



Social Media
 LinkedIn | Facebook | TikTok
 Twitter | Instagram | YouTube
 @centranewsza

FREE COPY

FREE STATE | NORTH WEST | GAUTENG

FRIDAY

14 FEBRUARY 2025 | WEEKLY

CENTRAL NEWS

BEYOND THE NEWS

www.centralnews.co.za | newsroom@centralnews.co.za | WhatsApp 081 495 5487

NEWS

"Malema was our generation's Steve Biko" Dr Ndlozi on MacG's podcast



STORY ON PAGE 4

SPORT

SuperSport Utd edge Cape Town Spurs to secure Nedbank Cup quarterfinal spot



STORY ON PAGE 8

Edgar Legoale Foundation Hosts Gala Dinner to Honour Phehellang Secondary School Matric Class of 2024



The Edgar Legoale Foundation is set to host a prestigious gala dinner to celebrate the academic achievements of the Phehellang Secondary School Matric Class of 2024

See story on page 2

CENTRAL  NEWS

Go beyond the headlines

Also available online at www.centralnews.co.za



CONTACT US

General Info
info@centralnews.co.za

Administration
admin@centralnews.co.za

Newsroom
newsroom@centralnews.co.za

Advertising
sales@centralnews.co.za



By Thobeka Makume

The Edgar Legole Foundation is set to host a prestigious gala dinner to celebrate the academic achievements of the Phehellang Secondary School Matric Class of 2024. This highly anticipated event will recognise the top-performing learners, dedicated educators, and school leadership for their outstanding contribution to academic excellence in Tumahole.

Under the inspiring theme “Illuminating the Future: Celebrating Excellence, Inspiring Greatness,” the gala will serve as a platform to honour perseverance, hard work, and determination, encouraging future generations to strive for greatness.

Gala Event Details

- Venue: Woodlands Country Lodge
- Date: Friday, 14 February 2025
- Time: 18:00
- Dress Code: Semi-Formal / Elegant

Edgar Legole Foundation Hosts Gala Dinner to Honour Phehellang Secondary School Matric Class of 2024

Special Guests

The event will be graced by distinguished guests, including:

- Dr. Vusi Chuta – Fezile Dabi Education District Director
- Mr. Bosanku Msimanga – Member of the Free State Legislature (MPL)
- Bishop Sekete

Their presence highlights the significance of education, leadership, and community development in the Free State.

Honouring Academic Excellence

The Phehellang Secondary School Matric Class of 2024 has demonstrated remarkable dedication and academic success, making Tumahole proud. The school, led by Principal DS Maloyi Mofokeng and School Governing Body (SGB) Chairperson Mr. Oupa Madikile, achieved an outstanding 98.1% pass rate, cementing its reputation as the top-performing school in Tumahole.

Top Achievers Recognised

Among the learners being celebrated, special recognition goes to:

- Moroe Kelebogile & Nelani Bongani
- Ranked in the Top 100 learners in the Free State
- Achieved the highest marks in the Fezile Dabi District

Their success is a testament to the hard work of educators, the dedication of students, and the unwavering support of the school leadership.

A Legacy of Educational Commitment

On 20 January 2025, Edgar Legole, on behalf of the Edgar Legole Foundation, personally visited Phehellang Secondary School to celebrate their exceptional matric results.

During the visit, he praised the school’s educators and learners, stating: “Phehellang Secondary School has set a new benchmark for excellence. Their results reflect

a commitment to quality education, discipline, and hard work. As the Edgar Legole Foundation, we believe in recognising and rewarding such achievements.”

The school excelled in various subjects, with 100% pass rates in:

- Mathematics
- Life Sciences
- History
- Business Studies

Additionally, the school was ranked among the Top 10 Performing Schools in Accounting in the Free State. Educator Me SM Mofokeng was also honoured as a Top 10 Best Performing Educator in the province.

Edgar Legole Foundation’s Role in Education Development

The Edgar Legole Foundation has long been an advocate for education and youth development in South Africa. Through initiatives like the Annual Academic Awards Gala, the foundation seeks to:

- Recognise excellence – Honouring learners and educators for their commitment to academic success.
- Inspire future leaders – Encouraging young people to pursue knowledge and innovation.
- Support disadvantaged students – Providing resources and mentorship for students in underserved communities.

In a recent statement, Edgar Legole expressed his excitement about the upcoming event:

“I am pleased to announce that our newly appointed Foundation Manager officially started her duties on Monday and has already hit the ground running! She has successfully organised this Gala Dinner, ensuring that we celebrate the Phehellang Secondary School

Matric Class of 2024 in a manner they deserve. This is part of our annual tradition, and we look forward to witnessing their continued success.”

