

Kagiso gets new Library



Sipho None

The Gauteng MEC for Education and Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture (SRAC), Matome Chiloane, together with Mogale City Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Lucky Sele, officially unveiled the newly revamped Kagiso Library on 17th March 2026. MEC Chiloane handed over the state-of-the-art facility to the community of Kagiso in a fanfare activity much to the

appreciation of the residents, who have been waiting for more than a decade to have access to the library. The facility which has set aside the provincial government and Mogale City Municipality over R14.5 million, is nestled just behind the Gauteng Archive Centre within the vicinity of the buzzing Kagiso business precinct, which encompassing the Kagiso Mall, Old Age Centre, Kagiso Magistrate and Police Station.

The library provides many amenities such as kiddies playing and reading sections, computer laboratory fitted with high-speed internet and Wi-Fi, digital and braille reading books, automatic lending and self-service centre, amongst others. MEC Chiloane said: "We as the Gauteng provincial government are more than happy to have partnered with Mogale City to officially open and handover this modern facility which the

residents of Kagiso have been waiting to have access to," Chiloane remarked. "This initiative embraces the concept of future-ready libraries aligned with the fourth industrial revolution where access to digital tools is just as essential as access to information," he added. Chiloane cautioned the community to look after the facility. He said it would be disheartening to see **Continued on page 2**

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Kagiso New Library continued

Pictures Sipho None

the facility being vandalised and that would deny learners access to knowledge and information. Opened in March which is the Human Rights Month, a month where we honour those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for freedom, the library will stand as a bridge between our history and our future, above-all, it [library] will



serves as a reflection on the progress made in protecting the rights and dignity of all. Sele said: "We're proud as Mogale City to handover the facility to the residents of Kagiso. The community has waited so long and thanks the provincial government having intervened to empower us to realise our dream.



"We want to thank everyone who made this day a success, and this goes to our learners as they will not travel long distances to have access to knowledge and information."

Mogale City Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) responsible for SRAC, Cynthia Manzanana and Speaker of Council, Doreen David were elated and encouraged senior citizens visiting the nearby Old Age Centre to also make use of the facility. The event also created enabling environment for local writers, publishers and authors to showcase their skills. Some of the writers include Linda Khumalo, Busisiwe Nkonyane and Thabile Mange. Mange has over ten books that he has authored and published.

RTMC alarm over private scholar transport operators

A high number of private scholar transport operators continue to exhibit an intractable attitude and unwillingness to comply with passenger regulation, despite high-profile fatal crashes and intensified law enforcement. This is according to the Road Traffic Management Corporation's (RTMC) observations, which are supported by statistics from law enforcement operations conducted in all provinces last week. Of the 5 386 scholar transport vehicles stopped and checked, 1 028 vehicles were found to have been operated in violation of existing

traffic laws. "Most of these vehicles (589) were privately owned, while 146 were contracted by parents, 95 were contracted by the Department of Transport and 11 were contracted by the Department of Basic Education, while seven were school owned. "Many were found to be operating without the necessary public scholar transport permits, while others were driven by drivers who did not possess, or failed to produce driving licences and professional driving permits," the RTMC said on Monday. The vehicles were found to have



Picture: Kamogelo Digashu

many defects relating to tyres, brakes, and rear stop lamps. Law enforcement issued 500 traffic fines, 219 vehicles were impounded, and two vehicles were discontinued. Most transgressors were found to be between the ages of 18 and 35 years, followed by those aged between 35 and 45 years. Meanwhile, 418 other motorists were arrested for drunken driving in the same week. *Sunrise News correspondent*

Home Affairs digitilisation efforts

Home Affairs Minister Dr Leon Schreiber has assured Parliament that the department is intensifying efforts to improve service delivery, starting with eliminating long queues through collaboration with banks on the rollout of the Digital ID.

The Department of Home Affairs is set to launch the first group of bank branches offering Home Affairs services under a new digital partnership model within the next few weeks. "This will mark the beginning of the end of long queues at Home Affairs. Under the new digital partnership, you will be able to walk into your local bank branch, including in rural and underserved areas, and apply for a Smart ID in as little as three minutes.

"The Home Affairs digital revolution is also enhancing border security and immigration management. With the core biometric technology already live for the citizenship portal, we now shift our focus to building the front-end user interface," the Minister said on Tuesday. Speaking in Parliament during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) Debate, Schreiber said the Digital ID will allow South Africans to access enabling documents on their mobile phones and remotely verify their identities using secure facial recognition technology. "Of course, even in a digital world, there remains a need for greater access to secure physical documents, including the Smart ID and passport.

"The track record we have built over the past 20 months is also the reason I can tell the House today you have seen nothing yet. In 2026, the best is about to come. "As a result of our reforms to the Online Verification Service and other upgrades to internal systems, I can today announce that turnaround times for Smart ID and passport applications have been cut by an incredible 66.7%," Schreiber said. South Africa is set to launch its first-ever Digital ID system this year, which aims to modernise government services and enhance national

security. The initiative, announced by the Minister last year during his department's Budget Vote, will eliminate identity fraud and improve accessibility for all citizens. It aims to modernise government services, eliminate identity fraud, and improve accessibility for all South Africans. The Department of Home Affairs last year submitted a Digital ID policy to Cabinet for approval to conduct public hearings. The initiative is also part of a broader vision to transform how South Africans interact with their government, moving from manu-

al to digital solutions. Key features include: Digital versions of essential documents, such as IDs and passports, allowing citizens to access services online or through smart devices. Electronic Travel Authorisation and a revamped www.gov.za platform for seamless digital access to government services. The system is expected to phase out the traditional green ID book, which is vulnerable to fraud, and replace it with a modern, secure alternative. *Government Communications*





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Nikelo Community Games Ignite Easter Spirit in Rietvallei

Rietvallei came alive with energy and excitement over the Easter weekend as the Nikelo Community Games Easter Football Tournament brought together young footballers for two days of spirited competition and community unity.

