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Winning the fight against HIV and AIDS



Minister of Communications
Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

World AIDS Day on 1 December turned the focus to one of the world's most destructive diseases. The HIV and AIDS pandemic has taken a heavy toll on all aspects of society, claiming the lives of millions of men, women and children.

It has always been concerning to note that our country suffers from one of the highest HIV and AIDS rates in the world. An estimated 7.2 million South Africans (including around 18 percent of people between the ages of 15 and 49) are living with HIV.

Although these figures are troubling, it is encouraging to see that they are vastly improved from those of a decade ago. The

widespread efforts to address this grave threat are steadily bearing fruit, as we strive for a society free from the burdens of HIV and AIDS.

Government budgets for HIV and AIDS programmes have increased steadily as we seek to intensify this fight. As set out in our comprehensive National Strategic Plan, a total of R78 billion has been set aside for such programmes between 2017 and 2022.

Nationwide testing programmes have been rapidly expanding over the years. In 2017, we reached our target of 90 percent of people living with HIV being aware of their status, compared to 66.2 percent in 2014. It is important that all South Africans know their HIV status and public servants should lead by example by regularly getting tested and encouraging others to follow suit.

The number of people receiving life-saving antiretroviral (ARV) treatment has risen from 616 000 in 2009 to 3.9 million by 2016. This makes our ARV treatment programme the largest in the world – bigger than the size of India, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Mozambique's programmes combined. This essential treatment allows millions of HIV-positive South Africans to lead normal lives.

In 2015, we became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to

approve pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), the use of antiretroviral drugs to protect HIV-negative people from infection.

Thanks to initiatives such as year-round awareness campaigns, distribution of free contraceptives, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme and the voluntary medical male circumcision programme, the number of new infections has dropped drastically. Over the past five years, new infections have dropped by 44 percent.

Public servants are the face of government and when it comes to initiatives to curb HIV and AIDS, they must be at the forefront. This requires them to both be informed and lead by example. I therefore call on all public servants to ensure they engage in responsible sexual behaviour, fight the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS, and offer comfort and encouragement to those who are fighting the scourge.

A united effort is essential in dealing with HIV and AIDS. We are therefore eternally grateful to the more than 100 000 non-governmental organisations in South Africa working towards raising HIV awareness, providing support to victims and bolstering government's many programmes. 



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Make road safety a priority



**Phumla Williams, GCIS
Acting Director-General.**

The festive season should be about relaxation, joy and celebration. Sadly, for many South Africans this time of year can turn into one of mourning the lives of loved ones tragically taken away in road accidents.

During the last festive season, we suffered a total of 1 527 deaths on our roads. Although this is an 11 percent drop from the previous year, these numbers are still unacceptably high.

Road-user behaviour is seen as the greatest contributing factor to road crashes globally. Driving

responsibly, wearing seatbelts, obeying the rules of the road and avoiding drinking and driving are all within the power of road users. We urge drivers to be respectful of their fellow road users and to exercise patience when travelling to and from their various holiday destinations. These are the key factors in securing the safety of yourself and others, and in preventing the tragic accidents happening on our roads.

Over the years, government has invested significantly in road infrastructure, and all of our major highways are of a world-class standard. Despite this, and the fact that several road safety strategies have been compiled over the past 20 years, we have not yet seen significant improvements in road safety. This prompted the Department of Transport to develop the National Road Safety Strategy 2016–2030 (NRSS). A product of both national and international policies on road safety, the strategy outlines a number of interventions that can be implemented in order to address the high number of road accidents.

The NRSS promotes responsible and safe road-user behaviour, the provision of safe road infrastructure, ensuring safer vehicles and deliver-

ing quality road safety management.

The strategy has been split into a number of short-, medium- and long-term periods. Road users will already begin seeing the short-term interventions, which include better resourcing, monitoring and institutional strengthening, being implemented. The 365 Days of Road Safety Programme has seen traffic officers increasing their presence on our roads, with more roadblocks and visible traffic monitoring taking place. Tougher measures are also being taken against irresponsible road users who break the law. Meanwhile, concerted efforts are being made to root out corruption among traffic officials.

In the medium-term, the strategy aims to better vehicle safety standards, improve road designs and increase the levels of road safety research. In the long-term, we hope to see an environment of innovative road safety technology and proactive management of the roads from the entire spectrum of stakeholders.

However, it needs to be reasserted that road safety starts with road users. Get to your destinations safely, so that the festive season can be the time of enjoyment it is meant to be. ●

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Reversing the legacy of apartheid spatial planning

The legacy of apartheid spatial planning – which condemned the majority of the population to live far away from their places of work and other amenities – forces many working-class people to spend too much time and money getting to work and back home.

Between laws like the Group Areas Act, the pass laws and the migrant labour system, black South Africans were subjected to dehumanising circumstances during colonial and apartheid rule. They were bulldozed out of their homes and communities, dumped on inhabitable land and their movements into places of work were restricted by unjust laws.

The pain of our cruel past is

hard to forget, especially for those people who still live far away from economic opportunities because of the enduring legacy of apartheid's unjust spatial patterns.

To get to work on time, the working class and the poor spend a lot of their day commuting. Some use two or more modes of public transport to get to work and often leave when their loved ones are still asleep. After a day's work, they face the long commute home and the result is that they hardly get to see their families.

According to Statistics South Africa, more than two-thirds of households in the lowest income quintile spend more than 20 percent of their monthly household income

per capita on public transport.

This is a feature of poor households and when the ever-increasing cost of living is brought into the fray, a huge hole is left in their budgets, which leads to households struggling to make ends meet. This acts as an obstacle to creating social cohesion and building the nation.

Integrated Urban Development Framework

But this issue can be changed and is being addressed. Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Deputy Minister Andries Nel says the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) is



one of the mechanisms that the department is utilising to bring about spatial justice.

"The legacy of apartheid spatial planning, and things like the Group Areas Act, the pass laws and the migrant labour system, have had a profound impact on our cities and towns, which remain highly segregated and highly fragmented," said the Deputy Minister in an interview with *PSM*.

He said that urban areas are spatially unjust because, very often, it is the poorest in society who have to travel the longest distances.


"Some of the great achievements of our democracy at the level of service delivery have, ironi-

cally, reinforced apartheid spatial planning. We have built over 3.5 million houses over 25 years. There are very, very few societies in the world that can claim to have done so much in so little time. But when you look at where those houses have been built, they are very often on the peripheries of our cities and towns."

This has reinforced segregation and fragmentation, he said, explaining that it has also stretched the capacity of our water, sanitation and transport infrastructure.

It is for these reasons that the National Development Plan (NDP) recognises the need to transform South Africa's national space economy.

"And the integral part of transforming our national space economy is also strengthening the linkages between urban areas and rural areas. When we talk about urbanisation and urban development, what we are really saying is that our urban areas and our rural areas are inextricably connected. You need strong urban areas to promote rural development, but you also need strong and viable rural areas to support strong and viable urban areas," he pointed out.

The objective of the IUDF – which was adopted by government in 2016 – is to transform urban spaces by reducing travel costs and distances, preventing 

further development of housing in marginal places, increasing urban densities to reduce sprawl, improving public transport and the coordination between transport modes, and shifting jobs and investment towards dense peripheral townships.

Fundamental change needed

During his recent reply to oral questions in the National Assembly, President Cyril Ramaphosa said it was unacceptable that the working class and poor, who are overwhelmingly black, are located far from work opportunities and amenities.

He said the urban spatial patterns that government inherited from apartheid, and which persist to this day, contribute to the reproduction of poverty and inequality – and must be fundamentally changed.

The President said government should make cities generators of wealth and reservoirs of productivity.

He added there is a need to eradicate the economic inefficiencies of transporting a workforce from dormitory townships into centres.

The radical transformation of our urban spaces is, therefore, both a social and economic imperative.

He also stressed that it was through instruments like the

Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act of 2013 and the IUDF that South Africa is now approaching spatial planning guided by principles of social equity and economic efficiency.

Fostering social cohesion

Deputy Minister Nel echoed the sentiments of the President, saying addressing apartheid spatial planning is a priority and can work if the country approaches urbanisation – which has picked up in South Africa and other countries – at an accelerated pace.

He said by 2012, when the NDP was adopted, 63 percent of South Africans were already living in urban areas. By 2050, urbanisation will be up to 71 percent.

"We are looking at eight out of every 10 South Africans living in urban areas. On the one hand, there are tremendous social and economic benefits to be derived from urbanisation.

"Cities give rise to a tremendous amount of energy and creativity and many people living together closely, and especially young people, fosters social cohesion because people from different backgrounds come together and they are forced to live together. Cities can also, if urbanisation is managed correctly, be a lot more resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable," added

the Deputy Minister.

On the other hand, if a city does not plan for urbanisation and fails to manage it properly, "it can give rise to a concentration of poverty. It can give rise to huge sprawling informal settlements characterised by unsanitary living conditions, by high rates of crime, huge social problems like drug addiction and gender-based violence.

"If you don't manage urbanisation properly, it can have devastating consequences for the environment. It can create huge vulnerability to natural and human disasters. So really, that then is one of our biggest national challenges."

Role of local government

Deputy Minister Nel believes that spatial planning and efficient urbanisation need to be addressed at the municipal level, which means that local government needs to be strong and viable.

"In CoGTA, our assessment is that out of 250 municipalities, one-third are doing well."

However, he said that while these better performing municipalities get many of their basics right, they face an array of challenges which, if not arrested, could allow them to slide into dysfunctionality.

"One-third of our municipalities – about 87 – are either dysfunctional or in distress," the Deputy

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Minister pointed out. He added that the Back to Basics initiative, aimed at improving municipalities, is based on five pillars – it puts people first, ensures the delivery of basic services, dictates that municipalities practise good governance, promotes sound financial management, and builds strong and resilient institutions of developmental local government.

It is vital that the right people with the right qualifications are appointed to municipal positions, he emphasised.

Forging a social spatial compact

The Deputy Minister said while inroads are being made in dealing with the legacy of apartheid spatial planning, government needs the involvement of social partners to ensure that spatial justice is achieved.

All tiers of government, and society as a whole, need to work together if South Africa is to realise the NPD's vision of transforming the national space economy, he added.

"I think it is a point that the President has emphasised over and over again – that we need to build a social compact and also to build a social spatial compact. It is something that he articulated very sharply in a reply to a question on urban land in August in Parliament."

The Deputy Minister said as a result of that call, the department hosted the South African Urban Conference, which allowed government, business, labour and civil society to discuss the best way to implement the country's urban agenda.

"Out of that, we agreed that we would work towards establishing a national urban forum that brings together those social partners... in an ongoing dialogue about implementing the urban agenda, leading next year to an urban summit," he added. 



Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Deputy Minister Andries Nel.

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Khan raising the bar in SA sport



Chief Operating Officer at Sport and Recreation South Africa Sumayya Khan.

Sport is not just about winning medals and trophies but is also a tool for social cohesion and nation building.

This is according to Sumayya Khan, who is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Sport and Recreation South Africa.

For most of her career, Khan has been involved in sport. She started off as a qualified physical education teacher, both in primary and high schools, and coached netball, volleyball, athletics, gymnastics and cricket for about 17 years.

Khan holds a Diploma in Further Education, a Diploma in Sports Management and various certificates in leadership, sports coaching and administration, including a sports administrator course accredited by the International Olympic Committee.

Through her coaching experience, Khan has realised that sport is a good distraction that prevents people from getting involved in illegal activities and other social ills. This is why the South African National School Sport Championship is one of her favourite programmes led by the department. This annual

programme sees top schools participating for national honours in a series of events.

Climbing up the ranks

Khan joined the department in 1998 as a Deputy Director for sport and recreation in the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Department of Education and Culture when physical education was phased out of the school curriculum.

"I really wanted to be in sport, so I started looking for new jobs and opportunities in the sporting sector. That is when I applied for the job at the department," she said.

She worked her way up the ranks to become the Director for Cultural Services in the eThekweni region of the KZN Department of Education, managing sport and recreation development and arts, culture and youth affairs both for schools and communities.

In 2004, when the stand-alone Department of Sport and Recreation in KZN was established, she was appointed as Chief Director and later as the Head of Department of the new department.

"I was on a contract for five years and, just as it was about to end, the national department advertised the COO post in 2010. I applied and got the job," she said.

Incredibly, Khan has been the first incumbent in all the management posts that she has

held, which has meant that she often had to start everything from scratch, including articulating her job description.

She said this has been both challenging and exciting and taught her and her colleagues many valuable lessons.

"I really wanted to be in sport so I started looking for new jobs and opportunities in the sporting sector. That is when I applied for the job at the department."

Her current job involves supporting the Director-General (DG). She explained: "The DG works at a strategic level, and I am expected to take those strategies and directives from the DG and put them into operation. I basically look at planning, managing and coordinating the activities of the department and, most importantly, providing leadership and mentoring to my colleagues," she added.

Khan referred to herself as a mother hen who is always looking after everything and everyone in the organisation, making sure that they meet timelines and comply with legislative prescripts, and putting in place business processes to streamline operations.

Promoting team spirit, working smart

"Our departmental structure makes provision for about 300 people, but realistically we are just above 180 warm bodies in the organisation. Given the fact that there are cost containments and budget constraints, we have to work very creatively," she said.

The majority of employees are young and are always ready to put new ideas on the table, Khan added.

Major programmes and projects led by the department include the Andrew Mlangeni Golf Development Programme, Basketball National League, Big Walk, Boxing Is Back!, Indigenous Games Festival, National Recreation Day, National Sports Week, Rural Sport Development Programme, SA National School Sport Championship, SA Sport Awards, the SASReCon conference, Sport in the Struggle Exhibition, and Youth Camp.

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DATA SECURITY SITS AT THE HEART OF DEMOCRACY

BY THOMAS MANGWIRO, PUBLIC SECTOR SPECIALIST – MIMICAST SOUTH AFRICA



Thomas Mangwiro

Cybersecurity in the public sector is receiving unprecedented attention in the wake of sensational news articles regarding foreign influence in other nations' democratic processes. Hackers and hostile cyber forces pose not only a threat to individual citizens or businesses but entire countries, including South Africa.

Military risks immediately spring to mind: a recent report found that even the Pentagon's latest advanced military systems are vulnerable and can be "easily hacked". The consequences for citizens of rogue military assets is unthinkable. But that fear is not reserved for fighter jets and frigates: the hacking of a nation's tax collection system, for example, would

have a crippling effect on the economy, global investor confidence, disbursement of social and public services, and citizen trust in government institutions.

SOUTH AFRICAN CYBER RESILIENCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A succession of high-profile government data breaches both locally and abroad has cast a stark light on the importance of effective public sector cybersecurity policies and protections. Without fully functional public institutions such as revenue collection, freight handling, military defence and social grant disbursement, governments will find it hard to instil confidence among its various stakeholders, and service delivery to citizens, businesses and public institutions will be impeded.

The rise of the smart city – a catch-all phrase for cities that utilise emerging technologies such as IoT to improve service delivery and enhance the citizen experience – further complicates matters. With the digitisation of government in full swing, any exploitation of cybersecurity vulnerabilities of the operational technologies that power our electricity generation or freight handling capabilities could cripple essential government services and leave millions without much-needed public or social services.

The South African government has taken note: the Cybersecurity Hub established by the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services is a positive step toward improved cybersecurity awareness and information sharing across the South African public

and private sectors. Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula recently committed to collaborate with other countries to effectively deal with the challenge of modern cybersecurity.

I would argue that Minister Mapisa-Nqakula and her colleagues should prioritise cyber resilience within the public sector as a first line of cyber defence. Cyber resilience refers to an organisation's ability to continue to operate or deliver services despite adverse cyber events. And its first port of call in this regard should be greater awareness among its hundreds of thousands of employees regarding the different types of cybersecurity threats, how to spot them, and how to prevent them.

ACTION PLAN FOR IMPROVED CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

In a global study by Mimecast and Vanson Bourne, more than a third of global public sector companies lacked confidence in their employees' ability to identify impersonation fraud asking for sensitive company data such as HR or financial information. And yet, only 14% train their employees continuously to ensure they have the awareness and knowledge to identify potential cyber threats.

Awareness training, a process of ensuring employees have the knowledge and insight to identify potential cyber threats, is an indispensable part of any effective cyber defence strategy. But government should look beyond defence-only cybersecurity to a cyber resilience strategy built on three key principles: 1) ensuring the correct security measures are in place prior to an attack; 2) implementing a durability plan to keep email and business operations running during an attack; and 3) ensuring they have the ability to recover data and critical IP after an attack.

The ability to adapt to continually evolving and escalating cyber threats is critical, but it's a task made immensely challenging by a global shortage of skilled security professionals. This places the spotlight on end-user training: without the relevant security skills in place, it becomes even more important for cybersecurity to be a shared responsibility across the organisation.

Government-led education initiatives in collaboration with private sector companies can significantly improve the awareness of staff at all levels of the public service to identify and combat emerging cybersecurity threats.

