauteng e-tolls saga

Transport minister Fikile Mbalula has told parliament that the Gauteng e-tolls saga will finally be resolved in two weeks' time.

Addressing the National Council of Provinces, Mbalula said he would make an announcement in two weeks - after the approval of his plan by the cabinet.

“We are engaging with the Treasury and we are at the tail-end of our processes ... We expect that in the next two weeks we should be back to cabinet. Before we table our budget vote speech, we should have gone to you and to the public to announce the cabinet decision on the e-tolls.

“It has taken longer than we would have liked. We thought by now we would have finalised but unfortunately it’s a big decision. We are not working alone. We go back and forth with Treasury on these issues, and that’s how it is,” he noted.

The e-tolls saga has been one of the political hot potatoes Mbalula has had to deal with as a minister of transport because of resistance by civil society, unions and both the Gauteng government and the ANC.

He had earlier promised that the e-tolls issue would be resolved in March this year but his department missed that deadline.

The Treasury has been taking a hard stance on the matter, with finance minister Tito Mboweni repeatedly emphasising the user-pay principle on a number of occasions.

The Gauteng government, on the other hand, has been sympathetic with motorists, saying it was unfair to force them to pay for e-tolls. Premier David Makhura has on numerous occasions campaigned on the ticket that his government will scrap the e-tolls.

Even opposition parties in the province are opposed to the enforcement of e-tolls. E-tolls were a flop from the beginning when Gauteng motorists decided not to purchase eTags, nor pay their bills in protest and its enforcement has since been stalled.

In March, Business Day quoted Gauteng public transport and roads infrastructure MEC Jacob Mamabolo saying the province had made a compelling argument to President Cyril Ramaphosa, Mbalula and Mboweni, which they were confident would resolve the e-tolls matter.

“We have made a compelling case clearly stating that it is not correct for residents of our province to be burdened with paying for e-tolls,” Mamabolo was quoted saying.

“We are of the strongest view that the freeway network that is being tolled services the national economy and the Southern African Development Community, as well as the international economy. It is therefore not fair to expect the people of our province to carry the burden.” -*TimesLIVE*

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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION GROUP

## Mangaung ANC region branches row over ‘step aside’ resolution

By: Ramosidi Matekane

Some ANC branches in Mangaung have voiced their disdain over allegedly being overlooked in the region’s pronouncements regarding the controversial ‘step aside’ resolution adopted by the party’s Nasrec elective conference in 2017.

The branches’ discontentment comes as the ANC’s regional elective conference in the Mangaung Metropolitan looms.

The agitated branches met last weekend in Botshabelo Ward 12 to mobilise support for Chippa Majwetjane, who is angling to take over from Patrick Monyakwane as regional chair.

Their displeasure comes after the Mangaung ANC region through the outgoing regional spokesman Ncamile Nxangisa issued a statement in which the area was portrayed as being in support of the NEC decision on officials implicated in corruption to step aside or face suspension by the party.

Nxangisa in his statement said the region wished to clear apparent confusion on where it stands around the controversial resolution.

The outgoing regional executive indicated the ANC NEC is the highest decision making body in between conferences and threw its weight behind the step aside resolution.

“We are fully behind the NEC resolution that those charged with corruption must step aside as per the Nasrec conference resolution. The NEC directive that those charged with corruption and other malf easance must step aside within 30

days, is in line with the conference resolution,” said Nxangisa.

Molefi Tau, ANC’s Branch Executive Committee (BEC) member in Ward 30, told the *Free State Weekly* on the sidelines of the meeting that the Mangaung ANC region must not allow themselves to be divided by the pronouncements made by Nxangisa.

Tau argued these views neither represent the position of the branches in the region nor have their blessings.

He said such utterances should not be taken seriously as no consultation was done to engage the branches before making such binding pronouncements.

He noted the region executive is more like the Regional Task Team (RTT) given that its legal lifespan has come to an end and as a result it is considered a temporary structure with no legitimacy to speak on behalf of branches in Mangaung.

“Moreover such utterances do not come as resolutions of branches on the matter as directed by the NEC to have the resolution sent back to us to review and ratify. This has not taken place

to date and for the region to pronounce without resolving with branches is more like putting the horse before the cart.”

Tau said there was a tendency by some politicians to instill fear in members so that they do not speak out against injustice in the region. This is the number one reason why many hide their heads in the sand when it is time to take a stand on fundamental issues.

“Don’t listen to those that say they will make sure you go hungry if you dare speak out in making informed choices on matters of the movement. Martin Luther King said dying at age 38 and achieving a lot is better than living to age 90 without anything to show of it because of fear,” he charged.

He added threats at sidelining party members holding a different view on the controversial step aside resolution are to be expected but ought to be rejected with the contempt they deserve.

The gathering also heard of how Magashule during his two-term premiership in the Free State enabled impoverished families to have one of their own educated through his overseas studies programme.

The only mistake Magashule did in Mangaung with the placement of party officials was to ‘take hustlers and turn them into councillors’ thinking he was doing good, said Tau.

“A leader is not necessarily the one given a leadership role; instead it is someone who sees a

“  
They (sic hustler councillors) are still going to say all sort of nasty things regarding the secretary general. Close your ears to them and open your eyes to see the truth as to why they want the man out for yourself.

“



Succumbed to Covid-19 . . . Thamae Masetjane

## Mantsopa municipal manager passes on

By: Ramosidi Matekane

The Mantsopa Local Municipality (MLM) is reeling in pain and shock following the sudden death of its municipal manager, Thamae Masetjane.

Masetjane passed on at the Bethlehem Medi-Clinic on Sunday where he had been admitted and receiving medical attention.

News of his passing on was received with mixed emotions from across the Free State, with

many hailing him for being a staunch member of the African National Congress (ANC) in the province.

In a statement, the municipality confirmed Masetjane succumbed to Covid-19 related complications.

Born on July 30, 1965 in the sprawling township of Bohlokong, Masetjane trained as a teacher and was first employed as such by the Sekoko Intermediate School in Paul Roux, where he taught mathematics and physical science.

In 1995 he got appointed at the local Refengkgotso Secondary School.

The municipality said while teaching the spirited Masetjane continued honing his skills and knowledge through correspondence, studying with the University of the North QwaQwa branch, formerly known as Turfloop University.

This is where he obtained his qualification in Technology, Organisational Analysis and Intergovernmental Relations Studies.

challenge and comes up with a solution. The call for ANC SG to step aside is both unconstitutional and flawed as it flies against both the constitution of the country and the organisation.”

Tau’s sentiments sought to bury the outgoing regional executive insinuation of undivided support for the step aside resolution in Mangaung.

The region, in its contested position, had appealed to all members of the ANC to refuse to be ‘manipulated by forces that are not willing to subject themselves to organisational discipline.’

Nxangisa in his statement likened the step aside resolution to the recall of former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma.

As matters stand, Nxangisa’s committal statement supporting the resolution is a subject of topical discussion among dissenting members who view his narrative as ‘factional’ and in support of agent provocateurs seeking to silence Magashule’s persistent fight for the immediate implementation of the party’s resolution on Radical Economic Transformation (RET).

RET is considered a threat to white monopoly capital which the anti-Magashule supporters claim to protect.

Nxangisa’s statement came before the ANC Free State appealed its disbandment in court.

He said at the time: “No individual of the former Free State PEC disbanded by the courts has the authority to appeal the decision against the directive of the national leadership. We urge any individual who seeks to follow the individual wisdom to desist from doing so.”

Nxangisa added matters on step aside resolution are private and do not have anything to do with the ANC.

He also got certificated by Witwatersrand University’s Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management for Competence, among others.

Masetjane served the ANC in many capacities including being speaker of the Dihlabeng Local Municipality and was acknowledged with accolades for his sterling work.

He also scooped the HR Professional Ward in the Category of SA Board Peoples Practices (SABPP).

Meanwhile, Mantsopa executive mayor Mamsie Tsoene has sent her deepest condolences to the Masetjane family following their loss.

Tsoene said it is great sadness that she had to inform residents in the area of Masetjane’s passing.

She noted Masetjane joined the Mantsopa Local Municipality as the municipal manager in August 2017.

He was on a five-year fixed term contract that was due to expire in 2022.

“On behalf of Mantsopa Council and its administration, I hereby convey our heartfelt condolences to the family and colleagues,” said the mayor.

Funeral arrangements for the late Masetjane would be announced soon after ongoing consultations with the family have been completed.

Condolences have been pouring in via various social media platforms, including Face Book and WhatsApp.

*Robala ka kgotso Titjhere Masejane and Co-owner of Blue Horizon Club - Duduzane Nyama.*

*Aohle ha moya wa ntate o phomole ka kgotso hle joo lefu maar hobaneng - Tsoarelo Tsaone.*

*May his red revolutionary spirit rest in Power Cde Masejane - Lebohang Maqelepu*

Throngs of important party leaders from the ANC and the alliance partners in the tripartite alliance are expected to grace Masetjane’s final send off.



Sought by police . . . The suspect’s identikit

with a shaven head during the incident, the dark medium eyed suspect speaks English.

“He was wearing a black baseball cap,

red bandana, dark blue shirt, a gold chain necklace, black jeans and dark flip flop shoes,” said Makhele.



# Award-winning Prince Kaybee admits to cheating

Staff Reporter

Free State born music star Prince Kaybee is in the news again for the wrong and unenviable reasons.

The award-winning producer and DJ has admitted to cheating after a direct message conversation leaked along with a nude picture.

Twitter was set ablaze on Tuesday when DMs were leaked on the Hot and Served Instagram page from a woman named Eurica detailing a conversation between her and the “Fetch Your Life” hitmaker.

Prince Kaybee initially refuted the claims in now-deleted tweets and said: “But this isn’t fair, where’s the rest of the screenshot. This is Eurica *mos*, a costume designer that came for costume measurements for videos to be shot in Capetown. There’s a part where I tell her to hurry up I’m playing at 11, ai bo Eurica, sies (sic),” he wrote.

He continued: “Lesson learned today, do not entertain anyone even if they looking for work. Whether you guys had a fling or not, do not entertain.”

However, another woman came forward with more alleged receipts in a now-deleted post including an Instagram DM conversation and in the process leaked a nude picture of the “Gugulethu” hitmaker.

Following the Twitter frenzy, Prince Kaybee admitted on Wednesday morning that he had cheated.

He apologised to his girlfriend, Zola Mhlongo, who he said he had publicly humiliated, and his mother.

“I cheated, I humiliated my girlfriend publicly. To the people I have disappointed, the businesses I represent, my girlfriend and my mother I profusely apologise from the bottom of my heart,” Prince Kaybee said.

Last year, the “Banomoya” hitmaker and Zola

officially made their relationship public during a “Defining Love” episode.

Prince Kaybee and Zola, who revealed that they been seeing each other for a little over a year, wore their hearts on their sleeves on the episode of the YouTube show.

According to Prince Kaybee, he has social media to thank for “connecting” him with Zola,

whom he first saw on the timeline and then later slid into her DMs.

The pair then moved to proper get-to-know-you conversations and the star eventually became the resident DJ on her radio show.

After he gathered the courage to tell Zola to stop “ignoring” the feelings she had for him, they started dating.



Caught out . . . Prince Kaybee

## Dladla declines jobs to avoid being typecast

After leaving *Uzalo*, actor Khaya Dladla went without big TV roles for a while and has explained it was deliberate to avoid being typecast.

Having played *Uzalo*’s GC with finesse, the actor revealed his exit from the SABC1 soapie attracted offers from other productions. However, Khaya said most productions wanted him to act in a role that was a version of GC!

“I had to sit out some



opportunities because everyone was offering me an opportunity to act as a different version of GC. A GC in a different story but as an artist and as an actor who knows how much more I have to offer, I couldn’t allow myself to be typecast in that. I’m a casting director myself so I had to be vigilant to that,” he noted.

Khaya said he will always be grateful for the love he’s received from the industry - through award nominations - and the love audiences have for GC. However, it was important for him to show them the brilliant GC was not all he has

to offer as an actor.

For the experienced actor, being able to showcase your range as an actor is more important that taking jobs to put bread on the table.

Even when artists found themselves in a financially stressful situation thanks to Covid-19 and the lockdowns that landed in Mzansi the following months, Khaya didn’t regret his decision to pass on playing versions of GC in other stories.

His decision soon paid off because he got a chance to show the industry what he’s made off as an actor when he bagged the role of Nxebale Ndoda in *eHostela* where he impressed Mzansi with his skills.

Khaya said for him the lockdown was bad for what felt like a minute or two but in retrospect it was exactly what he needed.

“So 2020 - or let me just say Covid-19 and it complexities - was bad but only for a while. It did more good than bad for me. I am one of the people for whom 2020 was exactly what I needed. I needed to stop, I needed to calculate, rethink, restrategise, rebrand and so many other things.

“Lockdown gave me time to nurture my other skills, like being a casting director. This is a skill I’ve been polishing for so long. I am casting director for a few shows now, some new some yet to come. I love it so much, I love giving jobs to people who are deserving,” he pointed out.

Khaya also recently made a comeback on *Uzalo* as the much loved GC, and he’s excited for fans to see what his storyline has in store for them. -*Timeslive*

## Being a mom made me fearless: Zola

Actress Zola Nombona says motherhood has given her a spirit of boldness and it has strengthened her faith in God even more.

“The superpower I got from being a mother is the energy of fearlessness.

“After housing a human and birthing a child, there is a super strength that comes in. Like, if I can go through that then the world must try me. There is just a boldness I have now,” says Nombona, adding motherhood is a beautiful transformative journey.

Apart from having to adjust her work schedule, nothing major has changed in her life because she has a specific approach to it.

“This is how I wired my life: the child is coming into my life, so I don’t have to change my whole life and create expectations.

“As new mothers we need not forget about ourselves,” she notes.

Nombona admits that she does not have the formula. “I don’t think anyone does. Each child is unique and I am learning the balance every day.”

Playing Zoleka on Isono was a breather she needed. “I aim to fulfil the fire inside of me.”

Zoleka is an absolute switch from her previous character on Lockdown where she was a troubled prisoner.

Her new character is a high powered modern woman. She is at the top of her field as head of production at a sports channel. Zoleka dates Makwande and falls in love with him, she also helps him get the sports analyst job where she works.

But it turns out that mixing business and pleasure might not be such a good idea.

“We will have to wait and she how it will work out,” she laughs.

Zola would love to dip her hands in many jars. Anything that has to do with creating, writing, producing and everything entertainment, she is keen to take on.

Although this wish has not happened yet, she says she is holding on to the wonderful promise that the Bible gives. -*Channel24*

The group has been protesting over the allocation of R300 million from the presidential employment stimulus programme.

About 20 to 40 demonstrators occupied some parts of the building for at least 60 days, demanding answers about the funds allocation because majority of them have not received anything.

The money was meant to create employment and retain initiatives for artists

and others in the cultural sector affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the artists, Candi Brown, said the NAC offices were closed.

“I just had a conversation with the security guards that I’ve been in touch with, they’re saying they were told the offices need deep cleaning. It doesn’t make sense because we don’t use any of the offices and we did clean up,” Brown said. -*EWN*

Soapbox

UZALO

MaNgcobo and crew prepare for the heist. MaMlambo learns of distasteful rumours being spread about her. Screwdriver goes into ‘holiday mode’ at work.The heist takes an unexpected turn... MaNgcobo panics as she receives some disturbing news. Screwdriver makes a bold but foolish move. Mpambani must humble himself and accept help. Sbu desperately wants to be free. Lilly and Njeza’s relationship takes strain. Madlala can’t resist her Ben 10’s charms.

SKEEM SAAM

RHYTHM CITY

Sonto feigns support for Pastor Makoro’s engagement, but privately she puts the pressure on Suffocate, and he passes the pressure down onto Mzi, encouraging him to declare his love to Pearl. Nandi is shocked and devastated by the news from Khulekani, and stages a very public and angry confrontation with Ziyanda. Blossom confronts Kea about her bad attitude, and Kea tells her that she heard Cuba calling her a burden. Mzi pulls out of the scam with the Ndlovus, refusing to do anything that will hurt Pearl. Pule and Suffocate are not at all happy with him. He appears to take the news calmly but later goes to threaten Mzi.

# Honorary doctorate for Generations creator Vundla

Generations: The Legacy creator and executive producer Mfundu Vunda has been honoured with an honorary doctorate in literature by the University of Pretoria (UP) for being a titan of the SA entertainment industry.

Vundla was conferred alongside jazz legend Abdullah Ibrahim at an event that took place virtually on Monday.

Vice-chancellor and principal professor Tawana Kupe said during the graduation, “The arts play a vital role in holding a mirror up to society. Mfundu Vundla and Abdullah Ibrahim have been trailblazers in their respective fields, and have told uniquely South African stories. I am pleased that we are able to bestow these honours on two giants of the arts in recognition of their service and contribution to the country and the world.”

Speaking to Sowetan, Vundla said as much as he deserved the honorary doctorate he did not want to be called Dr Mfundu Vundla.

“Please don’t call me Dr Mfundu Vundla because people go to school and write thesis before walking around calling themselves doctors. I have bachelor of arts and masters degrees and that is where it ended. I am being honoured for the contribution and the mark I made in the society,” he added:

“It has been long time coming. It is wonderful to be recognised for what you have done. I think I deserve it. I have done a lot to transform the industry in this country. I am one of the pioneers especially in the local content creation and television. I mean Generations and Backstage opened doors for local content and channels like Mzansi Magic. This thing started with me,” he added.



Honoured . . . Mfundu Vundla



# Police urged to probe EC school camp drowning

The Department of Basic Education has called for the police to investigate the death of a 15-year-old pupil who drowned during an Equal Education leadership course in the Eastern Cape.

According to department spokesperson Elijah Mahlangu, the Xolani High School pupil drowned while taking part in an activity organised by EE.

The provincial department was alerted when community members raised their concerns following the death of Avethandwa Nokhangela. According to Mahlangu, members of Sea Rescue services and the police assisted the department officials to piece together details of the incident.

He added that the delay by Equal Education in reporting the matter to the provincial education department raised serious concerns.

According to Mahlangu, the department received a letter about the incident from EE on

1s May. In the letter directed to acting Eastern Cape education department head of department Dr Soyisile, EE says it contacted the department only on Friday afternoon.

“A thorough investigation into the incident is required to ensure that all the facts are established and those found responsible must be held to account for the unnecessary loss of life,” he noted.

The provincial department has sent officials to the school to arrange psychosocial support for learners.

An inquest into the 15 year old’s death was opened on Saturday after the body was found by sea rescuers. The incident took place at the Palm Ridge resort outside East

London. The camp was attended by pupils who were members of EE’s provincial leadership committee representing 19 schools from across the province.

-Citizen

The DBE supports MEC for education in the Eastern Cape Fundile Gade, who has called for a full investigation into the circumstances that led to the death of the learner. The department in the province received information from Saps about the incident after the body of the learner was recovered from one of the Buffalo metro beaches.

“

## Trio nabbed for defrauding WFP

The Johannesburg Hawks’ serious commercial crime investigation team has arrested three people for allegedly defrauding more than R5m worth of foodstuffs from the World Food Programme (WFP).

The food had been donated by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to the WFP for humanitarian relief.

The supplies, including tonnes of refined vegetable oil and yellow split peas, were meant for a relief operation in Malawi.

Capt Lloyd Ramovha from the Hawks said the SA Revenue Service (Sars) registered a criminal case of fraud in contravention of the Value-Added Tax Act and the Customs and

Excise Act in June 2017.

“The Hawks were entrusted with the investigation, which has now shed light on the fact that the goods were initially stored in a bonded warehouse in Durban. The suspects’ company was tasked to transport the piles but this never took place,” he noted.

“It has since emerged the goods never left SA but were instead sold for self-gain from within the country - to the detriment of the needy,” added Ramovha.

The three suspects are expected to appear in the Palm Ridge Specialised Commercial Crimes Court on June 8.

-Timeslive

## Businessman arrested for housing fraud

A Mpumalanga businessman has been held in custody since his arrest on Wednesday in connection with housing fraud and money laundering.

Fotoboy Makua, 55, the owner of Foto Security Company, appeared in the Middelburg magistrate’s court on Wednesday.

“The Hawks investigation has linked Makua to Annica van Staden, 46, a real estate agent who was sought and arrested by the Hawks’ serious commercial crime investigation team at her hideout in Boksburg, Gauteng, on April 26,” said spokesperson Capt Dineo Sekgotodi.

“It has now been established that the pair were working together when selling RDP houses without the knowledge of Tokologo and Rockdale-based owners,” noted Sekgotodi.

Buyers allegedly paid money into Van Staden’s business trust account.

When she received the money, she would then allegedly transfer it to her private account,

to Makua, and other people’s accounts.

“Makua and Van Staden are expected back in court on Tuesday May 11. More arrests have not been ruled out as investigations continue,” added Sekgotodi. -TimesLIVE



Arrested . . . Fotoboy Makua

## Assets for ex-Eskom executive seized

The Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg has granted the Investigating Directorate an order to seize assets worth R1.4bn belonging to accused allegedly implicated in the corruption scandal involving the construction of Eskom’s Kusile power station.

The preservation order, which was granted in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crimes Act, was served and enforced on all the accused in Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Limpopo on Tuesday morning, spokesperson for the Investigating Directorate Sindisiwe Seboka said.

This news comes a day after the launch of The Eskom Files an investigation by News24’s award-winning team of investigative journalists, revealing the enormity of corruption at the state-owned power utility, including at its Kusile plant.

The accused in the case are former Eskom senior manager for Capital Contracts France Hlakudi, the company’s former group executive for Group Capital Abram Masango, former Tubular Construction Projects CEO Antonio Trindade, businessman Maphoko

Kgomoeswana, former Tubular Holdings Executive Advisor, Michael Lomas and six companies owned by these individuals.

The accused face charges of fraud and corruption. Kgomoeswana faces an additional charge of money laundering. They are accused of committing these offences between 2014 and 2017, and are expected back in court on 1 June.

“In addition, their spouses’ assets and their family trusts were included in the restraint order,” Seboka said.

“The freezing order prohibits them from dealing in any manner with any of their realizable property. The curator, Trevor Hill, who was appointed by the court in terms of the order, did an inventory of all the affected assets which have been restrained pending the outcome of the criminal trial.”

Lomas, who is a UK citizen was arrested on 15 April in London.

«The process of his extradition back to South Africa started last month, and this matter will return to the London Westminster Magistrate’s Court on the 20 May 2021 for case

management.»

Among Hlakudi’s assets are 50% of a property in Moreleta Park, Pretoria, currently valued at R2.1 million and four vehicles, including a 2012 Renault Koleos and a 2017 Nissan bakkie.

An amount of R1.97 million, deposited by the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund into his account in 2017, is also described as “realisable property”.

Trindade’s assets include five vehicles, including a 2008 Audi Q7 and a a 2019 Renault Clio, as well as two properties in Sheffield Beach, Kwa Dukuza (valued at R2.2 million) and in Fourways (R940,000). He is also director of a company that owns various other properties and assets. In total, his assets are estimated to be worth more than R18 million.

Masango, with his wife, owns a property in Emahlaleni, valued at R1.4 million and a stake in a Lichtenburg property, as well as three vehicles, including a 2018 Toyota Land Cruiser. A benefit of almost R12.4 million from the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund is also listed in the affidavit.

One of the companies targeted by the NPA, Abeyla, owns ten vehicles, including a tractor, worth almost R1.5 million.

-Fin24



Jailed 25 years . . . Mohamed Vahed Ebrahim

## Louw’s killer sentenced to 25 years

Mohamed Vahed Ebrahim was sentenced to 25 years for the kidnapping and premeditated murder of nine-year-old Miguel Louw, whose decomposed body was discovered in bushes in Phoenix in September 2018, about two months after he went missing.

Louw, who was a grade 4 pupil in Sydenham, was last seen in the company of Ebrahim, who was a friend of his mother and used to do odd jobs for the family.