Hosted at Msotho Ground in Block 1, opposite Lodirile High School, the tournament formed part of a growing grassroots initiative focused on youth development and social upliftment through sport.

Organised by local sports advocate Nikelo Maduna, the event showcased emerging talent across Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15 categories, while promoting positive engagement among young people.

In the Under-11 division, Mambas FC emerged victorious after narrowly defeating Foster FC in a competitive final. Foster FC returned with determination in the Under-13 category, securing a 2-0 win over Swan De Ville FC following tightly contested semi-final matches. The team maintained its strong performance in the Under-15 division, ultimately clinching the title against Home Stars

FC in a dramatic penalty-decided final. Harmony Gold Mine proudly supported the tournament with an investment of R180 000 towards the Swaneville Rietvallei Games Football and Netball activities, along with R30 000 allocated for catering for employees and guests. This support reflects the organisation's continued commitment to strengthening relationships with host communities while advancing youth development initiatives.

Beyond the results, the tournament highlighted the importance of sport as a catalyst for social cohesion and youth empowerment. The event also contributed to the local township economy through opportunities for small businesses, including vendors, equipment rental services, and community safety personnel.

Despite minor challenges, including late communication that affected team participation, the tournament was widely regarded as a success. Organisers remain optimistic about future growth, reinforcing the role of sport in building resilient, united, and thriving communities.



Soweto's P Agricultural Group wins 3rd place in national community food gardens competition



Six community food gardens strengthening food security and supporting local food systems across South Africa have been recognised in Shoprite's inaugural Act For Change Food Garden Competition. ACFS Khunadi Food Garden in Mogoto Village, Limpopo, took first place, followed by Ngxanga School Garden in Libode, Eastern Cape and P Agricultural Group in Soweto, Gauteng. The winners were announced on Tuesday 10 March 2026, at an awards ceremony in Cape Town.

"Winning first place in the Shoprite Act For Change Food Garden Competition is a huge encouragement for our team," says Bertha Magoge from ACFS Khunadi Food Garden. "This support will help us strengthen our garden, continue providing fresh vegetables to our community and expand the skills and opportunities we can share with women and young people in Mogoto Village."

The competition, launched in October last year, drew nearly 600 entries from across the

country. "The strong response to the competition showed just how much dedicated work is happening in communities across South Africa," says Sanjeev Raghubir, Chief Sustainability Officer at the Shoprite Group.

Following a multi-stage, rigorous judging process, six gardens were selected. "The winning project stood out for its strong representation of women in leadership and decision-making roles, supported by meaningful partic-



ipation from youth and women across the wider team. All six are recognised for their consistent food production, strong management and measurable impact on their communities," adds Raghubir.

"They demonstrate the diversity of food-growing efforts – from

rural villages and townships to schools and next-generation led projects – and it is anticipated that this prize-winning support will help them take their work to the next level."

The six winning gardens are:

First place: ACFS Khunadi Food Garden – Mogoto Village, Limpopo

Providing fresh vegetables to local feeding programmes, this project equips women and young people with practical agricultural skills through small-scale farming training. Around 50 people benefit directly each month.

The garden also builds long-term food production in the community.

Second place: Ngxanga School Garden – Libode, Eastern Cape
Combining food production with hands-on experience, the garden gives learners the opportunity to grow vegetables such as tomatoes and spinach while gaining knowledge about food and agriculture. Each month it supports 243 students and five households through agroecology training, affordable seedlings and food donations.

Third place: P Agricultural Group – Soweto, Gauteng
Based in Tladi, this garden began

as an informal project in 2018 and has since developed into a structured food production space that hosts farmers' markets and agricultural training. Each Christmas, vegetables are shared with more than 150 families. The project also encourages young people to view farming as a leadership and livelihood opportunity.

Fourth place: Hope Park Children's Health Campus Garden – Krugersdorp, Gauteng

Established in 2018 in Munsieville, the garden promotes food security in the childhood community of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu. More than 350 learners from four nearby schools receive fresh vegetables, while 27 households benefit each month.

Organic and water-wise growing practices are used while families are encouraged to cultivate their



own food.

Fifth place: Food Security Project – Gonubie, Eastern Cape
Serving the Mzamomhle community, the project supports 162 women who manage their own garden plots. It provides seedlings, tools, and training in organic farming, water conservation and recycling. Harvests feed the women involved, while surplus produce generates income for the project.

Sixth place: Plenty Green Africa – Tsakane, Gauteng
Plenty Green Africa is a youth-led garden serving about 20 households, including women, young

people, and local chefs. Participants harvest the crops they plant themselves while developing practical agricultural skills.

The garden also transforms underused urban spaces into productive growing areas while addressing youth unemployment.

The six winning gardens will receive tailored support valued at a total of R1 million, with first place awarded R225 000, second place R200 000 and third place R170 000. Fourth, fifth and sixth place recipients will receive R150 000, R130 000 and R120 000 respectively.