Exclusive Event with Media Coverage

- Attendance: This is an invitation-only event. Formal written invitations are required for entry.
- Media RSVP: Journalists and media representatives must RSVP in advance. Contact: Bongane – blaqsnap@gmail.com | 084 308 0975
- Live Broadcast: The gala will be streamed live on: Central News (centralnewsza) Edgar Legole Foundation Facebook Page

A Night of Celebration and Inspiration

This exclusive gala dinner serves as a beacon of hope and recognition for young minds determined to make a difference in South Africa. Through initiatives like this, the Edgar Legole Foundation continues to invest in the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela

With a 98.1% pass rate, top-ranking learners, and exceptional educators, Phehellang Secondary School is setting an example for the future of South African education.

Follow Central News for Live Updates & Exclusive Content

- Facebook: @centralnewsza
- X (Twitter): @centralnews
- Instagram: @centralnewsza

Five More Traffic Officials Arrested in Limpopo for Licence Fraud



By Mpho Moloji

Five additional traffic officials have been arrested at the Bela-Bela Driving Licence Testing Centre (DLTC) in Limpopo. This operation is part of an extensive investigation targeting fraudulent activities related to the issuance of driving licences.

Recent Arrests and Ongoing Investigations

The latest arrests bring the total number of individuals apprehended in this operation to 24, including driving licence examiners, administration clerks, and driving school instructors. The breakdown of the arrests is as follows:

- Lephalale DLTC: Eleven suspects arrested on Friday and over the weekend.
- Thabazimbi DLTC: Eight suspects arrested on Monday.
- Bela-Bela DLTC: Five suspects arrested on Wednesday.

The arrested individuals, aged between 37 and 59, are accused of issuing learner’s and driver’s licences without adhering to proper procedures, allegedly in exchange for bribes.

The investigation, initiated in 2021, aims to identify and prosecute officials involved in such corrupt practices.

The operation is a collaborative effort between the Hawks’ Serious Corruption Investigation Unit and the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC). Gadgets and documents believed to be instrumental in the fraudulent activities have been seized and will undergo forensic analysis. The five suspects from Bela-Bela are scheduled to appear in the Bela-Bela Magistrate’s Court on Thursday, 13 February 2025.

Statements from Authorities

Brigadier Desmond Alexander, the Acting Provincial Head of the Hawks in Limpopo, commended the effective collaboration between the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and the RTMC. He emphasized the importance of such partnerships in combating corruption within the province.

RTMC CEO, Advocate Makhosini Msibi, highlighted the detrimental impact of corruption on road safety, stating:

“South Africans are tired of counting bodies on the roads as a result of crashes caused by incompetent drivers. Corruption is not a victimless crime. It robs the state of valuable resources and places a heavy burden on families who bury loved ones every weekend.”

Investigations have identified over 1,300 applicants who obtained their licences through these fraudulent means. These individuals will also face legal consequences for their involvement in the illicit activities. The RTMC has urged all licence holders to ensure their credentials are valid and obtained through proper channels.



Labour conquers all

PHEHELLANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

MATRIC CLASS OF 2024 AWARDS GALA

The Edgar Legole Foundation proudly honours the exceptional Matric Class of 2024 from Phehellang Secondary School. This prestigious gala will celebrate the Top 10 learners, commend the dedicated teachers, and acknowledge Phehellang Secondary School’s achievement as the top-performing school in Parys.

DATE:
14 FEBRUARY 2025

VENUE:
WOODLANDS COUNTRY LODGE, PARYS

TIME:
18H00



EDGAR LEGOLE
(Founder, Edgar Legole Foundation)



PRINCIPAL DS MALOYI MOFOKENG
(Phehellang Secondary School)



DR CHUTA
Fezile Dabi District Director of Education)



BISHOP SEKETE
(Senior Pastor - House of Praise Ministries)

ACCESS TO THE GALA IS STRICTLY VIA A FORMAL WRITTEN INVITATION

MORE INFO
Email: nthabiseng@edgarlegole.com
Cell no. 082 287 2290

Live Streaming Available!
Watch live on all Central News social media pages (@centralnewsza) and the Edgar Legole Foundation Facebook page.



SIU Welcomes Dismissal of Mpumalanga Official Over PPE Corruption



By Thobeka Makume

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has commended the dismissal of Kobus Sifiso Mkhabela, a senior official from the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads, and Transport, following an investigation into fraudulent activities related to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) procurement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mkhabela was implicated in awarding multimillion-rand PPE tenders to suppliers who failed to deliver the contracted services. Investigations revealed that these suppliers provided substantial kickbacks to senior management officials and their family members. The SIU uncovered multiple instances of corruption, fraud, theft, and money laundering involving senior managers and service providers in the procurement of PPE disinfection services during the pandemic.

Legal Proceedings and Asset Seizure

In 2022, Mkhabela was arrested on charges of corruption, money laundering, fraud, and contravention of the Public Finance Management Act. Subsequently, the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU), in collaboration with the SIU and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), obtained a preservation order to seize assets and properties valued at approximately R52.6 million. These assets were linked to 22 senior management officials, service providers, and entities involved in the alleged corruption network within the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works.