In finding him guilty earlier this year, Durban high court judge Jacqueline Henriques said the evidence showed that Ebrahim had been spurned by Louw’s mother, Raylene, after which he had told her: “I will show you.”

Immediately after the sentence, his granny Arlene Omardeen, who was the only family member in court, uttered the words “Praise the Lord” - immediately followed by “Sorry, thank you Lord”.

Ebrahim was sentenced to eight years for kidnapping and 25 for murder, to run concurrently.

The judge deviated from the prescribed minimum sentence of life because he was a first offender, there was no direct evidence of Miguel’s cause of death, circumstantial evidence, that Ebrahim had no history of violence and it was a crime of passion.

As he was led away, he was heard muttering, “No evidence”.

Louw was last seen in the company of Ebrahim at a chicken takeaway place after school. CCTV footage showed the pair walking away from the child’s house.

Cellphone evidence presented to the court proved that that afternoon Ebrahim was in the vicinity of Phoenix, near his own home and close to where Miguel’s body was found on September 2 by a policeman in pursuit of suspects.

While his body was badly decomposed, medical reports suggested that he had been suffocated and had died soon after disappearing.

In victim impact statements handed in to the court, his mom Raylene said on the day he disappeared she had kissed him goodbye and told him she loved him, as she always did when he headed off to school.

When his body was found, it was in the “most horrific, traumatised, despicable and brutal condition”.

“I honestly don’t wish for any parent to experience what we went through. The nightmares continue ... and the thoughts of how he must have cried for me and how scared he must have felt, makes me feel ill to my stomach.”

His sister Mikayla said, “I love Miguel with my whole heart. I will never be OK, but I will try to be.”

-TimesLIVE

## Rape survivor told probe own case

A Khayelitsha police officer allegedly told a rape survivor to investigate her own complaint.

The incident apparently happened while she was trying to report a case of sexual assault at the Site B Police Station in March.

Community safety MEC Albert Fritz is now calling for an urgent investigation by the Western Cape Police Ombudsman. It’s understood the

woman went to police the day after she was allegedly sexually assaulted.

MEC Albert Fritz noted according to a report, an officer recording her statement told her she looked too relaxed and did not look like someone who had been through a traumatic experience.

The woman and her friend were then

reportedly told to establish her attacker’s whereabouts and trap him so the police could arrest him.

They refused and said the suspect was a dangerous man. Fritz said the incident was indicative of why many rape victims did not report the crimes.

This is not the first such complaint against police officers and last year a rape victim accused Langa police of assaulting her while she was reporting the crime. -EWN

## Cops seize drugs worth R5.5m

Western Cape police seized drugs worth around R5.5 million in a bust in Namaqualand, along the Cape’s west coast.

It is understood that the drugs were destined for Cape Town.

Narcotics detectives in Vredendal followed a tip-off that a vehicle was transporting drugs in the area on Monday afternoon.

The vehicle was pulled over and, upon searching it, officers found a hidden compartment

that contained the drugs.

Police found 8.98 kilogrammes of crystal meth, 2.08 kilogrammes of heroin and 3.26 kilogrammes of cocaine, police spokesperson Brigadier Novela Potelwa said.

“The monetary value of the consignment is estimated at R5.5 million,” she added.

Two men, aged 39 and 32, have been arrested, as well as a 33-year-old woman. They face charges of dealing in drugs and possession

of drugs and are expected to appear in the Klawer Magistrate’s Court soon.

The bust follows a massive raid on the west coast in March in which officers seized a R583 million cocaine shipment.

In the operation, led by the Western Cape Organised Crime Narcotics Unit, officers descended on a shipping vessel off the coast of Saldanha.

They found 973 blocks of compressed cocaine with an estimated value of R583 million in three compartments of the vessel. -News24



# NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

## INVITATION TO BID

### ERRATUM

Nala Local Municipality would like to make an erratum regarding the CIDB Grading of the Infrastructure projects that was advertised on the 25 April 2021.

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**ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



# India pandemic impact on SA tourism worrying: Supra



Pursuing tourism recovery. . . Portfolio Committee on Tourism chairperson Supra Mahumapelo

Staff Reporter

The Portfolio Committee on Tourism on Tuesday said the current surge of the Covid-19 pandemic in India is a cause for concern for the safe reopening of international travel, just when the sector is beginning to recover

at a domestic level.

The committee urged the government and the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) to monitor developments in India to avoid a possible third wave, which may devastate South African tourism and lead to a total collapse of the sector.

It further called on the government to be proactive in preventing any eventuality, whilst continuing to strike a balance to save lives and livelihoods.

The committee said this on Tuesday after receiving a briefing from the Department of Tourism on its 2021/22-2023/24

Annual Performance Plan.

The plan was being tabled in a precarious global and domestic operational environment, as the tourism sector has been the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. Chairperson Supra Mahumapelo said the tourism vote will receive a total budget of R7.4 billion over the medium term, with transfers to South African Tourism accounting for an estimated 53.6 percent of the total budget.

The department's 2021/22 budget allocation amounts to R2 429.6 billion, R333.1 million of which is meant to fund compensation of employees.

The committee urged the department to strike a balance between tourism marketing and development to ensure that the demand for South African products is created whilst generating a supply base in previously disadvantaged communities in villages, townships and small towns. Mahumapelo welcomed the appointment of the Development Bank of Southern Africa as an implementing agent for the 30 community-based tourism projects to be implemented in the 2021/22 financial year. The appointment is expected to assist in eliminating the challenges previously experienced by the Department of

Tourism in implementing infrastructure projects. Mahumapelo noted the adoption of the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan by Cabinet would help to assist in bringing the industry to normality.

"The success of this plan will depend on the full participation of all stakeholders in the public and private sectors," he indicated, urging the department to also attend to the sector issues that prevailed in the pre-Covid-19 period. These include inter-sectoral matters such as facilitating access through e-visas; dealing with

safety and security for tourists; airlift challenges; maintenance of tourism-related infrastructure; transformation and other related matters.

The chairperson pledged the committee would continue to conduct oversight on implementation of projects to ensure that the department implements all its programmes and projects as tabled in the 2021/22-2023/24 annual performance plan.

He pointed out, "The committee acknowledges the difficulty posed by the reduction in the compensation of employee's budget in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and that this may cause operational challenges. We urge the department to optimise its efficiencies and maximise the impact of the little budget available for the sector." The committee also invited the private sector to customise their facilities to the domestic market to ensure a quicker recovery.

“South Africans are urged to take domestic tourism trips and substitute international trips with domestic tourism. This will assist to generate recovery and save millions of labour intensive jobs provided by the tourism industry.”

“

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# Workers Month Campaign launched

Staff Reporter

The Free State Department of Employment and Labour on Monday launched the Annual Workers’ May Month Campaign.

Led by the department’s Inspection and Enforcement Services (IES) Unit, the campaign will entail a series of inspections in wholesale & retail, agriculture, manufacturing, construction and foreign-owned business sectors across the province for the entire month of May.

The campaign will inform, advise and educate employers, employees, community,

role-players and stakeholders on the provisions of the amended National Minimum Wage, Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Employment Equity Act, Unemployment Insurance Act, Unemployment Insurance Contributions Act, Employment Services Act, Compensations for Occupational Injuries & Diseases Act and Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The campaign will also follow an integrated approach whereby all streams and competencies within the Inspection and Enforcement Services will be used. These are: OHS inspectors, employment standard inspectors, employer audit

inspectors and employment equity inspectors.

Officially outlining the programme for the month, provincial chief inspector Manelisi Luxande said the IES will through this campaign test the levels of compliance by employers with various labour laws.

The exercise will also register incidents relating to occupational health and safety matters, promote health and safety in the workplace educate.

“Through such campaigns we become the voice for the voiceless in workplaces,” added Luxande.

Organised labour comprising of Cosatu, Saccawu, Taswa, Sactu, Saftu formed part of Monday’s launch.

Cosatu provincial secretary Monyatso Mahlatsi expressed appreciation for such initiatives, calling for more strengthened relations with the department

Chief director provincial operations, Emily Maneli said the department will ensure inclusion of organised labour when embarking on such programmes.

“Through such partnerships, we are able to achieve the mutual goal of eliminating inequality and discrimination of employees in the workplace,” noted Maneli.

She added the move will see the department hosting monthly meetings with organised labour wherein issues affecting employees will be critically discussed and strategies devised to ensure compliance to labour laws by all sectors.

The Department of Employment and Labour recently embarked on inspections in Clarens to ensure that employers and employees comply with the country’s labour laws.



Perseverance paying off . . . Naledi Phahlo

## Sky is the limit for young Thaba Nchu entrepreneur

Staff Reporter

Growing up in a family of entrepreneurs in Thaba Nchu propelled 30 year-old Naledi Phahlo to love business.

From a young age, Phahlo learnt to be her own boss and back in high school, she sold sweets and other various items.

From that entrepreneurship background, today she manufactures her own cleaning household items such as soaps, dishwashing liquid, detergents, perfumes, and sanitisers, to mention a few.

Phahlo is proud that she is making a name for herself as one of the youngest women entrepreneurs in the cleaning products manufacturing space that is common to be dominated by the big players.

The young businesswoman majored in Mathematics and Chemistry while studying at the University of the Free State in her first qualification.

Phahlo buys raw materials and chemicals and creates her own products from scratch, packages them and sells them under the Deedee brand.

She also fumigates houses and business premises as part of her services.

The determined entrepreneur has employed four people and has two shops in Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo.

According to Phahlo, being in business has always been part of her DNA.

“My parents were entrepreneurs and had a tuckshop so I grew up in a business-minded family. I realised I excelled in business as I had clients. I sold clothes, shoes and everything I could lay my hands on. In 2018 I started selling soaps and after they became a hit with my clients I made more,” recounted Phahlo.

She noted she started making her washing powder and softner which she sold to few people who loved them and that encouraged her to add more products.

Phahlo believes the sky is the limit for her as she aims to grow her business and add more products.

“I wanted to play my role in reducing unemployment in Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo. With the business growing, I hope to create more permanent employment,” she added.

Phahlo recently graduated as a top student of the Gordon Institute of Business Science at the University of Pretoria.

## I won’t tolerate any political interference

SA Revenue Service (Sars) commissioner Edward Kieswetter has pledged to resign from his position rather that allow political interference in the affairs of the tax revenue service.

Kieswetter made the undertaking in parliament on Wednesday at a standing committee on finance meeting where he presented the Sars annual performance plan for 2021/2022.

DA MP Geordin Hill-Lewis had challenged Kieswetter at the meeting to assure the public that Sars would go after any employer who deducted pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) from employees but failed to pay it over to the taxman - a criminal offence in terms of the Income Tax Act.

Hill-Lewis did not mention the ANC directly, but his questions to Kieswetter were in clear reference to a weekend report by the Sunday Times revealing that Sars had garnisheed the ANC funding from the IEC to the tune of R17m due to an outstanding tax bill related to PAYE.

The Sunday Times reported that the governing party faced an R80m tax bill after deducting PAYE from employees but failing to pay it on to Sars over several years.

Kieswetter told MPs that under his watch, Sars would go after those who owed money and violated tax laws “without any fear or favour”, regardless of their standing in society as individuals or institutions.

“I can give the assurance to the members of this committee, but also to the public, that

certainly in my tenure as commissioner of Sars, I have had no political interference from any of the political parties or political leaders,” said the tax chief.

“I can also give the assurance that I will not tolerate any political interference. I would sooner resign than comply to any political request. I hold the fact that Sars has to be independent and administer laws professionally but also without fear or favour or prejudice. I hold that very dear and will seek to honour that.

“I am very clear that if any of the Sars staff members allow themselves to be co-opted and choose to collude within Sars, that’s a red-card offence and we will not tolerate that,” he noted.

Kieswetter, who also was careful not to mention the ANC tax matter directly, said the Sars “case selection methodology is politically neutral”, that it evaluated compliance risks and profiled taxpayers with “no cherry picking.”


“If through that process, a taxpayer, whether individual or a company or an entity, regardless of your status in society, if our case selection methodology places you on our radar, then we will engage with such a taxpayer and we will seek to enforce our law and we will hold you accountable for the tax obligations that you owe to this country.

“And I say that with the greatest humility but also with clarity of conference that that’s how we seek to do our work,” he added.

*-TimesLIVE*



To pursue tax dodgers . . . Sars commissioner Edward Kieswetter




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DURATION	TWO YEARS
PREFERRED MINIMUM EDUCATION	B Com Degree or National Diploma with Accounting, Economics or Finance
PREFERRED MINIMUM EXPERIENCE	None
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with the Municipality as part of a learning Process</li><li>• Be available for and participate in all earning and work experience required by the internship</li><li>• Comply with the workplace policies and procedures of the Municipality</li><li>• Complete any daily logs or any written assessment tools supplied by the Municipality to record relevant workplace experience</li><li>• Attend all study periods and theoretical learning sessions, also after hours( evening and/or Saturdays) with the education and training provider and undertake all learning conscientiously</li><li>• Complete and Maintain a professional portfolio of evidence in accordance with the guidelines</li><li>• Obey all reasonable and lawful instructions from Municipality</li></ul>
ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and experience of local government environment and related legislation.</li><li>• Problem solving skills, good communication skills both verbal and writing.</li></ul>
APPLICATION TO BE DIRECTED TO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In anticipation of a large number of applications, correspondence will be limited to the short listed candidates only.</li><li>• We appreciate your demonstrated interest of being part of the Kopanong Local Municipality.</li><li>• You are further advised that the Council has the right to appoint any candidate if it is in its view that no suitable candidate could be found.</li><li>• Canvassing for appointment is highly discouraged.</li><li>• Application: Detailed and comprehensive Curriculum Vitae including covering letter accompanied by certified copies of Qualifications must be addressed to:</li><li>• The Municipal Manager, Kopanong Local Municipality Private Bag X23, Trompsburg, 9913.</li><li>• No faxed or emailed applications will be accepted. If you have not received any response within 30 days after the closing date, consider your application unsuccessful.</li><li>• Enquiries regarding the position may be directed to the Acting Chief Financial Officer: Ms S Dhlamini at the following telephone number: (051) 011 4951</li></ul>
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JOB TITLE	MUNICIPAL ICT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
REPORTING TO	Manager Finance
SALARY	R 100.000.00(PA)
NO OF INCUMBENTS	ONE(1)
LOCATION	KOPANONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (TROMPSBURG)
DURATION	TWO YEARS
PREFERRED MINIMUM EDUCATION	A RECOGNIZED THREE YEAR DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECNOLOGY OR RELEVANT TERTIARY QUALIFICATIONS
PREFERRED MINIMUM EXPERIENCE	None
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with the Municipality as part of a learning Process</li><li>• Be available for and participate in all earning and work experience required by the internship</li><li>• Comply with the workplace policies and procedures of the Municipality</li><li>• Complete any daily logs or any written assessment tools supplied by the Municipality to record relevant workplace experience</li><li>• Attend all study periods and theoretical learning sessions, also after hours( evening and/or Saturdays) with the education and training provider and undertake all learning conscientiously</li><li>• Complete and Maintain a professional portfolio of evidence in accordance with the guidelines</li><li>• Obey all reasonable and lawful instructions from Municipality</li><li>• Assist IT Officer with daily IT Queries</li><li>• Provide technical IT support to the Municipality</li><li>• Install hardware and software</li><li>• To ensure all users are all connected</li></ul>
ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and experience of local government environment and related legislation.</li><li>• Problem solving skills, good communication skills both verbal and writing.</li></ul>
APPLICATION TO BE DIRECTED TO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In anticipation of a large number of applications, correspondence will be limited to the short listed candidates only.</li><li>• We appreciate your demonstrated interest of being part of the Kopanong Local Municipality.</li><li>• You are further advised that the Council has the right to appoint any candidate if it is in its view that no suitable candidate could be found.</li><li>• Canvassing for appointment is highly discouraged.</li><li>• Application: Detailed and comprehensive Curriculum Vitae including covering letter accompanied by certified copies of Qualifications must be addressed to:</li><li>• The Municipal Manager, Kopanong Local Municipality Private Bag X23, Trompsburg, 9913.</li><li>• No faxed or emailed applications will be accepted. If you have not received any response within 30 days after the closing date, consider your application unsuccessful.</li><li>• Enquiries regarding the position may be directed to the Acting Chief Financial Officer: Ms S Dhlamini at the following telephone number: (051) 011 4951</li></ul>
PUBLICATION DATE	06 May 2021
CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATIONS	25 May 2021
MUNICIPAL MANAGER	MR. MM Kubeka



# Parly committee hails senior higher education appointments

Staff Reporter

The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Technology has welcomed the appointment of the three new deputy directors-general, saying this will ensure stability at senior management level in the department.

The committee noted the three positions have been vacant for a long time and their filling would see improvements in the running of the department. The department appeared before the committee virtually on Tuesday to present its revised strategic plan for 2020-2024 and its annual performance plan for the 2021/22 financial year.

Due to the constrained fiscus and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the country's economy, the committee indicated, the department had to make difficult choices in order to ensure that the commitment made by the government for the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector are realised. Some of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) targets had to be adjusted down due to budget shortfall, mainly in the TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) and Community Education and Training (CET) programmes.

Head count enrollment for the TVET and CET colleges has been adjusted down and capped at 620 000 and 388 782,

respectively, the committee pointed out. It also warned that university enrolments would continue to grow while the current inverted pyramid remains unchanged.

The committee however, commended the department for introducing skills that are fit for purpose in TVET and CET colleges. These interventions would go a long way in addressing the local economic skills needs.

It further praised the interventions made by the department to support the Presidential Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, by ensuring that relevant skills to grow the economy are offered at PSET institutions. Budget cuts within the department's budget over the MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework) period were very depressing, the committee noted.

The budget is projected to decrease by R20.8 billion over the MTEF in 2021/22, according to the committee. There was a risk that student funding continues to grow at the expense of university subsidies, and if this trend is maintained, funding would overtake subsidies to universities.

"Therefore, in the medium- to long-term, universities' budgets will be constrained and that will compromise the quality of higher education, as the number of students will exceed the capacity of the universities to offer quality education," it added.

## Sassa Bloemfontein offices closed

By: Ramosidi Matekane

The South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) regional offices in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality have been closed after an employee tested positive for Covid-19.

The Bloemfontein local office of Sassa has also closed shop temporarily, the organisation announced in a press statement on Wednesday.

Sassa Free State spokesperson Motshewa Maleka said the two offices will be closed until Monday next week to allow for decontamination to take place.

"The Free State Sassa Regional, Mangaung Metro and Bloemfontein Local Offices have been closed until 7 May; this is due to the rapidly increasing numbers of confirmed Covid-19 cases at the Free State Regional office and the continuous need for the closing of floors at Iustitia Building," she noted.

The affected employee has been advised to self-isolate while recovering.

The same advice, was extended to other officials who were in close contact with the affected employee, said Maleka.

She added the agency remains committed to ensuring the safety of its employees and clients, always reminding them to wear their masks, practice social distancing and keep washing their

hands with soap and water, and to sanitise.

"If we work together, we will help to flatten the curve of this pandemic."

As a result of the two offices' closure, the attention of members of the public is being drawn to the likely disruptions that might occur.

Maleka said Sassa's Free State regional executive manager Themba Matlou and his entire team plead for the public's patience during this period.

Meanwhile, as of Wednesday, the province's Covid-9 stats pointed to 170 new cases being registered. These were made up of 94 cases reported in the Mangaung Metro, 14 in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, 11 in Thabo Mofutsanyana, 30 in Lejweleputswa, 9 in Xhariep and the remaining 12 in the so-called 'Unknown districts.'

This brings the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the Free State to 89,627.

There have been 2,386 recoveries, representing 92% of the total number of cases.

A total 3886 deaths were reported in the Free State province since the first case was detected in Mzansi, with the highest case of fatality in Thabo Mofutsanyana and Fezile Dabi districts.

The Free State contributed about 4.3% to the national tally of fatalities.

## Zondo Commission to get more millions

The state capture commission of inquiry is set to receive an additional R75m from the government to continue its work.

This was revealed by justice minister Ronald Lamola, during his appearance at the justice and correctional services portfolio committee in parliament on Wednesday.

Lamola's commitment comes after finance minister Tito Mboweni told parliament during his budget speech in February that he would not give the commission further funding.

The need for more money by the commission arises after its deadline was extended by the North Gauteng High Court to the end of June after an urgent court application by deputy chief justice Raymond Zondo, who chairs the commission.

In his application, Zondo had cited the effects of lockdown restrictions and a need to call more witnesses as some of the reasons why he needed an extension.

The commission has already spent more than R800m since its inception.

Lamola told the committee that despite Mboweni's earlier refusal to allocate more money, talks have taken place with his department and more money would be made available.

"We want a situation where there is finality of the work of the commission of inquiry, we have already [allocated] a lot of money so we cannot abruptly end the commission's work. The commission has to end by giving us a report, that's the first thing we must consider," said Lamola.

His department, the secretariat of the commission and the National Treasury had a conversation and had found the R75m to help the commission finish its work.

Lamola, however, warned that the commission should finish its work by the end of June, in accordance with the court order.

"It is also in the hands of the chairperson of the commission of inquiry to ensure that it is so, and if there are difficulties, maybe he might raise at a certain point in time, what could have been the difficulties for them to finish.

"We would want to see the commission finish



**More funding . . . Justice Raymond Zondo**

its work because it also affects our programmes, because some of the money that we might have to find to help the commission, we have to cut from some of our programmes.

"We are beginning to feel the squeeze of resources, so it's important that it must finish its work," he noted.

National Prosecuting Authority head Shamila Batohi, who was also at the meeting, said it was taking time prosecuting cases from information emanating from the state capture inquiry because they needed to do more investigations.

She indicated there was a challenge with timing and sequencing because the commission was still doing its work, which made it challenging for the NPA and the commission to work closely on some of the cases that could eventually be prosecuted.

"The investigators have to verify the information that we receive as we know there is no cross-examination - well, limited cross-examination - before the commission. And so, as investigators, we have to anticipate those things. There is a lot more work that needs to go into the investigation after we receive evidence from the commission," added Batohi.

*-TimesLIVE*



New appointment . . . Professor Wendy Setlalentoa

## CUT appoints new Dean of Humanities

Staff Reporter

The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) has appointed Prof Wendy Setlalentoa as the new Dean of Humanities.

Setlalentoa, who joined CUT in 2004 as a lecturer, is passionate about human capacity development and looks forward to contributing to the university and the communities it serves.

As the eldest child in her family and the eldest grandchild from her paternal side of the family, she always valued education and the

possibilities it provides.

"I was born and brought up in Soweto, Johannesburg during the apartheid era. During this time education was viewed as passport to a better life. I was raised by a mother who continuously improved her qualifications and career. Therefore, I was inspired by the example she set. Growing up was not a smooth sailing journey but I persevered and more importantly, I was dedicated to my studies from a tender age," she said.

Always working towards enhancing her

skills, Setlalentoa is currently a registered for a PGDIP: Leadership Development course with the University of Stellenbosch Business School.

"I come from a family of professionals. My mother is a graduate of both UNISA and Rand Afrikaans University (University of Johannesburg) and my late father was a teacher by profession. I was inspired by my parents, especially my mother, who funded my tertiary education single-handedly. She made many sacrifices to ensure that I achieve what I sought to without any funding for tertiary education.

"Also, I was privileged to have been taught by many great teachers at both Morris Isaacson and Sekano Ntoane High Schools in Soweto. These teachers helped to shape and mould me and were instrumental in motivating me to become who I am today," she noted. Setlalentoa holds the following qualifications: a Bachelor of Science (Education) degree from North-West University (NWU), former University of Bophuthatswana (UNIBO); a Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree also from NWU; a Master of Education (Didactics: Science) degree from the University of the Free State (UFS); and a PhD: Education degree from the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT).

Her other achievements include a Higher Education Leadership & Management (HELM) Fellowship Programme; Project Management (Regenesys); Financial Management (Regenesys); HERS-SA Academy Alumni; Registered Assessor and Moderator (ETDP SETA); Skills Development Facilitator (ETDP SETA); and currently a fellow of the Next Generation Women in Leadership Programme (nGenWiL at CUT).