"These resources are intended to help the gardens take their projects to the next level and make an even greater impact in their communities," adds Raghubir. The assistance will be tailored to each garden's needs and may include tools, infrastructure such as irrigation systems, shade netting or fencing and training.

Over the past decade, Shoprite has invested in 300 community gardens as part of its commitment to tackling food insecurity and promoting sustainable

livelihoods in the communities in which it operates.

The six winning gardens will receive tailored support valued at a total of R1 million, with first place awarded R225 000, second place R200 000 and third place R170 000.

Fourth, fifth and sixth place recipients will receive R150 000, R130 000 and

R120 000 respectively. Together, these gardens produced over 106 000kg of fresh produce in 2025. But they do more than put affordable food on the table – they also help people develop agricultural skills and earn an income by selling surplus produce.

"Through the Act for Change Food Garden Project, we are reinforcing our long-term commitment to sustainable interventions that help communities thrive and we look forward to continuing to support more gardens in future competitions," concludes Raghubir.

Genie Vittu

Passover; A Special Festival of Deliverance



Prophet Lwando Jali

In John 5:1-2, Jesus arrived at the Pool of Bethesda during Passover.

This wasn't merely a season; He came to deliver a man oppressed by evil spirit, that prevented him from entering the pool. Jesus instructed him, saying, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

This clear directive reflects the

power of God, emphasizing that we receive divine strength when we follow God's instructions. May you find deliverance by heeding the word of the Lord. The miracle of healing the impotent man reveals God's love, Jesus' compassion, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are called to rise from our sins, accept Jesus as our Savior, and be cleansed by His blood. There are two types of Passover: the Passover week and the Passover Sabbath, during which Jesus was crucified. He died at the moment the Pass-

over lambs were being sacrificed, fulfilling the symbolism of the Passover lamb as the Lamb without blemish (Exodus 12:5).

In response to Adam and Eve's fall, God shed the blood of an animal—a symbol of Christ's holiness. Animals, compromised by man's sin, pointed to the all-sufficient Lamb of God whom Jesus is.

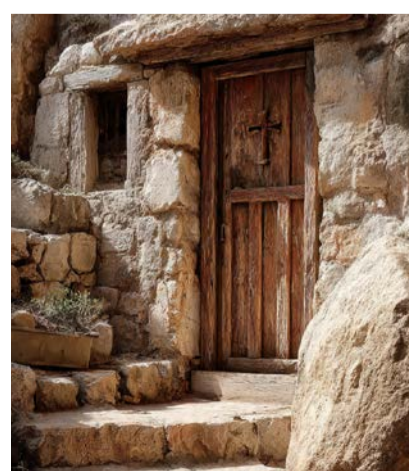
Whenever God aimed to save lives, He used blood.

The Bible states, "Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin."

The blood of animals foreshadowed what Jesus would accomplish.

While animals were not the

creators of humanity, their blood symbolized Christ's sacrifice. Only the blood of Jesus has the power for true forgiveness, never losing its efficacy. As one person expressed,



it reaches the highest mountain and flows to the lowest valley, reminding us that the blood of Jesus can reach everyone, regardless of their feelings of worthiness.

In preparation for the Passover festival, the lamb's flesh was to be roasted and eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

The people had to eat quickly, dressed for travel, symbolizing their readiness for liberation (Exodus 12:11). The unleavened bread represented the haste required, as there was no time for dough to rise (Exodus 12:39).

Today, this meal is known as Seder and is celebrated during Passover. May you too be liberated by Jesus in this Passover.

SA celebrates 30 Years of the Constitution



Thirty years after South Africa chose the rule of law over division and human rights over rule by exclusion, the country on Monday began the commemoration of 30 Years of the Constitution – a world-renowned document born from negotiation, compromise and public participation on an unprecedented scale. Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mmamoloko Kubayi, recently led the national launch, which also marked the commencement of Human Rights Month at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg. “Because of the adoption of the Constitution 30 years ago, we now have a foundation upon which we can strive towards the common vision of unity in diversity, whilst strengthening the culture of respect for human rights and the rule of law in South Afri-

is best described by Justice Albi Sachs when he said the following about the Constitution: ‘We wanted a Constitution that was smiling to the people – but it mustn’t be a sneer smile, or an insincere mask of a smile. The smile must come from inside, because it’s authentic. And the smile contains tears, and sadness, and a knowledge of imperfection’. “The Constitution is a testament that wise men and women of all races, religions and diverse cultures freely came together to weave a new nation in a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it, both black and white,” Kubayi said. **Decisive break with the past** The Minister noted that to truly appreciate the “magnitude of what the Constitution... represented, one must first reckon with what preceded it”. “For over three centuries, colonialism and then apartheid

The Interim Constitution of 1993 described the moment as a historic bridge, as it symbolised a passage from strife and injustice to peaceful coexistence premised on open democratic governance and the pursuit of universal human rights. “That bridge led, in 1996, to the final Constitution, a document that did not simply list rights but rooted them as the supreme law of the land, binding the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary alike,” the Kubayi said. **When law outruns life** The Minister acknowledged that the years following the adoption of the Constitution have not been “seamless or without contradiction”. “What the record of these 30 years also reveals, however, is that the communities that bore the heaviest cost of apartheid’s deliberate impoverishment have not experienced the pace of transfor-