Ongoing Legal Actions

Mkhabela is currently facing prosecution by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in the Commercial Crimes Court in Mbombela, Mpumalanga. The SIU has emphasized its commitment to implementing investigation outcomes and enforcing consequence management to recover assets and financial losses suffered by state institutions.

Broader Implications

This case is part of a larger effort to address corruption related to COVID-19 PPE procurement. In a related incident, the AFU, SIU, and Hawks seized assets worth over R52 million linked to dodgy PPE tenders. Investigations revealed that senior management officials awarded multimillion-rand COVID-19 PPE tenders to suppliers who did not deliver the services, with substantial kickbacks paid to the officials and their family members.

Ramokgopa: Government's Transformation Agenda is "Irreversible" Amid Expropriation Act Debate



By Mpho Moloi

Minister of Electricity and Energy Kgosientsho Ramokgopa has strongly defended the South African government's commitment to transformation and land reform, declaring it "irreversible" amid backlash over the recently enacted Expropriation Act. He accused critics of using the legislation as a "scarecrow" to undermine the economy and create instability.

Ramokgopa made these remarks during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) debate on Wednesday, 12 February 2025, responding to opposition parties and organisations that have fiercely opposed the Expropriation Act.

"They are detonating the nuclear options to ensure that they undermine the economy of this country so that there's a groundswell of social discontent that will unseat this government," he said.

The minister's comments come in the wake of international criticism, economic concerns, and legal challenges to the Expropriation Act, with opposition parties, business groups, and foreign governments weighing in on the controversial law.

Understanding the Expropriation Act

The Expropriation Act of 2025, signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa in January 2025, sets out the legal framework for the expropriation of property for public purposes or in the public interest. The legislation provides mechanisms for land reform, including the provision for nil compensation in specific cases, which has drawn both praise and criticism.

According to government sources, the Act aims to:

- Address historical land dispossession by facilitating land redistribution.
- Ensure fair compensation where necessary, while allowing expropriation without compensation in specific instances.
- Provide legal clarity and procedural guidelines for land expropriation.

Despite these assurances, critics argue that the Act threatens property rights and could deter investment, leading to economic uncertainty.

Political Reactions and Opposition Challenges

Domestic Opposition: DA and

AfriForum's Legal Battle

The Democratic Alliance (DA) has challenged the constitutionality of the Expropriation Act, arguing that it violates property rights and could destabilise the economy.

"We believe that several provisions of the Expropriation Act are irrational and unconstitutional. This law must be nullified before it causes irreversible damage to investor confidence," said DA leader John Steenhuisen.

AfriForum, a civil rights group known for opposing land expropriation without compensation, has accused the ANC government of jeopardising private property ownership. The organisation claims that the law could lead to large-scale land seizures, comparing it to Zimbabwe's land redistribution policies that resulted in economic collapse.

"This is nothing more than a populist move to take land from rightful owners without compensation. It will not solve poverty or inequality—it will only create economic instability," said Ernst Roets, head of policy at AfriForum.

The group has already announced plans to take the matter to the Constitutional Court in a bid to have the law overturned.

International Backlash: Trump Cuts U.S. Aid to South Africa

The United States, under President Donald Trump, has halted financial aid to South Africa in response to the Expropriation Act. In an executive order issued last week, Trump claimed that the law violates human rights and undermines property protections, leading to a cut in U.S. development funds allocated to South Africa.

"The U.S. will not support any government that seizes land without fair compensation. We stand for the protection of property rights," Trump said in a statement.

South Africa's ambassador to the U.S., Nomandla Mfeketo, urged calm, stating that the government would engage in diplomatic discussions to clarify the intent of the Expropriation Act.

"We should neither panic nor snub the U.S. over this decision. South Africa remains committed to engaging our partners on the principles of land reform and economic transformation," said Mfeketo.

Ramokgopa, in his speech, reiterated President Ramaphosa's stance that South Africa would not be bullied by

international pressure.

"The transformation project is indeed irreversible. We are on the correct path, comrade President. We will not be bullied," he said.

The South African government has indicated plans to embark on a diplomatic tour to explain the Expropriation Act and engage with global allies to prevent further economic fallout.

Economic and Investment Implications Business Concerns Over Property Rights and Investment Climate

South African business leaders and economists have expressed concern that investor confidence may decline due to uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the Expropriation Act. Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) CEO Busisiwe Mavuso warned that clarity and policy consistency are essential to prevent capital flight.

"Investors want certainty. If the government cannot provide clear guidelines on how expropriation without compensation will be implemented, we may see a slowdown in foreign direct investment," she said.

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has also cautioned that land reform policies must be carefully managed to avoid jeopardising the country's credit rating and economic stability.

Infrastructure and Energy Plans Amidst Debate

Despite the controversy, Ramokgopa emphasised the government's focus on infrastructure investment and economic growth. He stated that:

- R200 billion will be invested in energy projects to improve South Africa's electricity supply.
- The government aims to unlock land for housing and industrial development through the Infrastructure Development Act.
- Plans are in place to attract foreign investment through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

"Our infrastructure drive is a game-changer. We are prioritising the expansion of renewable energy, water security, and digital transformation. South Africa is open for business, and we remain committed to economic development," he said.