As the Dean, Setlalentoa is committed to ensure that CUT continues to make big strides on the global front by becoming a true global player that advances regional and global collaborations with other universities on CUT's academic projects and attracts students from around the globe.

"I believe in lifting as I rise and will continue and mentor my colleagues. Our faculty must amongst others, produce educators who will be able to lay a proper foundation using the resources available in the new normal. We also need to ensure that programmes offered in the faculty remain relevant and effective. Our students should be equipped to be responsible citizens who will not only improve their lives, but also the lives of people in communities they serve," she added.

"I grew up in a place where there were limited resources, but I was inspired by my teachers, who motivated us and made the best of the limited resources that they had. This motivates and inspires me. The knowledge that I can contribute positively towards empowering and teaching those who will become future teachers, translators, language practitioners, artists and design specialists is what drives me," pointed out Setlalentoa.

TENDER: FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT MOTOR TRANSPORT

11 MAY 2021 from 08:00 TO 15:00 - (GMT / BLOEMFONTEIN)

VENUE: CORNER OF HARVEY ROAD & RHODES AVE, ORANJESIG, BLOEMFONTEIN

Items for sale include: FLEET VEHICLES.  
Contact person for Tender List: Me. M Zwane Tel: 051 400 5255  
Contact person for Technical Enquiries: Mr. JM Kwalepe Tel: 051 400 5219

CONDITIONS OF SALE:

NB: VIEWING AND AUCTION WILL BE ON THE SAME DAY, TUESDAY, 11 MAY 2021 FROM 08:00 to 15:00.  
Reserve prices are applicable.  
Items to be sold can be added or withdrawn without prior notice.  
Registration and Bids will be from 08:00 - 15:00  
NO registration deposit required. Require FICA documents, Copy of Identity Document (ID/ Passport & Proof of Residence not older than 3 months.  
Goods are sold "as is" and no claim will be considered by virtue of incorrect description, condition or any other grounds whatsoever.  
Buyers are advised to inspect the lots before an offer is made.

NB: Successful bids will be announced the day following the auction:  
Wednesday, 12 May 2021, and at the same venue from 13:00.

TERMS:

Documentation required for registration: Valid ID, Business Registration Number and Traffic Registration Number. Right of admission is reserved.  
Successful buyers must remove items within 3 working days from auction date (see above) (at own risk and cost).

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

ONLY ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT) WILL BE ACCEPTED. Payment should be made out to the FSPG: FLEET MANAGEMENT TRADING ENTITY with the REFERENCE NUMBER allocated to successful bidders as received from Auction Finance Management. Successful bidders should settle the outstanding amount within seven (7) working days after the tender date. PLEASE NOTE: We can only release a vehicle once the full outstanding amount reflects in our bank account.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

Please note that "It is mandatory for all people who enters the premises of the Fleet Management Trading Entity to wear a face mask and adhere to all health protocols and social distancing measures. All persons are expected to undergo temperature scanning and submit to hand sanitisation procedures." A group of not more than 15 Bidders/Buyers will be allowed inside the premises at a time and will be allocated 1 hour for viewing and bidding purposes.



fleet management

Department of  
Police, Roads and Transport  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

www.fs.gov.za



## Firefighters want protection from criminals

Hundreds of firefighters gathered at Olifantsfontein fire station in Ekurhuleni on Tuesday morning to mark International Firefighters’ Day.

The day is observed to celebrate and honour firefighters globally for being heroes every day.

The group at Olifantsfontein took the opportunity to highlight the problems they face while on duty, including attacks in some communities. They held placards pleading for protection.

Their plea comes on the back of recent reports of attacks on paramedics and firefighters across the country when they attend to calls.

The day was also used to pay tribute to the three firefighters who lost their lives while battling a fire that raged for two days at the Bank of Lisbon building in Johannesburg in 2018.

Family members of the three fallen heroes, Simphiwe Moropane, Mduduzi Ndlovu and Khathutshelo Muedi, were also in attendance.

Co-operative governance and traditional affairs MEC Lebogang Maile said the country

and the world remembers and celebrates the bravery and selflessness of firefighters.

In recent weeks firefighters had to battle fierce fires at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital in Johannesburg and at the University of Cape Town.

“We also commemorate the three heroes who died at the Bank of Lisbon building extinguishing a fire that resulted in them losing their lives,” said Maile.

He noted he wanted to send out a strong message to criminals who attack firefighters and paramedics in their line of duty and prevent them doing their jobs.

“We as government want to say we will not tolerate the criminality against these heroes. We urge all municipalities to beef up security for all firefighters and paramedic personnel and to ensure their safety at all times.”

Maile pointed out emergency services in the county attend to about 7,000 incidents every day, saving lives and rescuing patients and individuals.

*-SowetanLIVEt*

## Calls for India travel ban premature: expert

The government is yet to determine whether travelling linked to India should be banned, despite outcries from concerned citizens about rising Covid-19 cases in the south-Asian country.

The health department has moved to reassure citizens that there are currently no direct flights from India to South Africa.

This is after South Africans messaged the government calling for flights from the country to be banned.

Coronavirus cases have been rising alarmingly in India over the past couple of weeks. As a result, countries such as the US and the UK have banned any form of travel from the country.

It is suspected that a variant of the coronavirus, B.1.617, is circulating in India and may be behind the second wave of the pandemic.

Health minister Dr Zweli Mkhize said healthcare agencies were on high alert, and the variant first identified in India has not been found in the country.

He noted the Ministerial Advisory Committee has been asked to advise the department on the management of travellers from countries whose rising Covid-19 cases were being driven by variants.

Health expert Dr Aslam Dasoo, from the Progressive Health Forum, has echoed similar sentiments, saying calls for travel from India to be banned were premature.

“The knee-jerk reaction of fear is not called for at this point. People should calm down - the minister is correct,” Dasoo said.

He added banning flights or travel from India would be difficult in South Africa, as the country had quite loose borders. Another issue was that it has yet to be determined whether the

variant first identified in India was driving a rise in cases in that country.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has labelled the B.1.617 variant as a category of interest, and further investigations had to be conducted to determine how infectious it is.

“It is impractical to try and ban flights. We have weak borders. People can enter from various border posts who might have been to India.

“To the extent that we have screening capabilities, we should deploy those. On a broader level, the variant first identified in India has been designated by the WHO as a variant of interest. The variants found in South Africa and the UK are variants of concern. There is a distinction. Variants of concern have been shown to increase transmission and infection in some cases. But variants of interests are still under investigation,” indicated Dasoo.

The rise in cases in India was a matter of concern and a reminder that the pandemic remains a worry.

The WHO last week said the world had seen as many coronavirus cases reported than it had in the first five months of the pandemic last year.

University of Cape Town organic chemistry Professor Kelly Chibale said the second wave outbreak in India was a reminder that we should now let down our guard.

“What has happened in India is a reminder that we should not let our guard down. The guard was let down in India. There can be fatigue that we can lose the momentum to continue with surveillance. All it can take is a new variant, virus strain. Let us not let our guard down. Let's keep searching, testing,” Chibale said.

Meanwhile, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases said it was also keeping an eye on the B.1.617 coronavirus variant. *-IOL*



Ready for court battle . . . Minister Gwede Mantashe

## Mantashe determined to fight unhappy power bidder in court

Mineral resources and energy minister Gwede Mantashe and his department said they will oppose a court bid by a disgruntled bidder to overturn the award of the tender for 2,000MW of emergency power awarded in March.

The tender, which was intended to bring additional power onto the grid as soon as possible to mitigate SA's strained power supply, could now be delayed, prolonging the electricity crisis.

DNG Power wants the high court to review its disqualification from the tender and prevent the government from signing and implementing agreements with the preferred bidders, court papers show.

The government named the eight preferred bidders last month. Turkey's Karpowership was a major winner, with three of its floating gas power stations among the eight projects chosen to help to end recurring power outages that have cost the economy billions of rand in lost output.

In an affidavit, DNG Power's Aldworth Mbalati alleged the tender's outcome was influenced by corruption and that some of the preferred bidders had been unlawfully granted exemptions.

Mantashe's spokesperson said the tender was handled by the department, not the minister, and

referred all questions to the department.

In a statement, the department said it would oppose the application.

“The department confirms receipt of a high court application from DNG Power Holdings on April 28. The department and minister intend to oppose the matter in court. The department will not, at this stage, comment on the merits of the case as the matter is sub judice,” it noted.

The department said it is confident the tender was adjudicated in line with all legal requirements.

Karpowership did not respond to a request for comment.

The DA has also alleged the emergency power tender was geared towards selecting Karpowership from the start.

Backed by environmental activists opposed to Karpowership's projects for reasons that include possible marine pollution, the DA has demanded a parliamentary investigation, but so far without success.

The government said in March the eight projects selected as preferred bidders would inject R45bn of investment into the economy and that the first power would flow from August 2022. The projects are due to supply power over 20 years. *-Reuters*



Not taking it lightly . . . MKMVA spokesperson Carl Niehaus

## Niehaus sues Mbalula for R8m for calling him a corrupt thug

Umkhonto weSizwe Military Veterans Association (MKMVA) spokesperson Carl Niehaus is suing transport minister Fikile Mbalula for R8 million for calling him a thug and corrupt on Twitter last year.

This followed a series of tweets in October in which Mbalula labelled Niehaus and MKMVA president Kebby Maphatsoe as suspected criminals.

In one of his tweets, Mbalula said: “Carl Niehaus is a well-known thug employed by Magashule at Luthuli House”.

He also tweeted: “Suspected criminals Kebby and Carl Niehaus.”

The tweets followed a march by the MKMVA to the ANC's Luthuli House headquarters for Mbalula's arrest because of the damage done to South Africa's rail infrastructure, among issues.

Speaking to *The Citizen* on Wednesday, Niehaus said the sheriff of the court was supposed to deliver the summons to Mbalula on 13 January 2021. However, the court was struggling to get hold of the minister.

“My attorneys were informed that it was particularly difficult for the sheriff of the court to deliver the summons, that the minister was most of the time not in his office and that his secretary and staff were often also not there. The summons has been in the hands of the sheriff of the court for a considerable period of time before he managed to deliver it,” Niehaus said.

He noted now that the summons has been served on Mbalula, the legal process could get underway and a court date would be determined.

“It's now in the hands of the minister. He will have to respond to the summons and decide

whether he wants to file an answering affidavit. Obviously, these are matters that have to be fitted into the court roll. So, it's difficult for me to say exactly on what date this matter will come to finality,” added Niehaus.

He pointed out he was suing Mbalula because he could not get away with insulting people with impunity.

“Minister Mbalula seems to think that he's got impunity to insult people. He has also insulted minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, minister Lindiwe Sisulu and many others including the secretary-general of the ANC, comrade Ace Magashule.

“I think the time has come for minister Mbalula to be told this is enough. He will not be left with a situation where he feels he has impunity to insult people as he wishes and there will be consequences. That is why I decided to proceed with this summons,” he further noted.

Mbalula's spokesperson Ayanda-Allie Paine declined to comment on the defamation case, saying it was an ANC matter.

She could also not confirm whether the minister had received the summons. *-Citizen*

## Norma Mngoma hits back at critics

Norma Mngoma, the estranged wife of former finance minister Malusi Gigaba, has come out guns blazing at her critics and those questioning the timing of her speaking out against Gigaba.

“I will do things the way I want and when it's time to fight I'm not a coward. Even legally I will challenge any unfair treatment towards me. People mustn't force me to be loyal to people who are not loyal to me. Loyalty and trust are earned not forced,” she said on Tuesday.

Mngoma testified at the state capture commission last week and levelled allegations against Gigaba regarding his relationship with the corruption-accused Gupta family.

She alleged the family largely funded their lavish lifestyle and that Gigaba received bags of cash which he hid in their home.

She said she was inundated with messages from people who asked her why she spoke out against the former minister and not just walked away.

“We deal with things differently. My life is not a book where you just page through it the way you want ... *Akere* this is my life, I will do things the way I want to do them - and when it's time to fight, I'm not a coward.

“People mustn't force me to be loyal to people who are not loyal to me. Loyalty and trust are earned, not forced. When I offer peace and you decide to offer drama, so be it.”

She said that she had no regrets over any decision she had made and would not be guilt-tripped.

“*Ngiright* where I am because I have dealt with things the way I wanted and now I'm moving on in my own pace. Don't expect me to do things the way if fits to you, I am my own person,” she wrote.

Mngoma was arrested in July last year after allegedly damaging a Mercedes-Benz G Wagon that was being driven by Gigaba, by repeatedly scratching it.

There was also an allegation, leading to a charge of crimen injuria, that she had sent an insulting text message to a friend of Gigaba's.

The charges were provisionally withdrawn by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in March. She has since rebranded from Norma Gigaba to Norma Mngoma, her maiden surname. *-Timeslive*



Speaking her mind out. . . Norma Mngoma

## Govt's preferential procurement doesn't exclude whites: Tito

Finance minister Tito Mboweni has defended the government's use of preferential procurement legislation to empower black businesspeople previously disadvantaged by apartheid at the Constitutional Court.

Mboweni is challenging the Supreme Court of Appeal's (SCA's) ruling that declared Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Regulations 2017 invalid and unconstitutional in favour of AfriBusiness, now known as Sakeliga, in October last year.

In heads of argument filed by Mboweni's counsel Ngwako Maenetje, SC, and Mkhululi Stubbs on April 19, the minister argues that the SCA erred in that it measured the legality of the 2017 regulations solely against the requirements of section 217(1) of the Constitution.

“We respectfully submit that the SCA's approach is a disjointed one and fails to apply trite principles of interpretation in doing so, for two reasons, namely: First, the interpretation fails to ensure that section 217 is properly contextualised by neglecting two of the section's three subsections,” the advocates state.

They also said the SCA's interpretation fails to prefer an interpretation that best promotes the spirit, purport and objects of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which include the advancement of substantive equality under the Constitution.

In terms of the Constitution, when an organ of state in the national, provincial or local government, or any other institution identified in national legislation, contracts for goods or services, it must do so in accordance with a system that is fair, equitable, transparent,

competitive and cost-effective.

It also states that this does not prevent the organs of state or institutions from implementing procurement policies providing for categories of preference in the allocation of contracts and the protection or advancement of persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

The Constitution also provides for national legislation must prescribe a framework within which such policies must be implemented.

National Treasury director-general Dondo Mogajane has described the SCA judgment as erroneous and that it should be overturned.

“Government has identified public procurement as a tool to leverage socio-economic redress and transformation. One of the reasons for the initiation of the process that culminated in the new (2017) regulations stems from Cabinet,” Mogajane explained in his affidavit.

Another reason cited by the National Treasury for changing the 2011 regulations was that it received submissions from companies owned by previously disadvantaged individuals complaining that they fail in practical terms to demonstrate that they empower suppliers or contractors disadvantaged by apartheid.

According to Mogajane, Sakeliga exaggerates the effect of the 2017 regulations by claiming that they are unfairly exclusionary to white people and their businesses.

He told the court the reason for promulgating the regulations were undisputed in the high court including that the government identified public procurement as a tool to leverage socio-

economic redress and transformation.

In November 2018, North Gauteng High Court Judge Ellem Francis dismissed Sakeliga's challenge to the regulations as well as a subsequent application for leave to appeal.

Mogajane said the SCA, which ruled in Sakeliga's favour, erred in concluding that Mboweni or his predecessors do not have wide discretionary powers under the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and that it stands to be rejected.

“The remaining grounds of attack advanced by AfriBusiness (Sakeliga) are that the 2017 regulations are ultra vires (beyond the powers), irrational, unlawful, unreasonable and impermissibly unfair. I submit that these contentions are without merit,” he added.

Sakeliga has argued that the Constitution requires public administration to be governed by democratic values and principles including efficient, economic and effective use of resources.

The organisation told the apex court that the Constitution further guarantees that everyone is equal before the law and may equally benefit from the law, without discrimination based on race, although legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination, may be taken and the right to trade and freely participate in the economy and opportunities offered by organs of state.

Arguments in Mboweni's application for leave to appeal the SCA judgment will be heard later this month. *-IOL*



## ‘R178bn just tip of Eskom corruption iceberg’

Eskom has conceded that it is difficult to find any contracts at the utility not tainted by corruption, while an independent energy expert maintains the supposed R178 billion in graft uncovered at the company is just a drop in the ocean.

Eskom responded to allegations of corruption on Tuesday following revelations that the power utility spent approximately R178 billion on flagged contracts in the past decade.

This is after *News24* reported that investigations conducted by law firm Bowmans and the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) found a slush fund created by senior executives in order for contractors to pay millions to finance their luxurious lifestyles.

It is alleged that contracts were even awarded for milk, tea and toilet paper at exorbitant prices.

Asked by *The Citizen* on Tuesday morning if the amount was more or less than R178 billion, Eskom spokesperson Sikhonathi Mantshantsha replied: “I did not say the figure is not accurate. I said that is News24’s calculation not Eskom’s.”

Mantshantsha, however, did concede it was difficult to find contracts that did not involve some form of corruption, with Eskom having opened more than 110 criminal cases with law enforcement agencies.

Energy expert Ted Blom argues that the reported R178 billion was just a mere “drop in the ocean”.

“I’m sitting on information that indicates there is another R800 billion of corruption that still needs to be brought to the surface and investigated,” he told *Classic Business 1027*.

Blom said Bowmans had approached him to assist in their investigation.

“Bowmans approached me some time ago and they wanted my files [regarding Eskom]. At that time I said listen here, I have worked very hard to try get these things together... [and Bowmans wasn’t] cooperative in terms of the remunerating me for work that I have done before I hand the files over. Then I had the Tegeta-Eskom supply contract for R10 billion cancelled. So that R10 billion we can say it was safely saved from the Gupta days,” he noted.

He indicated that the Medupi power station contract was initially valued at R34 billion.

“The initial Medupi contract tender, which I saw with my own eyes, was at R34 billion. The current Medupi cost-to-completing is over R200 billion... they’re standing at about R175 billion where we stand today and the project is not yet complete.”

Blom indicated the initial Ingula tender was for R9 billion. However, the amount ballooned to R40 billion by the time former president Jacob Zuma’s “cosy friends got their fingers into that pie”.

“[All these contracts] should be investigated and cancelled.... and with that we would have a total reduction of Eskom’s debt from R400 billion down to about R40 billion before the corruption got out of hand.

“Needless to say I haven’t calculated the nuclear corruption of 2008. There were certain people, including members of the government, who walked away with \$2.5 billion as well as some of the major coals [contracts] prior to 2008,” he said.

Blom added he had proof that Eskom’s internal audit team was equally corrupt. *-Citizen*



Backed . . . ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe

## Beneficiaries of ‘dodgy’ tender defend Mabe

ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe’s name will be cleared, says the beneficiary of a R27 million Ekurhuleni waste management project linked to the politician which is being investigated by authorities.

Mabe owns the patent to a tuk-tuk style waste vehicle which has been produced for use in municipalities as a community upliftment project. He left the company he started, Enviro Mobil in 2017, but kept the rights to the vehicle design.

Vusi Matladi, a 48-year-old self-proclaimed environmental activist in Ekurhuleni, says he doesn’t understand why the company and Mabe’s names were being “tainted”, but he had absolute faith the project would be beneficial to the community.

Matladi and other beneficiaries (about 70 in total) planned on meeting with environmental

affairs MMC Khosi Mabaso to discuss progress on the project. Despite the company having already received payments for the project, most of the beneficiaries had yet to receive the three-wheeled scooters.

Mabe declined to comment saying he did not want to interfere with the investigation.

The deal being investigated entails Enviro Mobil providing waste pickers with 200 of the waste vehicles known as karikis. One of the areas of suspicion is that the company apparently received a R7.8 million payment from the Gauteng provincial government before all the vehicles were delivered.

The SIU will determine whether this and other related transactions were done in a manner that was not fair, transparent or contrary to legislation. *-Citizen*

That company is now being probed by the Special Investigating Unit along with the Ekurhuleni municipality on suspicion that the tender was awarded unlawfully.

## South Africa considers suspending flights from India over Covid-19

The acting director at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) Adrian Puren on Tuesday said suspending flights from India wouldn’t necessarily prevent the variant first detected in that country from spreading to our shores.

The health crisis in India is at tipping point, with over 20 million confirmed coronavirus cases.

Health facilities are battling with long queues of patients in dire need of hospital beds and medical oxygen.

The new B.1.617 variant has been detected in that country with many European nations taking

action to stop it from spreading to their citizens.

Puren said there were many considerations experts had to weigh before taking any drastic steps in South Africa.

“I’m sure they will make an announcement soon as to whether a restriction to stop flights from India, it’s not going to be a straightforward thing,” he noted.

With a third wave on its way, there are predictions that Gauteng will be hit the hardest.

Puren said it was uncertain when this would be. “With Gauteng, the question is because of the high-level of density, [which] may possibly contribute to that.” *-EWN*

## Jailing Zuma could lead to anarchy: NGO



Facing imprisonment . . . Former president Jacob Zuma

The direct imprisonment of former president Jacob Zuma had the potential to “incite public outcry and civil disobedience and anarchy”, a Pietermaritzburg-based civic organisation said in papers filed in the Constitutional Court.

The Concerned Citizens of Northern Suburbs of Pietermaritzburg (CCNSP) applied to be a friend of the court in the case by the state capture commission, which wants Zuma to be held in contempt of court after he failed to turn up to give evidence at the commission, despite a court order that he should obey all the commission’s lawful summons.

The commission asked the court to order that Zuma be imprisoned for two years for contempt, while Zuma chose not to participate in the case before the Constitutional Court, which has already reserved judgment.

However, after reserving judgment, the court directed Zuma to provide it with submissions on what would be an appropriate sentence should it find him in contempt - a request that he refused, instead writing to chief justice Mogoeng Mogoeng to explain that his refusal to participate

## DA mayor faces fraud charges

The mayor of a cash-strapped Limpopo municipality is facing charges of fraud after allegedly claiming more than R20 000 in travel allowances even though she had used a state-owned vehicle for the trips undertaken.

Modimolle-Mookgophong mayor Marlene van Staden claimed for a travel allowance in three batches during the 2019/2020 financial year, according to official documents seen by the Pretoria News, including her salary advice and the municipality’s travel allowance payment records.

The municipality is one of the poorest in the country and has battled to provide basic services such as water in recent years, prompting community protests. The Limpopo government put it under administration in 2018 after it was marred by allegations of financial mismanagement. According to a Government Gazette of April 24, 2020, municipal officials are not allowed to claim for travel expenses while using a municipal vehicle.

It reads: “If a councillor uses a municipal-owned motor vehicle for official purposes, such councillor will not be reimbursed for kilometres travelled.”

However, Modimolle-Mookgophong

municipal records show that Van Staden claimed R2 515.70 for travel allowances in March, R3 837.70 in October and R13 780.08 in December last year.

Her salary advice reveals that ratepayers did reimburse her for the claimed travel expenses.

Van Staden, who became one of the youngest mayors in the country when she took over in a DA-led coalition of opposition parties after the 2016 local government elections, has denied any wrongdoing. The municipality was one of the two municipalities in Limpopo controlled by a DA, EFF and FF Plus coalition after the last local government polls.

“I have said it before and I’m saying it again – I do not claim for petrol. I’m honestly not that stupid. And if you want to see what my miscellaneous claims were for, make an appointment with my secretary. We have a file with the proof of every document from 2016 to date,” Van Staden said in a text message to the Pretoria News on Sunday.

She then invited the journalist to a meeting to see the proof and discuss the matter. However, Van Staden failed to answer her phone when the Pretoria News made a follow-up call to see the evidence. She later said she had been in a

## We’re ready for local govt elections: Steenhuisen

DA leader John Steenhuisen said on Monday the party is ready for local government elections later this year.

The party will this month host “the biggest virtual rally” to ensure the safety of its members and supporters amid Covid-19 fears.

The debate about whether SA should hold elections on October 27 amid a pandemic has received mixed responses from politicians.