The concept of cyber awareness training should play a starring role in any government-led cyber defence initiative. Public sector employees that display risky behaviour – such as opening emails from unknown senders, clicking on links without validating them first, opening attachments without care and using work devices for personal activities – should undergo regular training to ensure they understand the risks associated with such activities.

According to a Google Consumer Research report commissioned by Mimecast, nearly one in four employees aren't even aware of the most basic cyber threats to their organisation, including phishing and ransomware. Imagine the dire consequences of a successful ransomware attack on a government department providing medical services to vulnerable citizens. Cybercriminals are constantly innovating and finding new ways to infiltrate an organisations defences. So, without adequate awareness and understanding of the various ways cyber criminals could penetrate government systems, no amount of investment in technology will safeguard our public institutions.

Public sector employees are government's most valuable assets in the fight against cyber threats. But without proper awareness and training, they will remain ill-equipped to deal with the growing complexity of modern cyber threats – with potentially devastating consequences for our citizens, country and democracy.



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effectively, Khan said the department had to come up with an innovative approach.

"For instance, instead of restricting people to their directorates and professions, we work on a task team basis. In those task teams, we mix people from different directorates and give them tasks to do whenever we have sports projects.

"The amazing thing about this is that some task team members would never have had the opportunity to work outside the office and experience working in the field. They might have never known what their talents and skills are," she added.

Khan said, fortunately, everyone shows commitment, even when things have to be done at short notice.

Knowing that all personnel will at some stage be deployed to a task team encourages everyone to work as a team to achieve the goals, mission and vision of the department.

"When we are out in the field, we forget about ranks. We are all colleagues on the same level and we all report to the task team convener, who can literally be any staff member and is expected to lead and direct the team," she added.

However, Khan still has to play an oversight role as the COO to support the task team conveners and address any challenges that may arise.

Telling SA's good story

What she loves about her job is engaging with different sectors of society, not only in South Africa but internationally as well.

"I am quite honoured that I have been nominated by the Minister to sit on various executive committees and commissions of the African Union Sport Council to engage with other countries in the region."

She added that the department works with the Commonwealth Games Federation and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and explained that she uses these platforms to speak about some of the best practices that South Africa has in place and also to learn from other countries.

For instance, Khan lets the world know that South Africa has top-class sport infrastructure and the ability to host major international sport events. This, she said, is thanks to the legacy of the 2010 World Cup.

She said South Africa is also the only country in Africa that has a

laboratory that tests for banned performance-enhancing drugs sometimes used by athletes.

"We also have the South African Institute of Drug-Free Sport, which is our department's entity."

Khan said that South Africa has a capable team of sport administrators and explained that it is because of this human resource capacity that our technical officials are often called on to assist in other African countries.

This was evident when Mozambique hosted the 2011 All-Africa Games and asked for teams of people from South Africa to assist the country with its various needs just weeks before the official programme began.

Lessons learnt from sport

The fact that no two days are the same and that she gets to work with various other government departments, federations and many private sector companies adds to the excitement of Khan's job. As someone who has worked in the sport arena for the majority of her career, Khan said sport has taught her to be dedicated, passionate and committed to everything that she does.

"Sport requires people to be ethical in their behaviour. Exer-



cising good governance within sport structures is important to me, to ensure that everything I am involved in runs effectively.”

Some of the valuable life lessons she has taken from sport include respect, discipline and how to work in a team.

“It has also taught me that life is about winning and losing; when I win I do so graciously, but when I lose, I also have to accept that it is part of the game,” Khan said.

Celebrating achievements

Highlighting some of the department’s recent achievements, Khan said these include:

- Receiving five clean audits from the Auditor-General of South Africa.
- Signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Basic Education, which ensures that school sport or physical education becomes part of the school curriculum.
- Releasing the fifth transformation report, which is based on the Transformation Charter wherein the codes of sport now have to report on achieving their targets with regard to transformation.
- The I Choose to be Active Campaign, which encourages all South Africans to be

physically active in an effort to promote healthy living.

- Developing a policy for women in sport.

Khan said the department is proud of the progress and achievements that South African women in sport are realising. Athletes and team South Africa made the country proud in 2018 when they competed in various international events, including the Commonwealth Games and Wimbledon.

She also congratulated Banyana Banyana for making history by qualifying for the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019 and making it to the finals of the African Women’s Cup of Nations. ●

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

A Chinese Proverb wisely indicates that: "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." To fulfil its mandate to develop the skills necessary to bolster economic participation, the Finance and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority (Fasset) has vowed to leave a "Lasting Legacy" – and it aims to do so by following a carefully mapped, strategic plan.

To deliver on its mandate, while remaining effective and relevant, Fasset has developed a strategic plan that would ensure positive results. In consideration of stakeholder needs, and in response to the changing SETA landscape (as proposed by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande); Fasset developed **#LastingLegacy** strategy.

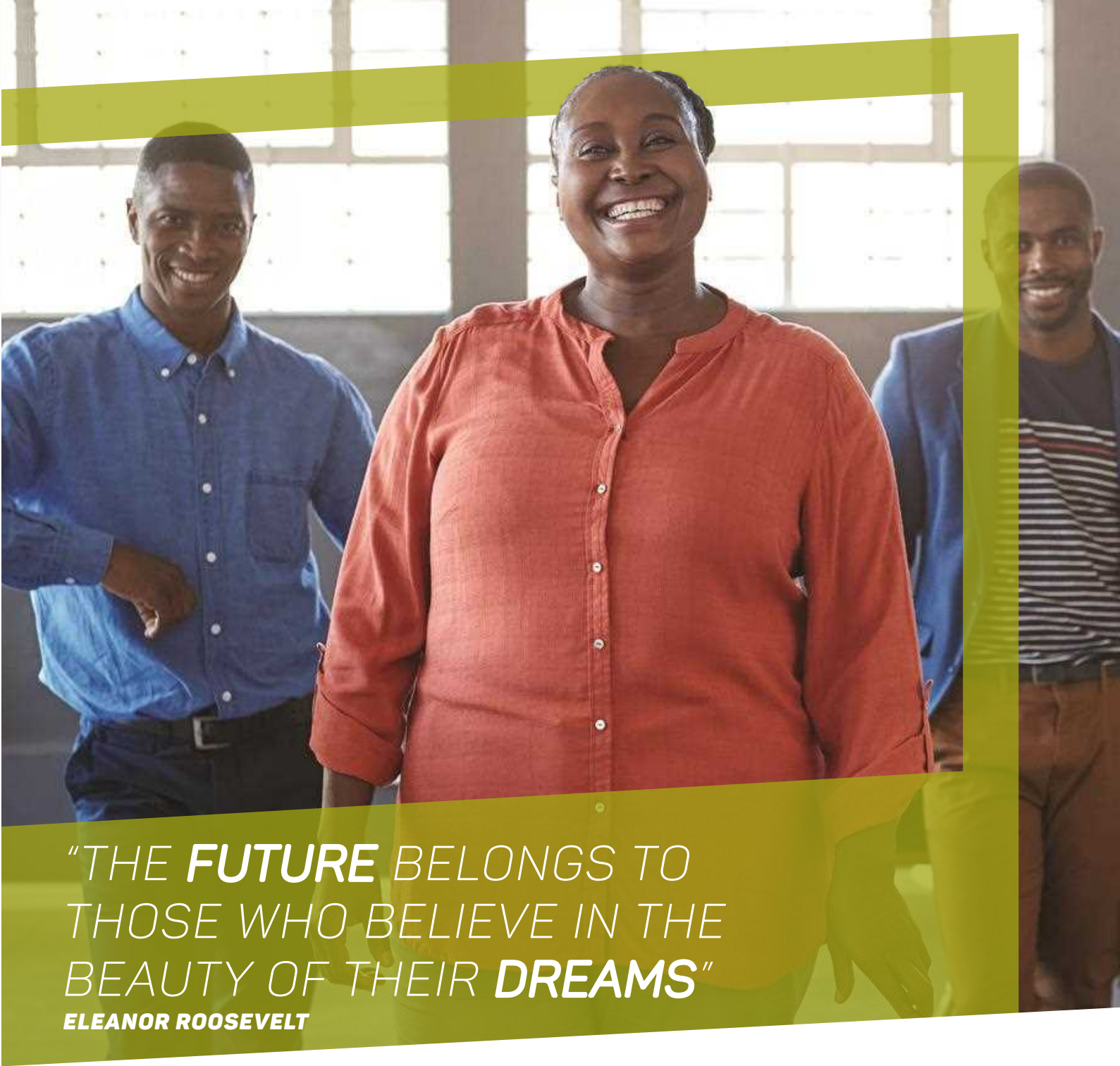
This new strategy presents a more focused approach, rather than a change in direction. The strategy hinges on two pillars: placement (direct placement into employment, including learnerships and internships), and academic support (supporting learners to complete their degrees, professional qualifications and/or designations). Fasset recognises that if it is to leave a lasting legacy, it needs to build a robust and sustainable skills pipeline.

Engaging on issues of skills development and transformation is important to Fasset. With a noted under-representation of African Black people in all nine provinces and Coloured people in the Western and Northern Cape provinces, Fasset has honed in on these areas to facilitate the transformation

imperative. This means that Coloured learners in the Western and Northern Cape provinces can now access Fasset's bursary schemes, apply for grants and be funded on discretionary projects. Resultantly, Western and Northern Cape Province employers also benefit, as they can now fully utilise the grants available to them.

Fasset's **#LastingLegacy** strategy strives to benefit the sector, the learner and the employer. To get more information about the revised interventions, please visit Fasset's website on www.fasset.org.za to access more information.





*"THE **FUTURE** BELONGS TO
THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE
BEAUTY OF THEIR **DREAMS**"*

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

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F A S S E T



Linky Makgahlela

makes her mark in genomics

As a young girl Linky Makgahlela happily played among her grandfather's farm animals and found herself fascinated by them. Little did she know that would be the beginning of a remarkable journey – one that would lead to her becoming a trendsetter.

The little girl who was surrounded by animals at her grandfather's house in Mankweng village in the east of Polokwane, went on to become the first South African to hold a PhD in Animal Breeding and Genetics from the University of Helsinki in Finland.

Makgahlela is now a Research Team Manager for animal breeding and genetics at the Agricultural

Research Council (ARC) Animal Production Campus in Tshwane.

Humble beginnings

Her grandfather was a subsistence farmer who owned pigs, goats, chickens, ducks and other animals.

"I used to wonder why pigs are different in colour. My grandfather had all sorts – from white to grey, black and even spotted ones. That used to baffle me a lot. Then I noticed that it was not only pigs that were different in colour but also chickens and cows," she reminisced, laughing at the memory that she used to milk goats with her cousins whenever they visited

their maternal grandfather.

After completing matric, Makgahlela enrolled at the University of the North (now University of Limpopo) to study for a degree in agriculture and majored in animal production.

She said that in her first-year genetics class she learnt that DNA determines the characteristics of a living organism. "That is when I finally got to understand why those pigs, cows and chickens were different in colour. I found it interesting and decided to choose genomics as a career," she explained.

Genomics is the branch of molecular biology concerned with

the structure, function, evolution and mapping of genomes, which is an organism's complete set of DNA.

Endless opportunities

For her Master of Science degree, Makgahlela majored in animal breeding and genetics. Because the University of Limpopo lacked the resources needed to properly teach animal breeding at the time, it collaborated with the ARC to establish an exchange programme for students to do practical work as part of their studies.

That opened a door to endless opportunities for Makgahlela. She used to travel from Limpopo to Tshwane during her Master's studies and would stay for about three weeks doing her research and learning about the basic programme software that was used for breeding value evaluations.

"I learned that research requires one to work very closely with the industry and I did exactly that. The researchers at the ARC observed my potential and took a liking to me. I was then appointed as the professional development programme student in 2004, and that is how I joined the ARC," she added.

The ARC is an entity of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and its vision is excellence in agricultural research and development.

Genetic analysis of dairy cattle

"My MSc research looked into the genetic analysis of dairy cattle, focusing on fertility traits."

She said her field of study was prompted by the fact that many South African farmers have over the years worked on genetically improving milk production. Over time, this has led to a deterioration in the fitness of the cattle, because the genes that play a crucial role in improved milk production are also responsible for reduced fitness.

"The cows that produced high amounts of milk would start struggling with diseases and have fertility problems," Makgahlela explained.

"We found that many of these dairy farmers were getting rid of those cows that were no longer falling pregnant and it so happened that they were the high-producing milk cows. My research showed that farmers should not only look into milk production traits, but also look at fertility and disease traits so that they can optimise their production levels," she added.

However, her challenge was that there were insufficient field recording systems and poor data collection.

The literature that she was working with indicated that the best route was to use DNA information, and that is how she ventured fur-

ther into the genomic space.

She said the recommendations that she and fellow students came up with during their MSc research projects was that fertility traits needed to be included in the genetic evaluation of dairy cattle and that is what the country did in 2009.

"That for me was rewarding: to see that farmers were taking into consideration the recommendations that I came up with in order to improve their businesses," she said.

Breaking new ground

Makgahlela was not sure how to go about pursuing her PhD ambitions but her supervisors put her in touch with a professor from Iowa State University of Science and Technology in the US.

She visited the university for about six months between 2008 and 2009 to do informal training in genomic technologies.

While there, Makgahlela developed her PhD proposal with the help of the professors from that university.

At that time, no one in South Africa possessed the knowledge to supervise the work that she wanted to pursue. That meant that Makgahlela had to either find a supervisor locally and another one from a foreign country who would supervise the technical side of things, or find a suitable overseas university that would admit her. ➔

She applied to the University of Helsinki in Finland and was accepted. Makgahlela moved to Finland in 2010 to pursue her dreams and came back in 2014. Her job was still waiting for her at the ARC, which also funded her studies.

Upon arrival, she was appointed as a senior researcher.

"It made me feel proud to realise that I was the first one in the country to have that kind of expertise. I was the only one with the skill when I came back from Finland, but now the ARC has invested more in human capital development in this space and I see a number of newcomers to the genomics technology space," she said.

In 2016, she was appointed as a Research Team Manager, a position that she still occupies.

Some of her responsibilities include keeping up with the trends in genomic selection.

Makgahlela still puts together proposals and shops for funding to support MSc or PhD students to complete their thesis studies while working on related ARC projects.

The most important part of her job is to establish and maintain a good relationship with key stakeholders such as government departments and universities. She also has to constantly engage with the agricultural industry.

In addition, she oversees the administration side of the busi-



ness and manages, develops and trains people who have the skills needed by the ARC.

Makgahlela's team consists of 88 people – comprising specialist researchers, senior researchers, researchers, junior researchers and students. "While I am the Research Team Manager for animal breeding and genetics, I am also the Research Team Manager for the germplasm reproductive technologies in Irene in Tshwane.

Finding solutions

"One thing that I love about research is that you come up with a question, you solve the question and come up with solutions that actually change people's lives. Nothing is as satisfying as knowing that you have developed something that changes lives," she said.

Two of the associations Makgahlela is currently working with are the Brahman Cattle Breeders' Society and the Afrikaner Cattle Breeders' Society. She also works

closely with smallholder farmers for her current research projects.

"We keep updating them about technologies that they can use to improve how they do their business," she said.

Her job does not come without challenges and one of them is that less money is afforded for fundamental research, whereas more money is afforded for developmental research.

She said her main challenge is to overcome the odds and create a vibrant research environment.

"For us to be able to make more impact we need to pool resources," she said.

Her current research aims to establish a research programme in livestock genomics with the view to implementing genomic selection in the national livestock improvement programmes.

Makgahlela is also investigating harmful/recessive genes impairing fertility in beef cattle and genes associated with adaptation and disease resistance in livestock. ●



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OLDMUTUAL

Young production scientist reels in success

In a mere 18 years, a young man from rural Limpopo has not only turned his own life around and changed his future, but he has taken his entire family along with him for the beautiful ride.

There's definitely nothing fishy about successful production scientist Dr Molatelo Madibana (33), who is the first researcher in South Africa to test Ulva seaweed, herbal products and Brewer's yeast in the diet of Dusky kob (*Argyromus japonicas*), a migratory, spawning fish.

He has come a long way since 2003, when he didn't know where to get R7.50 for a taxi to go to a shopping centre in Senwabarwana, Limpopo to enquire about municipal bursaries and his sister Jaenatt suggested that he visit his former primary school teacher Betty Manamela for advice.

Manamela gave him R100 for a taxi to the University of Limpopo, where he was introduced to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). "I applied and presented my grandmother's South African Social Security Agency payslip and was soon given a registration merit award of R2 200 because of my good matric results.

"Back then we only got R6 600 from NSFAS and there was no subsidy for

Dr Molatelo Madibana has overcome the odds to make a name for himself as a production scientist.

meals, accommodation or books. My mother could only send me R250 from her housekeeping job in Gauteng. From that, I had to pay R100 a month for an off-campus shack and buy food and study guides," he said.