Dr Mbuyiseni Ndlozi on Podcast with MacG: “Malema Was Our Generation’s Steve Biko”

By Thabo Mosia

Dr. Mbuyiseni Ndlozi appeared on Podcast and Chill with MacG today, 13 February 2025, where he reflected on leadership, revolution, and political character. In a candid discussion, he described Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema as the preeminent political figure of their generation, likening his influence to that of Steve Biko in the Black Consciousness Movement.

“You can never choose where the test of your character must come from,” Ndlozi remarked, emphasizing the importance of resilience in political life. His appearance sparked widespread debate, as he addressed his departure from the EFF, his political philosophy, and his vision for South Africa.

Ndlozi on Malema’s Leadership and Political Character

During the discussion, Ndlozi reflected on Malema’s leadership, describing him as the defining political figure of their generation. “Malema was the best among us. There was no doubt in my heart and in the hearts of many,” he stated. Comparing Malema to Steve Biko, he credited the EFF leader with shaping the contemporary economic emancipation movement in South Africa.

However, Ndlozi also discussed the complexities of political relationships and character tests, acknowledging that conflict and disagreements within political movements are inevitable. He reiterated that in revolutionary struggles, comrades should not destroy each other but build a united front for transformation.

Addressing His EFF Departure and Internal Politics

One of the major topics was Ndlozi’s departure from the EFF and the internal tensions that led to it. He confirmed that his exit was tied to his opposition to the party’s alignment with former President Jacob Zuma’s MK Party (MKP). “I opposed the entanglement,” he stated, indicating that he believed the EFF’s electoral decline was partly due to its association with MKP.

Ndlozi dismissed allegations that he had conspired against the party leadership. He revealed that he was suspended weeks before the EFF’s National People’s Assembly based on what he described as an unfounded intelligence report. “The report never materialized. To this day, there is no report,” he said, casting doubt on the legitimacy of his suspension.

He also disclosed that he was aware of Floyd Shivambu’s intention to leave the EFF



before it was made public. He recounted how Shivambu informed him of his plans but maintained that it was not his place to alert party leadership.

On ANC, the GNU, and Political Future

Ndlozi provided sharp critiques of the ANC and its role in the Government of National Unity (GNU). He argued that the ANC’s decline was inevitable but opposed its collaboration with the DA. “We shouldn’t have donated the ANC to the DA,” he said, expressing concern that the DA’s presence in the GNU diluted the radical economic transformation agenda.

While he remained critical of President Cyril Ramaphosa, Ndlozi acknowledged recent unexpected moves by the ANC leader. He particularly praised Ramaphosa’s strong stance against Israel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) case on genocide allegations. “I never thought Ramaphosa would sound like Robert Mugabe,” he admitted, suggesting that the president’s recent foreign policy positions warranted a reassessment of his leadership.

When asked about his own political future, Ndlozi confirmed that he was stepping away from party politics. “I am leaving party politics, but I am not leaving politics,” he clarified, suggesting that his political engagement would continue in other forms.

Reflections on South Africa’s Leadership and Struggles

Ndlozi weighed in on South Africa’s leadership since democracy, giving nuanced assessments of different presidents. He praised Nelson Mandela for securing a peaceful transition but criticized Thabo Mbeki for embracing neoliberal economic policies. He credited Jacob Zuma with advancing BRICS and free education policies but held him accountable for dismantling the ANC Youth League and the Marikana massacre.

On corruption, he highlighted systemic issues in South Africa’s political landscape, arguing

that corruption was not limited to the Zuma era. He pointed out that President Ramaphosa’s Phala Phala scandal was indicative of broader problems within governance.

On Music, Culture, and Black Identity

Beyond politics, the discussion ventured into music and black consciousness. Ndlozi expressed admiration for Amapiano’s global success, describing it as a defining cultural movement. “We haven’t had this kind of international breakthrough since Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela,” he said.

He also touched on black identity, noting how hairstyles and personal expression are often politicized. “We were not accustomed, in a racist society, to wear our hair with pride,” he remarked, discussing the historical significance of black hair.

On Julius Malema, Brotherhood, and Political Tests

Despite their political differences, Ndlozi affirmed that he still considers Malema a brother. “Absolutely. Even after all the stuff he said about me,” he said, reflecting on their relationship. When pressed about Malema’s jabs at him, including personal remarks about his wife, Ndlozi remained philosophical: “You can never choose where the test of your character must come from.”

Final Thoughts

Ndlozi’s appearance on Podcast and Chill with MacG provided deep insights into South African politics, leadership, and personal character. His reflections on Malema, the ANC, and the future of the country added to ongoing national debates about leadership and governance.