Finance minister Tito Mboweni caused a stir over the weekend with a call to postpone the elections to prevent the spread of Covid-19. EFF leaders are also of the same view.

But not the DA, said Steenhuisen.

“While senior ANC members like finance minister Tito Mboweni are putting out messages on social media asking for the elections to be postponed, and the EFF are still dithering about their readiness to contest the elections, the DA has none of these issues. We are neither distracted nor confused,” he said in a statement.

Steenhuisen noted the DA is the only party in SA that has used technology during the pandemic to interact with its supporters and members.

Mboweni said door-to-door campaigning

and long lines at voting stations, among other issues, were cause for concern in spreading Covid-19.

The minister also made it clear he will not be attending any campaigns, saying: “Postpone this

was a conscientious objection.

But the CCNSP’s chairperson, Sirsing Singh, said in an affidavit that the civic body was concerned a harsh sentence would have severe repercussions for the rule of law, the administration of justice and the judiciary. In deciding on an appropriate sentence the court should consider Zuma’s struggle history and that, “despite contentious allegations of fraud and corruption levelled against him by the Mbeki administration, Zuma commanded overwhelming support from the masses”, which had led to him becoming president of SA.

Singh also said that the “litany of complaints” against Zuma - “inter alia fraud, corruption, misuse of government resources and state capture” were untested allegations yet to be proven in court.

However, Singh did not deal in his affidavit with the allegation of contempt of court - the only issue the ConCourt is concerned with in this case.

The affidavit also does not give any further details about why incarceration would lead to anarchy and civil disobedience. But Singh said that Zuma has a very wide support base and is “still a revered leader”.

“Given his strong fan base, it is unlikely and highly improbable that the interests of society will in any way ... be undermined, subverted or threatened by any form of suspended sentence.”

He said Zuma had recently celebrated his 79th birthday and had many wives and children - “for whom he is the primary care giver and the leader of his clan”.

If he were imprisoned, he would be the oldest prisoner, said Singh.

“Given his advanced age and deteriorating health, any form of incarceration will prove to be a death sentence for him.”

He added that it was clear that Zuma had made a number of powerful enemies and there would be “concerted efforts by those baying for his blood - not least of which has been the print and visual media who have made a multitude of disparaging and repugnant remarks about him and subjected him to an unfair public trial”.

It would be a travesty of justice to incarcerate him, said Singh. “It is submitted that a wholly suspended sentence would be the appropriate sanction in the circumstances, on the condition that Mr Zuma testifies before the commission.”

The court papers from the Concerned Citizens of Northern Suburbs of Pietermaritzburg do not say how many members the civic body has. *-TimesLIVE*

meeting. The Pretoria News has reliably learnt that charges of fraud against Van Staden have been laid by businessman Ranger Senong. He could not be reached for comment.

Limpopo Hawks spokesperson Captain Matimba Maluleke confirmed that the elite crime-busting unit had investigated fraud charges against Van Staden in 2019.

“I have sent an inquiry to the Commercial Crime Unit to get details of how the investigation ended,” noted Maluleke.

The Pretoria News had not yet received the report at the time of publication. However, Maluleke last year reportedly confirmed the criminal investigation against Van Staden but did not mention her by name.

The ANC shadow speaker in the municipality, Klaas Mabunda, said he was aware of the charges against Van Staden.

“As far as I know this case is under investigation by the Hawks. You only claim a travel allowance if you use your own car,” Mabunda said.

In 2018, the council filed a motion of no-confidence against Van Staden before the outcome of a forensic investigation into the municipality’s money issues. The Limpopo provincial treasury had placed the municipality under administration because of its bad financial state. *-PretoriaNews*

thing and save lives! The world won’t end!”

EFF deputy president Floyd Shivambu accused the minister of opportunism and questioned whether he had raised his concerns with President Cyril Ramaphosa.

One SA leader Mmusi Maimane said the elections must go ahead as planned so South Africans can vote out the ruling party. *-Timeslive*



Raring to go . . . DA leader John Steenhuisen





Demanding his dues . . . Nkosana Makate

## ‘Please Call Me’ inventor wants closer to R10bn

In a saga that has been ongoing for nearly 21 years, the inventor of “Please Call Me”, Nkosana Makate, yet again turned to court to get what is owed to him - not the R47 million as calculated by Vodacom, but rather closer to R10 billion, without interest, he said.

The Gauteng High Court in Pretoria is presiding over Makate’s review application this week.

While counsel are presenting their case from offices at Menlyn Corporate Park, Judge Wendy Hughes is hearing the matter virtually.

Armed with a hefty team of senior advocates, Makate said that he is confident about the success of his application.

The court is asked to review the compensation offered to him as calculated by Vodacom CEO Shameel Joosub.

This followed a ruling by the Constitutional Court in 2016, when Vodacom was ordered to enter into negotiations with Makate to find a fair compensation.

While it was all around agreed that Makate was owed 5% of the proceeds generated from his invention, the disagreement lies in what constitutes revenue generated from the invention. This is an accounting exercise, his legal team told the court, and one which Vodacom got wrong.

This saga began in November 2000, when Makate - then a young trainee accountant at Vodacom - came up with a genius idea. At the time, Vodacom described the idea as “a world first” and recognised that it was all “thanks to Kenneth Makate”, Advocate Gilbert Marcus SC, one of the senior advocates in Makate’s camp, told the court.

“Makate was promised compensation. It is common cause that Vodacom has earned billions of rands from Makate’s idea. Despite the product being such an overwhelming success, Vodacom refused to negotiate compensation for the use of the idea,” Marcus said.

After various attempts by Makate to negotiate with Vodacom on his compensation, he

turned to the courts.

“The various judgments make clear that for most of the last 20 years, Vodacom has sought to slither away from paying Makate what he is due,” Marcus noted.

The Makate camp told Judge Hughes that the R47m compensation set by Vodacom should be reviewed and set aside.

According to them this court should determine, given the calculations forwarded to the court by Makate’s team, the amount.

This would avoid further delay in finalising this legal process that has taken the best part of a decade already.

In the alternative, they submitted, if this court were to refer the matter back to the CEO, then the court should impose more strict constraints on precisely what aspects are being referred back to the CEO and how the issue should be approached. *-PretoriaNews*

## Joburg plans to take over power supply from Eskom

The City of Johannesburg has started negotiations which will see it taking over the supply of electricity in Soweto, Orange Farm, Ivory Park and Diepsloot.

Johannesburg mayor Geoffrey Makhubo made the announcement during his state of the city address, saying there is continuous electricity supply disruption for extended periods in these townships which has become a serious concern to his administration.

These areas currently get power directly from Eskom.

“We’ve started to engage seriously with Eskom to find a lasting solution to this electricity crisis with the view of taking full control as a city. Similarly, we must mobilise to curb illegal connections in communities which plunges the communities into darkness.”

In an interview with Sowetan after the address, Makhubo indicated part of the negotiations include the issue of debt from the townships which must be resolved. Soweto alone owes Eskom billions. Other issues on the table in the negotiations between Eskom, the city, the National Treasury, the department of cooperative governance and traditional affairs, SA Local Government Association and the department of public enterprises, are what will happen to Eskom employees who are servicing these areas and

how the assets will be transferred.

A task team, led by MMC for environment and infrastructure services Mpho Moerane, is also engaging in the negotiations.

“The lives of our councillors and families of our councillors are under threat. Whenever the lights are off in the township, they do not march to Eskom, they march to the councillor. The councillor calls us and says ‘I’m under attack’ on something we have no control over...” Makhubo said.

He expects an agreement to be reached on the electricity supply takeover by the end of the year.

Over the past few years, residents in these four townships have had to deal with serious disruption of electricity supply from the power utility.



Negotiating with Eskom . . . Mayor Geoffrey Makhubo

## Cop rescues driver from boot of hijacked car

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) has hailed an off-duty officer, who rescued a kidnapped e-hailing driver from the boot of his hijacked car.

JMPD spokesperson Xolani Fihla said the officer received information last Friday that a car belonging to an e-hailing service driver was being stripped in Mid-Ennerdale. The driver had been bundled into the boot.

“Upon investigation, the officer spotted a suspicious vehicle, with two suspects as per the lookout. The officer immediately called for backup, and the suspects noticed him from a distance. The suspects then abandoned the vehicle and walked towards a nearby tavern,” said Fihla.

The officer followed the men on foot. They opened fire, and the officer retaliated.

The men are said to have fled across an open field, after which they hid in a residential area.

Officers, who arrived on the scene, freed the man from the boot. He was taken to Ennerdale SAPS to open a case of hijacking and kidnapping.

“It was discovered the vehicle was hijacked at Ghandi Square in the Johannesburg CBD,” noted Fihla.

The JPMD management commended the officer for his courage. He has shown sheer determination, considering that he was off duty,” he added. *-EWN*

## Communities fear floating powerships will scare fish away

Representatives of some small-scale fishing communities say they are worried about the impact that floating powerships will have on scarce fish stocks along SA’s coast.

This comes after the environmental assessors for Karpowership SA found that a project to produce electricity on gas-fuelled powerships moored at the ports of Saldanha Bay, Richards Bay, and Ngqura could go ahead.

Separate impact reports were produced for each of the three sites. The reports ran to well over 1 000 pages.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment now has about eight weeks to study the impact assessments and grant or refuse authorisation for the multi-billion-rand project.

While environmental groups have criticised the project, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy has said the project will help cut down on load shedding.

“The presence of these ships, off our coast, will have a real impact in scaring off the fish in the area, and we fishers will be the ones going hungry,” said Carmelita Mostert of Saldanha Coastal Links, in a statement.

Khalid Mather, an environmental activist from KwaZulu-Natal, said few of the fishing communities along the province’s coastline had been consulted.

“They are the ones who will suffer from the effects of the added pollution and other negative environmental impacts these vessels pose,” he said.

Karpowership SA’s proposal is part of a department of energy initiative to fast-track new, independent power production.

The group, which is part of Turkey’s Karadeniz Energy Group, has been named a preferred bidder in the department’s Risk Mitigation IPP Procurement Programme.

It has bid to moor a total of five powerships and three gas support vessels, known as floating storage re-gasification units, at the ports of Saldanha Bay, Richards Bay, and Ngqura.

The vessels will produce a total of 1 220 MW of power from liquefied natural gas.

The environmental reports set out three major possible impacts on marine ecology surrounding the ships. These include the effects of the construction of gas pipelines, the uptake of cooling water and the discharge of cooling water.

The final reports for all three harbours found that the projected impact on marine ecology would be “low”.

The report for the port of Ngqura, for example, states that marine ecological damage surrounding the ships is predicted to be “negligible”, while the uptake and discharge of cooling water will have a “low impact” on organisms in the surrounding water. The construction of a gas pipeline is projected to have a “very low” impact.

Findings for the ports of Saldanha and Richards Bay are broadly similar.

The reports have, however, called from more research to be done on the impact of underwater noise in the marine environment.

“The effects of increased noise and vibration levels on the surrounding marine ecology could not be assessed due to the lack of underwater noise and vibration levels data pertaining to floating power plant ships”, states the report for Saldanha.

While the reports provide a specialist’s opinion that noise will “probably be below source levels from large vessels”, the impact assessments nevertheless call for a baseline study of the underwater noise to be carried out. *-Fin24*

## Analysts weigh in on politicians lack of qualification

Political analyst Professor Boitumelo Senokoane says it’s not a surprise that senior DA members do not have post-matric qualifications.

His comment comes after the opposition party revealed that the chairperson of the DA’s Federal Council, Helen Zille, has referred the investigation into the qualifications of Saldanha mayor Marius Koen to the party’s federal legal commission for investigation and deliberation.

The EFF recently flagged down Koen for misrepresenting his qualifications.

Bonginkosi Madikizela recently submitted his resignation as both DA Western Cape leader and transport and public works MEC.

He had been suspended amid claims that he lied about his qualifications, which he previously denied.

Shortly after Madikizela’s revelation, DA chief whip Natasha Mazzone came under fire for her qualifications.

“It is not a surprise that DA senior members do not have qualifications. Whiteness is a qualification by itself. Only blacks are expected to have such,” Senokoane said.

He noted it was imperative that Members of Parliament have certain qualifications to understand various disciplines.

Senokoane, however, maintained that leaders who do not have qualifications should not be excluded in some areas as they may have other knowledge to offer.

He further said the matter around qualifications should be based on a sound debate rather than be racialised.

Education activist Hendrick Makaneta also weighed in on the matter and said qualifications are important when one looks at the functions that need to be performed by MP’s as well as members of the Cabinet.

He, however, also indicated that holding degrees is debatable.



Threw in the towel . . . DA’s Bonginkosi Madikizela

“Many MP’s and members of cabinet rely on advisers a lot and sometimes you find that they are misled by the very advisers. I’m of the opinion that it would be great if MPs can have at least one minimum qualification and understanding of the law to make sound judgement. Sometimes politicians feel very strongly about their position which they want to enforce.

“The Constitution is the supreme law of the country and when people are not qualified, they may even undermine the constitution itself. The reality is for one to make laws or come up with a bill, one needs to have a background concerning law,” he said. *-IOL*

## Border post upgrade causing delays

The busiest land border in Southern Africa will experience six weeks of delays as a result of an ongoing upgrade project.

Beitbridge border post, which has about 25,000 people and 500 trucks passing through daily, has been closed to non-commercial traffic since January to stop the spread of Covid-19.

The border post connects Zimbabwe and SA but also serves as the transit point for the majority of north-south trade in Southern Africa.

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (Zimra) said the border post traffic handling capacity has been significantly impacted upon as a result of ongoing construction work.

“This reduction in capacity is anticipated to result in significant congestion and delays in the effective passage of all traffic, particularly northbound traffic. This situation is projected to last for the next six weeks during which period construction work will be at its highest,” said a

statement by Zimra.

“While the authority continues to do its best in expediting the movement of cargo through the border post, the limitations resulting from the ongoing construction work will naturally have a negative impact on the smooth movement of the traffic,” it noted.

The border post is undergoing a R4.34 billion upgrade in a public-private partnership between the Zimbabwean government and the Zimborders Consortium. SA banks, including FirstRand Bank Ltd and Standard Bank Group, also committed funding to the project.

The upgrade will be made to reduce queuing and processing delays, and new equipment and software will be installed, allowing for automated queuing and payment for trucking companies.

The border post has experienced delays and been the subject of bribery and corruption allegations for years. *-TimesLIVE*



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MTHIYANE GETS HER BIG BREAK ON IMBEWU



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Q & A WITH SAMANTHA FULLER



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GOVT MUST URGENTLY DEAL WITH SA’S DEEPENING WATER CRISIS

Some of the challenges affecting our water include the amount available, the unequal distribution and access to clean water, the quality and state of water infrastructure, droughts causing towns to run dry and corruption that has affected municipal treatment plants, resulting in sewage flows into streets, rivers and groundwater.

South Africa, a naturally water-scarce country and the 30th-driest in the world, is already feeling the pressure. It is predicted that the country’s water demand will outstrip supply by 2030 - that’s fewer than 10 years away!

To make matters worse, the little water we do have is being polluted and wasted. Water quality is negatively affected by mining, manufacturing industries, agriculture, crumbling infrastructure and poor wastewater treatment.

According to an article in the *Mail & Guardian* in 2017, the country’s municipal sewage system is close to non-functional, with more than 90% of the 824 treatment plants releasing raw or partially treated sewage into rivers.

The South African Human Rights Commission has reported that the Vaal River is “polluted beyond acceptable levels”, affecting natural ecosystems and endangering people’s health. There is a lack of maintenance of basic infrastructure due to deep corruption at local government level.

In Gauteng, the economic hub and the smallest province, there is ongoing acid mine drainage on the West and East Rand of Johannesburg, as well as serious pollution of the Hartbeespoort Dam. Furthermore, it is estimated that 37% of South Africa’s clean, potable water is being lost and wasted through poor infrastructure such as leaking pipes.

With regard to access to water and sanitation, the statistics do not tell the real story.

According to a 2018 “call to action” developed

by the Department of Water and Sanitation, optimistically titled Ready for the Future and Ahead of the Curve, at that time about 14 million people did not have access to safe sanitation and only 64% of households in South Africa had access to a water supply service.

However, the expression “having access” to water, which appears in Section 27 of the Constitution and is used by the department, is misleading because it does not reflect people’s experiences of having long and unaccounted-for water interruptions or having broken systems or no systems at all.

On top of all of this waste and pollution, the onslaught from the impacts of climate change will make water scarcity even worse since we will experience more frequent and severe droughts.

A big deal was made when Cape Town was close to day zero. But there have since been many more towns that have approached day zero. The Makana municipality faced extreme shortages due to neglect of water supply infrastructure, corruption and four years of drought. In Nelson Mandela Bay water is rapidly running out and the dams are almost empty.

Little rain is forecast and drastic water shortages that will affect schools, hospitals, sanitation and people’s dignity seem inevitable. Across the country, people are rising up, whether in protest or doing the work of the municipality - such as the Harrismith water heroes in the Free State who fix leaks and potholes and sort rubbish.

In recent months there seems to be some action from the government and one can be led to believe there is some urgency. President Cyril Ramaphosa said on 23 April 2021 that the Infrastructure Coordinating Commission in the Presidency is committed to addressing municipal infrastructure and service delivery. The commission is supposed to be responsible for establishing a National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency and reviewing the Raw



**Critical point . . . Numerous studies show that by the beginning of the next decade South Africa will face the biggest water crisis the country has yet witnessed - if we don’t act now.**

Water Pricing Strategy to ensure effective pricing and cost-reflective tariffs.

There is also a proposal to establish an Independent National Water Regulator that will separate the regulation (of cost and policies) from the tasks of water resource management and water services provision.

While this is important and necessary, this commission will not root out the corruption, which is a key factor. Having more commissions and councils could mean having more talks about talks. Instead of reducing the bureaucracy and increasing its transparency, these actions seem to be creating more layers that separate the people’s voices from the solutions. That should be the starting point for the government.

The government has stated that water infrastructure is affected by a shortage of technical

skills in local government, poor infrastructure management practices and inadequate budgeting and spending on maintenance. And to respond to this it has contracted 24 Cuban engineers for three years to help with infrastructure maintenance and training for artisans in the sector. This is fine as part of internationalist commitments, but it has to be linked to building local capacity, active labour market planning and links to infrastructure roll-out more broadly to train more young people in South Africa to be engineers - which seems to be the plan.

It would be good to also reach out to retired experts to volunteer and give something back to the country.

Fair enough, the issue is complex and needs a range of solutions to tackle the state of our water resources. There are technical solutions such as

next-generation sanitation and water-efficient options, but political solutions must ensure corruption is dealt with and that people go to jail - not only local government officials, but individuals in the private sector who influence corrupt behaviour.

In addition, the basic steps that the government should take include creating greater awareness and sharing information on the state of water resources. There needs to be greater transparency. Build on the Blue and Green Drop reports and make them publicly accessible. These began in 2009, reporting on water quality (blue drop) and wastewater treatment plants (green drop).

Water resources need to be democratised - get the people involved. There are good examples of this, from Harrismith to the thousands of citizen science groups monitoring and cleaning rivers. This is not complicated.

People must not be silent about our water any longer. Everyone has to be involved if we are to avert this crisis. We need active citizens, local community groups, local businesses and the government to work together.

The Climate Justice Charter Movement has raised awareness about water and the control of water by a few while many are in desperate need. The charter declares:

“Water is a public good, water needs to be conserved by all and it must be protected from pollution. Furthermore, water use has to be democratically planned and effectively regulated while affirming citizens’ rights to consume this scarce and precious resource. Water and sanitation infrastructure must be upgraded, managed and monitored to ensure efficient use. Water savings from phasing out coal generation and big industrial-scale farming will enhance the water commons.”

A water-conscious society has to be promoted. Let’s not wait for water shedding. -DM/MC

Fears that Covid-19 fatigue could be the major driver of a third wave

Covid-19 fatigue, causing people not to wear their masks, wash their hands and maintain physical distancing, has been identified as a major possible driver of a potential third wave of Covid-19 infections in South Africa, the director-general of the National Department of Health said this week.

As of Thursday last week, 54,331 people had died from Covid-19 complications. The country has a case fatality rate of 3.4%. There are currently 20,779 active cases in the country.

In a presentation to Parliament this week, Department of Health Director-General Dr Sandile Buthelezi said they were watching the number of cases in the Free State, Northern Cape, North West and parts of Limpopo. There were some worrying trends in these provinces, where there had been an increase in the case positivity rate.

Nationally there has been a 16.9% decrease in the number of cases from the previous week. But Buthelezi said the country’s testing rate was also down. It was important to improve the rate because this was how a resurgence would first be noted.

He said they were most concerned about the Namakwa region in the Northern Cape at the moment, where an increasing number of cases has been linked to mines and schools.

The Northern Cape has the highest incidence

rate of positive Covid-19 cases at 256.3/100,000 and the Free State the highest hospitalisation rate at 12.9/100,000.

In the Free State, cluster outbreaks were found in schools and in some families; and there were “imported” cases from the Northern Cape.

With the resumption of the Sisonke implementation study to allow health workers early access to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the number of health workers who have been vaccinated now stands at 307,591.

“The modelling that is being done for the third wave shows that it is not likely to be worse than the second wave and probably a bit less,” minister of health Dr Zweli Mkhize told Parliament this week.

He said South Africa was watching India, where a massive outbreak of Covid-19 infections was raging through the country.

“At this stage there is no indication that there is a direct risk to South Africa,” he noted.

Buthelezi pointed out that work being done by the South African Covid-19 Modelling Consortium in formulating a forecast for the third wave had identified behaviour change, a reduced adherence to non-pharmaceutical interventions, the easing of restrictions, holiday travel and super-spreader events as possible drivers of the third wave. Viral mutations and waning immunity from previous infections

were also identified as possible factors that could trigger a third wave.

At this stage, vaccinations were not being used as a factor to model the possible timeframe and severity of a third wave.

Buthelezi said the timing of the third wave was still uncertain.

There were currently only two variants in circulation in South Africa: B.1.351, which was dominant during the first wave, and 501Y.V2, which was first found in Nelson Mandela Bay and triggered the second wave of infections in the country, he said. “We are monitoring other variants. We are really on alert to make sure that we pick up any of these as soon as possible.”

He said “Covid-19 fatigue” was their major headache. He was referring to people no longer taking non-pharmaceutical intervention measures, such as wearing masks, sanitising hands, avoiding large crowds and keeping a safe distance.

“If there is no new variant and we can delay Covid-19 fatigue we will have more time to vaccinate [before the third wave],” Buthelezi added.

By Wednesday last week, about 533,283 out of an estimated five million - people over 60 had registered on the national Electronic Vaccination Data System, he said.

“We are trying to ramp this up.”

The chairperson of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Vaccines, Professor Barry Schoub, said this week that the endgame would be to reduce the feared virus to “one of the causes of the common cold”.

It was important to remember that, as much

as vaccines provide personal protection, they should also provide community protection and that this was what was lacking in India, for instance.

“These epidemics still carry on if 10% to 20% of people have been vaccinated. It is only when you reach herd immunity that you stop the circulation of the virus.

“India probably has less than 10% of its population immunised. You still have that vast gap. Even those immunised still need community protection. We see it in European countries. Those with 10% to 20% vaccination coverage still need severe lockdown. Even the United Kingdom, despite an advanced vaccine programme, still needs restrictions,” Schoub said.

Nelson Mandela University’s Professor Azwinndini Muronga, who has been analysing data on the epidemic, explained the concept of herd immunity: “To achieve herd immunity the virus needs to encounter people who are protected against infection. This can happen when the population is no longer susceptible as a result of vaccination programmes focused on specifically those who have compromised immune systems.

“Perhaps it is better to phrase it as ‘herd protection’ as the risk of vulnerability is only reduced when in contact with the pathogen. It does not provide immunity to the virus itself,” he indicated.