Setting the foundation

NSFAS paid Dr Madibana's fees for three years and he passed his courses. "Life was in equilibrium and the scheme set my career's foundation. As long as I passed, the NSFAS converted some of the money into a bursary." In 2006, when he graduated from the University of Limpopo with a Bachelor of Science degree, he only owed R20 000. "This I paid back in a year and a half, when I started working."

In 2007, Dr Madibana obtained an Honours degree in aquaculture. Soon thereafter he received a bursary from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Norwegian government for a Master of Science degree in aquatic medicine at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He graduated in 2010 and returned to South Africa, when DAFF snapped him up for a two-year contract to work in its Aquaculture Research Directorate. When the contract ended, DAFF employed him permanently.

"When the bursary did eventually come, I was able to help my mother retire in 2009. I spent 70 percent of my scholarship

money building an eight-room house for her and my siblings. I also bought her a car, which enabled her to start a tent and catering business and send my younger sister to banking school," he said.

Career highlight

Dr Madibana obtained his PhD from the North-West University this year. Under the supervision of world-renowned animal scientist Prof. Victor Mlambo, his PhD thesis was on the effect of dietary additives on growth performance, gut histology, blood parameters and tissue nutrient composition of South African Dusky kob.

"Completing my PhD in one year and nine months, whilst juggling work commitments, is the highlight of my career," he said.

Dr Madibana commenced his career as a production scientist at DAFF in 2010, focusing on fish nutrition and conducting feeding trials on juvenile Dusky kob. He has formulated a diet that contains seaweed, to test if the fish will still grow optimally with less fishmeal in their diet.

"I am trying to shift away the dependence on fishmeal to feed aquaculture fish. This will sustain our oceans' stock because lots of sardines, anchovies and mackerels are harvested daily to produce fishmeal and this is not sustainable. We need to incorporate more plant proteins, such as soybeans, grape-seed and corn for aquaculture to

grow without hampering ocean resources," said Dr Madibana, who has presented his work at local and international conferences and had his research published in peer-reviewed journals.

"When I get to work, I first check if my experimental fish are still swimming in the holding tanks, inspect the tanks for defects that could result in a system failure and lead to fish mortalities, and switch off the aquarium light, because Dusky kob don't like light. I also syphon the bottom of the tanks to remove decomposing feed and faeces that could produce toxic nitrogenous gases, such as ammonia. On other days I weigh the fish to assess their growth and I have to sacrifice some to test fillet and intestine samples to quantify fatty acid composition and histology of the gut," he said.

Growing the aquaculture industry

While Dr Madibana's biggest challenge is getting more funding to improve his research, he is collaborating with various universities to have fish samples analysed so that the results can be shared with fish farmers and the general public. "I learn new things every day and I have new routines. I have the opportunity to teach and supervise other students, which I love," he said.

His mandate at DAFF is to help grow the aquaculture industry ➔

through research. Over the past few years he has formed many collaborations and relationships with role-players in the farming sector, including farmers and aspiring farmers, academics and government officials.

"This year I started a career guidance programme in aquaculture for high school kids and the response from schools around Cape Town has been phenomenal. I am supervising Master's and Honours students and I hope that more scientists will be produced to help grow South Africa's ailing aquaculture sector," he said.

While he hasn't worked much with communities, he does get involved in small farm holdings every so often to train aspiring young farmers about aquaculture. "I hope to do this often in future. I have often been to China for training and conferences and I have learnt that their success in producing over 50 million tons of aquaculture products is mainly through government sponsoring small-scale farmers.

"I would like to engage more with communities because there is more that aquaculture can provide. Chicken and beef are becoming luxury items in South Africa and people need to be taught that the cheapest protein source is fish," he said.

Dr Madibana believes that children should be taught basic biology from a young age because they will then realise that all the great minds in the world go to their offices on a full stomach and someone needs to produce that food.

"A career in aquaculture or agriculture is what this country needs at a time when the economy is moribund and we rely heavily on imported foods that puts a strain on poor households. In most of the Asian countries, especially China, people produce their own food and use their own produce to generate an income.

"South Africa's youth need to realise that a career in agriculture is not a shame or taboo for kids, but a step towards ensuring food-secure countries. Our high crime rate comes mostly from people being poor and hungry. They commit crime to feed their family. We don't need more lawyers and accountants; we need agriculturists and engineers that cater for life's basic needs."

As for the future, Dr Madibana aims to educate more students in aquaculture and interact more with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to learn the ways that propelled the region to produce 85 percent of the world's aquaculture products. ●

This and that

What's your favourite holiday destination?

As I am reading "*God sleeps in Rwanda*", I feel that I should visit this landlocked country and see the effects of genocide and learn more about why the international community did nothing to help stop the killing of one Rwandan by another.

How do you relax and unwind after work?

I cook and watch recorded soapies with my girlfriend.

If you could fulfil one of your dreams, what would it be?

I am planning to do a TV documentary about my life and register for a Master's degree with the title "The life of Tupac Amaru Shakur: an African perspective". He is one of the greatest minds the world has ever had. He was killed in a busy Las Vegas strip, with thousands of witnesses, but the Las Vegas PD still can't solve the case. Why? This is what I want to explore in my research around the life of this outlaw.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

My first love is football, but since 2008 I have been watching Formula One and tennis.

As public sector auditors, the Auditor-General of South Africa is keen to see improvements in audit outcomes and to strengthen financial and performance management in government.

Here are some of the focus areas and best practices for public finance and performance management.



FAIR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (SCM) PRINCIPLES

The SCM principles applied by auditees should ensure fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective procurement practices in the public sector.

Scope of our SCM audits

- We test compliance with **prescribed procurement processes**.
- We focus on **contract management**.
- We assess the **financial interests of employees of the auditee and their close family members**.



EFFECTIVE HUMAN RESOURCE (HR) MANAGEMENT

HR management is effective if adequate and sufficiently skilled staff members are in place and if their performance and productivity are properly managed.

Scope of our HR management audits

Our audits look at the following matters that directly influence the quality of auditees' financial and performance reports and their compliance with legislation:

- **Management** of vacancies and **stability** in key positions
- **Competencies** of key officials
- **Performance management**
- **Consequences** for transgressions



GOOD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) CONTROLS

IT controls ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of state information; enable service delivery; and promote security in government.

Characteristics of effective and efficient IT controls

- **Good IT governance** for the overall well-being of an auditee's IT function.
- **Security management** to prevent unauthorised access to the computer networks, computer operating systems and application systems that generate and prepare financial and performance information.
- **User access management** to prevent or detect unauthorised access to financial and performance information stored in the application systems.
- **IT service continuity** to enable the recovery of critical business operations and application systems within a reasonable time.



STRONG INTERNAL CONTROLS

We assess the internal controls to determine the effectiveness of their design and implementation in ensuring reliable financial and performance reporting and compliance with legislation.

Characteristics of effective and efficient internal controls

- **Effective leadership** based on a culture of honesty, ethical business practices and good governance.
- Audit **action plans** to address internal control deficiencies.
- Proper **record keeping** and **document control**.
- Implementing **controls over daily and monthly processing and reconciling** of transactions to ensure that they are accurate, complete and timely.
- Reviewing and monitoring **compliance with legislation** using mechanisms to identify applicable legislation and changes thereto.



Indigent programme a lifeline for many households

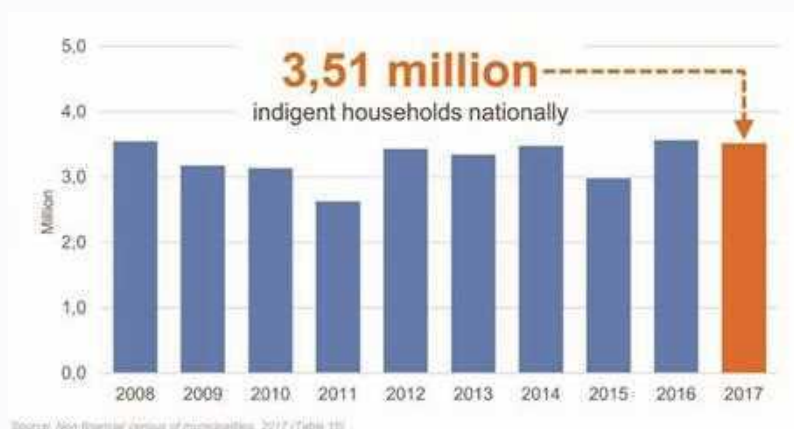
If South Africa was a suburb of 100 households, 22 would be beneficiaries of government's indigent programme. Statistics South Africa's recent non-financial census of municipalities provides insight into those households that struggle to afford access to basic services.

In 2001, South Africa adopted a policy intended for the provision of free basic services to poor households. Under this policy, municipalities were tasked to identify indigent households that would receive services – such as water and electricity – for free or at substantially subsidised rates.

South Africa's 257 municipalities registered 3.51 million indigent households in 2017. That's about one in every five or 22 percent of the country's 16.2 million households that are classified as indigent.

Households are required to register with municipalities to qualify for free basic services. A municipality's role is to vet every application, selecting only those households that meet various criteria. Successful applicants are granted indigent status.

eThekweni is home to about 627 000 indigent households,



comprising 18 percent of the national tally.

Tshwane has the second highest number (474 035 households), followed by Cape Town (213 424 households) and Johannesburg (178 599 households).

Municipalities determine their own criteria for identifying and registering indigents. To a large extent, this determination is based on the resources available to the municipality.

In 2017, most municipalities (147 out of 257) classified an indigent household as a family earning a combined income of less than R3 200 per month. Eleven municipalities (nine local municipalities and two district municipalities) adopted a lower income poverty threshold of R1 600 per house-

hold per month.

Municipalities can also decide on the extent to which they subsidise an indigent household. The general rule is that indigent households are entitled to 6 kl of free water per household per month and 50 kWh of free electricity per household per month. The extent to which sanitation and refuse removal services are subsidised varies from municipality to municipality.

With over half of South Africa's population in poverty, and the economy in recession in the first half of 2018, the indigent programme continues to be a vital lifeline for the 22 percent of households that would otherwise not have had access to basic services. ●



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Hawks making progress on high-profile cases

Detectives from the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) are making inroads on several high-profile police cases – from allegations of state capture and commercial crimes, to organised crime – with some probes successfully concluded, while others are awaiting prosecutorial decisions.

This is according to Hawks head Advocate Godfrey Lebeya, who briefed the Portfolio Committee on Police in the Old Assembly recently.

This update included the successful clampdown on the recent spate of violent cash-in-transit robberies.

“With regard to cash-in-transit robberies, from August 2017 to 22 November 2018, 284 arrests were effected, and 214 of these suspects remain in custody. The others – 31 – were released on bail and 52 convictions have been secured.

“A total of 161 firearms and 116 vehicles have been recovered,” Lebeya said.

Lebeya also briefed members of Parliament on 22 selected cases, out of a case workload of 15 804, that were being investigated by less than 2 600 Hawks members.

On investigations into state capture, he said 800 statements have been obtained in a R2.4 billion fraud, corruption and money

laundering case involving Eskom, Tegeta/Trillian and McKinsey. This relates to the pre-payment by Eskom to Tegeta for the purchase of Optimum Coal Holdings amounting to R659 million.

Investigations in this case revealed that the Bank of Baroda played a key role in the facilitation of the funds in the purchasing of Optimum. The matter is under investigation.

He added that in the Estina and Free State Department of Agriculture matter – where the two entered into an agreement to implement and manage a dairy project in Vrede for the benefit of disadvantaged people in the area – Estina was to provide a capital injection of R228 million, which never happened.

“It has been established that the said amount was then transferred to the Bank of Baroda and, thereafter, paid to Oakbay Investments, other companies and individuals and not the Vrede Dairy Project.”

The 11 accused are before court in Bloemfontein on charges ranging from fraud and corruption to money laundering.

Other cases that are still under investigation include the R1.5 billion VBS Mutual Bank matter, where several municipalities unlawfully made deposits into the bank against National Treasury's regulations. In this case, 71 statements have been taken.

Lebeya said that more than 610 statements have been obtained in an investigation involving the Bosasa group of companies in a matter dating back to between 2004 and 2007.

This relates to tenders that were awarded by the Department of Correctional Services to companies within Bosasa, after services were extended over a period of time amid allegations that officials from Correctional Services received gratification from Bosasa.

The value involved in the fraud, corruption and contravention of the Public Finance Management Act is R1.6 billion.

Lebeya said the Bosasa investigation has been completed. “It is just a matter of finalising the charge sheet so that the individuals involved can be prosecuted.”

He said either an indictment or arrest would accompany the securing of the forensic report.

Africa Investment Forum seals deals worth \$32bn

The inaugural African Investment Forum (AIF) has culminated in 45 deals worth US\$32 billion in investment.

The deals cover sectors such as energy, infrastructure, transport, utilities, education, health, water, sanitation, agriculture and housing, organisers told media at the

end of the summit.

These investments are a significant 80 percent of the target set out at the start of the summit, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina said recently.

At the start of the summit, the bank indicated that there would be about 28 boardroom sessions structured to deliberate on 61 bankable projects worth US\$40 billion across the continent.

Of the US\$32 billion, US\$6.8 billion are investments in South African projects, Gauteng Premier David Makhura said.

The deals that South Africa

sealed include the Gautrain expansion project worth US\$3.9 billion, US\$240 million in investment for a public-private partnership towards the building of schools, as well as an investment of US\$492 million towards the renovation of government buildings.

Premier Makhura said the province is excited to be part of the investments.

"There was a stampede of investors wanting to finance the Gautrain. We want to increase the level of investment in the Gauteng and South African economy. Intra-Africa investment

is very critical for the advancement of the African continent," he added.

Despite the impressive agreements, Adesina said an equally important achievement of the forum was the positive narrative that had emerged about the continent.

The forum, Adesina said, has sent a bold statement to the rest of the world that Africa is ready for investment, that Africa absorbs investments and that leading African financial institutions are putting their full financial weight behind the continent.

State of the Nation Address: Looking to the future

President Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver his State of the Nation Address (SoNA) at the annual opening of Parliament in Cape Town in February.

He will address a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament – the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.

Every year, the President delivers the SoNA, which provides an opportunity for the nation to take stock of the country's domestic situation and foreign relations, and for the President to share government's plan of action for the year ahead.

The President also uses the opportunity to report on the progress that government has made since the previous SoNA.

The SoNA is divided into three parts. The first is the important public participation role in the ceremony when the Civil Guard of Honour welcomes the President and his guests as they walk along the red carpet. This is followed by a state ceremonial, which includes a 21-gun salute and the South African Air Force flypast, and finally the official address by the President.

Members of the South African National Defence Force will line the route that the President takes to Parliament. The Military

Guard of Honour participates in the ceremony and the military band plays South Africa's national anthem.

The SoNA is one of the rare occasions where the three arms of state, namely the Executive represented by the President, Deputy President and Ministers; the Judiciary, represented by the country's Chief Justice and the Judge Presidents; and the Legislature, represented by the members of Parliament gather in one place. The provincial and local spheres of government are also represented.

In a General Election year such as 2019, two SoNAs are delivered. ●

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

22–25 January 2019

The 2019 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting takes place under the theme, “Globalisation 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

The meeting brings together the heads and members of more than 100 governments, top executives of global companies, leaders of international organisations and relevant non-governmental organisations, the most prominent cultural, societal and thought leaders, among others. They come together at the beginning of each year to define priorities and shape global, industry and regional agendas.

The world is entering a Fourth Industrial Revolution shaped by advanced technologies that combine to create innovations at a speed and scale unparalleled in human history, and these transformations are changing how individuals, governments and companies relate to one another and the world at large. The world is fast approaching a new phase of global cooperation: Globalisation 4.0.

The programme in Davos for 2019 will aim to foster systems leadership and global stewardship while recognising the actuality of a more complex, multi-conceptual world.

The meeting takes place from 22–25 January 2019 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

For more information go to <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting>

Africa Tech Week

4–6 March 2019

Africa Tech Week incorporates a conference, exhibition and awards for African tech professionals. Digital transformation requires cooperation between companies, government and civil society and Africa Tech Week creates a unique platform for this.

The week promotes digital transformation by connecting government, corporates and fresh talent in the tech industry. Attendees can interact with business leaders shaping the way to the future, and will receive industry training and acquire expert knowledge. In addition, they will be able to explore and understand new trends, network and forge collaborations with key stakeholders and decision-makers, and contribute to discussions around policy with government officials from all over Africa.

The theme for the event is “Helping Africa transform through digital innovation”.

Africa Tech Week takes place from 4–6 March 2019 at Century City in Cape Town.

For more information go to <https://africatechweek.co.za/>

Skills Development Summit 2019

12 March 2019

The Skills Development Summit will discuss the state of our rapidly changing world. The Fourth Industrial Revolution promises to change the way that we conduct business and industry, but also threatens many jobs.

The Skills Development Summit will be presenting a vision of how skills development and jobs can be retained in this shifting world, especially in the context of rural and urban development. The summit will focus on the key growth areas of agriculture and manufacturing – two industries that are facing intense disruption as technology and socio-political issues shake the industry.