As he transitions away from party politics, it remains to be seen where Ndlozi’s influence will be felt next. However, his commitment to political activism and public discourse is unlikely to wane.



eKasiLabs Sebokeng cordially invites innovative, creative entrepreneurs and small businesses with high growth potential in sectors such as ICT, Bio-Economy, Agro-Processing, Manufacturing and Green Economy to a Business Bootcamp which is intended to prepare interested and qualifying SMME's for an upcoming pitching session, where successful candidates will be incubated into the eKasiLabs Business Incubation Programme. Details of the bootcamp are as follows:



Date:
17 Feb 2025



Venue: eKasiLab
Sebokeng, VUT
Science Park,
05 Moshoeshoe
Street




Time:
9h00 - 16h30



RSVP:
Bonakele Kunene at
bkunene@theinnovationhub.com
by 14 February
before 16:30

THE INNOVATION HUB
Innovation Catalyst for Gauteng City Region
A subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency





NEED TO REVAMP OR BUILD A NEW WEBSITE?

LOOKING FOR A WEBSITE THAT STANDS OUT? AT NAKED-I.CREATIVE, WE DON'T JUST DESIGN WEBSITES, WE CREATE DIGITAL EXPERIENCES

We combine creativity and functionality to deliver sites that work perfectly for your brand.

LET'S CHAT

Contact us today!

068 358 3854

studio@naked-i.co.za | www.naked-i.co.za

Emfuleni Municipality Restores Water Supply After Power Outage at Rand Water's Vereeniging Plant

By Lerato Mpenbe

The Emfuleni Municipality has officially given Rand Water the green light to resume pumping and supplying water to affected communities after completing critical repairs at the Vereeniging Water Treatment Works. The restoration follows a power failure that disrupted supply to thousands of residents, businesses, health facilities, and schools for three consecutive days.

The major outage impacted the Eikenhof and Forest Hill systems, leading to severe water shortages in various areas. Rand Water confirmed that the unexpected power failure at its Vereeniging plant left reservoirs critically depleted, making it difficult to maintain stable water pressure and distribution.

Repairs Completed, Water Supply Resumes

Emfuleni Municipality announced on Wednesday evening that all necessary repairs had been completed, allowing Rand Water to restart its pumping operations.

"We have successfully restored power at the Vereeniging Water Treatment Works, and Rand Water has resumed full supply to the affected systems," the municipality stated.

However, officials have urged residents to use water sparingly, warning that reservoir levels remain low and require time to recover to normal capacity.

"We call on all households and businesses to continue reducing consumption where possible, as storage levels are still stabilising. Any excessive use could prolong shortages," Rand Water said in a statement.

Impact on Residents, Businesses & Health Facilities

The water outage left thousands of residents without access to clean water, creating significant disruptions in daily

life. Households had to rely on water tankers deployed by local authorities, while schools and hospitals struggled to maintain essential services.

Several businesses in the region, particularly those in the hospitality and retail sectors, reported financial losses due to limited water supply. Restaurants, shopping centres, and industrial operations faced temporary closures or restricted services.

Local hospitals and clinics also faced challenges as they had to implement emergency measures to ensure patient care was not compromised.

Rand Water has outlined a recovery plan to prevent future power-related disruptions at the Vereeniging Water Treatment Works. The

entity is working with Eskom and municipal authorities to strengthen:

- Backup power systems – Increasing generator capacity to avoid complete shutdowns during outages.
- Reservoir monitoring – Implementing real-time monitoring to detect and address supply issues before critical depletion.



Vaal River City, the Cradle of Human Rights

Hawks Arrest Nigerian National in Multi-Million Rand Fraud Scheme



By Nkosazana Khumalo

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, commonly known as the Hawks, has apprehended Nwachimere Collins Ofoegbu, a 55-year-old Nigerian national, on charges of fraud, theft, and contraventions of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA). This arrest marks a significant development in the ongoing efforts to combat sophisticated financial crimes in South Africa.

Background of the Case

In November 2022, a prominent businessman filed a complaint at the Sandton Police Station, alleging that he had been defrauded through an elaborate investment scam. According to the victim, in 2018, he received fraudulent emails from individuals impersonating CEOs of various banks and officials from the South African Reserve Bank. These imposters promised exceptionally high interest rates to entice investments.

Trusting these representations, the businessman transferred substantial amounts in US dollars to multiple bank accounts, including those at First National Bank (FNB), the Bank of China, and financial institutions in London. When he attempted to withdraw the promised returns in 2020, he was met with evasive responses, prompting him to seek assistance from a forensic investigation firm. The investigation revealed that he had been defrauded of over R20 million.

The case was subsequently handed over to the Hawks for a comprehensive investigation. After thorough inquiries, the Randburg Magistrate's Court issued arrest warrants for two suspects on 28 January 2025. On Monday, 10 February 2025, members of the Sandton Visible Policing unit, acting on information from the investigation team, arrested Ofoegbu. Searches conducted at his residences in Waterfall Estate and Waterfall Village uncovered evidence linking him to the crime, including a transaction of R1.2

million received from the victim. The properties are believed to be proceeds of the fraudulent activities.