“Health workers are showing some form of immunity post the vaccine. The sooner we reach the most vulnerable and those in congregate settings, the sooner we can

slow down the infection rate. Having said that, we cannot relax the focus on the non-pharmaceutical interventions, specifically amongst the younger generation. Even if herd immunity is attained across the population, it is still possible to have large outbreaks, such as in areas where vaccination rates are low. Hence the need to speed up the pace of the vaccination programme.”

Speaking at a Daily Maverick webinar, Schoub said preliminary data from the Sisonke implementation study already showed “tremendous benefits”, with only 20 breakthrough infections being reported.

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) announced that the vaccine would not be given to pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding.

Earlier in April, South Africa halted the trial as a precautionary measure after a similar move by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States. Six cases of a rare clotting disorder - blood clots to the brain coupled with low platelet counts - had been reported.

Mkhize confirmed the Johnson & Johnson vaccine would also be used, along with the Pfizer vaccine, and that Phase 2 of the country’s vaccination roll-out was still due to start on 17 May. He said the vaccine would not be given to pregnant and breastfeeding health workers who are part of the Sisonke study.

The SAMRC announced that it was taking additional actions to mitigate the risk of the clotting disorder. These would include “SMS reminders” to seek medical help and to report the following symptoms: new-onset severe





Dream come true . . . Ayanda Mthiyane

## Mthiyane gets her big break on Imbewu

She is proof that a dream deferred is not a dream denied.

She graduated from drama school 15 years ago and just got her big TV break on e.tv’s telenovela, Imbewu: The Seed.

It’s been a long road to her success. From falling pregnant as a teenager and recently losing both her parents a few weeks apart, Ayanda Mthiyane, 37, knows quite a bit about adversity.

She also knows to never give up after she received her long awaited break into the entertainment industry. She’s still grieving but she is going all out for the new role.

She is no stranger to the media industry as she has worked behind the scenes in communications across events, entertainment, corporate and she is a brands and publicity specialist.

She says falling pregnant while in matric was eye-opening for her. It motivated her to work hard towards her dreams.

“It was a wake call. I succeeded so much after having a child, I think if I didn’t have a child so early, I wouldn’t have worked as hard. I took responsibility for my life; I was young, and I had to find a balance between partying and being there for my child. I understood that I had a child, and my friends didn’t.

“I am a very out-going, transparent woman. I grew up around my parents and my four older sisters. I had a great childhood; I was protected, and I was given room to thrive too. I studied drama and media studies at University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Drama has always been my thing, it has always been my gift. It allows me to be anything and anyone,” Mthiyane tells DRUM.

Due to the lack of job opportunities at the time of her graduation Mthiyane decided to voluntarily teach drama at local schools in Umlazi. She later ventured into communications and public relations where she worked for over a

decade with different brands.

Her big break on Imbewu is a full circle moment for her, coming so close after the loss of her parents.

“When it’s your time to prosper, it’s your time. My parents passed away in January, following each other and they have always believed in me. I was offered the job by an agent and he asked if I was still keen to tap into my passion for acting again. I have spent so many years behind the scenes that the thought of being in front of the camera scared me because I thought I was not good enough. It’s a full circle moment for me, I know it will kick-start many other opportunities.”

Her character on Imbewu: The Seed is Mzion, a hardcore criminal and leader who takes matters into her own hands when it comes to resolving issues.

The character allows her to tap into what female inmates go through to survive prison but also shows a delicate side to her as a woman.

“Mzion she is very rough; I get to be a skhothane. I can’t be that in real life, I love the fact that she owns her power even if it’s through crime. She has a heart-warming story that viewers will get to see but she is very loyal. I have a few similarities with her, like wanting to be in control where I am. I want to own the space of where I am. She has a very strong presence and I also have a presence that is God ordained.”

Mthiyane says that the one thing that has anchored her is prayer.

“I pray every day, it’s the only thing that keeps me going especially with my parents being gone. My life has changed. I feel like I must start all over again because everything I knew has been crushed. It has also helped me believe in myself more because my parents’ voice is not here to affirm me daily.”

The actress believes that her parents would be proud of her breakthrough and she says she feels their support with her all the time.

“I know for a fact that they are very proud of me right now. They have always wanted this for me for so long. I already know the support they would be showing me right. I always wanted this dream to come though while they were still alive, but I feel their support even now,” she adds. *-Drum*

## DJ Sumbody chats about all things amapiano

The summer season in 2018 when “Monate Mpolaye” dropped was one many groovists won’t forget.

Gqom was still at its height and this mid-tempo song came as a breath of fresh air compared to the high octave nature of the music genre that originated in Durban.

In many ways, “Monate Mpolaye” was the precursor to the domination of amapiano which is the new dominating genre with a plethora of new songs dropping every week at this stage.

DJ Sumbody has been one of the amapiano pioneers and popularising the genre and we spoke to him about amapiano, the struggles entertainers are facing with the Covid-19 pandemic and why amapiano is going global.

Speaking about why the genre has become such a phenomenon in Mzansi he says: “It’s simply because it’s our sound and it’s quite unique. It’s got dance moves, it’s quite catchy, and the hooks speak to the community of South Africa.”

“Monate Mpolaye” was a true cultural reset at the time and talking about the impact of the song he says: “‘Monate Mpolaye’ is one of the songs that opened the (ama)piano genre. Especially because it features legends like Thebe from a kwaito background. And also featuring a hip hop artist on an (ama)piano track, Cassper Nyovest. It really opened doors for that sound, even for hip hop artists to jump on an (ama)piano track which was rare.”

Collaboration is a huge part of the genre with artists even outside of the genre jumping on songs in hopes of landing a hit track.

Speaking about who he would like to collaborate with DJ Sumbody says: “I’m looking at Africa right now, Wizkid, Davido and even a

### Reaching for the stars . . . DJ Sumbody



## Lebo M, Angela call it quits, again

They had hoped it would be the third time lucky.

But it just wasn’t meant to be. Producer and composter Lebo M and his wife Angela Ngani-Casara have gone their separate ways, again.

The couple got back together in 2020 after initially getting married, then divorced in 2017.

They got married again a couple of years

later but it only lasted six months.

This was their third attempt at building a family.

The couple have previously been married to one another.

“We had hoped that the third attempt would have been the final one in both our lives,” the

couple said in a joint statement.

“We have tried hard and we are proud of our efforts. Regrettably we simply did not connect,” they concluded.

They were recently in the spotlight when they featured in the reality TV show, Lebo M - Coming Home on Showmax. The couple have requested privacy to deal with the new chapters of their lives.

*-Drum*



## How to keep the fire burning

### 1. Prioritize your relationship.

Let’s be honest - most of us talk a big game about the importance of our marriage or love relationship, but when the rubber meets the road, we aren’t really putting the relationship first.

Over time, you begin to take one another for granted. You get busy and distracted with your own stuff and neglect to tune in to the needs and desires of your partner. You view the relationship as a given, something that’s just a by-product of your connection to this other person.

But the relationship is an entity on its own. There’s you. There’s your partner. And there’s the relationship. Of these three, the relationship should be in first place. In fact, it should be in first place over everything else in your life, including your children, work, hobbies, or extended family.

### 2. Create a couple bubble

A couple bubble reinforces the goal of prioritizing your relationship by thinking in terms of “we” rather than “me.” This is hard for most couples because it requires viewing yourself as part of a team first, above your independent

needs and habits.

But rather than this inter-dependence weakening you, it strengthens you because each person feels safe and cherished. You know you have each other’s backs, and you create a space of reassurance and protection that keeps the relationship healthy and strong.

### 3. Have daily connection time

An important daily goal for your relationship is spending one-on-one time together to reconnect.

If one or both of you work outside of the home, it’s especially important to carve out this time without distractions or interruptions (from children or otherwise). Try to do this both in the morning before the workday begins and in the evening before you are pulled away to chores and responsibilities.

### 4. Communicate with kindness.

Have you ever noticed how couples can speak to each other with such cruelty and unkindness? They say things to each other that they’d never dream of saying to a casual acquaintance or even someone they don’t like.

When we feel hurt, angry, or frustrated, it’s so easy to lash out and say hurtful things. Sometimes we employ passive-aggressive words and behaviours, using subtle digs, manipulation, or stonewalling to express how we feel.

Both overt and covert words and behaviours like these are deeply wounding, and over time they accumulate enough to cause serious problems in a relationship. You lose trust, mutual respect, and eventually love.

### 5. Embrace vulnerability.

Each partner enters a relationship with past baggage, insecurities, feelings of shame or guilt, and tenuous hopes and dreams. We have vulnerabilities that we want to hide from others so they don’t think less of us.

As trust and intimacy grow within a relationship, you share some of your vulnerabilities and inner pain with your partner. You expose your soft underbelly in hopes of finding a place of safety and security where you can be yourself completely.

Nothing is more wounding to a relationship than having your vulnerabilities disparaged, disregarded, or worse, thrown back in your face in order to make you feel bad about yourself.

The ability to safely be vulnerable with one another can strengthen the bond between you

and foster a deeper love and intimacy than you thought possible.

### 6. Plan for fun together.

Life is already serious and stressful. Your days are spent working, caring for children, running errands, dealing with problems, and worrying about future problems.

Your relationship should be a place of peace and respite from the tribulations of daily life. In fact, your relationship should provide an outlet for enjoying life to the fullest.

Think back to the time when you first met your spouse or love partner and how much fun you had together. At that early stage of your love, you didn’t have to work too hard to have fun. Everything was fun, and you delighted in finding fun things to do together.

As your relationship has matured, you may need to work a bit harder to create fun times together, but it is still possible.

### 7. Learn and support your love languages.

You and your partner may not have the same love language, and that’s why it’s so important that you both learn and support each other’s love language.

You can do that by observing how your partner shows love to you and by analyzing what he or she complains about within the relationship.

Once you and your partner are aware of each other’s love language, your goal is to offer your partner more of what he or she needs in the relationship.

### 8. Maintain a satisfying sex life.

No matter how great your sex life was at the beginning of your relationship, it is inevitable that it will grow boring or even burdensome from time to time.

If you are 15 or 20 years into a marriage, maintaining that romantic spark can take real effort and commitment. But a healthy sex life is vital to a healthy relationship.

Maintaining a satisfying sexual relationship involves understanding your partner and their needs related to sex, as well as acknowledging your own needs.

Women need to feel secure and comfortable with their partner in order to be willing to try new things and be sexually adventurous. Men need more visual stimulation and variety than women do.

For women, sex can become a stressor if they see it as yet another chore they have to accomplish. Men see sex as a stress reliever and need this physical connection to feel closeness. The key to bridging these differences in sexual needs is regular communication.

### 9. Support one another’s goals.

As important as it is to create a couple bubble in your relationship, you are two individuals who have goals and dreams of your own.

Having your own goals and dreams don’t undermine your connection as a couple. On the contrary, it should enhance your relationship as each partner has something unique and interesting to bring to the relationship.

### 10. Have a yearly review.

If you and your spouse take the time to set relationship goals and work toward achieving them, then it’s important to measure the success of your efforts.

At the end of the year, sit down together to discuss each of the goals you have defined for your relationship.

What have you done in the past year to actualize those goals?





# Mgozi with Queen G

Eita! Olaaa! Seems like the tea party is yet about to begin. Yup! Your Queen hunnay! She is back again with the hottest🔥🔥🔥party in town! Fresh! With the temperature of your choice of course! Bow down because your ruler is about to set the table!!!



**u\_nonhlanhla**  
Anyway, speaking of securing bags, I want someone to quickly come and balance me here😞😞😞! Someone with a very clear understanding. Does u\_nonhlanhla stay at hotels guys? Honestly! I am asking this out of concern. Is she maybe a hostess of some sort? This hun is always in and out of hotels guys😞😞😞. She dines in hotels each and every day! Gotsa she is maybe an ambassador??? No guys! Or maybe u\_girl can afford and mina I am just a bitter old Queen😞😞😞! Might be! Anyway muhle yena shame! She does or might make a perfect hotel face! Maybe she is trying to secure a deal and we are here thinking otherwise!!!!

Hunnay! Hunnay! Also Dineo celebrated her birthday😍😍😍! I must say that I just love how yall all out to celebrate your birthdays! So beautiful! So classy! This hun looked really hot guys! An effort was really made there👏👏👏. Your guests! The decorations. This was what I would personally call simple but really nice! I did say that we applaud when see something nice and this was really it! Huuuuu and that pink dress! Good choice! A beautiful dress on a beautiful body! Lena badi party tse snaks le tseye di tips akere la bona thaka tsa lena di dirang. Please!!!



**Dineo**  
Oooh well. That was your tea for the week! Hope you sipped, but most importantly you enjoyed! Let me hit a round and get more tea! I'll come back and serve you just the way you like it.👯👯👯👯

Yeeeee, I almost forgot! Guys that Sabziro is also now on a fast lane! He is definitely doing the most👏👏👏. And to be honest I had never really recognised him or gave him that much attention. To me he has always been just that guy who plays music😞😞😞. But his sets lately are just a lot! He moved from me not knowing him and his music to booooooom! And also this weekend its party after party celebrating him. I did say we must give compliment where it's due. Big ups my brother. You are really doing well. Even the socials this past week couldn't stop talking about you!

Sabziro



Yoh! Any whooo! Birdies came running to me with a picture that really shocked me! No in fact a picture that made me wanna call Fashion Police immediately😞😞😞. A picture of our very own Dinana who was celebrating her birthday weeks ago in Sandton. Gosh I am not happy at all with that designer blazer that she had on😞😞😞. I don't even wanna discuss the combo yadi heel le stockings guys! Kore that was just a whole mess! I honestly feel like some of yall dress for brands more than style. Eish!! For a birthday outfit??? That was a complete disaster! Looked expensive "YES" but hayini guys! The combos were definitely not communicating!!!

Dinana



**Mbau**  
Well, well, well! The town was booming this past weekend when Mbau posted stacks and stacks of money on the grams saying she woke up next to that. Almost every girl wanted the same for herself! Others including myself were copying and pasting her praying😞😞😞! Thinking to ourselves that the hun has really secured! Only to find out that, number 1: that money was not hers!!! Number 2: That was an old picture😞😞😞! You see we have copied and pasted the wrong prayer! Apparently that picture was taken during a busy weekend in Bloemfontein. A long time ago😞😞😞! What was she trying to prove if I may ask? That she has also finally secured her own bag?? I guess so!



**“There are attempts to stall the calling of the ANC elective conference or the NGC by the current leadership of the party using the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse to push their anti-Magashule mantra unperturbed.”**

Member of Parliament (MPL) Vutha Ntsube speaking against the ANC’s step aside resolution in Botshabelo last Friday, a few days before Ace Magashule’s suspension as party secretary general.



**“Such a synchronised election would disregard the importance of the local government sphere, as provided for in the Constitution, and would undermine South Africa’s constitutional democracy as a whole.”**

Former president Thabo Mbeki slamming suggestions by some parties, as well as from within the ANC, that national, provincial and local government elections be held on the same date.



**“South Africans are urged to take domestic tourism trips and substitute international trips with domestic tourism. This will assist to generate recovery and save millions of labour intensive jobs provided by the tourism industry.”**

Portfolio Committee on Tourism chairperson Supra Mahumapelo speaking on Tuesday after receiving a briefing from the Department of Tourism on its 2021/22-2023/24 Annual Performance Plan.

# Free State Weekly

YOUR RELIABLE SOURCE OF NEWS

## Editorial

### No honour among thieves

The country has been thrown into a soap opera kind of entanglement where two fighting giants in the ANC, in the form of secretary general Ace Magashule and president Cyril Ramaphosa.

On one end is a leader hell-bent on taking the country to the West while the other is vehemently holding on to the East. This is while the one force is pulling the nation towards the entrenchment of liberal capitalist orientation while the other is leaning towards Socialism under the provisions of the ANC resolution on Radical Economic Transformation (RET).

Regardless of the side of the divide one is standing on, a clear understanding has to emerge from this state of affairs on which direction the constituencies of the ruling party wishes to see it going.

The controversial step aside resolution of the movement, currently viewed in many circles as a weapon with which political foes are being eliminated within the organisation, stands as the one formidable card with which those anti-RET forces are dependent on in their determined drive to silence dissident views.

This being said, the resolution itself, and the intention of coming up with it, had been to cleanse the ANC of the perception, not the fact that the movement is inherently corrupted. Many allegations had been made across the spectrum on individual ANC leaders being implicated in corruption.

More true again is that most of these claims were the works of the anti-change underground operatives with racist inclinations seeking to render the organisation toothless in implementing its conference resolutions. These same forces are opposed to any measures aimed at correcting the historical wrongs on land dispossession and acute inequalities still prevalent in the country today.

Hence in tackling this matter, it will amount to a serious travesty of the truth and sanctity of any honourable engagement to ignore the fact that the ANC as a liberating movement in the country gained itself a number of enemies among rich exploitative capitalists whose interests were well protected under the overthrown Zionist apartheid Nationalist Party.

It will also be naivety of the tallest order to downplay the sinister and agenda driven role of established white owned media in building up the court of public opinion against outspoken leaders of the ANC who appear passionate about the realisation of a better life for all.

In many ways than one, grounded and articulate leaders whose views resonate with that of the ordinary man in the streets are vilified in these select media fraternities as self -serving populists, pitting them against their followers as architects of the corruption peddled as the only curse standing between development and redress of the previously disadvantaged masses.

If truth be told, the agent provocateurs of the old order still hold immense power in influencing public opinion through skewed and distorted running commentary in media houses they control and own.

Their deep seated desire to secure their ill-gotten comforts rest solely in sowing divisions using money to portray ANC leaders they dislike as demagogues and those dancing to their music as holier than thou.

In doing this, these bitter racists seek to salvage their political relevance by employing the same old time colonial strategy and tactic of divide and rule to incite black on black hate, and black on black power mongering.

It is a sad reality of history to live through the times when upon electing the new leadership of the ANC in Nasrec back in 2017, the incoming new executive placed the party’s SG on the forefront of appeals to have then President Jacob Zuma accede to calls for him to hand over the reins to his successor, President Cyril Ramaphosa before his term ended.

It was indeed the SG who was constantly roped in to accompany many officials ANC to talks which sought to see a seamless transition from the fifth to the sixth administration.

But alas! Once Msholozhi was out of the picture and rested in his homestead of Nkandla, where he is frequently being threatened with imprisonment over his refusal to appear before the Kangaroo court style like Commission of Enquiry, it was Magashule next on line of the conspired purge of undesirables within the congress movement.

While it is true that there are no permanent friends or enemies in politics, the sudden turn of tables against Magashule by those Nasrec leaders whom he had closed rank with, particularly in the name of collective leadership to clear government space for the unfettered operation of the Sixth Administration, he faces torment from same leaders he helped to salvage.

With television memories of Magashule and Ramaphosa emerging together from a meeting still fresh and lingering in many minds, the current dispositions of daggers being pulled on Ace can only mean that there was no sincerity from the other side on uniting the ANC and renewing it from the onset.

As the picture becomes clearer with each passing day, it

Continues on page 16



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



## Ramaphosa’s testimony at Zondo commission failed to lift the lid on ANC graft

From the early days of his life as a trade union, civic and political leader, President Cyril Ramaphosa often drew from his veritable armoury of human traits that seem to enable him to glide past difficult moments.

Indeed, watching his recent testimony as president of the ANC before the Zondo Commission into state capture, one could have forgotten that, in Ramaphosa’s own words, in the minds of the general public of South Africa the organisation he leads is “accused number one” in the multi-billion-rand corruption frenzy being investigated.

His long-awaited appearance was expected to shed light on what he himself knew and did to counter the blatant theft of the public purse as deputy and president of the country and the ruling party.

After all, was he not also being accused of purging his detractors within the ANC on the basis that they were corrupt when he himself had through his white monopoly capital friends “bought” the votes to become president? Why was he so desperate that the identities of his extremely wealthy benefactors should remain unknown, and were they now being awarded tenders under his government?

How could he now be part of the brigade that laments about “nine wasted years” under the leadership of his predecessor, president Jacob Zuma, when he was aware that long before the Gupta brothers became the poster boys of malfeasance in South Africa, there had been Gavin Watson and the millions he gave so generously to the ANC and its leaders through his company, Bosasa, that scored handsomely from

government work?

How has monies flowed through the ANC’s own investment company, Chancellor House over the years?

Why had the ANC turned a blind eye or actively encouraged that parliamentary processes be perverted in order to elevate the organisation’s own interests above the MPs’ oath of office?

As head of the ANC’s deployment committee, why had Ramaphosa allowed the employment of patently unsuitable people in critical posts in the civil service?

There were many more critical questions that the leader of the ANC had to answer.

Having famously charmed the National Party into negotiating itself out of power to usher in South Africa’s multi-party democracy, Ramaphosa was in his element during the two days in what was supposed to be the proverbial hot seat.

Presiding deputy judge president Raymond Zondo comes across as a genuinely amiable grandfatherly figure who rarely gets irritated with anybody.

Characteristically, President Ramaphosa wears a smile and addresses the judge with typical deference.

From his opening statement, it was clear that President Ramaphosa had prepared thoroughly for his testimony.

He was bold and upfront: “I appear before the Commission not to make excuses or to defend the indefensible.”

However, there was important context: “Corruption is not a new phenomenon in South Africa. The apartheid system was morally and systemically corrupt. Not only did its legal provisions appropriate to

### OPINION

CYRIL MADLALA

a small minority the assets and resources that rightfully belonged to all South Africa’s people, but there was also a prevailing culture of corruption within the apartheid state, state-owned enterprises, private business establishment and Bantustan administrations.”

While “the advent of democracy in South Africa was an opportunity to make a decisive break with that past”, an “important aspect of the ANC’s approach to corruption over the years is a recognition of the extent to which some ANC leaders and members were advertently and inadvertently complicit in corrupt actions.”

It is at this point that the spirits of those who had been expecting fireworks from President Ramaphosa’s testimony were deflated. A pattern of taking collective responsibility was emerging, acknowledging “with hindsight” that mistakes had been made and pledging to make that clean break with those tendencies.

Once that foundation had been laid, all President Ramaphosa had to do was to provide context and an explanation of how ANC processes work.

He had received “about R300-million or so, and not a billion” for his campaign for the last ANC elective conference, but the other contestants for the ANC presidency had also not accounted for their funding.

The ANC had not been disclosing who was bankrolling it, but similarly all

other parties in Parliament also refused to divulge because donors did not want to be identified.

Opposition parties had wanted ANC MPs to support their motion of no confidence in President Zuma, yet they themselves did not allow their own members to vote as they pleased.

And so it went on.

In his measured tones, President Ramaphosa was in a charitable mood. Accolades flowed for journalists and whistle-blowers who were doing their patriotic duty to expose state capture.

It seemed President Ramaphosa was not just being old Cyril Ramaphosa when he assured the nation that this time around the ANC was making that decisive break with unsavoury practices such as corruption, careerism, membership rigging and nepotism. That is, until evidence leader Advocate Paul Pretorius pointed out that the ANC seemed routinely to draw such lines in the sand after national conferences and ahead of the following round of elections.

Maybe Cyril Ramaphosa the President of the Republic will have a different story to tell when he appears before the Commission next month.

*Cyril Madlala is the former editor of Independent on Saturday and a political commentator.*



THEMBI SIWEYA

### OPINION

With every year’s 27th April Freedom Day, which is in essence our birthday, South Africa is offered an opportunity to take a step back and take stock. And one of the important issues to consider is how the laws and policies of the country are made, who can influence what they look like and for whose benefit are they made.

One of the major reasons the country’s constitution is said to be amongst the most progressive in the world is because of how it provides for both representative and participatory democracy. Through elections that have been successfully happening every five years without fail, representative democracy is seen through voting of public representative and political parties of choice. In between elections, the government is obliged to consult affected people, organisations, and communities when it makes laws and policies, meaning there is participatory democracy.

It is true that South Africa’s freedom did not come for free. The hardships and

turmoil suffered to get us where we are today also inspired thinking about the type of constitution that will be best for our country. And it is true that weaknesses can be highlighted. The fact though is that as it learns from its mistakes, government has been looking at how best to ensure that the constitutional requirements of a representative and participatory democracy are implemented better and more firmly.