It will also highlight the need to empower women in various sectors, such as science, technology and tourism, as well as encourage women entrepreneurs.

The summit takes place on 12 March at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Tshwane.

For more information go to <http://www.skillssummit.co.za/#home>

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MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo visits Gelykwater Primary School in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal.

Fighting HIV and TB in KZN

The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Department of Health is making strides in the fight against HIV and tuberculosis (TB).

Although the province has the highest HIV prevalence in South Africa, with over a quarter of its population living with the disease, Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo said the department has made health services more accessible to residents and the impact is evident.

MEC Dhlomo spoke to *PSM* about the province's strategy to combat diseases and improve service delivery in the health sector.

Of the estimated 7.9 million

South Africa, more than 4.2 million are receiving treatment and 1.3 million of these are from KZN.

MEC Dhlomo added that about 1 300 HIV-positive people have been placed on antiretroviral treatment (ART) in the province this year.

The MEC said the department has reduced the rate of mother-to-child transmissions.

"In 2008, 20 percent of women who were pregnant would give birth to an HIV-positive baby. This has been reduced to 1.2 percent. It's a wonderful achievement," he noted.

In 2018, the department also reached its goal of circumcising

one million men. "This will go a long way in helping us fight HIV," said the MEC.

Decline in TB

With regard to TB, MEC Dhlomo said KZN has recorded the highest decline in its TB incidence rate, from 511.3 per 100 000 in the previous financial year to 481 currently.

In addition, TB treatment outcomes have substantially improved over the years. The treatment success rate in 2009 was 65 percent and, by 2017, this had increased to 88.7 percent.

He added that there has also been improved access to multi-

drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) services.

"In 2008, we only had four treatment initiation sites in the province. Now we have about 26," explained the MEC.

"This has led to the improvement of the MDR-TB treatment rate from 49 percent in 2008 to 60 percent in 2016. As a result, we have also seen a decline in the death rate caused by MDR-TB from 35 percent in 2008 to 18 percent in 2017."

The MEC said South Africa has the most GeneXpert machines in the world, which have greatly assisted in the early diagnosis of TB and MDR-TB to allow for the initiation of TB treatment within 24–48 hours.

Of the 289 GeneXpert machines in the country, about 90 are in KZN and are distributed across the districts in the province.

Over and above ensuring that residents receive healthcare services for HIV and TB, the MEC said his department always encourages all healthcare users to get screened and tested for these ailments.

Some of the department's interventions to fight HIV and TB include:

- ▶ A community outreach programme called Operation Sukuma Sakhe, which is led by the KZN Office of the Premier.
- ▶ Establishing a partnership with hardware brand Build It, which is helping the department to

drive a vigorous TB awareness campaign through distributing information material at their stores throughout the province.

- ▶ Targeting high-transmission areas like schools, correctional facilities, churches, taxi ranks and informal settlements to provide services.
- ▶ Training nurses to initiate patients' HIV and MDR-TB treatment.
- ▶ Setting up TB and HIV tracing teams to visit households to provide directly observed treatment support.

Fighting cancer

Following reports that the provincial department did not have sufficient staff and machinery to treat cancer patients, the MEC said the situation is gradually being turned around.

He said the department recently employed new staff and it also has a team of radiotherapists.

The MEC also addressed issues related to cancer treatment and, in particular, the shortage of chemotherapy drugs.

"It is a countrywide problem that is being attended to. Chemotherapy has not been stopped at any KZN public hospital. All the hospitals that render chemotherapy are providing the treatment," the MEC explained.

He said the only challenge that exists concerns the chemotherapy medication Paclitaxel, explaining

that the contracted supplier is not able to supply the drug.

"There is no alternative supplier. Not many suppliers are involved in the manufacturing of chemotherapy or cytotoxic agents. However, the National Department of Health is working on finding alternative suppliers for importing via a Section 21 permit," he explained.

MEC Dhlomo added that the department's campaign to encourage the public to visit health facilities the minute they become aware of worrying symptoms is bearing fruit, with 80 percent of cancer cases detected early.

"Already this year, we've broken a record with almost 2 000 women who underwent pap smears in April. We also had about 2 231 women and 458 men who were screened and tested for cancer at Edendale Hospital and at Caluza in Pietermaritzburg in October," he added.

Reduced waiting periods

The department acquired 15 large loop excision of the transformation zone (LLETZ) machines earlier this year. LLETZ procedures remove cervical tissue for examination and treat some precancerous changes of the cervix. Another 15 were distributed across the province as part of Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi's National Cancer Campaign launched in KZN in October. ➔

The MEC said the province also has seven fully functional linear accelerators, which is more than any other province. These devices are most commonly used for external beam radiation treatments for cancer patients.

"The seventh machine is used as part of a public-private partnership at the Queen Nandi and Ngwelezana Hospital complex. Currently, there is no (extended) waiting time to see an oncologist at this complex," he added.

MEC Dhlomo said the department has contracted three oncologists from the Wits Health Consortium, who are based at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, and has two oncologists at Addington Hospital.

As a result of these measures, the waiting period to see an oncologist for the first time at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital and

Addington Hospital ranges from three to eight weeks, depending on the type of service required.

He added that there are no waiting times for children who need to see an oncologist.

Before these interventions, the waiting time was between five to six months.

Taking medication to the people

One of the programmes the MEC is most proud of is the Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution system which has made it possible for 1.7 million people in KZN to collect their chronic medication closer to their homes. This means they no longer need to spend money on transport or wake up very early to stand in long queues at congested health-care facilities. Collection points

include libraries, community halls, tribal courts and other local amenities.

The medication is pre-packaged and all look the same, which helps eliminate stigma because no one can tell what the medication is for.

He said this has encouraged more KZN citizens to adhere to their chronic medication and has helped alleviate congestion at hospitals and clinics.

"The progress of this programme is very pleasing; it means that our fellow compatriots who are hypertensive, diabetic or have arthritis, HIV and other ailments only have to come to a health facility once every three months."

The MEC said he is happy with the progress that the department is making on different fronts and is hopeful that greater strides will be made in the new year. ●



A campaign encouraging women to have pap smears at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital resulted in a record breaking 2 000 women being screened for cervical cancer.

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- Ministerial roundtable: **Policies to thrive vs policies to control** – Agile and responsive policies
- Igniting **exponential growth** in organisations through **technology**
- Ensure your company does not get left behind – The **digital enterprise**
- AI** transforming your organisation – Welcome to the future
- The evolution of the workplace – Introducing the **gig economy**
- Masterclass: Advanced **cybersecurity** for preventing **cybercrime** and addressing today's advanced threats
- Robotic process automation (**RPA**) technology redefining the customer experience
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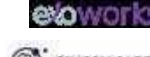
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President Ramaphosa wooos the EU



President Cyril Ramaphosa with the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani.

During a three-nation visit to Europe, President Cyril Ramaphosa sought to strengthen political, economic and multilateral relations with the European Union (EU), which is South Africa's single largest trade partner.

The visit kicked off in France, where President Ramaphosa addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg, before leading the South African delegation to the 7th South Africa-European Union Summit.

"Our visit has been very successful; we were warmly received and our interactions were very positive.

South Africa is the only African country, and one of 10 countries globally, that has a strategic partnership with the EU.

"Our coming here has renewed our bonds and relationships with the one bloc of countries that invests the most in our economy," said the President on his visit.

Celebrating visionary leadership

The President said he was especially honoured by the invitation of the European Parliament for him to address members in the year of the centenary of former

President Nelson Mandela.

President Ramaphosa addressed the European Parliament under the theme "A Partnership of Equals Based on Shared Values".

In his address, President Ramaphosa said President Nelson Mandela remained a universal hero whose visionary leadership is revered across the world.

He also acknowledged tributes received during this special year from leaders and people across Europe and the world who condemned the injustices of apartheid and saluted the activism

of struggle heroines and heroes who fought to build a democratic South Africa.

President Ramaphosa called for continued solidarity and collaboration in the fight against poverty, inequality and narrow nationalism and urged the strengthening of multilateralism to promote peace and security, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, free and fair trade, sustainable development and inclusive growth.

7th South Africa-European Union Summit

In Belgium, President Ramaphosa participated in the 7th South Africa-European Union Summit in Brussels in the Kingdom of Belgium.

Through the summit, South Africa and the EU renewed solidarity and agreed to strengthen relations underpinned by increased trade and investment.

The EU is South Africa's largest trading partner with the value of trade increasing nearly four-fold from R150 billion in 2000 to R599.86 billion in 2017.

More than 2 000 EU companies operate in South Africa, creating more than 500 000 direct and indirect jobs.

According to President

Ramaphosa, the summit served as fertile ground to accelerate investment and strengthen bilateral relations.

"The outcomes of this summit support and reinforce the initiatives we have launched in South Africa to accelerate investment, create jobs and promote growth in our economy," he added.

President Ramaphosa said the summit was used to reinforce ties with Europe and to obtain the EU's support for South Africa's economic and development agenda.

"Together with the EU, we have committed ourselves to exploring opportunities for investment, technical assistance, and the improvement of business and investment climates to promote sustainable development."

During the summit, South Africa and the EU agreed to strengthen cooperation on investment in support of economic development, infrastructure, industrialisation, skills development, small business development and entrepreneurship.

Zimbabwe sanctions

During discussions on peace and security in the respective regions, the summit discussed Zimbabwe.

South Africa called on the EU to review its position on Zimbabwe

and move towards lifting sanctions.

South Africa made the case that Zimbabwe is on a path of great reform and needs to be supported.


Peace and security

In 2019, South Africa will take up its non-permanent member seat at the UN Security Council for the period 2019–2020.

The summit agreed that this presents an opportunity to enhance cooperation on peace, security, conflict prevention and other global issues.

"We will identify opportunities for concrete operational cooperation, dedicating special attention to advancing the global women, peace and security agenda, especially in promoting meaningful participation of women in peace processes," said President Ramaphosa.

The President concluded his working visit to Europe in Geneva, Switzerland, where he co-chaired the fourth meeting of the Global Commission on the Future of Work at the headquarters of the International Labour Organisation.

The commission is expected to release a highly anticipated report on the future of work in January 2019. 

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

The Biovac Institute was founded in 2003 through a partnership with the South African government as the Biologicals and Vaccines Institute of Southern Africa. The CEO of Biovac, Dr Morena Makhoana, has been onboard since almost the beginning as he joined the company in 2004. He is also a member of the Biovac board and the executive team. Dr Makhoana spoke with PSM about the company's role in the region and its values.

PSM: WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF YOUR MAJOR MILESTONES AT BIOVAC?

DR MORENA MAKHOANA (MM): The major achievement for Biovac has been the ability to start a vaccine company from scratch in an environment where there was virtually no biotechnology sector. We are proud to attract top scientific talent from all over South Africa, thereby creating meaningful employment and contributing to the bio-economy. We employ just over 300 staff members, 60 percent of whom have a tertiary qualification.

Our demonstrated capability and the calibre of both our people and manufacturing infrastructure have enabled Biovac to attract reputable foreign investment from multinational vaccine companies and donors. Such international recognition is a significant achievement, particularly for a company like ours, located on a continent where our capabilities are often viewed as lagging behind the global biotechnology industry.

PSM: PLEASE SHARE OUR THOUGHTS ON THE VALUE OF UBUNTU AND PARTNERING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN THE PURSUIT OF SUCCESS.

MM: Biovac could not have made the achievements and progressed to where it is today without our key stakeholders: our valued and talented employees, the communities in which we operate, our suppliers, our technology transfer partners, national government and our funders.

Biovac's ability to forge partnerships across the value chain and, through this, to protect life within our communities throughout Africa, as well as in the developing world, reflects the true sense of Ubuntu.



CEO of Biovac, Dr Morena Makhoana.

We realise that we are more than a business – we are an enabler for human beings to live healthy lives. We just cannot exist nor be successful and sustainable without others who give us a purpose and the means to do what we do every day.

PSM: HOW DOES BIOVAC SUBSCRIBE TO THE CURRENT GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICE (CGMP)?

MM: The cGMP is the backbone of our industry. It is a critical quality benchmark that we naturally comply with to ensure safety to vaccine end-users through good quality vaccine production and supply. The 'c' in the cGMP stands for 'current' to ensure that we remain abreast of latest quality assurance standards, guidelines and trends.

In 2018 Biovac received approval from the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) to manufacture vaccines in vials. This was in addition to our existing approved operations of secondary packaging

and distribution of vaccines. As part of the Biovac quality culture we also undergo ongoing internal and external audits to maintain and ensure that our manufacturing capability and reputation remain top notch.

PSM: PLEASE SPEAK ABOUT “REGIONALLY RELEVANT VACCINES” AND THE IMPACT THEY ARE HAVING BEYOND OUR BORDERS.

MM: Since populations and diseases differ regionally, it is important that Biovac focuses on vaccines that are relevant for the African continent, as this is the region within which we operate and serve.

Africa is vulnerable to outbreaks, as evidenced by the flu pandemic of 2009 and the recent Ebola outbreak. Without African vaccine manufacturing capacity, our region will struggle to respond to its own vaccine-preventable diseases and it will remain vulnerable. In addition to manufacturing, the local development of vaccines is critical if we are to tackle diseases such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis.

Product development continues to happen in either more resourced countries (for example, Western countries) or in countries with historically large manufacturing bases (for example, Asia). Africa consumes a large part of the world's volume of vaccines, but it contributes relatively little vaccine development and production.

PSM: HOW DO YOU ENSURE THE INSTITUTE CONTINUES TO BE A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE?

MM: We continuously reinvest in our intellectual property, our people and our assets.

Biovac has developed its in-house technical know-how and expertise in some niche areas within vaccine development and has even out-licensed some of the technologies to major partners in the USA and in Asia.

We invest in our staff through continuous training and development either in South Africa or overseas. It is equally critical that we use the latest cutting-edge technology that is available globally.

PSM: HOW HAVE THE DEVELOPMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY IMPACTED BIOVAC'S WORK?

MM: Any developments in technology must be embraced by companies in order to continuously be relevant and be kept up to date.

The upfront challenge is the cost of acquiring those newer technologies; however, the payback comes with time as they can make our manufacturing and product development processes run much smoother and with fewer costs in the long run.

PSM: HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE SUCCESS?

MM: Because vaccine development and manufacturing have a long, multiyear turnaround time from start to finish, we have recognised over the years that the recognition and celebration of smaller, more frequent milestone successes drives our team to stay on track, keep momentum and push onward and upward. Such recognition is given in the form of adhoc “on the spot” incentives as and when greatness is identified, as well as monthly, quarterly and annual ‘bioSTAR’ individual and team awards.

Over and above cash incentives, we also offer our employees long-lasting experiences, such as a memorable weekend away, a trip to the movies and public acknowledgement in front of peers. Longer-term milestones are recognised through performance-based bonuses and profit-sharing, where possible and depending on overall company and financial performance.

At Biovac, we recognise both behaviour, in terms of how our employees display the Biovac way, and performance, in terms of which key performance indicators were successfully achieved on time, with quality and in budget.

We regard collaborative behaviour and effective work performance as equally important in achieving individual, team and company success. It is a continuous process that never ends.



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SA needs active citizens

As the year slowly comes to an end, thoughts inevitably turn to spending time with friends or family over the festive season. But this period will be over in the blink of an eye – and the New Year will soon be upon us.

As the clock strikes midnight on 31 December 2018, many people will make resolutions or vow to make major life changes. Many of these decisions are likely to be inward-looking; however, the New Year also presents an opportunity to cast the net wider.

One cannot help but wonder how many South Africans include a resolution saying: "I am going to be a better person in 2019".

Positive change

The first step in becoming a better person entails becoming a more active and involved citizen. Of course, many people are likely to argue that they are law-abiding, pay taxes and work hard every day. But is this enough, when one considers that millions of our fellow citizens still languish in poverty and remain outside of the economic and social mainstream?

Simply speaking, it takes more than abiding by the law to be a good citizen. A resolution to be an active citizen means getting involved in our communities. It involves constructively tackling problems, rather than complaining, and helping to bring about positive change.

With 2019 fast approaching, parents and guardians will start to think about the new school year. Parents and guardians have a duty to be involved from the first day of school. We cannot leave the future of the next generation to teachers alone. Parents and guardians should ensure their children are on time for school, check that the school transport is roadworthy, and assist their children with homework and learning.

Many parents and guardians have busy working schedules, and many children are raised by single parents. But these impediments cannot and must not stand in the way of the progress of our future generation. Wherever possible, parents and guardians must be involved with their children's education, monitor their progress,

understand school processes, attend school functions, and consider offering time and energy to the school.

Another part of being an active citizen is to familiarise yourself with government's public participation processes. The recent public participation process on land reform received thousands of oral and written submissions. It saw South Africans in their numbers stand up and make their voices heard on issues that affect them.

If an issue affects you, comment on the green paper and attend public hearings. Be a South African who is aware and involved and take part in the country's democratic processes.