Court Proceedings

Ofoegbu appeared before the Randburg Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, 11 February 2025. The case has been remanded and transferred to the Wynberg Magistrate's Court in Cape Town, where a formal bail application is scheduled for Tuesday, 18 February 2025. The Hawks have indicated that investigations are ongoing, with efforts underway to apprehend the second suspect, who remains at large.

Implications and Broader Context

This arrest underscores the pervasive nature of sophisticated financial scams targeting high-net-worth individuals in South Africa. The use of official personas and promises of lucrative returns are common tactics employed by fraudsters to gain the trust of unsuspecting victims. The case highlights the importance of due diligence and skepticism when

- Water conservation campaigns – Raising awareness on responsible water use to maintain stable reserves.

Rand Water also reassured residents that the situation is under control, and full supply should be restored within the next 24 to 48 hours, depending on demand levels.

"We appreciate the patience of affected communities and are committed to ensuring this does not happen again," Rand Water spokesperson Justice Mohale said.

Residents Urged to Reduce Water Consumption

While water has been restored, authorities have emphasised the need for responsible usage to avoid putting additional strain on the recovering reservoir levels.

Recommended water-saving tips:

- Limit non-essential water use (e.g. washing cars, filling pools).
- Fix leaks and dripping taps immediately.
- Reduce shower times and use water-efficient appliances.
- Use rainwater tanks where possible for gardening and household cleaning.

The municipality has stated that water usage will be closely monitored, and any significant strain on the system could result in temporary restrictions to stabilise supply.

approached with unsolicited investment opportunities.

The Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) is a critical piece of legislation in South Africa's arsenal against complex financial crimes. It provides law enforcement agencies with the tools necessary to investigate and prosecute individuals involved in organised criminal activities, including money laundering and racketeering. The application of POCA in this case signifies the seriousness with which authorities are treating such offences.

Statements from Authorities

Hawks spokesperson, Lloyd Ramovha, commented on the arrest, stating:

"The successful apprehension of the suspect is a testament to the diligent work of our investigation team. We remain committed to bringing all individuals involved in such fraudulent activities to justice."

He further urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the authorities promptly.

Public Advisory

Financial scams continue to evolve, with fraudsters employing increasingly sophisticated methods to deceive potential victims. The public is advised to exercise caution when approached with investment opportunities that seem too good to be true. It is essential to verify the credentials of individuals and institutions offering such deals and to consult with financial advisors or legal professionals before making substantial financial commitments.

The Hawks have reiterated their dedication to combating financial crimes and have encouraged individuals with information related to fraudulent activities to come forward. Anonymous reports can be made through the official channels provided by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation.



**PUBLIC NOTICE: FDDM NO: 009/2024-25
FEZILE DABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**2025/26 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) REVIEW
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 16 of Local Government Municipal System Act, 32 of 2000 that the Fezile Dabi District Municipality is conducting the Stakeholder consultation: and it reads as thus:

“A municipality must develop a culture of municipal governance that complements formal representative government with a system of participatory governance, and must for this purpose:

(a) Encourage and create conditions for the local government to participate in the affairs of the municipality including: - (i) the preparation, Implementation & review of IDP in terms of Chapter 5 of the MSA.

It is against this backdrop that the Fezile Dabi District Municipality cordially invite all stakeholders who have interest in the following matters, *(a) LED, Tourism & Agriculture, (b) Environmental Health Issues and (c) Disaster Management & Fire Services*; to attend the stakeholder meetings scheduled as follows:

Municipality	Venue/Town	Date	Time
Mafube L.M.	Frankfort (Council Chamber)	19 February 2025	10:00am
Moqhaka L.M.	Kroonstad (Council Chamber)	20 February 2025	10:00am
Ngwathe L.M.	Parys (Council Chamber)	21 February 2025	10:00am
Metsimaholo L.M.	Sasolburg (Council Chamber)	24 February 2025	10:00am

Enquiries can be directed to Ms. Mary Besani at 071 360 2447 or maryb@feziledabi.gov.za

Please note that the public meeting on the Draft Audited Annual Report (2023/2024) for Ngwathe Local Municipality which was scheduled for the 25th of February 2025 @ 11:00 has been rescheduled to the 28th of February 2025 @11:00 and the logging details remains the same : Meeting ID: 382506477 023 Passcode **AP2Vz7oU**

Mr. Siphon Thomas
Municipal Manager

Inclusive Education in South Africa – challenges facing children with disabilities

RSA Constitution Act 108 of 1996 is found on the premise of promoting human dignity, equality, non-racialism and the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law, our constitution has the bill of rights as its cornerstone as well as Section 9 and section 10 dignity and equality clauses to protect everyone from discrimination on the basis of race, disability, gender and sexual orientation. The founding values of the constitution, preamble, bill of rights and provisions of the constitution protects everyone including children with Special Educational Needs (LSEN's).