Unplaced Learners: A Growing Crisis in Education that requires urgent action



Thulisa Nyathi

Every year, millions of children worldwide confront the challenging situation of not having a school to attend. This pressing issue arises from a multitude of factors, including financial obstacles and inherent weaknesses in educational systems. It is crucial for decision-makers, teachers, and community members to grasp the seriousness of this problem as they strive to build an educational landscape that accommodates and supports every child. It is reported that there are currently 4,858 pupils without placements in the 2026 online admissions process for grades 1 and 8. Among these, 1,381 are Grade 1 students, while 3,477 are in Grade 8. The Gauteng Department of Education received a total of 358,574 complete applications for the 2026 academic year, comprising 175,792 applicants for Grade 1 and 182,782 for Grade 8. Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane has stated that the department is committed to releasing placement and

transfer offers daily to ensure that all remaining pupils are placed as efficiently and equitably as possible. Ongeziweyo Khumalo, a mother of a prospective Grade 1 student, expressed her frustration with the system. Despite applying last year, her daughter remains at home. “She was sad and confused when I told her she wouldn’t be going to school,” Khumalo shared. “My daughter was looking forward to being in school and making new friends.” Grade 8 learner Thandisiwe Mtsotso also voiced her distress over the situation. “I’m trying to keep up with my studies on my own, but it’s hard,” she explained. “I don’t feel like I’m learning as much

as I should without a teacher. I worry that I won’t catch up when I finally get to school.” Mtsotso emphasized her determination to return to school, acknowledging that education is vital for her future aspirations, including attending college. “In total, 392,224 Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners have been successfully placed for the 2026 academic year through Gauteng’s Online Admissions system,” reported GDE spokesperson Steve Mabona. “The main application period, which ran from July 24 to August 5, 2025, accounted for the majority of these applications.” The issue of students without placements is complex and demands a holistic approach. By understanding the underlying factors and applying specific solutions, we can work towards a future where all children have the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. As we promote inclusive educational methods, it is vital to acknowledge that supporting our youth is a commitment to the prosperity of our society as a whole.

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ca,” Kubayi said. **Making of a miracle** The Constitution is a product of collective negotiations with a number of politicians, legal scholars, intellectual architects and negotiators participating in its formulation. Often overlooked is the mass public participation that saw some 1.7 million submissions from individuals and civil society organisation – making it an inclusive body of legal work. “The Constitution-making process was one of the most inclusive processes in modern times. “The inclusivity of the process

did not merely discriminate – it institutionalised and systematised human degradation, and in particular, of the black South African majority. Both colonial and apartheid regimes implanted racial hierarchy into the fabric of law itself, so that the very institutions that ought to have protected citizens became instruments of oppression. Justice was not blind; it was deliberately sighted, and it saw race. “What the negotiated transition of the early 1990s accomplished, therefore, was not merely a political handover but a civilisational reorientation.

mation that the Constitution’s provisions reasonably implied. “Those who were systematically denied access to property, education, and the basic conditions of a dignified life have found that, while the legal order has been fundamentally recast, their material circumstances have not shifted with commensurate decisiveness,” she said. The Minister cited “corruption, persistent resource constraints, and uneven implementation” as some of the core challenges that have “drawn the pace of delivery away from what the legal

framework envisioned”. “The consequence is a Constitutional democracy in which the law has advanced with considerably greater speed and clarity than the material reality it was expressly designed to transform, not because the framework is wanting, but because the administrative and financial conditions necessary to give it full effect have not been consistently sustained. “This is the central tension that three decades of Constitutional democracy has not yet resolved. The framework has proven its durability in the courts, the legislature and in the institutions created to give it effect. “What has not kept pace is the translation of that framework into the daily lives of those it was most urgently intended to serve. That remains the most consequential measure by which this Constitutional project will continue to be assessed,” Kubayi said. **Bastion of human rights** The Minister cited the “structural integration of the justice system” as one of the Constitution’s most consequential achievements.

Alongside that is the advancement of human rights that the document provides. “[It] is here that the Constitution’s responsiveness is perhaps most vividly demonstrated. At the nub of the Constitutional dispensation lies the Bill of Rights. Chapter 2 does something ambitious that, thirty years on, still deserves appreciation, specifically in that it refuses to treat civil and political rights as somehow more real or more pressing than socio-economic rights. “The right to equality, to human dignity, to privacy, and to freedom of expression are articulated alongside the rights to housing, healthcare, food, water and education. These rights are far beyond aspirational ornaments; they are justiciable entitlements, enforceable in courts of law. What makes their entrenchment particularly significant is that it does not freeze them in time,” Kubayi stated. She added that the Constitution interpretive framework “obliges courts to develop the content of rights in a manner that responds to present-day circumstances and evolving understandings of human dignity”. **GCIS**

How the Basic Fuel Price is calculated; A breakdown

For South African motorists, the price paid at the pump is far more than just the cost of the fuel itself, but the end result of a multitude of global and domestic forces ranging from the fluctuating price of crude oil and the strength of the Rand to the intricate costs of shipping, storage, and a series of government levies and taxes.

As outlined by the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR) on its website, the price is calculated using an import parity model designed to balance international competitiveness with local economic realities.

“The petrol price in South Africa is therefore directly linked to the price of petrol quoted in US Dollars at refined petroleum export orientated refining centres in the Mediterranean area, the Arab Gulf and Singapore,” the department said.