Cast your ballot

The year 2019 will also see millions of South Africans going to the polls for our sixth national and provincial elections. In preparation for the 2019 General Election, ensure you have an identity document and are registered to vote in your district. A voter registration weekend has been planned for 26 and 27 January 2019 by the Independent

Electoral Commission. Make use of this opportunity to either register or check your registration status.

All South Africans, especially young and first-time voters, should exercise their democratic right to vote. By casting your ballot, you will have a say in the way in which the country is governed.

As active citizens, let us make 2019 the year when we stop complaining about things that are wrong in our communities, roll up our sleeves and actively participate. You could start by raising community problems with a municipal councillor and actively working with them to find solutions.

Let us also make 2019 the year when we collectively create a safer society. As active citizens, we

should partner with our local police stations to create safer communities. Government cannot fight the scourge of crime alone.

We therefore encourage South Africans to volunteer at their local police stations and join their local Community Policing Forum. If you know of criminals or illegal activities in your area, report it to Crimestop or your nearest police station. Furthermore, do not support illegal activities by buying pirated and counterfeit DVDs, CDs, cigarettes and clothing.

Zero tolerance to corruption

Collectively we can also ensure that 2019 is the year when we stamp out corruption. Act with integrity at all times, be a responsible and honest citizen, don't pay or take a bribe, obey the law and encourage others to do the same.

When you are aware of corruption, you should act.

Report corruption to the National Anti-corruption Hotline on 0800 701 701.

Let us also make 2019 the year when we use alcohol responsibly and ensure we never drink and drive. In 2019, let us be responsible when we drink alcohol and

stay away from illegal drugs.

Together we can ensure we make 2019 the year when we turn the tide on all forms of gender-based violence. We call on community members who have any knowledge of the abuse of women or human trafficking to report perpetrators to the police. Report all cases of rape, sexual assault and any form of violence to the police. The toll-free number is 0800 428 428. Report child abuse to Childline South Africa's toll-free line – 0800 055 555.

In the coming year, commit to regularly testing your HIV status. Parents must also take it upon themselves to educate their children about responsible sexual behaviour and not leave it to teachers.

Breaking down barriers

Together we can make 2019 the year when we break down the barriers which divide us. By reaching out to others, we can begin to break down the artificial barriers of culture, race or religion.

Building the South Africa of our collective dreams will not happen without hard work or without every person playing their part. It is up to us to make 2019 the year when we begin to create a new future where every person has hope for a better tomorrow. ●





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SA needs a prevention revolution

As the global HIV community marks the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day in 2018, there is no better time to take stock of the progress the country has made.

South Africa is doing remarkably well in the provision of antiretroviral treatment (ART). Of the estimated 7.9 million people who are living with HIV, over 4.2 million are receiving treatment. This makes us the country with the largest number of people on ART in the world.

To put this in some sort of global perspective, our programme contributes almost 20 percent of the 21.7 million people on ART throughout the world. This achievement is due to the unflinching commitment of National Treasury to funding such a rapid rollout and the unique brand of leadership of our Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, as well as stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector.

Are there problems with the implementation of the programme? Of course there are. Drug stock-outs, long queues, low staff morale and poor record-keeping

are all to be expected in such a large-scale programme and though government is aware of many of the problems, it remains critical for civil society organisations to point out weaknesses and for government to respond to criticism.

Increase in life expectancy

The problems and difficulties within the public sector with regard to carefully tracking each patient (weak patient management systems) do not take away from the staggering demographic and public health benefits that the treatment rollout has heralded. Life expectancy in South Africa has increased from 53 years in 2006 to 61 years in 2012 and mortality has declined by about 50 percent over a similar period. Government spends billions of rands on treatment and the investment is certainly paying off.

The success of our treatment programme, however, brings us to a new crossroads in the epic response to HIV. A successful treatment programme means more



South Africans will survive and live longer with HIV. Yet, it also means that we are seeing an ever-burgeoning epidemic of HIV as a result of better survival on treatment and a continuing feed of new HIV infections annually. This is unsustainable in the long-term from many points of view.

Financially, the growing provision of life-long ART to increasing numbers of patients will eventually reach a ceiling, at which point the competition with other needs in the health services will limit the growth of expenditure on the ART programme. The health system's capacity is already stretched to the limit and there will be conse-

quences of an ever-increasing ill population. At the individual level, with longevity and life-long treatment there will be missteps in the management of HIV disease that will be cumulative with age and with chronic medication.

This all means that we have to seriously turn our attention to prevention. We have to drastically reduce the number of new infections in the short to medium-term.

Focus on prevention

We have a wealth of evidence and experience in terms of what prevention programmes work, what programmes are scalable and what programmes offer the greatest value for money. We boast a large basket of prevention tools and approaches which are accessible to the population. It is not the lack of interventions that is the problem; it is the lack of rigour in the multi-sectoral application and implementation of these programmes at a national scale.

Even in established HIV prevention programmes like male circumcision and condom promotion and provision, we can still do better. We need to be more focused and detailed in the way we plan and implement prevention programmes if we are to achieve the impact we so desperately need.

As a country, we have committed to reducing the number of new HIV infections by 75 percent by 2020.

The South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) is dedicated to reviving primary prevention to close the tunnel of new infections. We are committed to developing and leading a country-owned national prevention agenda which is driven by national imperatives and not by an international agenda, which often fragments our efforts. We are stepping up to take responsibility for HIV prevention – for the planning, coordination, monitoring, oversight and implementa-

tion of a South African Prevention Roadmap.

Inspiring hope and building trust

As SANAC, we make progress through dialogue, mutual respect and consensus. By involving everyone in finding solutions, we inspire hope and build trust. It is when we are honest, accountable and engage one another frankly that we are able to manage tensions in this HIV-prevention space. We will continue to collaborate and bring in all sectors and constituencies to build a strong HIV-prevention programme in South Africa. We are committed to making this work.

Our journey to end new HIV infections is not over yet. We will not rest until we have aided the building of systems and structures and communities to push this HIV-prevention agenda.

The responsibility is not just SANAC's though; every person, family, community, government department, civil society organisation and private sector institution has a responsibility for an HIV-prevention revolution in South Africa. The responsibility requires action, accountability and a united effort. We are all together in this as South Africans. ○

***Dr Sandile Buthelezi is the CEO of SANAC.**





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CATALYTIC AND PRIORITY PROJECTS TO PROVIDE OVER 105 000 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WESTERN CAPE RESIDENTS

Since 2014, the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements has delivered over 70 000 housing opportunities against a target of just over 80 000, translating into 95% performance. This, however, is a drop in the ocean of what is needed to meet the demands of government housing assistance in the Western Cape.

THE DEPARTMENT'S VISION

Migration and population growth have resulted in a backlog of over 550 000 residents in need of government housing assistance in the Western Cape. Many informal settlements were established before 1994, with their residents often lacking access to basic services, occupation rights and security of tenure. The Western Cape has an estimated population growth of 110 000 to 120 000 per year. At this rate, the province is set to have a total population of 8 million by 2030.

Urbanisation, poverty and inequality cannot simply be eradicated and dealing with the results of rapid, unstructured and unplanned development has posed a grave challenge for all provinces and this government. This is often evident with the amount of housing-related protests across the country.

The Western Cape Department of Human Settlements is committed to its vision of providing residents with liveable, accessible, safe and multi-opportunity settlements. With its annual budget of approximately R2 billion, the department can only provide around 18 000 housing opportunities per year. To eradicate the entire backlog, an estimated budget of R80 billion will be required.

In its efforts to decrease the backlog and maximise the use of its budget, the Human Settlements Department has embarked on various initiatives to accelerate the delivery of housing opportunities in the Western Cape. Resources and efforts have been geared to focus on the department's three strategic priorities:

1. **Upgrading informal settlements** in order to provide access to basic services to all Western Cape residents.
2. Strengthening our partnerships with the private sector to ensure and **increase affordable housing** for people earning above the free-subsidy threshold.
3. Allocating free subsidised state houses to **prioritise the most vulnerable** beneficiaries.

CATALYTIC AND PRIORITY PROJECTS

Key to delivering these strategic housing priorities are the department's Catalytic and Priority projects. These projects



Head of Department, Mr Thando Mguli

are spatially targeted interventions that aim to provide infrastructure by restructuring settlements' patterns and to change the way the department delivers on housing opportunities in the Western Cape. They are conceptualised and planned to consider the life of a project, including all components required to deliver better quality, integrated living environments with access to basic services, schools, transport, social amenities and economic opportunities.

Catalytic and Priority projects are outlined for development across the Western Cape. These projects will, upon completion, yield just over 105 000 housing opportunities by 2022. All projects were submitted to national Cabinet in 2016 for final approval. While some projects are at early assessment phase, others are well into the design, planning and implementation phases.

At a fundamental level, the Catalytic and Priority projects are geared to:

- Provide settlements that offer good basic and socio-economic services.
- Offer a range of rental and ownership options that respond to the needs and incomes of households.
- Consistently improve settlements through joint citizen and government efforts, supported by private sector contributions.

A list of the Catalytic and Priority projects in the Western Cape and their yields are highlighted below.

CATALYTIC PROJECTS

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

PROJECT: SOUTHERN CORRIDOR

This project seeks to improve the living conditions in informal settlements. It comprises a combination of informal settlement upgrade and greenfields development projects. It is being prioritised due to its age, size, density, poor levels of service and unsuitability of current settlement conditions.

UNITS: 51 540

Southern Corridor projects include:

- N2 Gateway Phase 1
- Ithemba Farms
- Penhill Farm
- Airport Precinct Informal Settlement and Infill
- Kosovo Informal Settlement and Infill
- Forest Village
- Thabo Mbeki and Tsunami

PROJECT: BELHAR CBD

UNITS: 4 188



Southern Corridor project, Forest Village

GEORGE

PROJECT: THEMBALETHU, SYFERFONTEIN AND WILDERNESS HEIGHTS

UNITS: 10 281

BREEDE VALLEY

PROJECT: TRANSHEX

UNITS: 8 873

DRAKENSTEIN

PROJECT: VLAKKELAND

UNITS: 2 653



Belhar CBD project



Southern Corridor project, Forest Village



Transhex project

PROVINCIAL PRIORITY PROJECTS

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

PROJECT: CONRADIE HOSPITAL

UNITS: 3 605

MOSSEL BAY

PROJECT: LOUIS FOURIE

UNITS: 4 000

DRAKENSTEIN

PROJECT: DAL JOSAFAT

UNITS: 2 078

SALDANHA BAY

PROJECT:

VREDENBURG URBAN REGENERATION

UNITS: 1 400

WITZENBERG

PROJECT: VREDEBEST, BELLA VISTA

UNITS: 3 417

STELLENBOSCH

PROJECT: DE NOVO

UNITS: 300

THEEWATERSKLOOF

PROJECT: GRABOUW

UNITS: 4 000

**TOTAL
NUMBER
OF UNITS:**

105 504



Through its focus on Catalytic and Priority projects, the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements remains committed to accelerating housing delivery, while promoting social cohesion through the development of sustainable, integrated and resilient human settlements in an open society.

Western Cape Government. *Improving homes. Improving Lives. Together.*

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New intensity in the fight against gender-based violence



At the beginning of November, the fight against the crisis of gender-based violence reached a new level of intensity. The National Summit against Gender-based Violence and Femicide saw more than 1 200 people, including government officials, activists and survivors of this type of violence, meeting to discuss ways to stop the scourge once and for all.

Sadly, gender-based violence (GBV) remains deeply rooted in our society, affecting millions of women and girls on a daily basis. As urgency to address the issue increases, the National Summit against Gender-based Violence and Femicide was a critically important intervention, representing a strong commitment towards ending the scourge.

GBV is an issue that has received increasing national and interna-

tional attention. Despite this, South Africa still suffers levels of rape, abuse and femicide that are well above the global average. According to Statistics South Africa, the murder rate for women increased by 117 percent between 2015 and 2016/17. Over the same period, reported sexual offences against women rose by 53 percent, from 31 655 to 70 813.

It is important to note that GBV extends further than this. It also

includes emotional and psychological abuse, meaning that the problem is much more widespread than physical violence alone.

The women of South Africa have steadily been strengthening their resolve, showing that they are unwilling to accept this situation any longer. On 1 August, more than 100 000 women, activists and gender non-conforming people marched to government institutions in all nine provinces, to protest

against GBV, under the banner of #TheTotalShutdown.

Other organisations, such as Sonke Gender Justice, People Opposing Women Abuse and many others, have also been demanding swifter and more stringent action in clamping down on GBV.

Government responded to the call by bringing forward the convening of the summit, which was based around 24 demands made in the memorandum handed over to President Cyril Ramaphosa during the #TheTotalShutdown march.

Harrowing stories from survivors

Opening the summit, Minister of Social Development Susan Shabangu said GBV had reached unbearable levels in the country.

"With all the good laws we have passed since 1994 – why are we still in this place today, in a country where women continue to be abused, with daily reports in the newspapers of women raped and of psychological, physical and economic abuse? And, although we live in a democratic space, we have to ask ourselves if women enjoy the same democracy," she said.

The brutality of GBV was vividly exposed at the start of the summit, as survivors shared their painful personal experiences of abuse.

Phindi Ncube, one of the survivors, was raped by eight men and had to undergo five surgeries on

her stomach. She showed her scars to the attendees, including President Ramaphosa.

"I was not born like this. This came as a result of my attackers. I have to carry the scars," said Ncube, calling for stiff sentences for abusers. "Our lives can't be paroled, Mr President. The minimum sentence for sex offenders must be at least 50 years," she urged.

Responding to the crisis

President Ramaphosa took to the stage to reassert government's commitment to responding to the crisis of GBV.

"Survivors of sexual violence and abuse – be it physical, psychological or economic – often live with these scars for the rest of their lives. The physical and psychological effects may recede, but they very rarely disappear," noted President Ramaphosa.

"In August, I made a commitment that we shall convene this summit to develop a national plan of action against gender-based violence. We are agreed that we need a multi-sectoral approach that responds to the demands of the marchers and strengthens the broader interventions that address the causes and effects of such violence."

The President said the societal issues of patriarchy, economic relations and skewed gender relations

all need to be addressed in order to eliminate the scourge.

"A society that does not support notions of authority and control over women, and does not tolerate violence against women, is more likely to reduce gender-based violence."

President Ramaphosa added that government is accelerating a number of interventions, ranging from education at schools, to stricter law enforcement and a complete change of the existing social system of patriarchy.

"[Preventing GBV] requires that we address societal issues of patriarchy, economic relations and changing the way of thinking about gender relations."

Renewed resolve to end GBV

The most important outcome of the summit was a declaration that reaffirms government's commitment to a "united, comprehensive and effective response to GBV and femicide".

Several important commitments have been made by government, based on strict timelines for implementation.

It was agreed that an interim council, comprising various stakeholders, will be established within six months after the summit, to specifically focus on GBV issues. The council will comprise at least 51 percent civil society members. ➔



Government officials, activists and survivors of gender-based violence were among the delegates who participated in the National Summit against Gender-based Violence and Femicide.

A National Strategic Plan on GBV and femicide will be developed, along with a social behaviour-change programme that addresses skewed gender relations in the home and society as a whole.

Recognising the importance of adequate facilities for victims, the declaration committed to better resourcing of Thuthuzela Care Centres, shelters and sexual offences courts.

Other interventions include strengthening education on GBV, fast-tracking legislation, implementing recommendations made in various studies and developing new ethical guidelines for the media reporting on GBV.

President Ramaphosa described the declaration as a key milestone in the fight against GBV.

"We are looking to this summit to provide clear direction on a comprehensive national response to gender-based violence. I am convinced that by working together, by confronting difficult issues and by mobilising all South Africans, we shall create a society where women and children feel safe and are safe at all times and in all places," he said.

Key role-players in fighting for change, civil society organisations


such as #TheTotalShutdown were encouraged by the outcomes of the summit, but called for words to be converted into action.

"Although the summit was an important accomplishment, it marks only a first, albeit important, step in the dialogue between government and civil society on GBV. However, the occurrence of GBV-related incidents is at a national crisis, and it requires more than just dialogue but decisive and immediate action to protect womxn [see definition in sidebar] and children," said Lesley Ncube, National Spokesperson for #TheTotalShutdown.

Sonke Gender Justice Legal Manager Kayan Leung said that the summit had yielded a number of victories, most important of which was the commitment to develop a fully funded National Strategic Plan.

"We are pleased and cautiously optimistic that much of the language and advocacy asks that Sonke and civil society partners have been advocating for over numerous years are included in the declaration issued by the Presidency."

Leung added that civil society would be a crucial implementing agent.

"While we must celebrate these victories, it is equally important as a civil society collective to take the work forward to ensure that commitments become tangible for everyone. It is important for the content of the declaration to be shared with all communities, including in rural areas. Ongoing work on prevention must continue," said Leung. 

Key definitions

Gender-based violence:

Any physical, sexual, emotional or psychological act perpetrated against a person's will, stemming from gender norms and unequal power relations.