The right to access to basic education is contained in section 29(1)(2) of the South African Constitution. In terms of this provision everyone has the right to a basic education, including adult basic education and to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible. These rights place a duty on the state to respect an individual's right to education. It also imposes a positive obligation on the state to promote and provide education by putting in place and maintaining an education system that is responsive to the needs of the country. Article 24 (1) (2) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, 2006) compels States Parties affirm the right of people with disabilities enjoy access to a just, fair and equitable Inclusive education system which is responsive to their individual special educational needs. States Parties must ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning to promote human potential, dignity, self-worth, and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and diversity. In 2001 a then Minister of Basic Education Professor Kader Asmal committed South Africa to Inclusive education by adopting a policy document named Education White Paper 6, Inclusive and Special Needs Education and Training to guide the implementation of Inclusive Education in South Africa. This policy document was established on the principle of promoting access, inclusion, learner support and full participation of learners with disabilities in South Africa's education system by ensuring resources centres, special schools, full service schools and ordinary mainstream schools are best suited to accommodate special educational needs of learners with disabilities.

The above theoretical background is the cornerstone of this opinion piece to argue substantively the gravity of stigma and marginalization learners with disabilities encounter on a daily basis and the urgency to address their

challenges and plights to build a society which is just and fair to everyone despite race, gender and disability. Central to the impediment of the full realization of Inclusive Education is the systematic leadership issues in the level of policy implementation and family and societal challenges associated with disability which I broadly outline. In addition, I will propose solutions to the challenges stated in my article in order to realise Inclusive Education in South Africa. Challenges facing Children with Disabilities

Systematic leadership issues Research in Inclusive Education has proven that more than 500 000 learners with disabilities are out of the education system, meaning these learners are unable to fully enjoy their s29 right to access to basic education. There is insufficient number of Special Schools which are fully effective and functional to respond to the educational needs of learners with disabilities.

Donohue (2014) has illustrated this point that one of the challenges of realising Inclusive Education in South Africa is lack of policy implementation, political symbolism and lack of leadership in realising Inclusive Education in South Africa, these structural deficiencies, limitations and shortcomings in the system produces incompetent administrators with no plan to pursue Inclusive Education forward by raising funds, fully advocate for Inclusive Education as the administrative and political level to realise full implantation of the policies and build schools. Learners with Disabilities end up being misplaced in schools and institutions incapable of meeting their educational needs due to lack of resources, capacity, physical and universal infrastructure and lack of teacher education for teachers in those schools.

Donohue and Bornman (2014) feel that policy ambiguity is caused by a lack of financing and is intentional. Policies like this are "symbolic" since they are established to adhere to international norms rather than as a direct outcome of locally directed changes. The lack of funding for such measures indicates that they have little local substance.

There is some continuity in the way that many critical policy publications point to the international development sector's influence in pushing inclusive education as the sole progressive approach to the education of learners with disabilities. Family and societal stigmas around disability

One of the most major obstacles to the realization of inclusive education is the societal stigma associated with disabilities, especially medical and traditional models of disabilities are stigmatized within family setting from a young age, their families deems them to be inadequate, incapable of achieving anything as compared to their counterparts within the family hence their educational aspirations are not

supported. Parents are of the view that these children should be hidden and not exposed to the general public, should just earn disability grant and this is precisely because the concept of disability is widely associated with witchcraft in some families.

Parents of children with disabilities frequently find themselves in

a perplexing and daunting situation, navigating a world that feels unfamiliar and difficult after the birth of their child. While medical practitioners may inform parents about their child's illness, they rarely provide specific recommendations on how to best assist their child's growth. Many parents leave hospitals with little awareness about their child's ability to attend school or the options available to them.

Many families, particularly those in rural and impoverished areas, experience social censure, resulting in the isolation of children with disabilities. Fear of ridicule or condemnation frequently prevents parents and caregivers from bringing their children into public places or sending them to early learning centres suitable for their special educational needs Some parents and caregivers may even conceal their children from the public to prevent unpleasant reactions, isolation prevents children with disabilities from participating in early learning, robbing them of important social and cognitive development.

Proposed solutions

- Appoint a National Director

of Inclusive Education who will integrate and implement all foundational pillars within the National Annual Performance Plan of inclusive Education directorate. A well rounded technocrat with expert knowledge, passion and excellent track record in Inclusive Education. In addition, monitor the overall state of Inclusive Education across nine provinces.

- Establish the National Steering Committee on Inclusive Education which consists of representatives from leaders across the education sector, Special Schools, NGO's, department officials, parents and independent professionals that will monitor and oversee the state of Inclusive Education in South Africa.
- Intensify Awareness raising on disability concept through the school curriculum, media, departmental special programmes to dismantle the myths and stigmas associated with disability and build and foster socially cohesive, inclusive society for all regardless of race, disability, gender and sexual orientation.
- Lobby and mobilise sufficient resources in partnership with the private sector to build Special Schools for learners with disabilities. The private sector, mining sector included should be lobbied to engage in this initiative through Corporate Social Investment.
- Be intentional, purposeful and focused in implementing SIAS (2014) Inclusive Education policy document. The Policy on Screening, Identification, Assessment, and Support (SIAS) aims to provide a policy framework for standardising procedures for identifying, assessing, and providing programmes for all learners who require additional support to improve their participation and inclusion in school. The SIAS policy aims to improve access to quality education for vulnerable learners who face learning difficulties, such as those in ordinary and special schools. Family upheaval, language, poverty's impact, learning issues, disability, huge classes, and a rigid curriculum are all potential barriers.