What is particularly encouraging is how this type of democracy has provided for many who have taken up opportunities presented by our country’s constitutional order. It might be that there is a specific law that more directly made such progress possible. But such law is generally based on the South African Constitution in terms of what it says and how consultation happened for it to be written.

Take, for example, the story of retrenched workers of Rainbow Chicken. Their initiative, called Isukile Agricultural

## SA’s story is not only one of doom and gloom

Co-operative was started by 129 former employees of Rainbow Chicken in December 2020. It is reported that this innovative “Thuma Mina” type of effort now has over 30 employees. The commemoration of Freedom Day is also about appreciating how our constitutional order has made these types of good stories possible. Not to say we do not acknowledge wrong turns and mistakes. But that we do not allow ourselves to accept that South Africa’s story is only one of doom and gloom.

And if one reads the South Africa The Good News Website, you will better appreciate how strides have been made to bring our Constitution to live. For example, only 6 countries have a higher proportion of women parliamentarians than South Africa which is standing on over 40%. According to Open Budget Index 2019, South Africa has the most transparent budget in the world behind New Zealand and Sweden.

In his latest book, *Neither Settler Nor Native*, one of Africa’s leading scholars, Ugandan-born Mahmood Mamdani says

that compared to five countries he studied, South Africa has been able to break colonial divisions and start a new political community. While referring to the South African national project as an “incomplete success”, he points to the fact that instead of punitive justice, “South Africans sat around the conference table”.

The outcome of this approach to our apartheid past is the South African Constitution and the laws that are made based on this supreme law. And it is through the spirit and letter of this Constitution that we have the kind of women representation in legislatures, amongst other key and important institutions. It is also why we approach our country’s budget in the way that we do.

And knowing that our freedom did not come free, we must cherish these positive stories about our country and build on them so as to realise the type of future we want.

*Thembi Siweya serves as Deputy Minister in the Presidency.*





**“I grew up in a business-minded family. With this venture I wanted to play my role in reducing unemployment in Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo. With the business growing, I hope to create more permanent employment.”**

Young Thaba Nchu entrepreneur Naledi Phahlo speaking on how she came to set up a business and her desire to create employment for others.



**“Our faculty must amongst others, produce educators who will be able to lay a proper foundation using the resources available in the new normal. We also need to ensure that programmes offered in the faculty remain relevant and effective.”**

The newly appointed Dean of Humanities at the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) Prof Wendy Setlaletoa commenting on her appointment and future goals.



EXPRESSIONS

SA: A nation of insiders and outsiders

OPINION



STEVEN FRIEDMAN

Twenty seven years into democracy, South African politics is still for the few. And those who complain the most have the least to grumble about.

Since South Africa is highly unequal and remains divided into insiders and outsiders - those who benefit from the market economy and those who can't - we might expect its politics to be a loud battle between those who have and those who don't. Most commentators believe it is.

Within the governing African National Congress (ANC), a battle rages between the “radical economic transformation forces”, who purport to champion the interests of the poor majority, and their market-friendly opponents.

Outside it, the third biggest party, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), some in the ANC alliance and the advocates of black consciousness and pan-Africanism are assumed to speak for those who live in poverty.

There is much radical talk which creates this impression. The left-wing tradition in South Africa goes back over a century - it was injected into the mainstream of anti-apartheid politics by the alliance between the ANC and the Communist Party. But, while it is common for political activists to use left language, all politics is still, as it was before 1994, insider politics. Then the insiders were whites - now they are the minority who receive an income from the formal economy each week or month.

In the country's insider politics, the majority who try to survive outside the formal economy are talked about, but are never heard. The “radical economic transformation forces” are people trying to gain a bigger share of what the few enjoy, not to share it with the many. The EFF's chief concern is to challenge white privilege in the insider economy, not to open it to the outsiders. According to one survey, EFF members have, on average, higher incomes and qualifications than ANC members.

Over the past few years, the country has witnessed a furious debate over whether the government should be able to expropriate land without compensation. Only one group has been ignored - the millions of landless people who have the greatest stake in the outcome.

Since insider politics is often about insisting

that you speak for the poor when you have consulted no-one who lives in poverty, both sides of the debate did their best to show that the landless were on their side. Those who wanted expropriation found a few landless people to take to official hearings. Their opponents in the media interviewed just as few landless people who were reported to not want expropriation. But no-one spoke for the people without land.

During the first year of COVID-19, a debate raged over whether lockdown measures were needed. The official opposition, the Democratic Alliance, echoed the global right-wing by demanding that all activity be allowed. The EFF insisted that nothing should be opened. The ANC claimed to adopt a “scientific” approach in which public health and the economy's needs were balanced.

None of them spoke for - and to - the majority who were forced to travel on taxis which they knew might spread the virus, to earn incomes in ways which might infect them, and whose need was to find a way to feed their families without falling ill.

Insider politics also shapes another conflict which divides “left” and “right” - the demand for free higher education. This is a rallying cry of the left which is denounced by opponents as a Marxist assault on the market economy. But the “left” demand boils down to insisting that the children of the corporate and professional elite should be educated at public expense. This, would, of course, mean that less money would be available to address the needs of people living in poverty.

There is a perverse side of insider politics: it ensures that the government is routinely denounced by those whom democracy has benefited while those whom it has largely left out remain silent.

The gap between insiders and outsiders is also that between suburbs on the one hand, low-income townships - the (almost) exclusively black urban residential areas - and shack settlements on the other. The suburbs are inhabited by the

more affluent insiders. Not only does the ANC enjoy little support in these areas - it and the government are targets of deep contempt there. No-one wins respect in the suburbs by saying anything good about the government.

But suburban residents enjoy full economic and political freedom. They can also ensure that they receive much higher standards of public service than others: if the power or water supply is interrupted, suburbanites quickly begin demanding that the problem is fixed. They don't always get what they want, but their problems are addressed more quickly than the rest of the country's. And they can rely on privately provided services to make up the slack.

In the townships and shack settlements, the ANC, despite some setbacks, still tends to win elections handily. It is often so dominant that the important conflicts happen within it. It is not uncommon for ANC activists to mobilise protest against an ANC mayor or councillor.

But people aren't free since local power holders don't like competition and are often able, working at times with the police, to suppress people who speak and act independently. The best-known example is the shack dweller organisation Abahlali base mJondolo, which has endured sustained violence because it threatens local power holders.

Outsiders must also make do with officials and politicians who ignore them. While suburbanites must sometimes make do without services for hours or a few days, outsiders must at times go without for weeks or months.

The great irony, of course, is that the areas which denounce the government can better influence it than those which support it. This speaks to an important reality: that the majority does not yet rule, even though the constitution says it should.

This ensures that South African democracy is vigorous - but only for a minority of the population. The insiders use their freedoms to engage in heated contest while the majority is forced to accept whatever they decide. Until this changes, South Africa will not deal effectively with poverty and inequality because those who need change most will remain unheard.

Steven Friedman is Professor of Political Studies at University of Johannesburg.

OPINION



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

The intimidation of journalists is a matter of great concern

We live in a country where not just journalists but any member of the public is able to freely articulate their views, their opinions, and indeed their dissatisfaction without fear of retribution.

As we concluded Freedom Month a few days ago, we recall how far we have come from the days where social protest by artists attracted banning orders, and critical reporting by journalists risked imprisonment or the closure of publications.

Last week, the organisation Reporters without Borders published the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, a barometer of the state of media freedom across the globe.

Overall, it was found that there has been a decline in public access to information and an increase in obstacles to news coverage in a number of countries.

The report said that journalism is “totally blocked or seriously impeded” in 73 countries and “constrained” in 59 others. What is worrying is that media freedom has deteriorated under the Covid-19 pandemic, with the various restrictions put in place having seemingly been used to curtail media activity in several places.

In this latest report, South Africa ranked 32nd out of 180 countries. The index describes the state of media freedom in South Africa as “guaranteed but fragile”.

It notes that while the South African Constitution protects freedom and we have an established culture of investigative journalism, a number of impediments still hinder journalists in the performance of their duties. This includes legal injunctions against taking images of National Key Points or reporting on matters involving state security.

The report also notes an increase, during 2020, in the intimidation of journalists, especially female journalists on social media. Such intimidation is totally unacceptable but is particularly harmful when it is directed at female journalists and is occasionally accompanied by threats of sexual violence. This is a matter of great concern and cannot be allowed.

At the same time, we take great comfort in the knowledge that we have a free, robust media that is able to report without fear or favour about those in power, about the most pressing social

issues of our time, and to provide accurate, impartial information to the public.

At a time when we are working together to rebuild our economy and our society in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, a robust media is more critical than ever.

The South African media has played a pivotal role in uncovering much of what we know today about the true extent of capture of the state by self-serving, corrupt individuals and entities. They sustained their reporting even in the face of intimidation, disinformation and attacks on their person.

Corruption is by no means the only challenge we face as a country. The daily lives of many South Africans are still affected by poverty, inequality and underdevelopment, poor service delivery, and lack of access to opportunities.

If the media is to remain true to its responsibility to support democracy, our journalists must continue to report without fear or favour on the other issues of the day. Their sustained coverage must include gender-based violence, crime in our communities, and social ills like substance abuse. Our media should provide accurate and impartial information, enabling the public to make informed decisions, to access opportunities and improve their lives. They should continue to produce journalism that goes beyond the headlines and front pages and that contributes to human development. They should report both the good news and the bad news, the progress we make, and the challenges we face.

Credibility is key to sustaining trust between journalists and the public. When journalists allow themselves or their platforms to be used to fight political battles or settle scores on behalf of vested interests, their credibility suffers. When media disseminate stories that are inaccurate or that they know to be false, the public loses faith in them.

It is in the best interests of all who love this country and wish for it to succeed that our media is supported and not hindered in its work.

As a society, let us continue to work together to jealously safeguard our country's media freedom. It was hard-won, and without it, we cannot hope to flourish.

Cyril Ramaphosa is the President of South Africa.

Letters to the Editor

WRITE TO: [newsroom@theweekly.co.za](mailto:newsroom@theweekly.co.za)  
FAX: (051) 446 4723

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.

Dear Mr President, please give me a chance as a young black South African woman

My name is Nobulali, I am currently residing and running a small business in Kempton Park. I specialise in customs clearing and procurements. I am very passionate about my industry.

I am hereby writing to you to inform you that Covid-19 has brought my business to its knees. This is compromising and violating my basic human rights, which are food clothes and shelter. We just celebrated Human Rights Day and my children and I did not get to enjoy that right.

Freedom Day, I did not celebrate, as I have no financial freedom. I did not celebrate Workers

Day since you have taken my business from me for two months and I have lost clients. It is now month end and you received your salary while I have not had mine in two months and will be evicted from the premises I occupy.

I have been writing to you via email since May 2020 to offer my services in customs clearing, the most high-profile vaccine which will bring healing to the nation as well as create much needed employment in our community.

However I have only been receiving automated responses from you. I feel like a

joke as on the eve of the elections you sent me an SMS asking me to vote for you and the ANC personally. Are you real or are you a robot?

Mr President, all I'm asking for is the customs clearing of all your imports and exports of all your high-profile vaccine procurement. The rest of the supply chain can be handled by other entities. Please give me a chance as a young black South African woman so that I can add value to myself, my family and my community.

Let us heal the nation together while creating employment for the young and the old, boost the

ANC electorate, show the world that the ANC can really assist ordinary young black women in South Africa on the ground and will have a track record to prove it.

The ANC is an ancient organisation and you cannot be outdone by a new party like the EFF as they fight for their own young black women. Imagine if I was the first young black woman to customs clear the high-profile vaccine in our time?

The impact, inspiration and record it would have for us as a country and the continent especially to other young black women who want to be in the logistics industry?

Mr President, it seems like you are only there for the Arabs, the Chinese and your fellow comrades; you even visited a young Indian girl, what about us on the ground? You gave the entire

tender to Imperial logistics, what about the role of SMMEs, why are you not empowering my small business? Please do something for me as a young black Xhosa female entrepreneur. My family has been voting for the ANC from the generation of my grandparents to my parents. I deserve to be a shining example of your organisation. We have paid it forward in many more ways than one!

Mr President, you said “you want to be there”, but you have not been there for me. Please be here for me like you promised in front of the whole world.

Many thanks in advance for your speedy response as since you came into power I have lost everything under your rule. Please give me back my dignity. Humble regards.

Nobulali, Kempton Park



# Q & A

with Samantha Fuller



In this interview, Samantha Fuller, head of communications, Uber Sub-Saharan Africa talks about the common stereotypes that are about women in STEM.

**What are some of the common stereotypes that are about women in STEM?**

Unfortunately, women face a lot of stereotypes within the industry and STEM fields in general, which they quite often have to disprove on their journeys in their careers. Some people still have the perception that certain jobs are too manly or too feminine and this has led to women being underrepresented in the tech industry. As a technology business aiming to ignite opportunity by setting the world in motion, Uber and Uber Eats are working towards drastically improving the representation of women within the business and leadership structures of the company. The apps have allowed women to enter a traditionally male-dominated industry by having female drivers and couriers and will continue to create equal opportunities for females within the workplace in roles that are perceived as male-dominated.

**How did you get involved in a STEM Career?**

I joined Uber in 2014. I've grown into the role of Head of Communications for Uber in Sub-Saharan Africa. Uber launched in South Africa in 2013, I was excited not only to be part of the STEM industry but to be part of the change that was in the country. The thought of using a smartphone to order a ride from the exact location you were standing was revolutionary. People would no longer have to wait, hoping for a car to pass or walk the streets in search of one. This seemed to please many people, as Uber quickly became popular in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**What has been the secret to your success?**  
Every year I set goals for myself - personally and professionally. My definition of success is achieving the goals I have set for myself at the beginning of the year, if I have achieved those



goals then I have become successful for the year. If my goals are not achieved then I evaluate or try to understand why I did not accomplish them and work on achieving them the following year with a fresh mindset and determination. Evaluation helps not only to understand but to adjust your goals if there is a need. Setting your goals is very important because you define your own success and you cannot achieve success if you don't know what that looks like for you personally.

**How do you ensure that you continue to develop your professional skills**

and knowledge?

Development is a long-term initiative and one cannot stop learning. I am always looking for opportunities to upskill and enhance my knowledge within my profession, I do this by attending various courses that are within my profession. Things are always evolving and as the Head of Communications, I need to be in tune with the trends that are happening not only across Sub-Saharan Africa but the world. At Uber, your skills continue to grow at a fast pace as our departments are interdependent and you need to understand how each department works

and what their core goals are. This not only helps you to do your job but helps one to continue to upskill themselves and learn things that are not necessarily in your forte. Because of Uber, I have worked with colleagues in the Law Enforcement team which helped me become familiar with the police procedure in the country.

**Why does women in STEM matter to you?**  
According to Uber's 2019 D&I (diversity and inclusion) report, the split for global gender representation comes to 40.9% women and 59.1% male, while regionally the breakdown for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) is 43.3% women and 56.7% male. When it comes to leadership positions, 28% are occupied by women while 72% are filled by men. Women are also under-represented within associated fields like engineering, with a mere 11% of local civil engineers being female for instance, according to a blogpost on SAICA. This stat indicates that we as a society have a long way to go, women in STEM matter to me because we are underrepresented. Our industry has to make lots of improvements for the statistics to change.

**Who are the women in the STEM arena that inspire you and why?**

Various women have inspired my journey in this industry, I do not have one role model but look up to different women who have moulded me to be the person I am. My role models have encouraged me to be a hard worker, to grow without barriers and always aim to reach for my dreams at all times.

**How would you advise a girl to choose her career?**  
Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions in anyone's life but one size does not fit all, it's a good idea to take time for self-introspection. You need to find out what skills

you possess, every person has a unique skill that we all have e.g are you good at numbers, writing, data analytics or drawing. Your skills make it easier to know which direction you are headed, you would also need to jot down all your likes and dislikes. Assess what are your key values, build a list of careers you want to learn more about, research and narrow down your list. Most importantly, get training in the career path that you would like to explore and never stop, this can be through a University, College, networking with link minded people, attending workshops and engaging with people in the industry that you would like to pursue.

The most important decision is to be passionate about the work that you do as a person, making money while doing what you are passionate about is one of life's fulfilling purpose. With all of this in mind, remember that a career path can be varied - not everything happens in a straight line, so always be open to change and new opportunities

**What's the best piece of advice you can give to anyone aiming to succeed in the ICT industry?**

Do not be afraid to ask questions. The hard ones or the simplest of ones, all questions deserve an answer. A person that has the courage to ask a question shows strength and maturity. And you will often find you are not the only one in the room wondering the same thing. In a fast-paced environment, done is better than perfect. Too often you get caught up in the micro details and forget the overall picture. You should always aim to do your best possible work, but when you are working to a deadline, always meet that deadline - being late is not an option, even if that means your work is not 100% perfect.

## What can SA learn from other countries' media?

Last year brought a reckoning for the media, as jobs were eviscerated and advertising revenue evaporated. This decimation in the sector, which accelerated trends already evident for decades, was wrought by the global pandemic to refashion the media of the future.

Print readership plummeted as readers shifted to (free) online. There's no doubt that the Covid-induced recession in the media will continue to stain it for years to come. These are the findings of a report titled "Thinking globally, acting locally - Reviving and sustaining South African journalism in a post-Covid-19 world" by Dr Harry Dugmore, released by the Open Society Foundation for South Africa and School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University.

"Reviving and sustaining South African journalism" draws on recent academic studies, industry and market research reports, and data from other countries, while taking note of the findings of the South African National Editors' Forum (Sanef) inquiry into media ethics (the Satchwell Report, released in January 2021) and the upcoming Sanef report on media sustainability.

With journalism facing an assortment of crises, of credibility/trust, business model/ revenue and of audience engagement, the report asks what can South Africa learn from other countries' media in terms of thinking about and provision of journalism and - critically - its funding. "What, in other words, can be usefully drawn from global thinking about the economics of journalism that could

be applied to or adapted for South Africa?"

Dugmore, who is now a senior lecturer in communication at the School of Creative Industries, University of the Sunshine Coast in Brisbane, Australia, notes that while there is talk in many countries that the Covid-19 pandemic impact on economies might have precipitated a "media-extinction event", what it has done in much of Africa and in this country is reveal how heavily SA news media has relied on advertising revenue.

Many multinationals, he says, including Google and Facebook, make vast profits in local jurisdictions but pay very little tax. "Getting these companies to pay more in tax may be a more fruitful strategy to fund journalism as the closely watched Australian approach may not create the kind of global precedents that many are hoping might emerge. Many countries have even less leverage over these multinationals, even though Australia is a relatively small market for all of them."

But are the multinationals "stealing" local content - or are their algorithms harvesting data? Dugmore believes aggregating users' search, news and other data and then selling this "aggregated audience" attention is the cause of the market imbalance which most news organisations cannot match. "It is clear from the Australian example that to avoid interventions that require some scrutiny of their [multinationals'] operating systems and proprietary intellectual property - as they see it - these platforms are prepared, it seems, to contribute large sums of cash, if pushed,

to directly support journalism in particular countries. Countries, and organisations could leverage this, and work out ways to increase their bargaining power to work out more mutually beneficial deals."

He suggests that South Africa works closely with regional groupings to investigate a continental response to multinational platform power, that SA amend tax laws to enforce a fairer taxation of profits derived from local advertising, to compel multinational companies to "pay for news", and that Sanef and other bodies work more closely with the government and social media platforms to support public interest journalism.

On public service media (PSM), he says discussions are moving away from licence fees. "The key reasons for licences as a revenue source for PSMs have always been the promotion of impartiality and independent from government influence, and to engender a sense of public ownership [and affection] for PSMs... But in South Africa, and in many other countries, licence fees ... provided limited protection from interference."

South Africa, he reminds readers, has also had nine ministers of communication in a decade. "It is of course high time the communication portfolio at ministerial level is given the stability of an experienced minister who can develop and then stick around and execute, a coherent vision for not just the media sector in SA, but the entire telecommunication sector, and devise and implement the longer-term structural solutions the country needs".

Global studies show only about 30% of consumers are prepared to pay for news products and most people who have subscriptions only have one digital subscription.

Global best practice suggests privately owned media should be complemented by PSMs but in a

mixed model. There is growing recognition that regional and local news require direct subsidies beyond state support. Some countries, Dugmore says, provide funds for a second city newspaper, while others allow all news media to apply for grants (usually government funded) and other support. "Experience in some wealthier countries suggests that when efficiently enacted, news organisations receive direct funding from governments, either for specific digital transition projects, or for training and equipment, or other forms of direct support of local news operations, are then able to better seek and obtain income from audiences via forms of paywall/subscriptions or membership income, and via forms of localised digital advertising and sponsorship," he says.

"Because local news is best done by locals, but economies of scale are needed to keep costs low, back-end infrastructure can be centrally or collectively provided and heavily subsidised..."

Media development and diversity agencies should also be given a greater role and more funding to help online, TV and radio organisations to develop, to support public interest journalism and local as well as hyperlocal news, through grants that could be used for creating or upgrading websites, to improve content management systems, buy better equipment and train staff.

Controversially, Dugmore calls for direct government funding for local news, saying it is likely to be the key to the future of local journalism the world over. And he says that the SA local news ecosystem needs to be reshaped by placing the public broadcaster, the SABC at the centre of the national plan, which should be supported by a graduated tax collected by SARS for news and information provision that charges the wealthier more than the poor, and provides free news to the elderly or indigent. Reviving - and sustaining

- SA journalism means integrating local and regional news with the SABC's regional news desks, and helping the public broadcaster to work more closely with regional media, "possibly as a conduit for funding, including, as the BBC has done, funding rural and regional journalist posts directly". "Despite the severe economic downturn and pressure on the South African government for relief spending, there is a strong case to be made for more systematic and substantial funding of news..."

Citing a report from 2014, commissioned by the Association of Independent Newspapers, Julia Plessing examined state media subsidies of the print media in Africa, Latin America and Scandinavia: "The report did not get the coverage and acknowledgement it deserved, and its key point - that state support for journalism outside of just the public broadcast system was, globally, already then becoming a more mainstream idea than we are aware of in South Africa, requires re-emphasising. This is even more true in 2020."

Plessing had noted that state support for media outlets is widely practised in Europe, North America and West Africa.

"Most social-democratic European governments ... have provided large-scale support to the media sector from the 1960s and 1970s onwards, either directly or indirectly.

A better case for journalism and the news industry's pivotal role in promoting social cohesion, forging social compacts, and exhorting and renewing positive values and norms in society needs to be made, Dugmore concludes: It goes beyond the survival of the industry but rather to help it flourish by working with, and challenging, multinationals such as Facebook, Google, Netflix and digital platforms to find ways to fund and support news operations. -DM168

## No honour among thieves

Continued from page 14

becomes more obvious that there was truth in conspiratorial undertones heard post the Nasrec conference to nail Magashule on the cross for standing firm and not backing down on RET.

That the embattled SG was used as a conduit by his so-called comrades in the ANC in reining Zuma only to be vilified thereafter is now not a

matter of if or not.

Like Msholoz, it would appear, Magashule became the number one enemy of the rich half of SA in advocating for RET.

In giving his total co-operation and closing rank with his comrades post Nasrec for the sake of the unity of the movement - it would appear some saw him as a sitting lame duck

to be toyed with.

But with history not allowing short-cuts and misrepresentations in its recorded truth, the evolving political scenario will once more unravel itself through common, natural unfolding that is informed by the underpinning reasons as to why the ANC was formed in the first place.

A quick reflection on the Freedom Charter of 1955 as penned by those who gathered in Kliptown to map out their vision of a future democratic state, it is crystal clear that the struggle was not about further in-dignifying the African

and black majority through enlisting them in shoddy Extended Public Works Programmes, employing them in casual employment at restaurants, in trucking companies or security establishment.

In demanding the return of the land that was stolen during successive imperialist administrations in Mzansi, we have to be cognisant of the fact that it cannot be right that a third hand kills Shaka Zulu, and it is claimed he was a victim of his own regiment.