Patriarchy: A system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.

Womxn: A word developed by feminists to stress the independence of women, by excluding the word "man or men".

Femicide: The killing of a woman or girl, in particular by a man and on account of her gender.

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President Cyril Ramaphosa announces the merger of the ministries of Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services into a single ministry of Communications.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has started the process of realigning government, with the “first wave” resulting in the merger of the ministries of Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services into a single ministry of Communications.

The President announced that this single ministry will be headed by the new Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams. Prior to being appointed in the position, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams was the Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and also previously served as the Deputy Minister of Communications.

President Ramaphosa recently announced this and other changes to the Cabinet, which were occasioned by the passing of former Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa and the resignation of former Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba.

The new appointments include Dr Siyabonga Cwele as the Minister

President Ramaphosa announces changes to Cabinet

of Home Affairs and Nomvula Mokonyane as Minister of Environmental Affairs.

Minister Cwele was previously the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services and Minister Mokonyane previously headed the the Department of Communications.

“In making these changes, I remain determined that the Cabinet of our nation should have an appropriate mix of experience and capability as well as gender and generational mix, and that it should have members who are committed to serve and to serve selflessly.

“I am mindful of the need to have a resolute and stable Cabinet that is able to effectively lead the growth, renewal and transformation of our economy and our society,” the President explained.

Elaborating on the decision to combine the ministries of Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services, he said it is in line with the work undertaken in terms of the announcement he made during the State of the Nation Address, related to the realigning of government.

“This move is going to ensure that we have better alignment and co-ordination on matters that are critical to the future of our economy in

the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

“The two departments that will report to the new ministry – namely, the Department of Communications and the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services – will remain as separate departments until the end of the fifth administration.”

President Ramaphosa added that the work looking into the realignment of government is ongoing.

“In anticipation of the 6th democratic administration we will have completed this work and when we have completed it, we will make a more comprehensive announcement on how we would have realigned government,” he said.

“The merging of Communications and of Telecommunications and Postal Services is the first wave, but it is also to help with the realignment process which we need right now in order to put into effect the transformation that we are effecting with regards to economic management,” explained the President.

President Ramaphosa also announced the resignation of the Deputy Minister of Energy, Thembu Majola, with effect from 1 January 2019, to attend to family commitments. ○

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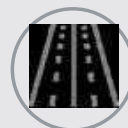
Management
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Water and
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Power and
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Resources



CORRUPTION

getting to the belly of the beast

The Oxford Dictionary defines corruption as “dishonesty” or “illegal behaviour”. Full stop. It ends there.

The results of Police Minister Bheki Cele’s recent dissection of the word are less flattering. However, it piercingly removes the scabs of the plague’s recuperating laceration.

“Corruption kills the progress of communities,” an animated Minister Cele told delegates at the recent National Summit on Crime and Violence Prevention in Boksburg, Gauteng. Intensely sobering was that the statement was met with a deafening silence in the second or two while he caught his breath.

Government has prioritised the scourge of corruption, adopting a zero-tolerance approach in both the public and private sectors. Corruption is deemed a societal problem to be fought collectively.

The pandemic of fraud and corruption continues to be a source of trepidation to the country’s development prospects, but government’s recent interventions have

sparked optimism that the tide will gradually turn.

Stopping the rot

Having taken stock of this harsh reality, government has undertaken a series of interventions in an effort to stop the rot.

The Anti-corruption Inter-Ministerial Committee and the Anti-corruption Task Team have developed a broad framework to deal with corruption and are in the process of finalising the development of an holistic Anti-corruption Strategy.

Government’s arsenal to combat corruption includes the adoption of a Code of Conduct for the Public Service.

Additionally, government established specialised anti-corruption units such as the SAPS Organised Crime Unit, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), the National Prosecuting Authority’s Asset Forfeiture Unit and the Financial Intelligence Centre.

These efforts are bolstered by Specialised Commercial Crime Courts as well as the creation of

the national and sectoral anti-corruption hotlines.

“We have corruption as a disease,” Minister Cele lamented. “Nobody can now deny that some of us in South Africa are corrupt – very corrupt. It’s not just police as some of us would want us to believe. [This] is one area in which the President has made a serious call.”

Corruption Watch’s 2018 Analysis of Corruption Trend (ACT) Report says it continues to receive thousands of complaints from the public with harrowing experiences. The non-profit organisation, working to fight corruption in South Africa, received 2 500 complaints according to its 2018 report. The matters ranged from recruitment to procurement in schools, police stations and municipalities, among others.

The picture is not assisted much by international observers. According to Transparency International’s 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, South Africa slipped from a rank of 64 to 71 in 180 countries.

Upping the ante

In an attempt to up the ante on looting Robin Hood opposites, the South African Police Service will soon announce an anti-corruption body to ensure police net perpetrators more efficiently.

"We'll soon be announcing that we want eminent people to join the anti-corruption body in the South African Police. It will be people like retired judges, bishops and so forth. This will make sure that we have all the integrity of a monitoring structure," Minister Cele said.

"It can't be us alone in monitoring ourselves. Cats can't monitor cats not to eat the cheese; you need some other animals."

The Minister is adamant that the lives of millions of South African's will continue to linger in oblivion should the epidemic not be halted.

"If we don't fix this [corruption], we won't fix the lives of the people. So, don't look away where you see corrupt practices, [more] especially, don't be part of it," he said.

The notion that only government officials are corrupt needs to be stopped as this act requires collusion between business and government, Minister Cele said, reiterating his stance during the release of the 2017/18 crime statistics.

"I agree, some government people [are] corrupt. But who corrupts them? Did they wake up corrupt? Or did someone say: 'If you give

this to me, I'll give you a cut. Just give me the tender, I'll take 60 [percent], you'll take 40 [percent]' – and that's a R20 million cut," he said. We are not going to go anywhere if we don't deal decisively with corruption. Corruption is across the board. People are corrupt out there, especially government people."

Minister Cele heaped praise on President Cyril Ramaphosa for his unflinching stance on fraud and corruption, citing his recent signing off of Special Investigation Unit proclamations into maladministration at various government departments, state-owned entities and municipalities.

One of those was the investigation into the Office of the State Attorney, which is alleged to have fleeced the state of R80 billion in malpractice, lack of professionalism and suspicion of abuse of office towards unlawful ends.

"[Have you ever] thought this office would be investigated by the office of the SIU? They are investigated for the abuse and stealing of R80 billion. Eight-zero billion – Office of the Attorney General. I've never heard you shout about them being corrupt," he said.

The reinvigorated elite police unit, the Hawks, Minister Cele said, "must get their wings and fly".

"The focus must be on strengthening all the police units, all the

courts, becoming really brutal and making sure that structures like the IPID are working."

Criminal justice system reforms

Justice and Violence Prevention head at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Gareth Newham recently wrote on the institution's website that President Ramaphosa has to support much-needed criminal justice system reforms that could hold the corrupt accountable.

"An active civil society, an independent judiciary and strong media are also fundamental to improving the criminal justice system and strengthening the rule of law," he wrote.

He said some headway has been made with the positive appointments of the new head of the Hawks, Godfrey Lebeya, and the police's Crime Intelligence Division, Anthony Jacobs.

"[The] new law enforcement agency leaders must urgently replace compromised or unsuitable individuals with capable managers, investigators and prosecutors," he wrote.

With the evident untangling of the complicated web, it is evident that government seems more firm than ever to get to the belly of the devouring beast. ●

CREATING NEW DEMOCRATIC FRONTIERS

THE WORK OF THE MUNICIPAL DEMARCATION BOARD ENSURES LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTS THE INDIVIDUALS IT SERVES.

The Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) is an independent authority responsible for the determination of municipal boundaries. The board's status as a constitutional institution is protected by section 3 of the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act, 1998, and various precedent judgments by the High Court and Constitutional Court.

The MDB's mandate, as derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, is centred on the four major aspects of its core business, which are to:

- Determine and re-determine municipal boundaries.
- Delimit wards to facilitate local government elections.
- Perform municipal capacity assessments.
- Render advisory services.

The introduction of the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act in 1998 was an important milestone in the history of a constitutional democracy in South Africa as it facilitated the dismantling of apartheid spatial geography and constructed municipal boundaries based on democratic principles. There were 1 262 municipalities dividing communities instead of ensuring inclusivity and social integration – as envisioned by the Constitution.



Chairperson of the Municipal
Demarcation Board, Jane Thupana



The year 2018/19 marks the end of the five-year tenure of the current board, following its appointment by the President of the Republic of South Africa in 2014. We spoke to Chairperson Jane Thupana about what have been the Board's major milestones (successes and challenges) over the last five years.

"One of our greatest challenges emanated from the apparent inability of several municipalities to deliver on their constitutional obligations with regards to service delivery. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' (CoGTA) Back-To-Basics programme had established that only a third of the municipalities were viable, a third in need of intervention while the remaining were totally dysfunctional."

"Among other interventions, the minister approached the board to consider amalgamating some of the municipalities – an interesting and challenging exercise that was met with excitement in some instances and disapproval in others. The timing of the minister's request, being too close to the local government elections, raised eyebrows and attracted litigation as some suspected that the project was an abuse of the demarcation process for political gains. In the end, 10 of the 34 cases were approved, and the board advised government that the solution could bring its own complications –

democratic legitimacy and public participation might be compromised in expanded municipalities – and therefore service centres would have to be established to address the issues of proximity and access.

"The increased demand for public participation in the decision-making process by the board is an indication that our democracy is maturing. Citizens speak out and challenge the status quo, demanding not only to be involved but for their voices to be heard in matters that affect their livelihoods. Major lessons were learnt from stakeholders, particularly the public, which were fed into the demarcation legislative review process that is underway. For example, the frequent changes to municipal and ward boundaries are found to be disruptive to the planning and service delivery efforts by municipalities."

Despite the limited resources and in line with the vision to be the leading demarcation and knowledge hub, the board has, during its tenure, established a research and knowledge management unit and continues to enhance capabilities for research to inform demarcation decisions and equip the MDB for its advisory role. Several studies were conducted, including the development of indicators for categorisation of municipalities into Category A or Metros to ensure consistent application of the demarcation criteria.

"In order achieve the objects of local government in terms of Chapter 7 of the Constitution (which includes pursuing the goal of developmental local government), the board, while maintaining its independence with regards to demarcation decisions, works in collaboration and cooperation with structures such as the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, municipalities, provinces, Houses of Traditional Leaders, Statistics SA, Surveyor General and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

"Public participation is a key programme that requires proximity to the people on the ground, to ensure engagements with communities and their networks; getting to understand the fabric of their lives and challenges they face in their lived spaces. This, however, has budgetary implications and requires additional allocations from the fiscus. Establishing regional foot-prints in all provinces therefore remains a priority for which the board continues to lobby funds."

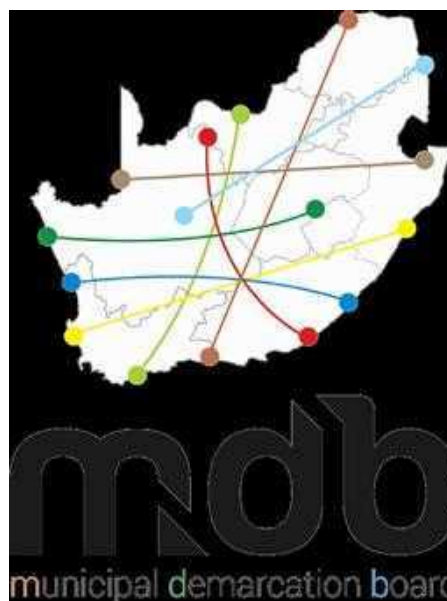
Having elevated public and stakeholder engagement as one of the strategic programmes, the board goes beyond the minimum requirements of the legislation to ensure there is comprehensive representivity through the inclusion of structures such as political parties, traditional leaders and community-based organisations. An extended period of stakeholder awareness and public education (using face to face sessions, social media and traditional media platforms) will start in January 2019 in preparation for the 2021 local government elections.

The end of the board's tenure coincides with the anniversary of the organisation having been established in February 1999. A conference is planned, scheduled to take place on 31 January and 1 February 2019, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the MDB together with the major contribution the institution has made towards reversing the apartheid spatial logic and fostering socio-economic integration. The multiple purposes of the conference include:

- An opportunity to solicit inputs from thought leaders (including government) to inform the local government architecture e.g. the wall-to-wall municipalities, two-tier system and intermediate cities, thereby defining a context within which demarcation must take place.

- Share lessons on demarcation trends, challenges and best practices from the international community.
- Take a reflective approach to identify gaps and possible areas of focus in the next decade.

The event will also mark a period of transition and handover to the new board, whose tenure shall begin on 20th February. The President of the Republic of South Africa will have appointed members by this date.



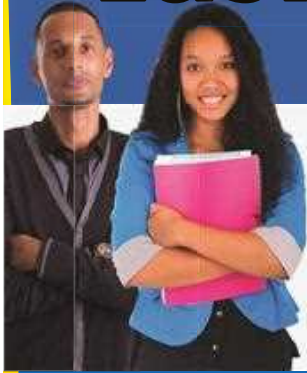
CONTACT DETAILS:

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349 Witch Hazel Street Highveld, 0157
Postal Address: Private Bag X123, Centurion, 0046
Telephone: 012 342 2481
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Email: info@demarcation.org.za
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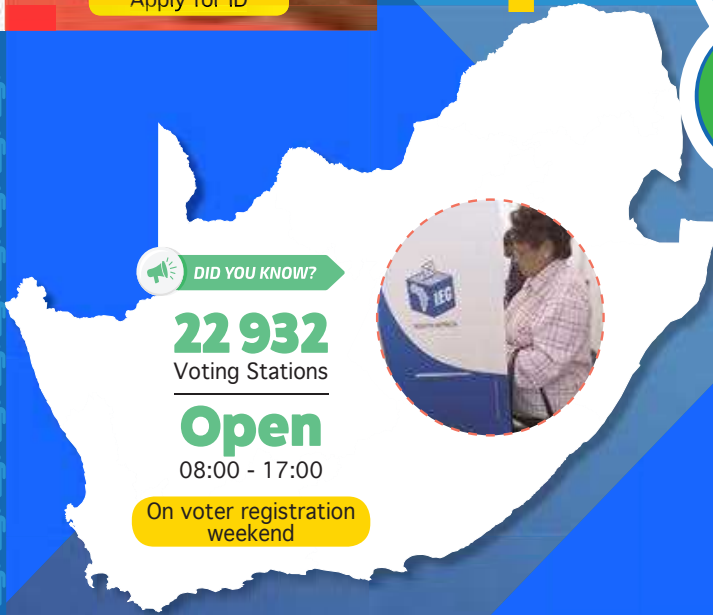
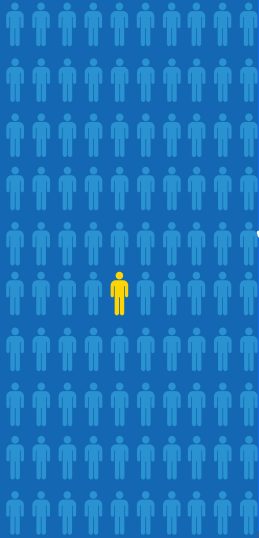
Social Media

Facebook: Municipal Demarcation Board
Twitter: @MunicipalBoard
Youtube: @MunicipalBoard

Last chance to register!



All South African citizens aged 16 and older who are in possession of an official ID document can register as voters (although only those who are at least 18 years old on voting day may vote).



DID YOU KNOW?

22 932

Voting Stations

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08:00 - 17:00

On voter registration weekend

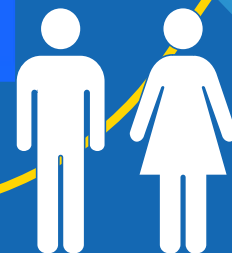
Don't be left out.



To check your current registration details and voting station location, SMS your ID number to 32810 to receive an SMS indicating the address of their voting station (charged at R1).

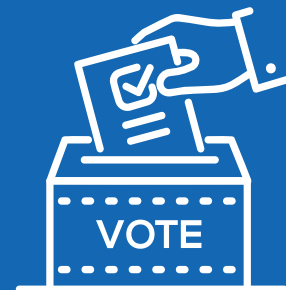
What happens when you register

When registering, voters will have to provide their address or a description of where they live to allow the Electoral Commission to place them on the correct segment of the voters' roll. Proof of address is not required.



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government communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Travel safely this festive season

The festive season is a time for family reunions, joy and celebrations. In South Africa, this period is characterised by high traffic volumes as holidaymakers take long-distance trips following the shutdown of industries and schools.

As a consequence of the increased traffic volumes and festivities associated with this period, the country usually experiences a spike in road traffic crashes that lead to fatalities and injuries.

The abuse of alcohol increases phenomenally during this period leading to an increase in instances of drunk driving. Pedestrians also throw caution to the wind and stagger onto the roads while under the influence of alcohol.