Therefore, this means that domestic prices are influenced by “international crude oil prices, international supply and demand balances for petroleum products and the Rand/US Dollar exchange rate”.

“The import parity [BFP] principle is an elegant, arms-length method of basic fuels price determination to ensure that local refineries compete with their international counterparts.

“This promotes cost efficiency and astute crude acquisition strategies to ensure survival in a volatile and competitive international environment, thus eliminating domestic inflationary pressures,” the department explains.

International influences

The department on its website lists the following as other international influences:

Free-on Board (FOB) Values: These are petroleum product prices

quoted on a daily basis by export orientated refining centres situated in the Mediterranean area, the Arab Gulf and Singapore.

Freight: The cost to transport refined petroleum products from these export refining centres to South African ports. The freight rates used in the BFP calculation are based on freight rates published by London Tanker Brokers Panel on 1 January each year.

These freight rates are adjusted on a monthly basis in line with the so-called Average Freight Rate Assessment (AFRA) which is a function of risks and supply and demand of ships transporting refined petroleum products internationally.

Demurrage: Petroleum products are loaded into ships at ports in the



Mediterranean area, Arab Gulf and Singapore and these products are discharged at South African ports. Demurrage rates are published by the World Scale Association Limited. In calculating the demurrage cost, the total demurrage time is limited to 3 days.

Insurance: An element of 0.15 percent of the FOB-value and freight to cover insurance as well as other costs such as letters of credit, surveyors' and agents' fees and laboratory costs.

Ocean loss: A loss allowance factor of 0.3 percent to be calculated on the sum of the FOB, Freight and Insurance values for products is applicable to provide for typical uninsurable losses during transportation of fuels.

Cargo dues (wharfage): The South African harbour facilities are utilised to off-load petroleum products from ships into on-shore storage facilities. The cost to utilise these harbour facilities is based on the tariff set by the National Ports Authority of South Africa.

Coastal storage: This is to recover the cost of providing storage and handling facilities at coastal terminals. In 2002, the typical international storage rate was assessed as USD 3 per ton or 2.5 SA cents per litre per month. The BFP only makes provision for 25 days and the initial value when BFP was implemented amounted to 2.083 c/l. This element is adjusted

on an annual basis by the increase in the Producer Price Index (PPI).

Stock financing: Stock financing cost is based on (i) the landed cost values of refined petroleum products, (ii) 25 days of stockholding and (iii) the ruling prime interest rate less 2 percent.

“The BFP, quoted in USD/barrel or USD/ton is converted to US cents/litre by applying the international conversion rates [for example, barrels to tons, tons to gallons and gallons to litres] and is then converted to South African cents/litre by applying the applicable Rand/US Dollar exchange rate,” the department said.

Domestic influences

The determination of the price is not only influenced by international factors but also includes transports costs, taxes and other regulatory costs.

These influences vary and also depend on the magisterial district zones that the garage is in.

These elements include: **Inland transport costs:** Refined petroleum products are trans-



Picture: JoeGough Getty Images

ported by road, rail, pipeline and by a combination thereof from coastal refineries to inland depots. **The wholesale margin:** The margin is a fixed maximum monetary margin. The formula used to determine the wholesale margin is based on a set of Guidelines, namely the Marketing-of-Petroleum-Activities Return. The level of the margin is calculated on an industry average basis and is aimed at granting these marketers a benchmark return of 15 percent on depreciated book values of assets, with allowance for additional depreciation, but before tax and payment of interest. Should the industry aggregated margin be between 10 and 20 percent, no adjustment is made to the margin, if it is below 10 percent or above 20 percent, the margin is adjusted to a level of 15 percent.

Retail profit margin: The retail profit margin is fixed by the DoE and is determined on the basis of the actual costs incurred by the service station operator in selling petrol. In this cost structure, account is taken of all proportionate driveway related costs such as rental, interest, labour, overheads and entrepreneurial compensation.

The General Fuel Levy: A tax collected on every litre of fuel aimed at funding general government spending.

The Road Accident Fund levy: It is adjusted annually and funds the

Road Accident Fund to compensate victims of road accidents.

The Carbon Fuel Levy: Aimed at reducing emissions

The Customs and Excise Levy: A tax imposed by the SA Revenue Service

Added to this is the Slate Levy, a temporary adjustment to the price is calculated on a daily basis.

“[The] daily calculated BFP is either higher or lower than the BFP reflected in the fuel price structures at that time. If the daily BFP is higher than the BFP in the fuel prices, a unit under recovery is realised on that day.

When the BFP is lower than the BFP in the price structures, an over recovery is realised on that day.

An under recovery means that fuel consumers are paying too little for product on that day, while in an over recovery situation, consumer are paying too much for product on that day.

“These calculations are done for each day in the fuel price review period and an average for the fuel price review period is calculated. This monthly unit over/under recovery is multiplied by the volumes sold locally in that month and the cumulative over/under recovery is recorded on a cumulative over/under recovery account.

“A Slate levy is applicable on fuels to finance the balance in the Slate account when the Slate is in a negative balance,” the department explained.

Animator Lesego Vorster wins French award!

South African animator, director and visual artist Lesego Vorster has been awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters), one of the highest cultural honours of the French Republic. The distinction was presented by the Ambassador of France to South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi, His Excellency Mr David Martinon, during a ceremony at the Residence de France in Pretoria.