CENTRAL NEWS

sports

CONTACT US

General Info
info@centralnews.co.zaAdministration
admin@centralnews.co.zaNewsroom
newsroom@centralnews.co.zaAdvertising
sales@centralnews.co.za

SuperSport United Edge Cape Town Spurs in Extra Time to Secure Nedbank Cup Quarterfinal Spot

By Sello Masilo

Atteridgeville – SuperSport United became the first team to book a place in the quarterfinals of the 2024-25 Nedbank

Cup after securing a dramatic 2-1 victory over Cape Town Spurs at Lucas Moripe Stadium on Wednesday night.

The Motsepe Foundation Championship (second-tier) visitors proved to be

formidable opponents for their Betway Premiership (top-flight) hosts, forcing the game into extra time. However, a last-gasp strike from Lebohang Maboe in the 119th minute ensured Matsatsantsa's progression, avoiding the tension of a penalty shootout.

Cape Town Spurs Strike Early

The Urban Warriors got off to a dream start, taking the lead in just the fifth minute through Therlo Moosa, who produced a moment of individual brilliance. The winger sprinted down the right flank, cut inside, and unleashed a powerful left-footed strike that beat SuperSport goalkeeper Ricardo Goss at his near post, handing Spurs a 1-0 lead.

The goal shocked the home side, who took time to settle into the match.

SuperSport United Respond Through Okon

As the first half progressed, SuperSport began to assert dominance, pinning Spurs back and creating a series of opportunities. Spurs goalkeeper Neil Boshoff was called into action multiple times, making two brilliant saves to deny a free-kick attempt from Aphiwe Baliti and a close-range header from Nyiko Mobbie.

However, SuperSport's persistence paid off in the 36th minute. The Spurs defence failed to clear their lines after a set-piece, allowing Ime Okon to fire home a powerful volley from close range, bringing Matsatsantsa level at 1-1 before halftime.

Missed Chances and Goalkeeper Heroics SuperSport United dominated possession in the second half and should have taken the lead in the 56th minute. Baliti, who was lively on the left flank, delivered a perfect cross to Samir Nurkovic, but the striker missed the target with his header, much to the relief of the visitors.

Spurs goalkeeper Boshoff was the busiest man on the field, making several crucial stops, including a long-range shot from Mobbie in the 72nd minute and a one-

on-one save against Oratilwe Moloisane in stoppage time, forcing the game into extra time.

The first half of extra time saw SuperSport nearly take the lead, as Terrence Dzvukamanja's deflected effort struck the upright in the 105th minute.

Spurs had a golden opportunity of their own moments later, with Moosa finding space after a brilliant pass from Ebrahim Seedat, but Pogiso Sanoka's defensive pressure forced him into a miscued shot.

With penalties looming, SuperSport United delivered the knockout punch in the 119th minute. The outstanding Moloisane made a marauding run down the left, cutting the ball back to Lebohang Maboe, who fired a precise shot from the edge of the box, beating Boshoff and securing a thrilling 2-1 victory for Matsatsantsa.

Post-Match Reactions

Speaking after the match, SuperSport United coach Gavin Hunt praised his side's resilience:

"We knew Spurs would be tough opponents, and they showed great fight. But credit to the boys for sticking to the game plan and pushing until the last minute. These are the kinds of battles that make the Nedbank Cup so special."

Meanwhile, Cape Town Spurs coach Shaun Bartlett lamented his team's missed opportunities:

"I'm incredibly proud of how we played, but we needed to be more clinical in front of goal. We had our chances, and against a top team like SuperSport, you have to take them."

Match Summary

Final Score:
SuperSport United (1) (1) 2 – Cape Town Spurs (1) (1) 1

Scorers:
• Therlo Moosa (5') – Spurs
• Ime Okon (36') – SuperSport
• Lebohang Maboe (119') – SuperSport

"SAY NO TO DRUGS, YES TO GOALS!"

1ST R50 000 | 2ND R10 000 | 3RD R5000

TEAM AFFILIATION FEE: R1500.00

DATE: 18-21 APRIL 2025 | TIME: 9AM

@MANDELA SPORTS GROUND

(Near Boitlamo Secondary School)

PARYS - TUMAHOLE- FREESTATE

Team Affiliation Closes on 1 April 2025



blaqsnaps
CENTRAL NEWS

For More Information and Registration Form:
DJ Pots (Mzwandile Sontyale), Tournament Manager at (078) 466-2089 (available on WhatsApp and Call)
Blessing Maphisa, Assistant Tournament Manager at +27 76 649 1472 (WhatsApp) or +27 673038688 (call)