Fatalities over the festive season

A total of 1 770 people lost their lives on the country's roads during this period last year. This was a decrease compared to the 2 006 lives that were claimed in the previous year.

Statistics show that three provinces contribute more than 50 percent of the fatalities. These are Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo. These provinces require dedicated attention to decrease the number of fatalities.

It has become evident over the years that most crashes and fatalities take place on 16 December, Christmas Day, Day of Goodwill (26 December) and New Year's Day. These are the days when traffic volumes have subsided on national routes; people have reached their destinations and are engaging in parties and social gatherings with associated binge drinking.

This festive season is going to be particularly challenging because these key holidays are extended. With 16 December falling on a Sunday, partying and drinking will be extended into Monday. Christmas Day festivities will be started earlier on 24 December and extended over three days up to 26 December.

Vigilance needed

This calls for high levels of vigilance and responsibility from all road users. While law enforcement officers will be on the roads to maintain order and ensure safe mobility, every individual must play their part.

That role starts long before the trips are undertaken by ensuring that vehicles are in a roadworthy state. Tyres, brakes and lights must be checked ahead of time.



Burst tyres and faulty brakes cause many road crashes.

The high levels of prevailing chronic non-communicable diseases in the country also require that driver fitness be given priority. Drivers with diabetes and high blood pressure, among others, must ensure that they take their medication before getting behind the steering wheel.

It is further important for drivers to have adequate sleep – about six to eight hours – before embarking on their journey and to take regular stops to avoid fatigue. It is advisable for a driver to stop after every two hours or 200km of driving.

Distracted driving is another factor that has become a key cause of road crashes. The most responsible thing to do is for the driver to switch off their cellphone and put it away to avoid any disturbance.

Role of passengers and pedestrians

Passengers must also be proactive and play their part. They can do this by resisting getting into unsafe vehicles wherever possible. Passengers should observe the conduct of the driver and ensure that he/she is not reckless and obeys the rules of the road at all times. More importantly, occupants must buckle up and ensure that children in the vehicle are secure and are not a distraction to the driver.

Pedestrians have responsibilities too. They are not mere passive participants. They must ensure that they are visible, use pavements – where they are provided – and always walk facing oncoming traffic. This will assist them to take evasive action should a vehicle veer off the road.

A survey conducted by the Medical Research Council has found that alcohol is a leading cause of death on South African roads. Data from forensic mortuaries around the country has shown that 50.1 percent of people killed on the roads were three times above the legal alcohol limit and 59.8 percent of all pedestrians killed were four or five times above the legal alcohol limit.

The high number of motorists who are arrested for drunken driving buttresses this point. Close to

6 000 motorists were arrested for drunken driving in the previous festive season.

Tips for road users

Road users who wish to avoid becoming a part of the festive season's statistics must consider the following:

- Be careful when travelling on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. These days are associated with a high number of fatal crashes.
- Be extremely cautious when driving between 17H00 and 23H00 as these are times when more fatal crashes occur. The festive season is associated with summer rainfall. Check the weather forecast before setting off on a trip.
- The number of young children dying in crashes is increasing at an alarming rate. Invest in a child-safe car seat and ensure that all children are buckled up.
- Ensure that your vehicle is vis-

ible to other road users. Turn on headlights if necessary.

- Keep to the speed limit. Speed is a major contributor in road fatalities and speeding can get you arrested.
- All passengers must buckle up.
- Avoid overtaking when the view ahead is not clear or across barrier lines. Many head-on collisions happen because of this.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Plan your journey and make provision for regular stops.
- Keep calm and avoid getting involved in road rage.

Tips for train users

For those who prefer to use trains to reach their destinations, Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) spokesperson Madelein Williams shared some of the dos and don'ts that railway users should keep in mind.

She said passengers should ➡



always wait for the train to be stationary before they board.

"When boarding a train, allow passengers to exit first. Always wait behind the yellow line. Mind the gap between the train and the platform. Always use dedicated areas to cross the rail line," Williams added.

She urged passengers not to cling to the outside of a moving train for whatever reason or trespass on the rail line as it can cost them their lives.

Despite the train accidents that have occurred in the past, Williams maintained that trains are the safest form of land-based transport.

However, accidents do occur and she advised passengers to disembark the train immediately if there is a collision between trains or a fire.

"When disembarking, they must ensure it's safe to do so by checking that there are no loose overhead wires, no spilled chemicals or petroleum products in their path that can catch fire.

"If the accident is in a non-electrified area, passengers must wait for instructions, from the train crew, about which side of the train to disembark from in case there are other trains that are still utilising the network. They must also assist those that are injured before the arrival of emergency medical services teams to the incident site," she added.



Dealing with overcrowding

With regard to overcrowding on trains, Williams said everybody has a role to play in ensuring that railways are safe.

She pointed out that vandalism exacerbates the problem because trains are taken out of commission, leaving fewer trains to transport commuters.

The RSR has developed safety and security regulations which require operators to submit a plan on how to deal with issues such as overcrowding.

"The draft regulation has been made available for public comment and is currently awaiting approval by the Minister of Transport. The plan requires operators to state how many guards will be deployed on board trains and in and around stations," she explained.

According to Williams, the RSR

is currently addressing the challenge of overcrowding by issuing directives to compel operators to comply with scheduling and making sure that delays are communicated to commuters.

Every operator must obtain a safety permit from the RSR before they can operate. The safety permit is issued by the RSR to the operator after assessing the operator's Safety Management System Report submission, which is a formal framework for integrating safety into day-to-day railway operations. It includes safety goals and performance targets, risk assessment, responsibilities and authorities, rules and procedures, monitoring and evaluation processes and any other matter prescribed. ●

***Simon Zwane is the spokesperson at the Road Traffic Management Corporation.**



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- Officer Development
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President Cyril Ramaphosa, with Transport Minister Blade Nzimande and Gauteng MEC for Roads and Transport Ismail Vadi during a visit to a new train manufacturing facility in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng.



Youth driving SA back to rail

Local youth are at the forefront of assembling, testing, commissioning and delivering new and modern commuter trains for South Africa.

They are employed by Gibela at the first-of-its-kind R1 billion train manufacturing facility in Dunnotar in Ekurhuleni, about 50km east of Johannesburg.

It is at this new 72-hectare plant that they are building the Passen-

ger Rail Agency of South Africa's (PRASA) rolling stock of modern commuter trains.

Gibela – a partnership between Alstom, a multinational world leader in integrated transport systems and South Africa's Ubumbano Rail and New Africa Rail – was launched in 2014 to deliver on two major contracts for PRASA. These are to manufacture 580 state-of-the-art X'Trapolis Mega commuter

trains, over 10 years, to replace the aged current fleet for Metrorail and to supply technical services and spares for the trains during their first 19 years in service.

The cutting-edge train production facility was recently unveiled by President Cyril Ramaphosa. It is a critical hub for providing onsite maintenance and engineering services, a training facility for railway-specific artisan skills and

an engineering centre of excellence.

The construction of the factory commenced in January 2016 with manufacturing activities starting in 2017.

Employment opportunities

According to Gibela, currently more than 400 people are directly employed in the factory and it anticipates that the number will rise to more than 1 500 once the factory is in full production.

Of these, more than 200 are engineers and technicians – including 80 women who have been trained and deployed as full-time Gibela employees; 50 skilled and semi-skilled artisans and technicians; and 65 apprentices, who began their apprenticeships at the new training centre since last year.

Youth such as Mapula Tsebela (25), a semi-skilled mechanical fitter, is one of the previously unemployed who has benefited from the project.

Responsible for the internal installations like door trimmings, roof arcs and seats, Tsebela from neighbouring Tsakane township, said the project has changed her life by giving her an opportunity to be employed full-time.

She found out about the project through a website, applied and was hired in April 2018.

"The six months working here has changed me. It has been a great experience since I was fresh from college after graduating in mechanical engineering at Ekurhuleni East College. This plant has created a great experience for me and many other youth in this area," she said.

Another youth who is benefiting from the project is Sibusiso Simelane. He is an electrical fitter who started working last year November after hearing about the project from the Department of Labour.

Simelane said he had to undergo further skills training which was offered by the company.

"This is a big project for South Africa and I'm part of making history. Even generations to follow will know about this project. It has changed my life," said Simelane.

He said the plant is helping to address the most pressing challenge in South Africa today: unemployment, especially among the youth.

The overall employment equity at the plant constitutes 49 percent female and 51 percent male, with 635 full-time employees, 90 percent of whom are black, according to Gibela.

To meet the demanding local content requirement of at least 65 percent, Gibela has taken on board 54 South African suppliers to supply materials, parts and ser-

vices. This has created more than 4 700 jobs which the company is supporting through its activities.

Looking ahead over the next 10 years, the training centre is expected to skill over 6 700 artisans, about 2 000 engineering technicians and nearly 600 professional engineers across South Africa's rail sector.

A milestone for South Africa

Speaking at the unveiling of the factory to the public, President Ramaphosa said it was a significant development for passenger rail, the economy, industrialisation and manufacturing in the country.

The President went on to welcome the investment commitment, saying the project demonstrates the value of the partnership between the government, its agencies and the private sector, ensuring that public investment in infrastructure is effectively leveraged to promote industrialisation, localisation and job creation.

"When we talk about the expansion of our economy, it is a place like this and people like you that we are talking about," he added.

After decades of under-investment in new trains for passenger rail transport, the President said this investment signifies a new era in the modernisation of the commuter rail network. ➔

Restoring manufacturing and creating jobs

This factory will have a profound impact not only in the sphere of public transport but also in developing the country's manufacturing capacity, President Ramaphosa said.

"For instead of simply importing new trains, we have used this opportunity to invest in local industry, capabilities and skills."

After years of decline, President


Ramaphosa said the government is determined to restore manufacturing as a growing sector of the economy, in large because it has great potential to create jobs, support secondary industries and increase the country's export capacity.

"This factory will demonstrate that South Africa has advanced manufacturing capabilities that will only gain in value over time."

Turning to the rail sector, the President was of the view that

the factory will serve as a catalyst for the transformation of passenger rail services and public transport more broadly.

"It demonstrates our determination to develop passenger rail as a critical enabler of economic growth and social development.

"Our railways must become the arteries of a growing economy that brings meaningful improvement to people's lives," he said. 



ISSEY MIYAKE



Artificial intelligence is changing the face of Gauteng

Often synonymous with Hollywood blockbuster movies and technological developments of a distant future, drones have shaken off stereotypical thoughts that they only belong on the big screen. These eyes in the sky are fast emerging as tools that are transforming the delivery of services to Gauteng residents.

Recently, drone technology became a very real part of the lives of the province's citizens, through a partnership formed between

the provincial Department of Infrastructure Development (DID) and the University of Johannesburg.

The partnership has resulted in the construction of critical infrastructure such as schools, clinics, hospitals and libraries being monitored by the use of a drone.

Leveraging the use of technology

Head of Department at the DID, Bethuel Netshiswinzhe, believes

that through the use of drones, government is leveraging the use of technology, especially that related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, to deliver infrastructure in a smart and efficient manner.

The built environment is still largely a traditional industry, which one might still be forgiven for associating with the Stone Age era of the Flintstones. Just ask Gauteng MEC for Infrastructure Development Jacob Mamabolo.

"Although it dates back to the days before the building of the Egyptian pyramids, it still remains as one of the most Dark Age methods and has not yet come to where the world is today," he said.

So what do drones and construction sites have to do with each another? In May, it was announced that the DID was deploying the drone programme as a tool to monitor progress at construction sites.

This essentially limited the single drone to giving the department a snapshot of the site which enabled officials to verify independently whether work is continuing, that material is on site and that the contractor adheres to



occupational health and safety standards on site.

While still in its youth, the partnership between the DID and UJ has been refined in recent months, with the department realising that there is an opportunity to harvest more data than the hundreds of high images captured by drones.

Virtual tours

Commonly known as drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) boast top-class technologies with simple flight controls.

Through the partnership, officials can now take a virtual tour through the construction site without having to leave the comfort of their offices.

"I can be sitting in the office and walk through the construction site, without me needing to be there and see the milestones reached on site and without having to drive there," remarked a clearly chuffed MEC Mamabolo.

A demonstration of how the process is carried out also shows how, through the use of technology, officials can accurately measure quantities of materials on site – in this case at the Greenspark Clinic, which is currently under construction in Fochville – without having to physically visit the project.

Among the groundbreaking capabilities that this collaboration has brought to the fore is the abil-

ity to regularly monitor progress on site as it relates to architectural drawings, an extremely important feature as it empowers DID to detect any variations from the plans.

This is crucial especially in containing cost escalations and guaranteeing that a project will be delivered in accordance with the plans.

Director of UJ's Centre for Applied Research and Innovation in the Built Environment, Professor Innocent Musonda, believes it is now possible to process photographs taken by the "staff" complement of five drones to generate both 2D and 3D models.

"We can check where information claimed by contractors is there or not there," said Prof. Musonda, adding that pictures from the drones are exported to software which overlays what was initially imagined to be constructed and compares them for variations.

Measuring supplies

In addition to being able to accurately measure supplies such as sand on site, the technology makes it possible to track material suppliers for maintenance purposes, allowing the department to keep tabs of which sectors of the economy are benefiting from the inputs into built projects.

The capabilities of the programme will drastically reduce

scope variations, the shifting of milestones which delays service delivery and leaves state coffers bleeding, and corruption and fraudulent activities which have marred the industry.

The technology also helps the department to conduct quality checks during the construction process, as opposed to discovering variations only once the project has been completed.

The use of this technology no doubt speaks to the National Development Plan's outcome six of an efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network. This infrastructure, it notes, efficiently delivers essentials like electricity, water and sanitation.

Tracking progress

The MEC is acutely aware that, in past projects, it was claimed that activities were taking place on site when in reality very little work, if any, was taking place on the ground. Through the use of smart technology, the department is tracking progress made on a fortnightly basis to ensure that targets are reached.

A constant bugbear of the sector relates to the timeous delivery of infrastructure, within budget and with the desired quality.

Further adding fuel to the fire in an industry that continues to be depressed are the often flawed ➡

tender processes where companies tendering for projects submit the lowest price bids. After securing the tender, these companies then introduce scope changes that will eventually drive up the cost of the project.

Certainly one drone at a time is changing the way in which the department is delivering on its projects, ultimately making a difference in the lives of citizens.

With the help of this technology, the department is able to keep tabs on its spread of 340 projects valued at around R4.5 billion, of which R1.7 billion has been allocated for the 2018/19 financial year.

New capabilities

"We are trying to improve our work and these new capabilities are an important aspect of our systematic and continued determination to root out corruption," said MEC Mamabolo, who also spoke out against the abuse of scope changes.

Technological advancement which was once thought to be a figment of movie makers, scripts and imagination have come to life, fundamentally changing the way the world addresses its challenges.

"Digital technology and artificial intelligence are not the future anymore; they are the present. They have taken off. What we are

doing now is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we can achieve. We are living in very exciting times," said Prof. Musonda.

Professor Murray Metcalfe of the Centre for Global Engineering attests that there is a huge opportunity for sub-Saharan African

"We are trying to improve our work and these new capabilities are an important aspect to our systematic and continued determination to root out corruption."

countries to better themselves through the use of technology.

"We see this fertile combination of the use of technology, strong engineering schools, very entrepreneurial environment and the potential growth of the economy given projected growth of the populations, particularly in cities."

"We see all those things creating an opportunity to leapfrog

ahead from a technological point of view, to bypass a number of issues with other world cities and to move to a new unique African form of a city to be defined by Africans."

Benefiting communities

Acknowledging that technological advancements often face rejection by communities fearing a loss of jobs, these advancements can be used to the benefit of communities.

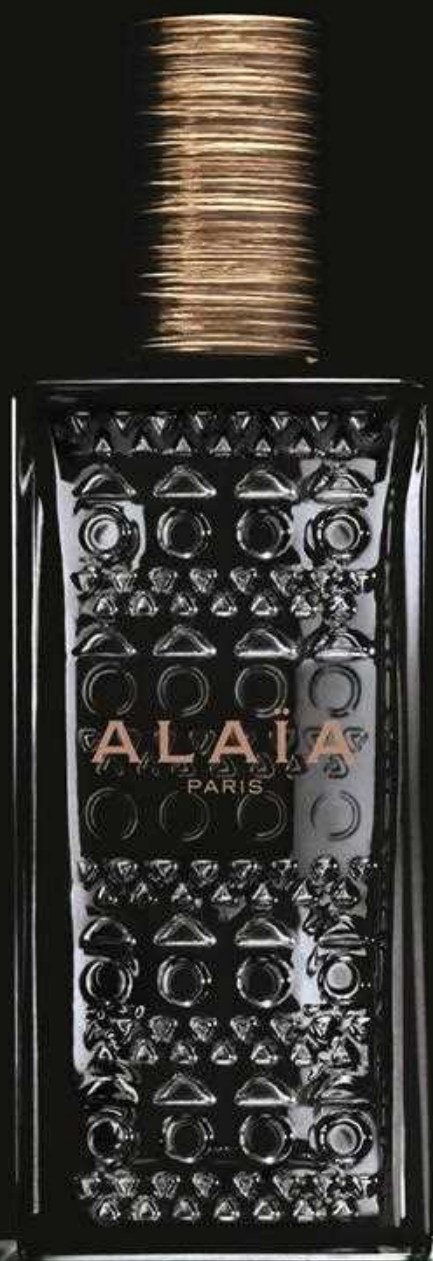
"Certainly in general, people are hesitant regarding change, particularly around issues of privacy and access to personal data; we see that in Canada also. However, there is great evidence that there will be other new types of industries that will require greater human endeavour than it has in the past, while some tasks may be automated with the use of artificial intelligence.