Established in 1957 by the French Ministry of Culture, the Order of Arts and Letters recognises individuals whose work has made a significant contribution to the arts and literature, and to the influence of culture in France and internationally.

Presenting the award, Ambassador Martinon highlighted Vorster's contribution to the development of animation in South Africa and his role in strengthening cultural exchange between France and the region. “Through your

artistic vision, your commitment to mentorship, and your dedication to creating opportunities for young creators, you have helped shape a new generation of African storytell-



ers and strengthened the cultural dialogue between our two countries,” Ambassador Martinon said. Born and raised in Diepkloof, Soweto, Vorster developed an early

passion for drawing that later evolved into a multidisciplinary artistic practice. He studied Fine Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand before completing a postgraduate diploma in animation.

His career later took an international turn when he became the first South African admitted to the International Master's programme at Gobelins, l'École de l'image in Paris, one of the world's leading animation schools. After first attending a summer programme there in 2014, he joined the newly created master's programme in 2016. Upon returning to South Africa, Vorster played a key role in establishing

and developing the animation programme at the Tshimologong Digital Precinct in Johannesburg. Created in partnership with Gobelins and supported by the French

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the programme has helped train and mentor a new generation of animation talent across the continent.

Vorster co-founded The Hidden Hand Studios and founded and directs through Toe Dash for a brighter and more technical future of animated filmmaking. His distinctive artistic approach, known as the 'Vovo_Stayela' style, draws on African visual references and storytelling traditions while placing African characters and experiences at the centre of contemporary animated narratives.

His international recognition includes his contribution to Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire, a Disney+ animated anthology series showcasing emerging African animation talent. In 2023, Vorster received an Emmy Award for Individual Achievement in Character Design, marking an important milestone for African animation on the global stage.



The Order of Arts and Letters has previously been awarded to a number of South African cultural figures, including Mary Sibande, Phyllis Klotz, Zanele Muholi and Gregory Maqoma, among many others.

Through this distinction, the French Republic recognises Lesego Vorster's artistic achievements, his commitment to supporting emerging creators, and his contribution to strengthening cultural cooperation between France and Southern Africa.

Lali van Zuydam

Thriving local Jewellery Designer and Manufacturer

“I am Nqobile Nkosi and my journey in jewellery design and manufacturing has been shaped by opportunity, hard work and support from the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA). The guidance and resources I received allowed me to develop my skills and grow my business into what it is today.”

Such were the words of a well-respected and successful individual, in his capacity as a South-African jewellery entrepreneur, during a presentation at the recent MQA Lekgotla at the Gallagher Convention Centre. Born and raised in Soweto, Nqobile is the founder of NQ Jewellery Design Services, a pioneering jewellery design and manufacturing company which he established in 2007. Recognised as the first local company combining manufacturing and

hands-on experience, enabled him to develop the technical skills and entrepreneurial capabilities required for a professional career and laid the foundation for the success he enjoys today.

Through his studies, Nqobile was able to formalise his skills, expand his network and translate his education into a highly successful and sustainable business that creates local employment.

Nqobile Nkosi's personal journey also highlights the interplay between education, entrepreneurship and social impact. While studying and building his business, he started small by providing jewellery repairs and polishing services to neighbours and community members from a shack in Soweto. Today and in stark contrast to his humble beginnings his company operates a successful



retail of contemporary, fine jewellery in the country, NQ Jewellery provides comprehensive services covering bespoke design and custom bridal jewellery, full-scale manufacturing, corporate items and professional repairs. Nqobile's commitment to local sourcing ensures that all jewellery is carefully crafted in South Africa using gold, silver, platinum and high-quality gemstones that are obtained from local suppliers and artisans. Nqobile's introduction to the jewellery industry began when he enrolled for a jewellery production course. He studied at the Soweto Jewellery School that was funded through the Imfundiso Skills Development programme of the MQA. The course is structured to combine practical experience with formal learning and leads to nationally recognised credentials in a trade that is highly marketable.

Working with a variety of materials including precious metals such as gold, silver, bronze and gemstones, as well as beads, wood and glass, students are enabled to blend traditional indigenous techniques with contemporary styles.

While completing his studies in 2006 and during his practical training in jewellery manufacturing, Nkosi discovered a natural talent for both jewellery design and production. The comprehensive training combined with structured learning and

retail shop at Montecasino that has created retail opportunities for more than twenty small businesses. Nqobile also runs the Jewellery Village programme, which has assisted more than fifty small businesses with registration, licensing and access to raw materials.

Nqobile's achievements have received broad acclaim that includes the SAB Kickstart Award, the Young Business Leaders Award and the 2016 Tsoko Sun Entrepreneur Award, which named him the ultimate winner and program ambassador.

He also gained international experience in the UK, studying and working with renowned jewellery professionals and companies, including Paul Spurgeon and Weston Beamor. During this time, he further refined his craft before returning to South Africa to invest in local talent. His dedication in this regard extends beyond personal achievement to mentorship and education.

Offering free jewellery-making classes for young people, he provides aspiring designers with opportunities to gain experience and exposure. Nqobile's thriving jewellery business that prioritises local talent and production as well as job creation. Reflecting on this long-term impact of his work over the past twenty years Nqobile said, "I see success as being able to move my business forward from one generation to the next."

Ntombi Malatji



Kwaito is not Dead A new Generation podcast

A new cultural platform is stepping in to reconnect South Africans with the sound that shaped a generation. KiND (Kwaito Is Not Dead), hosted by Sbu MaLawyer, launches on 1 April with Kwaito pioneer Joe Nina as its first guest. More than a podcast, KiND is a movement to bring Kwaito back to the people.