Same applies when Julius Caesar gets stabbed

on the back, and no one thinks of a hired hand of an assassin in eliminating him.

Closer to home one can't isolate the persistent torment and harassment that was being meted out on radical ANC leaders such as Mama Winnie Madikizela, Chris Hani, Peter Mokaba, Harry Gwala and many others who refused to dine with the WMC at the expense of their people to what is being done to the ANC's CEO, its engine and SG Ace 'Sekgobela' Magashule, bred by a domestic worker mum and a garden boy father.



# Love and discipline in child rearing

The art of teaching children, to a great extent, consists in knowing how to guide them so that their behaviour contributes to a joyful yet disciplined atmosphere at home and at school. Through effective education, guidance and proper discipline all children have the capacity to achieve their highest potential and direct their talents and energy towards the advancement of their communities and the building of a better world.

As parents we have the responsibility for providing a balanced education and guidance to our children within a loving home environment. A balanced education goes beyond academic education.

It is the Bahá'í view that, a balanced education -combining spiritual guidance together with intellectual education - is essential for our children to develop to their full potential and for them to be equipped to contribute socially and spiritually to the advancement of our communities.

Infusing in our children the love of God, and guiding them spiritually, helps to instil in them good behaviour. According to the Bahá'í

Writings: "... from the very beginning, the children must receive divine education and must continually be reminded to remember their God. Let the love of God pervade their inmost being, commingled with their mother's milk".

Our children should not be left to drift unguided in a world so laden with moral dangers. Their spiritual and moral education is vital for the victory of their spiritual nature over their lower nature.

Education for good character and acquisition of praiseworthy qualities such as tolerance, love and justice towards all, in addition to secular education, will help in building a brighter and peaceful future for our children.

**Love demands discipline**

The Universal House of Justice, the governing council of the Bahá'í international community, in one of its messages, calls children our most precious treasure and mention the following regarding love and discipline and some other requirements of child rearing: "An all-embracing love of children, the manner of treating them, the quality of the attention shown them, the spirit of adult behaviour toward them - these

## A Bahá'í Perspective

are all among the vital aspects of the requisite attitude. Love demands discipline, the courage to accustom children to hardship, not to indulge their whims or leave them entirely to their own devices".

Home environment plays an important role in upbringing of our children. It is important for a child to grow up in a loving family and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. A caring and supportive environment will help in the full and harmonious development of the child's personality. The conditions and the atmosphere we create in our homes, must be conducive to both material and spiritual welfare and advancement of our children.

The Bahá'í Writings state that, "It is the bounden duty of parents to rear their children to be staunch in faith, the reason being that a child who removeth himself from the religion of God will not act in such a way as to win the good pleasure of his parents and his Lord. For



FLORA TECKIE

every praiseworthy deed is born out of the light of religion, and lacking this supreme bestowal the child will not turn away from any evil, nor will he draw nigh unto any good".

Educating our children spiritually eliminates the need for drastic discipline that uses frequent scolding and harsh punishment. Infusing in our children the love of God and guiding them spiritually help to instil in them good behaviour.

Of course, it is important to reward good behaviour and not only punish the bad behaviour. Encouragement plays an important role in assisting the children to realize their full potential. If a child is told his intelligence is less than his sister or brother or fellow-pupils, it is a great drawback and handicap in his progress. He must be encouraged and told 'you are most capable and if you endeavour you will attain the highest degree'.

The following quotation from the Bahá'í Writings emphasizes the importance of

# Covid-19: The opportunity for a reset of our global humanity



JAY NAIDOO

The Covid-19 pandemic and the emergence of global vaccine apartheid clearly illustrate what is going wrong with the world today.

Medical discoveries and most recently the Covid vaccine have always been the result of a remarkable collaboration between knowledge workers, including scientists and researchers, and public funding of their work.

The Covid-19 pandemic generated public funding in excess of \$12-billion into finding a vaccine. Now Big Pharma wants, in its usual practice, absent of ethics, and with its long history of putting profit before people, to privatise the benefits, having benefited from the socialisation of the costs.

Speaking to investors in mid-March, Frank D'Amelio, Pfizer's CFO, said the company was selling its vaccines at "pandemic pricing", indicating that could change once most of the world had received its first dose.

"So the one price that we published is the price with the US of \$19.50 per dose. Obviously, that's not a normal price like we typically get for a vaccine, \$150, \$175 per dose."

A high-ranking Pfizer official touted "significant opportunity" for the pharmaceutical

giant to increase the price of its Covid-19 vaccine once the spread of the virus shifts from pandemic to epidemic.

That would represent a 900% increase per dose and an annual recurring revenue stream for the duration of the patent and future pandemics which appear to be a certainty. The 18 Big Pharma companies in the period 2009-2018 had combined profits of \$588-billion.

We are living in an era where narrow corporate interests of maximising the accumulation of profits trumps saving the lives of people - a stark reminder of colonial exclusion and discrimination. Intellectual property rights are now the rising spectre of apartheid racism - the blunt instrument of the 1%.

A year after the outbreak of Covid-19, less than 3% of the people in developing countries are going to be vaccinated by the middle of 2021. Globally, 70,000 health workers have died since March 2020. At the current pace and scale of the vaccine roll-out, it is conservatively estimated that it would take at least seven years to vaccinate the whole population.

Africa has recorded 4.28 million cases, representing a 9% rise in just one month. As of

15 March, only 23.6 million vaccine doses had been distributed in Africa, sufficient for around 1.7% of the continent's population. This is barely 0.5% of current global vaccine distribution, while the continent represents more than 17% of the global population. If vaccine supply to Africa is not immediately upscaled, the continent's frontline health workers are likely to be overwhelmed. Meaning the collapse of our public healthcare system.

Africa and the developing world in general are not asking for charity. Rather, we are demanding justice. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, described the goal of providing vaccines to all as "the biggest moral test before the global community", underlining that everyone, everywhere must be included.

"Yet," he said, "progress on vaccinations has been wildly uneven and unfair. Just 10 countries have administered 75% of all Covid-19 vaccines. Meanwhile, more than 130 countries have not received a single dose. Those affected by conflict and insecurity are at particular risk of being left behind."

A proposal led by India and South Africa - joined by 100 countries - to request a temporary waiver of intellectual property rights to the World Trade Organisation over the creation of Covid-19 vaccines which would allow unfettered access to the intellectual property and formulas necessary to ramp up production of vaccines for the developing world, is being opposed by 10 of the wealthiest industrialised countries and the Big Pharma enterprises protected by them.

Western governments are meanwhile talking of donating their excess vaccines to the developing world through the Covax facility. And many want to be paid for it. Philanthropy cannot buy justice. As in the case of HIV/Aids activists who fought against big pharma and won, global solidarity matters. The demand for global justice and a "People's Vaccine" is growing across the world. More than two-thirds of the people in the world supported a call for unfettered and equitable access to a People's Vaccine by ending intellectual property rights that deny such access.

Clearly, the main bottleneck in tackling Covid-19 today is vaccine manufacturing capacities and capabilities. While up to 14 billion Covid-19 vaccines might be needed globally, the current global manufacturing capacity is only three to five billion. In response to the current crisis and looking ahead to future pandemics, Africa must strengthen and upscale its own vaccine manufacturing capacities and capabilities. We are on our own.

We cannot let an archaic, colonial mentality that permeates the market be used to dictate the lives of people and another repeat of the HIV/ Aids debacle. The market is not God and the owners of Big Pharma are not the new medieval aristocracy with the warped self-belief that they have the right to deny life to people of the world. In a world where no one is safe unless everyone is safe we have to rethink the governance and rules of our world. Let's start with intellectual property rights.

With a population of more than 1.3 billion,

# Gym memberships hit the mat as industry is forced to adapt

Global research from RunRepeat this year has found that about 71% of gym members are not using their subscriptions and that more than a quarter don't plan to return, even after being vaccinated. Locally, gyms are hanging on, but are adapting.

Nick Rizzo, fitness research director at RunRepeat, says he was expecting a more positive response.

"What this shows us is that the fitness industry has changed permanently, and a return to 'normal' is impossible."

Of South African respondents, he says, 35% do not plan to return, regardless of whether they are vaccinated. Less than half of South Africans with gym memberships are using them in person, and 29% have cancelled or paused their subscriptions.

Gillian Elson, head of marketing at Planet Fitness, says that although it has had some cancellations of contracts, membership has stayed "pretty consistent" and did not experience the large decrease the company would have expected amid the pandemic.

"People have realised that to build up their immune systems to combat the virus, whilst they wait for the vaccine, they need to be fit and healthy and that in turn has created an upsurge in attendance and new memberships." Elson also attributes this to the company's safety protocols having given people the confidence to return to the facilities.

Mark Field, managing director of Virgin Active South Africa, says that although the



ELNA SCHÜTZ

pandemic has created a decline in membership, year-on-year cancellations have remained consistent. "The bigger challenge to our business was not being able to sell during the lockdown period. However, since resuming sales we have seen an encouraging steady improvement"

Field expects "the market to remain relatively tepid until we have achieved some form of mass immunity". Use of Virgin Active facilities has recovered to about 70% of pre-pandemic levels.

Although Virgin Active has had tensions with landlords in places such as the United Kingdom, Field says: "In South Africa we have found most landlords to be supportive in the circumstances and have worked with tenants in the spirit of a long-term partnership."

Planet Fitness CEO Manny Rivera says "the business burnt a significant amount of cash as we were not billing our members at all during lockdown".

The company has avoided retrenchments, but did use UIF funding for staff who suffered pay cuts. Rivera also says the group was supported by landlords and banks. "We also had significant cash reserves due to the previous year being a record year, which allowed us to have enough cash to absorb the pain during lockdown."

Rizzo says the statistics showing declining memberships do not mean the demise of gyms; the industry must adapt to the particular needs of the fitness community in the area of a particular gym. This could be that people want particular features they don't have available at

encouragement and discipline: "Whenssoever a mother seeth that her child hath done well, let her praise and applaud him and cheer his heart; and if the slightest undesirable trait should manifest itself, let her counsel the child and punish him, and use means based on reason, even a slight verbal chastisement should this be necessary. It is not, however, permissible to strike a child, or vilify him, for the child's character will be totally perverted if he be subjected to blows or verbal abuse."

Spiritual guidance has always played, and continues to play, an important role in facilitating a spirit of cooperation and harmony as well as of service to others. Such spirit of cooperation and service to others must be towards people of all backgrounds. Children must be taught about equality and oneness of humanity, the need to consider the entire human race as members of one family and to be just towards all.

Such guidance and training will enable our children to build united families and communities and a peaceful world, in which the massive portion of resources currently used for wars and weapons of destruction are directed towards education, well-being and prosperity of humanity.

**For feedback please contact:**  
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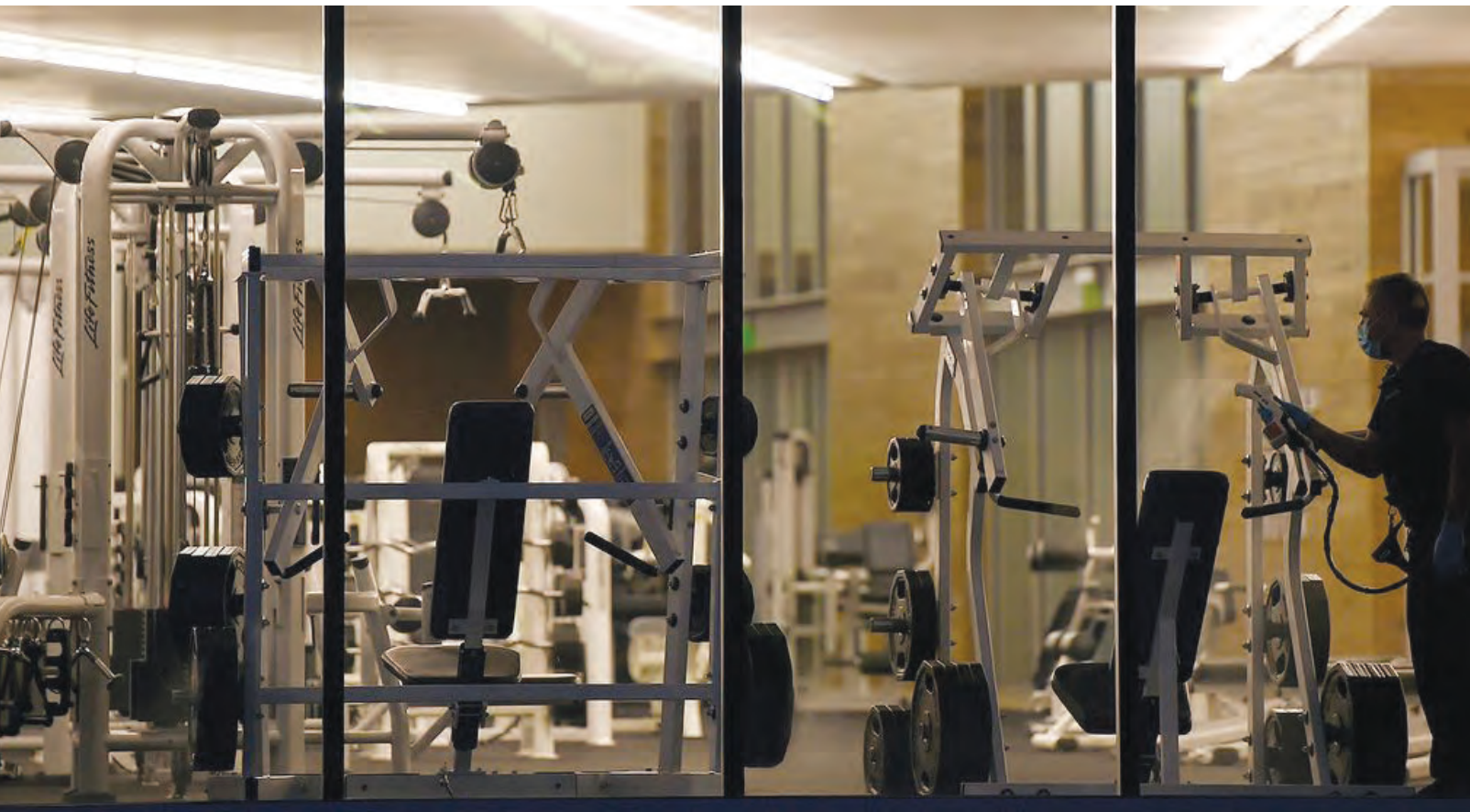
Africa is one of the most unprotected and vulnerable regions. It would be a fatal mistake to consider that the pandemic here is less severe, and thus "Africa can wait".

We are in the eye of a perfect storm, picking up speed heading towards the wall of an economic, political, social, and ecological catastrophe. The health crisis coincides with that of legitimacy of governance and the very basis of our societal organisation. It is abundantly clear that the current status quo is broken. Humanity stands at a crossroads. One path leads to despair, growing inequality, conflict and implosion. Another is the choice to rethink, reimagine and reorganise everything. Now is the time for a just transition to a fairer sharing of the world.

We live in a world that is more connected, binding people and planet into one global system with one destiny. The digital revolution heralded a new phase of civilisation. One that was to embrace the indivisibility of our humanity and our stewardship of our planet. To build the pathways of hope and opportunity for our future generations. And to weave a notion of human values that saw us evolve to a greater consciousness of a more compassionate and caring human race living in peace and intelligent cooperation with each other and everything and everyone we share our world with.

We must return to common decency and fairness.

*Jay Naidoo is founding General Secretary of Cosatu, former minister in the Nelson Mandela government and former chair of Gain, a global foundation fighting malnutrition in the world.*



## OPINION



# Desperate workers say CCMA is failing them

Covid-19 and the dire financial state of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) have left workers vulnerable to unfair dismissals and con artists who try to exploit them. Because of health safety measures and budget cuts, the CCMA has closed walk-in facilities at its offices and workers say there are also fewer part-time commissioners available to handle their disputes. Some also complain that commissioners do not act in workers’ interest.

This has led to several workers’ forums and organisations launching the so-called Open CCMA Campaign and holding demonstrations outside the organisation’s offices around South Africa. In a joint statement, the campaign said “non-unionised workers occupying the least secure and lowest-paying jobs who depend on the CCMA for their workplace rights will be the most affected”.

It called the decision to cut the CCMA’s funds another “attack on the working class under the pandemic” and said this was happening while “the government offers big businesses billions of rand in relief and security”, adding insult to injury. “Together,” it said, “these moves ultimately serve to open new avenues for private wealth accumulation and deepen capital’s cheap labour regime.”

The CCMA is meant to act as a conciliator and arbitrator in resolving workplace disputes, and also to establish picketing rules during protected strikes and lockouts. But the budget cuts have severely undermined its ability to fulfil these functions and caused a large backlog of cases. Because of the closure of walk-in facilities, workers now have to make online submissions, but many do not have access to the internet and data is expensive.

The secretary general of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), Bheki Ntshalintshali, says the decision to close the CCMA’s doors was “necessitated by Covid-19. [The] CCMA has indicated to us the number of people they’ve lost, and the number of people infected.” Ntshalintshali is one of the CCMA’s board members.

Another board member, National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) secretary general Narius Moloto, also defended the new way of working.

“We’d have been regarded as irresponsible if we see people being infected and dying. As trade



**Crying for justice . . . Portia Matini was suspended from her job as a security guard in May last year.**

unions we have to protect the workers. There may be delays in dealing with cases, but we will make sure that the rights of workers to access CCMA is not taken away. We just changed the way in which cases are being referred,” noted Moloto.

But according to Connie Masekwamenge, a women’s organiser at the Casual Workers Advice Office (CWAO), the move to online referral forms has led to con artists preying on unsuspecting workers, whom they charge between R200 and R900 “to fill in the form and send it”.

“There are also lawyers [who] make people sign that once the case is heard, the lawyers will take 50% of their settlement agreement. These vulnerable workers are conned to sign up for these dubious agreements. These things existed before, but [the closure of walk-in facilities] makes it worse,” she said.

“We are aware that there is Covid-19, but they can still follow the safety procedures. Workers have to pay R5 for a referral form in Johannesburg internet cafés. In Benoni . . . workers pay R10 for a referral form. There is someone who charges

R20 to fill in the form should you not know how to fill it in,” she added.

CWAO education and media officer Lynford Dor says if workers do manage to get past this hurdle and have their matters heard, they face another challenge.

“It seems strange to call the CCMA an anti-worker organisation, but that’s how workers experience them. We know that commissioners are incentivised to settle matters. They need to represent themselves as a dispute resolution body that resolves issues amicably. As a result, they settle matters far below what it could potentially yield.”

Mannana Maria Ntjale, 45, from Kroonstad in the Free State, feels betrayed by the CCMA.

Ntjale, a worker at a butchery that supplies meat products to Sernick retail outlets, says she was dismissed unfairly and approached the Kroonstad-based Maokeng Advice and Resource Centre to “help take the matter to the CCMA”.

During the conciliation process, at which she was presented by a paralegal from the centre, she

says the company said it no longer wanted her to work there and offered her money to leave.

Her case was postponed for a second sitting, which she attended alone because the paralegal was not aware of the date.

“The commissioner asked how long I’d been working, and he said ‘all these years you’ve been stealing from the company’. The commissioner forced me to sign for a settlement of R250,” noted Ntjale, who wants the settlement agreement rescinded.

The centre’s managing director, Jerry Kole, 46, says some CCMA commissioners use interpreters to intimidate workers and persuade them to withdraw cases.

“The lady of the R250 settlement said they did not explain properly what she had to sign for. It is important to have a name-and-shame campaign. These commissioners must be known. Why would a commissioner drive from Welkom to Kroonstad for a settlement of R250?”

Susan Thatelo, 46, who lives in Seisoiville in Kroonstad, says she feels the CCMA has kept her from getting justice. The mother of two was among four workers who were dismissed from one of the big retail stores in the town in 2020. They lost their case at the CCMA because, Thatelo says, the commissioner denied them the right to use paralegals from Moakeng and act as witnesses for each other.

“Right now, we are out of jobs and with no settlement. The legal representative of the store only offered us a recommendation letter,” she said. “I’d appreciate it if commissioners and interpreters could be considerate and protect the rights of workers instead of companies who take advantage of us. At the end of the case, the commissioner said [the store] played their cards very well. This means that the company was taking advantage of us,” she added.

Portia Matini, 50, who was suspended from her job as a security guard for Compound SBT Security in Soweto in May last year, says she is being sent from pillar to post.

Matini sought recourse at the CCMA and the case was heard, after which she was supposed to receive the salary she had lost as a result of her suspension. The company was also ordered to reinstate her on 1 August, but this hasn’t happened.

Matini says she has returned to the CCMA for help three times but is always told to come back because there is no part-time commissioner available to assist her. “I am losing hope about this case now.”

The CCMA did not respond to questions but said it would hold a press conference in “due course . . . to share information concerning its operations and also to respond to any allegations or misconceptions”.

According to a CCMA revival strategy document, its allocation from state coffers is “expected to decrease even further due to the shrinking government fiscus” and it “will have to explore other revenue-generating avenues for the sustainability of the organisation”. The budget will be cut by R600-million over the next three years.

Economist Busi Sibeko of the Johannesburg-based Institute for Economic Justice says the government’s austerity measures are detrimental to workers and come at a difficult time for them.

“If you look at the cuts that are being made to the CCMA right now and other sectors, there’s obviously a lack of principled approach to what cuts are made. We know that a lot of people are going to lose their jobs, people are being retrenched. It is during a crisis, a pandemic, and job insecurity is on the rise.

“This is a direct attack on labour, on workers. [What the government is saying is] that we are willing to forgo workers’ protection during this period without justification.”

Sibeko also says the budget cuts must not be viewed in isolation. “We must contextualise this within the broader issue of the neoliberal economy, which is not concerned with workers’ wellbeing and workers’ protection. These austerity measures have been progressively coming. They’ve tested us little by little and finally they’ve gone extreme. We have to realise that we are fighting a larger system.”

Ntshalintshali says organised labour has tried to challenge the issue of budget cuts at the CCMA. “We keep raising this issue. We’ve raised it with the ANC and we think it’s unfair. We know that money might not be available, but we don’t think the CCMA should fall under that category of not having money to deliver social justice.”

However, the Maokeng Advice and Resource Centre says unions have not done enough to resist these austerity measures.

“Cosatu and other federations, especially those in alliance with the ruling party, is only massaging the ego of the ruling party,” said Kole.

“We are saying these people who are vocal in Cosatu and Nactu are absent capitalists. [They] seduce workers with sloganeering. In reality they are hyenas and leopards in lambs’ skins.” **-MG**

## Slow demand likely to keep inflation in check

Producer prices, which have risen at their fastest pace in two years, do not necessarily signal higher inflation and interest rates because a weaker economy implies weaker demand.

The producer price index (PPI) accelerated to an annual rate of 5.2% in March, its fastest since June 2019, Stats SA said in a statement on Thursday last week.

The PPI indicates rising input costs for factories/producers, which they then may pass on to retailers and consumers, thereby setting future trends in inflation, which the Reserve Bank closely monitors when deciding on interest rates.

Though consumer inflation picked up in March, it remains below the midpoint of the Bank’s target range of 3%-6%, leaving it scope to keep rates at a record low of 3.5% as the economy recovers from its biggest annual contraction in more than 100 years.

Food prices, which were key drivers in producer prices in March, could also moderate

in the coming months as a result of the good summer season, in which ample crops are expected.

SA is set to produce 16.095-million tonnes of maize in 2021, according to preliminary estimates released by the crop estimates committee, an agency within the department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This is the second-biggest maize crop ever recorded in SA. The largest was in 2017 when the country produced 16.820-million tonnes.

SA consumes, on average, about 10-million tonnes of maize a year, which is used as an input in a variety of food products.

“We maintain our view that the Bank will keep policy rates unchanged this year, focusing on the pace of recovery and subdued core inflation,” Rukayat Yusuf and Jure Jeric, analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch global research said in a note, adding that they only expect rates to rise in 2022.

The PPI was worse than a Bloomberg

median estimate of 4.6% in March. In February, PPI was at 4%.

Prices of food products, beverages and tobacco products - which make up just more than a third of the producer inflation basket - increased by 6.8% year on year and contributed 2.4 percentage points.

The recent rise in fuel prices also exerted upward pressure on factory gate prices.

Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products increased by an annual 4.2% and contributed 0.9 percentage points, Stats SA said.

Measured on a month-to-month basis, PPI was 1.3%.

“Low statistical base effects caused by the pandemic on both demand and supply dynamics are likely to buoy the year-on-year PPI inflation rate for the remainder of 2021,” Investec economist Lara Hodes said. **-BusinessDay**

## SAA business rescue finally over

The business rescue practitioners of SAA handed the airline back to its interim board and management last Friday, filing a substantive report of implementation to bring the business rescue process to an end.

This despite the airline having not yet received the full R10.3bn required to fund the rescue plan. So far, only R7.8bn of the amount has flowed, leaving several outstanding liabilities still to be paid. SAA will also need additional working capital to resume operations.

SAA has been in business rescue since December 2019.

The notice was filed with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, which regulates companies, last Friday.

In a statement, the practitioners said the airline is now “solvent and liquid” and the remaining debt will be paid through the receivership, an account that will manage the accounts of the “old SAA”. The remaining liabilities are for concurrent creditors (R600m), lessors (R1.7bn) and unflown ticket liabilities, and will be paid over three years.

“A significant portion of the debt that hamstrung SAA has since been compromised and the balance thereof transferred to the receivership, a vehicle specifically intended to ensure the debt is paid over the next three years. Thus, the practitioners are leaving both a solvent and liquid SAA adequately set to continue into the future. The filing of the notice for substantial implementation means that the [practitioners] have effectively discharged the business rescue and handed over the operations of SAA back to its board and executive team with immediate effect,” they said.

However, due to a funding shortfall and the Covid-19 pandemic, the airline is nowhere near ready to resume full operations. Interim CEO Thomas Kgokolo, who was appointed during April, has said some operations may resume in July.

SAA still requires the outstanding R3.5bn to complete the rescue plan, as well as working capital to fund operations. The department of public enterprises has said it is hopeful the R3.5bn will be forthcoming from the Treasury. However, finance minister Tito Mboweni said in February he was still considering that request.

The additional working capital is expected to come from a strategic equity partner or partners. The department and minister Pravin Gordhan have repeatedly said talks are under way and an announcement will be made shortly.

Meanwhile, SAA’s subsidiaries are in dire straits despite attempts by Gordhan to divert money from SAA to them. This has not yet been possible due to delayed parliamentary processes and Treasury red tape. Mango was forced to temporarily halt operations this week and SAA Technical commenced retrenchment operations.

The department of public enterprises welcomed the return of SAA.

“However, this does not mean that the work is finished. The board and management will be developing and implementing an interim business plan to sustain the operations while a strategic equity partnership is being finalised,” it said in a statement.

The department said the government was in the final stages of negotiations with the “preferred SEP [strategic equity partner]” and a “purchase



**Operations to resume . . . SAA Interim CEO Thomas Kgokolo**

and sale agreement should be concluded in the next few weeks”.

“The interim board of SAA is mandated to oversee the strategic, financial and operational management of the subsidiaries of SAA, SA Airways Technical, Airchefs, Mango and ensure their commercial sustainability. These subsidiaries will need to be restructured in some instances, the case for continued existence must be assessed.” **-Businesslive**

## Mining charter review application to be heard

The Minerals Council South Africa says an application for the judicial review and setting aside of certain clauses of the mining charter would be heard this week.

The matter was heard last May, and judgment was handed down in respect of the non-joinder aspects on 30 June 2020, upholding the Minister’s defence of non-joinder.

As directed by the court, the Minerals Council has now joined all the parties identified by the court as respondents to this matter, including the various community organisations and trade unions named by the court.

The council had opposed the introduction of the 12 parties arguing they had no legal right to be part of the case other than as friends of the court.

However, judges ruled that there should be participation of community organisations,

unions and other social parties who were part of the formation of the charter.

The mining industry said its latest application was due to concerns of some key issues in the charter.

The council’s Tebello Chabana said, “In bringing this application, the mining industry is concerned about some key issues in the Charter, including the non-recognition of the continuing consequences of previous transactions in respect of mining right renewals and transfers, the practicality of the Inclusive Procurement provisions relating to local content targets for mining goods and other ancillary aspects of the charter.”

The mining charter was drawn up to facilitate meaningful participation of historically disadvantaged South Africans in the mining and minerals industry. **-EWN**

## Poultry sector still on high alert for avian flu

The South African poultry and ostrich industries continued to remain under national high alert with strict biosecurity measures in place, the South African Poultry Association (Sapa) has said.

Sapa said this was despite there having been no new outbreaks of avian influenza reported since the previously confirmed cases.

An appeal was further made to hobbyist keepers of any birds, including poultry, to remain vigilant and report any signs of illness in their birds to their veterinarian. Avian influenza is said to also be an airborne virus that was not restricted to infection by contact only.

Sapa noted trade restrictions imposed by South Africa’s neighbours had since relaxed somewhat or remained the same, with Botswana reducing its national ban to the affected farms only, Namibia restricting imports from the one affected compartment on the East Rand and Lesotho restricting imports from Gauteng.

Swaziland has restricted the affected

compartment, while Mozambique has no official restrictions in place.

Sapa said it was grateful that, while the financial impact on the farms affected was significant and had a severe negative effect on the farmers, avian influenza incidents had not increased the past week.

According to the poultry industry body, the support of Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and all veterinary staff involved have been invaluable.

Supplies of both poultry meat and eggs were said to remain fully stocked as merely less than 1 percent of the bird stocks producing poultry meat and eggs were affected by avian influenza to date.

Consumers were advised that poultry meat and eggs remain safe to eat, and should be cooked properly according to acceptable cooking protocols, achieving temperatures above 60°C. The products from the infected farms were not placed on the market. **-BusinessReport**

## Fuel price to drop after record hike in April

Motorists will have a small breather as the Department of Mineral Resources announced a price drop in fuel for May.

This follows record hikes of 100 cents per litre of petrol introduced in April.

Petrol (both 93 and 95 ULP and LRP) - will drop by 9 cents per litre, while diesel will drop by 31 cents per litre. Illuminating paraffin will drop by 23 cents per litre.

The department said slight strengthening of the rand, as well as a drop in the average Brent Crude oil price, were contributing factors to lower prices.

“The vessel [Ever Given] that was stuck in the Suez Canal, causing a delay for all cargo

containers including oil tankers, was freed easing fears regarding supply disruptions. The markets anticipate that OPEC and Russia will agree to ease production cuts from May 2021 during their next meeting,” the department said.

By April, petrol prices had reached the R17.00/l territory. Revised fuel and road accident fund levies had also kicked in.

Investec economist Annabel Bishop similarly noted that a small cut would be on the cards, following hefty price hikes of R2.96/l over the first four months of the year. This will help to keep inflation around 3% year-on-year for the first quarter, Bishop added. **-Fin24**





Hugely disappointed . . . Kaizer Chiefs coach Gavin Hunt

# Chiefs coach Hunt an exasperated man

Sports Reporter

Kaizer Chiefs coach Gavin Hunt is an exasperated man.

Every post-match media engagement it seems like the entire world is crumbling down on his shoulders. And it probably is after Chiefs suffered their ninth defeat of the 2020/21 DSstv Premiership season on Tuesday to relegation strugglers Tshakuma Tsha Madzivhandila.

Even more galling for Hunt was the fact that

his charges had hung on for almost an hour with 10 men after midfielder Njabulo Blom was sent off in the 38th minute, but only to concede a penalty deep into injury time.

“It is very difficult to explain. It is actually mind boggling what I have just seen. I felt that we deserved a little bit more again, but we keep making mistakes and it’s inexcusable to make mistakes like that,” Hunt lamented after the 2-1 defeat.

Hunt’s mood is certainly understandable as

it is the repetition of errors that are costing his team valuable points. They are in ninth position on 29 points with just four games remaining in the season.

Last weekend Chiefs let a two-goal lead against Bloemfontein Celtic slip when Siyabonga Ngezana concede a penalty after fouling Tebogo Potsane in the box.

Ngezana was again the culprit on Tuesday when the central defender lost his balance with the 18-yard area to concede a handball.

“Same player. It doesn’t help. It is what it is. We just battle on,” Hunt said. “We have four games left. Obviously we are going to try and win them. And then see from there.”

The Amakhosi are not involved in the Nedbank Cup final this weekend and can finally put their feet up after a hectic period that also saw them qualify for the CAF Champions League knockout stages for first time.

“This is the longest break we going to have now. It’s seven days and after what we have been through since December. So we will try and regroup and go again,” Hunt added.

# Tinkler set to return to Cape Town City?

Staff Reporter

Jan Olde Riekerink’s ‘administrative leave’ at Cape Town City has raised rumours of the possible return of former coach Eric Tinkler at

the Mother City based outfit.

Riekerink has had it tough at Cape City, particularly lately, with results not forthcoming. In their last 26 games in the DSstv Premiership, the team has only managed to record nine wins,

nine draws and eight losses, which puts them in position seven on the log with 36 points.

His sudden leave, however, comes a couple of days after the team lost 1-0 to TS Galaxy and before that, they suffered a heavy 5-1 defeat in the hands of AmaZulu FC at home.

The Dutch coach took charge of the club back in 2019 after the team parted ways with Benni McCarthy, who is now at the helm of AmaZulu.

“The club can confirm that it has placed coach Jan Olde Riekerink on administrative leave, with immediate effect. Club assistant coach Diogo Peral will take charge of the team until further notice,” the confirmed in a statement on the club’s official Twitter account on Monday.

More into the news, this publication has reported that Tinkler is rumoured to be currently

in Cape Town. The former Bafana midfielder coached Cape City between the year 2016 and 2017 in its first years after owner John Comitis bought the status of Mpumalanga Black Aces and relocated the team to Cape Town.

The former Bafana Bafana midfielder won the Telkom Knockout with the team before leaving to join SuperSport United in June.

Tinkler, who turns 50-years old in June has also had a spell with Chippa United and more recently with Maritzburg United FC, parting ways with the club last year in November.

But it was at Orlando Pirates where the Roodeport born former player and now coach cut his teeth as a head coach in top flight football. He led the Buccaneers from 2013 until 2016.



Returning to Cape Town . . . Eric Tinkler

# Pitso wants Sundowns striker at Al Ahly

Pitso Mosimane is said to have instructed management at Al Ahly to start talks with Mamelodi Sundowns over a possible transfer on Peter Shalulile to the Egyptian giants.

Last month, Phakaaathi reported that Al Ahly had shown interest in the Namibian striker.

Now a source has claimed that Shalulile, who has been a revelation for Masandawana this season with 10 league goals in his first season, is top of the list of players Mosimane wants.

The former Masandawana coach is in the process of building his own team at Ahly and has drawn up a list of players he wants.

But, Phakaaathi understands that they will

have to fork out big bucks for the Namibian international because Masandawana have put a big price tag on his head believed to be no less than R45 million for anyone that wants him.

“It’s not only Al Ahly who have shown an interest in Shalulile, but there is also an overseas team, I think from France who are also asking about his availability. But whoever wants him will have to make a really big offer,” said the source.

Ahly have previously been reported to have tried to get Gaston Sirino from Masandawana but the deal soured as the two parties could not agree on transfer fees. -*Citizen*

# CSA working for safe return of players from India

Cricket SA (CSA) officials are working closely with the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises in a bid to ensure the safe and expedited return of the South African players and support staff who were part of the event.

India is in the midst of a health crisis as Covid-19 infections and deaths continue to rise with alarming speed, and Quinton de Kock, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortjé, Lungi Ngidi and David Miller were among the South Africans working at the famous tournament.

CSA said on Tuesday they are in constant contact with the different franchises and agree with the postponement of the tournament for health and safety reasons. The postponement has left players and support staff from several countries with headaches and they attempt to return home.

“CSA has noted the postponement of the 2021 season of the Indian Premier League due to Covid-19 safety reasons,” said CSA in a statement. “CSA supports the decision to put the health and safety interests of all involved in the tournament first and foremost and has made contact with all of the relevant franchises to ensure the expedited travel of all South African players and support staff back to our shores.

“Those travelling back to SA will undergo home quarantine in line with the current World Health Organisation recommendations. CSA and the South African Cricketers Association (SACA) are in contact with all players and are assured of their safety and comfort in their respective locations.

“CSA wishes to extend its well-wishes and support to the Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) and the people of India and thank the BCCI for keeping our players safe during this challenging time,” said the organisation.

The Indian Premier League governing council (IPL GC) and BCCI unanimously decided to postpone the IPL 2021 season with immediate effect on Tuesday.

“The BCCI does not want to compromise on the safety of the players, support staff and the other participants involved in organising the IPL. This decision was taken keeping the safety, health and wellbeing of all the stakeholders in mind,” said the IPL GC and BCCI.

“These are difficult times, especially in India, and while we have tried to bring in some positivity and cheer, it is imperative that the tournament is now suspended and everyone goes back to their families and loved ones in

these trying times.

“The BCCI will do everything in its powers to arrange for the secure and safe passage of all the participants in IPL 2021. The BCCI would like to thank all the healthcare workers, state associations, players, support staff, franchises, sponsors, partners and all the service providers who have tried their best to organise IPL 2021 even in these extremely difficult times,” it noted.

The event was supposed to end on May 30 with the final in Ahmadabad and it is not clear whether it will resume.

The IPL’s suspension has reportedly also cast doubt on this year’s Twenty20 World Cup which is scheduled to take place in India in October-November.

The global showpiece tournament could be shifted to the United Arab Emirates if the Covid-19 crisis in India does not ease, a BCCI official said last week. -*Timeslive*



## SPORT ON

THAPELO MOLEBATSI

# Bok documentary comes at the right time

The upcoming airing of *Chasing the Sun*, the five-part documentary of the Springboks’ journey to winning last year’s World Cup, will either come at a good or bad time for the country’s rugby fans.

Whether you consider the timing of the documentary’s release to be perfect or otherwise is essentially two sides of the same Covid-19 coin.

On the one hand the intimate behind-the-scenes revelations of how Rassie Erasmus and his merry band of underdogs took the low road to reaching and dominating the World Cup final is a timely reminder of what fellow countrymen committed to working together could do.

On the other, the pandemic - aided and abetted by the recriminations over the Black Lives Matter movement - keeping us in our silos, seems to have deepened the racial fissures which have always defined us as a country to the point where the showing of what is supposed to be the embodiment of inspiration could fall in the cracks between us.

All of which raises the question of whether racial unity through sport is attainable. Because last year’s World Cup victory was South Africa’s third, there’s a body of evidence that suggests we’ve become pretty adept at frittering away the goodwill created by those past victories.

Where Nelson Mandela’s came in the immediate aftermath of the 1995 win was seen as having sprinkled rainbow dust on the proceedings and sparked patriotic fervour in the celebrations, most of us cringe at the sheer naivety of the expression ‘Rainbow Nation’ these days.

The 2007 win? While many may have ignored the rain and lined up the streets to welcome the all-conquering Boks home, the ‘us and them’ divide developed almost as the open top buses taking in the tickertape parade receded from view.

Personally, I expected the 2019 victory to reverberate around the country for longer for various reasons.

Having lost to lowly Italy in 2016, and the All Blacks in their opening game at the World Cup, the Boks winning was something approaching a miracle; Erasmus masterminded the whole thing while managing a private battle with an auto-immune disease; Siya Kolisi, the country’s first black captain, had his victorious predecessors beat for his back story and common touch with the masses.

A lot of other barely told stories – think of best mates Makazole Mapimpi and Lukhanyo Am coming from the end of the earth to take over the world, Cheslin Kolbe punching above his weight, Pieter-Steph du Toit’s relentless march to World Player of the Year status, Schalk Brits winning the World Cup at 38, etc - deserve a documentary on their own.

But have any of those stories translated into a unified country? The public destruction of Bok jerseys by white fans irate with Kolisi for sharing his Springbok truth, and having every white Bok player not taking the knee slated as racist, would suggest not (Incidentally, I don’t believe everyone who has knelt is not racist, or that everyone who hasn’t is, but that’s a raging debate for another day).

Maybe we’re asking for too much when we think sport can unify us. In many ways it’s a metaphor for life, but there’s no substitute for the real thing the rest of us negotiate on a daily basis, away from the sportsman’s bubble.

What we have a realistic chance of drawing from the Boks’ miracle last year is hope.

Erasmus put it succinctly in the build-up to the final: ‘Rugby should be something that creates hope. But you can’t create hope just by talking about it, hope is not something you say in a beautiful tweet.’

Hope is something you create by getting off your backside, after you’ve been knocked on to it for the umpteenth time, and chasing your sun like the Boks did. I don’t know about you, but after this Covid-19 business I could use a reminder like the Springboks’ documentary.





## Tinkler set to return to Cape Town City?

The former Bafana Bafana midfielder won the Telkom Knockout with the team before leaving to join SuperSport United in June.

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## Chiefs coach Hunt an exasperated man

Ngezana was again the culprit on Tuesday when the central defender lost his balance with the 18-yard area to concede a handball.

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# SPORT

# CSA TRANSFORMATION OMBUDSMAN GIVES ASSURANCES

“I will not want statements to go public without them having had the benefit of a response to say here is an opportunity can you reply,” says CSA’s transformation ombudsman, Dumisa Ntsebeza



Still receiving submissions . . . Cricket SA’s transformation ombudsman Dumisa Ntsebeza

Cricket South Africa’s (CSA’s) transformation ombudsman, advocate Dumisa Ntsebeza has given assurances that those who are alleged to have participated in discriminatory practices against others within the game will be afforded an opportunity to provide their side of the story before the findings are made public.

Ntsebeza is busy sifting through submissions from players, coaches, administrators and stakeholders - past and present - who feel they

were denied opportunities to prosper due to racial discrimination.

A deadline to make submissions has been extended to today.

Ntsebeza, who headed the investigations unit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that was established to investigate gross human rights violations during apartheid, was appointed by CSA and mandated to investigate complaints which relate to unfair discrimination.

Prominent names of players, coaches, selectors, executives and stakeholders are

expected to be implicated in the many submissions received so far and Ntsebeza said anyone who is mentioned or implicated will be afforded a right of reply before he finalises his findings.

“If there are people about whom adverse remarks have been made, for an instance, if you make statements that are adverse to Mr Ntsebeza, then we will say to Mr Ntsebeza, so and so has written something about you as a coach and he said you really treated him badly here and so,” said Ntsebeza.

“I will not want those statements to go public without them having had the benefit of a response to say here is an opportunity can you reply,” he noted.

Subject to change, the public hearings have been planned to commence on May 17.

Ntsebeza is heading CSA’s social justice and nation building (SJN) project that seeks to redress the past and present injustices in cricket that are based on discrimination of any sort.

His mandate is to promote equal treatment in the game and determine the causes, nature and extent of racial discrimination, and the lack of transformation since CSA’s inception 30 years ago.

The SJN transformation project, the first of its kind in South African sports and the brainchild of former CSA independent director Dr Eugenia Kula-Ameyaw, was established following complaints from former players and coaches during the peak of the Black Lives

Matter movement.

The first week of hearings will deal with those complaints and the relevant persons will be invited to make oral representations to the transformation Ombudsman.

Time will also be set aside for individual discussions between players, coaches and the transformation Ombudsman.

Ntsebeza said the hearings will mirror the TRC commission but warned that there would be limited cross examinations.

“I will make it a point that if we are going to have cross examinations of any sort it is going

## Notshe looking forward to Irish Lions tour

Sports Reporter

Rugby star Sikhumbuzo Notshe is not in two minds about what the imminent tour of the British and Irish Lions means to South African players, and he is determined not to miss a boat that only comes around every 12 years.

The Lions’ touring squad is to be announced by coach Warren Gatland this week and Lions fever is stepping up accordingly.

“I am not going to bulldust you - everybody wants to be involved in the Lions tour,” the Sharks and former Springbok No 8 said.

“We have had alignment camps (with Bok coach Jacques Nienaber) and things were put out there, which I won’t share, about what is expected of us as rugby players.

“Everybody wants to play. It only comes around every 12 years so that makes it a generational thing. If you miss it, you miss, and not a lot of players still playing have had the

experience,” he noted.

The 27-year-old Notshe played six Tests for the Boks in 2018 but missed out on World Cup selection in 2019, and with the Boks playing no international rugby in 2020, he would dearly love to make a Springbok comeback in this unique year.

“It would be a huge honour for any player to be in action against the Lions but to be honest with you, I am more worried about the Golden Lions right now rather than something in the future because if I don’t play well on Saturday against the local Lions (at Jonsson Kings Park, 4pm), nothing will guarantee me playing against the touring Lions.

“But I won’t bulldust you that South African players are not looking forward to the Lions tour because as I mentioned, it doesn’t come around often. I was 16 when they were here in 2009 so if I miss it now I will never play against them,” he added.



Relishing Lions encounter . . . Rugby star Sikhumbuzo Notshe

## Bafana Bafana appoints new coach

Belgian Hugo Broos has been named the new coach of Bafana Bafana, the South African Football Association (Safa) announced on Wednesday.

Broos, 69, arrives with an impressive CV, most notably having won league titles in Belgium with Club Brugge twice and once with Anderlecht, and led Cameroon to the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations title.

The announcement was made at the SA Broadcasting Corporation’s (SABC) Radio Park in Auckland Park.

Broos’ name is believed to have been one of five that Safa’s technical committee confirmed as their shortlist to an NEC meeting on April 24.

That list, sources have said, consisted of Portuguese ex-Bafana and Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz, AmaZulu coach Benni McCarthy, Al Ahly coach Pitso Mosimane, Kaizer Chiefs boss Gavin Hunt, and either Broos or Saudi Arabia coach Herve Renard.

Safa, sources had revealed, approached both Queiroz and McCarthy in recent weeks, but the association was unable to meet demands from both regarding the fellow technical staff they wanted the association to appoint.

Broos, who had expressed an interest in the Bafana job, and who had confirmed on Tuesday night that he had been contacted by Safa, is not believed to have made such demands regarding his technical staff.

Broos replaces Molefi Ntseki, who Safa said was released from his contract as Bafana head coach on March 31, after the national team’s failure to qualify for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations.

A 1970s and 1980s defender who earned 24 caps for Belgium, Broos’ playing career was spent mostly at RSC Anderlecht (350 appearances) and Club Brugge (161).

He began his coaching career at RWD Molenbeek in 1988, and from 1991 to 1997 at Club Brugge won league titles in 1991-92 and 1995-96, the Belgian Cup in 1994-95 and 1995-96, and Belgian Supercup in 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1996.

Coaching Anderlecht from 2003 to 2005 he won the 2003-04 league title. He coached late former Bafana right-back Anele Ngcongca at KRC Genk in 2008.

Since then his career has taken him to Panserraikos in Greece, Trabzonspor in Turkey,

Al Jazira in United Arab Emirates, JS Kabylie and NA Hussein Dey in Algeria, and then Cameroon from 2016 to 2017.

Most recently he was sports director, then caretaker-manager of Oostende, where Mamelodi Sundowns star Andile Jali played until 2018, in Belgium between 2018 and 2019.

Broos was sacked as coach of the Indomitable Lions by the Cameroonian Football Federation (Fecafoot) in December 2017, 10 months after he led them to their fifth Africa Cup of Nations title in Gabon that year, reportedly over pay issues.

Cameroon beat Egypt 2-1 in the Nations Cup final on February 5, 2017. They had progressed through the group stage with a win and two draws, then beat Senegal on penalties in the quarterfinals, and Ghana 2-0 in the semis.

Having coached in North and West Africa on the continent, Broos will have an adjustment to make to a different playing style and mental approach in South Africa.

He also must undergo a quick crash course on SA football and the players he has available as Bafana’s 2022 Qatar World Cup group stage qualification campaign begins with the match against Zimbabwe in Harare on the weekend of June 5 to 6.

-Timeslive