Built for today's digital audience, KiND combines storytelling, music, and social media to revive the voices, language, and energy that emerged from South Africa's townships and went on to define youth culture in the 90s and 2000s.

A Bridge Between Generations KiND positions itself as a nostalgic and necessary bridge between generations.

From Gen X and Millennials who lived the Kwaito era, to Gen Z and Gen Alpha discovering it for the first time, the platform connects past and present through stories, sound and shared identity. It asks a simple but powerful question. Waar was jy? Because Kwaito is not just music. It is memory.

From Township Roots to Global Influence

Born in the townships, Kwaito was raw, authentic and ground-

breaking. It introduced a new language, a new attitude and a new way of seeing the world. It also laid the foundation for what came next.

Through this lens, the podcast explores:

The origins of Kwaito in township culture, The role of vernacular and township lingo as cultural identity, The evolution of sound and language over time, The genre's influence on today's music landscape, The untold stories of the pioneers who built it.

Joe Nina Sets the Tone

The debut episode features Joe Nina, one of the genre's defining voices.

"It's about time people understand where Kwaito comes from. It's our culture, our movement. Kwaito brought a drastic change to the industry."

His conversation sets the tone for a series grounded in authenticity, legacy and lived experience.

Teaching, Entertaining, Inspiring

KiND is designed to be both a teaching moment and an enter-

tainment platform.

It speaks to curiosity, nostalgia and pride. It creates space to reflect on how language, music and identity have evolved, while inspiring a renewed appreciation for the foundations of South African sound.

At its core, KiND is about passion for the music and respect for its roots.

A Movement for the Digital Age

With a strong social media presence, teaser content and audience engagement at

its centre, KiND is built to live beyond the podcast.

It invites audiences to participate, remember, learn and reconnect.

This is not just about looking back. It is about building a living archive and a renewed cultural movement.

Follow the conversation on social media:

Facebook: Kwaito is Not Dead
Instagram: kwaito_is_not_dead
Tik Tok: kwaito.is.not.dead
YouTube: KwaitoisNotDead
#revivekwaito, #kwaitoisnotdead, #KiND, #kwaitopioneers
Nono Matuwane



Gauteng unveils food distribution centre

The Gauteng Provincial Government, through the Gauteng Department of Social Development, has successfully launched the Gauteng Food Distribution Centre, marking a significant milestone in the province's ongoing efforts to combat hunger, improve food security, and contribute towards building the capacity of the state to deliver services. The launch, held on Sunday, 22 March 2026, formed part of the "Fetsa Tlala – Leaving No One Behind" programme, which is aimed at addressing poverty, reducing food insecurity, and supporting vulnerable communities across Gauteng.

The newly launched Food Distribution Centre will serve as a central hub for the collection, storage, and distribution

of food supplies. It is expected to strengthen partnerships with non-profit organisations, community-based organisations, and other stakeholders, while improving coordination, reducing food wastage, and ensuring that food reaches those who need it most.

The department's food relief programme currently reaches over 400 000 beneficiaries. Through the accelerated food distribution programme, the department created about 70 job opportunities.

It is envisaged that through this programme more sustainable job opportunities will be created. Speaking at the event, MEC for Social Development, Faith Mazibuko, reaffirmed the department's commitment to building a caring and inclusive society



through responsive and impactful social interventions.

"The establishment of the Food Distribution Centre, demonstrates government's continued dedication to ensuring that no resident of Gauteng goes hungry and that communities are supported with dignity and care," Mazibuko said.

She reaffirmed the provincial government committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to expand access to food relief and create sustainable solutions to poverty and inequality.

A sentimental place with rich memories... We remember Juliwe



A free people

Jerry Sokhupe

Juliwe was a migrant worker, the first lady who was amongst the very first people who resided in Roodepoort West Township. She was honoured by having the first settlement named after her. Juliwe was established in 1905. It was a place that housed contract mine labourers from neighbouring states like Botswana, Lesotho, etc. who signed contracts varying from yearly to two years or more. There were also coal miners from various provinces across the land. Now Durban Deep was a booming mine and nearby there was a white residential area, called quarters.



In their few houses there they had employed black ladies as their helpers and built them maid quarters at the back of their homes. These were built farther than the main house so as not to interfere with the affairs of either. Migrant miners visited their lovers at their maids quarters where they often called their friends and held fun gatherings over weekends. The landlords were displeased at this practice as it



occurred every weekend. So they proposed that perhaps we should find a residence for these people. The first establishment was about twelve hugely sizable shack dwellings. Then thereafter, other migrants subsequently erected more shacks as the influx to the mines grew. On the other hand there were those working at the Railway. They would eventually be given stands which they could acquire at a price of 10 shillings. The area stretched from East Horizon, across the railway line up to Ontdekkers Road which was just a gravel road by then. There were shops for the people and over the other side was the farmland owned by white farmers as well as the place for the visually impaired. There was one house of a farmer who was called "uMazi-wazindlovu" as well as Koos housed on the West side and

nearby was a well, a stream running through. These men were strategically placed by their superiors to overlook and be guardians of Roodepoort West. An area lined with trees was set up as a demarcation line. The township could not house more than 600 people, that was the stipulated limit. So the farmers across the boundaries would sound a siren in case some fighting erupted therein. Roodepoort West was vibrant but poor and the sense of 'community' was very strong with an ever compelling 'community vibe'. To have come from the place was a matter of pride. The late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu is also former resident of the place. Younger male residents would boast in tsotsitaal, "Ek kom van Westapo af". People lived in close proximity to each other, richer and poorer, stand-holders and tenants shared similar living conditions. It was cramped most probably due to general shortage during and after the massive influx of Africans seeking work during the war years. Roodepoort West ultimately ended up a slum... period! With roads dusty and potholed. Church was an important part of people's lives. And after worship everybody went to the sports fields. The numerous activities and many others were often organised by the location superintendent, Dennis Dobson. He was the son of Herbert Dobson, after whom Dobsonville was named.

Where there's Horizon station presently there was cattle kraals nearby and further afield a graveyard which is still visible. Juliwe people can attest that they knew each other very well. And there were differ-

ent classes of people, the sophisticated and the politically savvy! Overcrowding and poor living conditions led to political mobilisation among different groups of people for different reasons. 1942 was the last war of the ZZ, and because people stayed indoors as there were bombs falling from planes. All the houses were required to close and cover the curtains at night so as to cover light. They could only eat corned beef which was packed on 5liter tins! 1945 was the leap-year and came with the first snow that residences of Juliwe witnessed. Then in 1948 came the tornado which ravaged sheet metal roofs from the south of Roodepoort to 8th avenue up to Nefd street, towards the outskirts of the town. Nefd street positioned at the entrance of Roodepoort, juxtaposed to the railway line, had a sprawling line of shops. One of which belonged to the first tailor to gradu-



ate in the practice, the legendary Oom Sota. The Orlando Towers in Soweto were built from dark bricks burned hard from a factory in Roodepoort. The donkeys were tied around pulling the gears for the concrete mix that was as durable as we still see the towers standing today. The mix was then hardened strongly in the oven to produce rock solid bricks. That was back in 1948! Across the bridge that now leads into Horizon (scrap factory), on that road there were Greek and



Chinese nationals stores and a football field on the other side. The road ended up to the municipal offices. There was a house surrounded with trees, specifically reserved to house banished leprosy sufferers. Further there was a bank and a Roman catholic school. Next to administration offices was a beer hall which doubled as a cinema in the evening. The pass law was enforced to regulate movement of Africans. The officers patrolled on horseback. To avoid arrest one had to carry the big document wherever you went. People would cheat the officers and exchange the documents when facing possible arrest if they couldn't produce or had left it at home. The officers seldom checked them thoroughly or could have been semi-literate. There was a law stipulating non movement after 9pm which carried a trespassing offence if one failed to adhere to. Only white members of society were allowed to roam around freely. Then you would get arrested and spend the night in jail. In the morning you pay a 5pounds (R10) fine at the Pas office for your release which

was a considerable amount of money back in the day. The forced removals began in around 1957, which was long on the cards by apartheid architects. These began as far towards Krugersdorp all the way where the people were moved toward the west and townships were formed. Those who owned houses at Juliwe were given house stands in the new Dobsonville location. It was estimated that some 200 families would be moved shortly, including those living in European backyards and elsewhere, and would be provided with accommodation at Dobsonville. The new locations represented greater control. Housing in the new locations was offered to tenants and lodgers first. In the 60s old locations were being demolished or rehabilitated to make way for poor white populations or for industrial development. Dobsonville was initially planned to house 20 000 Africans, and in the first 20 years of its development, houses were added in schemes of 400 or 500 houses at a time. By 1964 there were approximately 3500 houses, and 28200 people living in the location. **Source: Former dwellers/Archives**

Ditaba **SOFA TALK**

AGREED, A LOT HAPPENING MY FRIEND DITABA

SO MANY THINGS HAPPENING CURRENTLY SALMON

PLAYERS LEAVING THE PITCH DURING FINAL & COMING BACK IN DURING PLAY TIME NE

SCHOLAR TRANSPORT HAZARD STILL PERSIST ARE WE GONNA KEEP ALLOWING THE ENDANGERMENT OF OUR POSTERITY?

JUST LIKE THAT ON OUR ROADS SURELY NOT

IT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ALL QHA!

NOT TO FORGET MENTIONING THE NEW PLAYER SO CALLED V.A.R.

ONE WONDERS THAT IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY REGISTERING KIDS FOR SCHOOL PLACEMENT IS STILL A HUSTLE!

EINTLIK WHO REALLY BENEFITS FROM THE TOWNSHIP ECONOMY ?

AND THE POOR CONSUMER STILL GETS HARD HIT WITH THE FONG KONG PRODUCT

DID YOU HEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT DEMANDS THAT EVERY RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION GET REGISTERED WITH THE CRL

DISTURBING REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENCES METED TO PEOPLE UNDER THE PRETEXT OF BELIEF!

WHAT ABOUT THE IDEA OF DRINKING TAP WATER WHILE DOUBTING THE OUTCOMES

EISH SALMON AND SCAMMERS ARE STILL AT LARGE SIPHONING PEOPLE'S HARD EARNED CASH!

WE'RE SLOWLY ADAPTING TO UNEXPECTED CLIMATE WEATHER CHANGE AND ITS DEVASTATING EFFECTS

PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS ARE SUDDENLY ALTERED UNAWARES, WITH LIMITED AID IF ANY

JKK
19-01-26