"There will be other things having to do with the advancement of human life, of research into healthcare and social services. Certainly there are great opportunities and challenges," he said.

While the 2001 blockbuster *A.I. Artificial Intelligence* was set in a post-climate change era in the future, artificial intelligence has arrived and is changing the world as we know it one drone at a time. ●

ALAÏA

PARIS





Photographer: Esa Alexander

Mamela Nyamza Deputy Artistic Director: The South African State Theatre

The South African State Theatre has appointed dancer, choreographer and freelance artist Mamela Nyamza as its Deputy Artistic Director. Nyamza was born and bred in Gugulethu township near Cape Town. She completed her matric at

Fezeka High School in 1993 and then enrolled at Technikon Pretoria, now Tshwane University of Technology, to obtain her National Diploma in Ballet.

Nyamza was resident dancer and choreographer for the theatre from 1997 to 2000. For the past three years she has sat on the Advisory Panel in Dance for the South African National Arts Council.

Nyamza is the first dance artist to be chosen as the featured artist at the 2018 National Arts Festival in Makhanda. Other accolades include the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Dance in 2011, Oprah Winfrey Women of the Year in 2013, and being among the *Mail and*

Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans for Arts and Culture in 2009.

Nyamza will be at the helm of one of South Africa's biggest dance festivals, the Dance Umbrella, as its curator when it relaunches in April 2019.

Nyamza's key role will be to provide support to the Artistic Director creatively and administratively. She will be working closely with the Education Youth and Children Theatre department, which focuses on the development of young artists in the industry, initiating development programmes to support the main programme and ensure integration of the overall artistic programme.

Simangele Ngcobo Chief Financial Officer: Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) has appointed Simangele Ngcobo as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Ngcobo is a chartered accountant with more than 11 years of financial and business experience in the business industry.

She holds a Bachelor of Accounting Science Honours with a Certificate in the Theory of Accounting degree and a BCompt National Diploma in Accounting.

Ngcobo has a strong track record

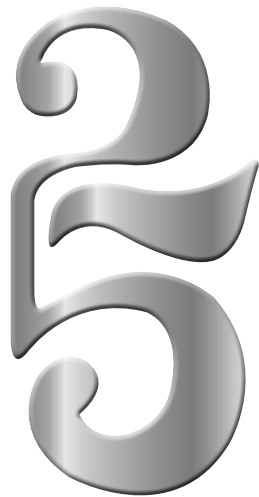
in strategic transformation, driving improved financial performance, corporate governance, people management and development.

She has held senior management positions in a number of institutions. She has served as CFO of the KwaZulu-Natal Gambling Board, Financial Manager of the Durban International Convention Centre, and Audit and Tax Specialist at the South African Revenue Service.

Her role at the RBIDZ will include financial management, budget and risk control, maintaining good corporate governance, participating in the establishment and

amendment of company policies and procedures and the identification, analysis and valuation of growth alternatives through acquisitions, and people management and development. ○





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Spend wisely this Christmas

The festive season does not have to leave a spiralling hole of debt in its wake.

"Overspending is like that irritating debt pebble in your 'financial shoe'. It is best to avoid any overspending this Christmas because it can have big implications on your cashflow and budget in the long run," said DebtSafe's Marketing and Sales Manager Matthys Potgieter.

"That lovely feeling of overspending in November and December is short-lived and consumers will feel the strain of their impulsive choices by the end of January 2019. Do not spend what you do not have," said Potgieter.

African Bank's Mellony Ramalho says that employees often get paid early in December, making the wait for their January salary much longer.

"January is a tough month for a lot of people, with some resorting to credit cards with reckless abandon or taking out a loan. It is important to stay conscious of what you spend. Rather prepare a budget to avoid overspending," said Ramalho.

Potgieter advises consumers to make sure that their pantry, fridge and freezer are stocked with long-lasting ingredients, to keep their

budget under control and avoid expensive last-minute buys.

"If your friends or family members are driving from and to the same area, consider carpooling. Using less cars means using less fuel and money. Also, avoid toll routes where possible and take alternative, scenic routes instead. We live in a beautiful country; enjoy the ride. Get the best fuel consumption by driving in the highest gear possible and maintaining a constant speed," said Potgieter.

Buying gifts can eat a huge chunk out of your budget! "It's the idea that counts. What about letting the kids bake personally-designed treats for your loved ones? Or use available items and get going with your own arts and crafts skills to make ornaments, coasters or jewellery," said Potgieter.

The South African Savings Institute provides the following tips:

- If you did not budget for a festive season trip, stay at home.
- If you didn't save, don't borrow to spend.
- Make the season's gifts instead of buying

them; it puts more heart in the gift.

- Give your precious time, instead of money, to the needy.
- Invest in money boxes as gifts for children.
- Avoid buying on impulse; resist those "sale" signs.
- When you see "sale", think "save" for your obligations. Have you budgeted for next year's school requirements – fees, stationery and uniforms?

The bottom line is that you do not have to spend excessively to get the most out of the festive season. Spend responsibly, keeping in mind the commitments that await you after the festive season. 



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***Black Twitter, Blitz and a Boerie as Long as Your Leg (and other South African National Treasures)*, by Hagen Engler**

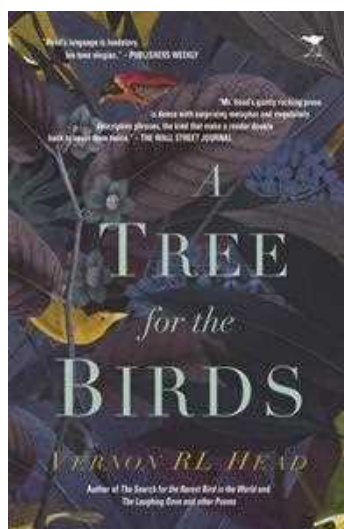
Black Twitter, Blitz and a Boerie as Long as Your Leg is a celebration of South Africa's iconic people, places, situations, songs, character traits and consumer products. As a hilarious compendium of iconic South Africanness, it is a light-hearted, humorous read of multiple entries. Optimistic, topical and tongue-in-cheek, it draws on the great many things that South Africans have in common and will give us all a moment to agree on something for a change.

The book celebrates the subtle aspects of South African life that we all experience but don't always notice. Engler looks at icons of our shared South Africanness that induces an excited exclamation from the reader of, "Yoh! That's so true!" Look out for



stories on a fake pair of Ray-Bans from the robots, your skaffien of last night's stew, and Zodwa Wabantu's *vosho*.

Engler has co-written, ghost-written and edited more than 12 books.



***A Tree for the Birds*, by Vernon RL Head**

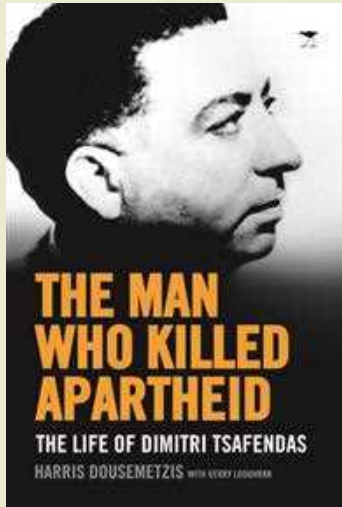
In this long-awaited follow-up to his international success, *The Search for the Rarest Bird in the World*, Head once again reveals his mastery of the genre of

nature writing. In the novel, *A Tree for the Birds*, Head captivates and enchants as he tells of the adventures of Chrisnelt, Chaminda and Pastor Kadazi as they navigate deep into the mysterious world of the Congo River, the Great Dancing Road.

This story of a boy's quest contains an urgent ecological message: a plea to break down the boundaries that humans impose on the world and to reconnect with the eternal, life-sustaining cycles of nature.

Set in the heart of Africa, this powerful story at the edge of damnation bends a reflection of all of us through the eyes of a birdwatcher who sees wings fly like escaping leaves on streams of eternal water and air for all.

The book reveals Head's deep love for nature and his penetrating and startling way of seeing birds. This story will fascinate birdwatchers, twitchers, bird-lovers and birders-in-training alike.



The Man Who Killed Apartheid: The life of Dimitri Tsafendas, by Harris Dousemetzis

On 6 September 1966, in the South African House of Assembly, Dimitri Tsafendas stabbed Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd to death. Afterwards, Tsafendas was declared to be a schizophrenic who believed a tape-worm lived inside him which controlled his actions and that he had no political motive for assassinating

Verwoerd. Pronounced unfit to stand trial, Tsafendas went down in history as a deranged parliamentary messenger.

For 50 years, this story prevailed. However, this book now reveals the truth about Tsafendas, who was deeply political from an early age. He was arrested numerous times, starting in his birthplace, Mozambique. In Portugal, the security police opened a file on him in 1938 when he was only 20 years old. After the assassination, Tsafendas volunteered a series of incontestable political reasons for killing Verwoerd, but these, along with details of his political past, were never allowed to see the light of day.

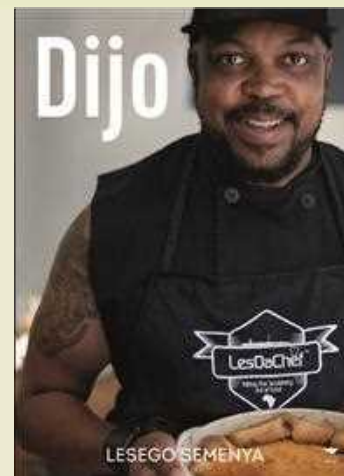
Dousemetzis, who has researched the life of Tsafendas for 10 years, reveals the extent of the cover-up by South Africa's authorities and the lengths they went to to conceal the existence of Tsafendas's opposition to apartheid. The book exposes one of the great lies in South African history – that Verwoerd was murdered by a mad man. It also offers for the first time a complete biography of this extraordinary man.

Dijo: My Food, My Journey, by Lesego Semanya

Soweto-born process engineer-turned-chef Lesego Semanya, known as LesDaChef, shares his journey from the corporate world to being a chef and offers township cuisine with a twist in his debut cookbook *Dijo: My Food, My Journey*.

"My goal as a township-born African chef trained in fine-dining cuisine is to remove all the snobbery and showcase the important parts of our food: the stories and memories behind each dish, and the rich and beautiful heritage that comes with it," he says.

This book is an affirmation of South African cuisine, its heritage and unique flavours. Full of mouth-watering recipes such as Cape Malay Pickled Fish, Spicy Trotters, Asian-style Oxtail, Smoorsnoek with Croutons and Mint Chimichurri Crusted Lamb Rack with Mint Balsamic Sauce and Sweet Potato, this book is also filled with stunning photographs and beautiful food styling.



Every dish featured in *Dijo* has a story of passion and nostalgia. Sharing both the recipes and their history will give foodies a way of getting to know Lesego's food background while growing up in Soweto, as well as the fine-dining techniques he learn at chef school and a few hot chef secrets, too. ●



Budget-beater *Christmas lunch*

Christmas is all about winding down the year, families coming together, celebrating joy and, of course, food. But making a hearty Christmas dinner doesn't have to break the bank. Here are a few great recipes that remain festive, but on a budget. We suggest scaling down on the main dishes and bulk-ing up the side dishes and salads to ensure you spend less, but give your guests more variety at the table.

Main:

Roast chicken and figs

Ingredients:

- 8 portions bone-in, skin-on chicken pieces
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 4 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 4 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- Fresh figs sliced in half

Method:

Heat the olive oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Remove from heat and then carefully place the chicken pieces in the skillet, skin-side down.

Place the skillet inside the oven. When you open the oven door, the temperature should fall quite a bit. You want the overall temperature to hover around 200 degrees.

Roast chicken for 30 minutes, rotating the skillet midway through. Remove the chicken and add the figs to the skillet. Return the skillet to the oven for just four minutes so

the figs start to caramelise.

Remove the skillet and let the chicken and figs rest. Season with an extra pinch of salt and serve.

Sides:

- Creamy spinach pasta
- Pasta of your choice
- 1 chopped onion
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tomato, finely chopped
- A bag of spinach leaves
- Chilli
- Soy sauce
- Coconut milk
- Salt and pepper

Method:

Start by cooking the onions over a medium to low heat until they turn translucent. Add the garlic and tomatoes and cook for about two minutes before adding the coconut milk, chilli and soy sauce. Let it simmer for a couple of minutes while the pasta is cooking.

Add the spinach and cook until it is wilted and then add the pasta, mix and serve. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Roasted potatoes

Ingredients:

- 1kg baby potatoes, washed and halved
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 4 whole cloves garlic, peeled
- 2 tbsp fresh minced parsley or dill
- ½ tsp salt plus additional flaky

salt for finishing

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees. In a large bowl, combine the garlic cloves, potatoes, salt and olive oil. Toss well to coat. Pour onto a baking sheet or large casserole dish and roast for 30 minutes. Flip potatoes only once, halfway through cooking. The potatoes are done when they are golden and tender. Scatter with parsley, add steamed broccoli, chopped red cabbage and salt to serve.

Roasted corn with herbed butter

Ingredients:

- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature

- 2 tbsp finely chopped fresh tender herbs (such as cilantro, chives and/or flat-leaf parsley)
- 1 ½ tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- Cayenne pepper
- 8 ears corn, shucked
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil

Method:

Prepare the grill for medium-high heat (160–200 degrees) or alternatively cook on a braai. Mix butter, herbs, salt, pepper and a pinch of cayenne pepper in a small bowl. Set the herb butter aside.

Brush corn with oil and grill for five to eight minutes, turning often, until it is tender and charred in spots. ➡



Transfer the corn to a large platter or bowl and spread with reserved herb butter, dividing evenly.

Desserts

A Christmas dessert doesn't have to be loaded with sugar. Try this delicious but healthy and budget-friendly option of individual desserts.

Christmas chia and coconut parfait

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup chia seeds

- ¾ cup milk
- 1 tbsp agave
- 1 handful mango, chopped
- 1 handful raspberries
- Beetroot powder
- Coconut whipped cream
- 2 cans full fat coconut milk
- 1 splash maple syrup or sweetener of choice (optional)
- Chocolate bark
- 1 splash vanilla extract (optional)

Method:

Chia Parfait

To make the chia pudding, start by adding the chia seeds, milk and agave to a bowl or jar and mix well. Mix it once more about 15 minutes later and let it rest overnight.

Divide the chia pudding in half and add little cubes of mango to one half and beet powder and raspberries to the other half. Mix both puddings very well and let them sit a bit so the colours are absorbed.

To serve, add fruit of your choice to the bottom, ½ banana and a few big splashes of the coconut liquid left from making the coconut whipped cream. Then add the chia pudding and top it with the coco whipped cream, fruits and chocolate bark.

Method:

Coconut whip

To make the coconut whipped cream, you need a can of full fat coconut milk. Flip it upside down and put it in the fridge overnight. This allows the fat and water in the coconut milk to separate. The fat is what you need to make the whipped cream. Open the can, scoop out the solid part and whip it up using a hand mixer. You can serve it as is or add a splash of vanilla and maple syrup or any other sweetener of choice. ○



M
M. Micallé



New Ford EcoSport: a mini urban warrior



Since its first launch back in 2013, Ford's EcoSport went on to create a new niche, that of the mini sport-utility vehicle (SUV). Coming in at a time when SUVs were just beginning to make a huge impact on vehicle sales globally, this segment quickly gained ground locally too.

While the size of a typical SUV was still a bit prohibitive given its cumbersome stance and dimensions, the EcoSport gained the attention of many young and trendy small families who wanted the personality of a go-anywhere, do-anything type of vehicle without having to fork out wads of hard-earned cash at the fuel pumps.

The tiny dimensions of the

EcoSport, with the "off-road" look spare wheel hanging out at the rear, appealed to the outdoorsy folks and the introduction of the one-litre, three-cylinder engine was an absolute blast. Excellent performance from a frugal engine meant it pressed many people's buttons in all the right places. The high ground clearance, a commanding view of the road ahead, perceived greater space and the macho image of a tiny SUV was an unbeatable combination. It could be said that Ford may have officially started the mini-SUV segment and sales charts were set alight making the EcoBoost one of the best-sellers in the segment.

Since then, the competition grew

restless and a slew of new models to compete with the EcoBoost were launched by rival manufacturers. These included the Honda BR-V, Toyota Rush, Jeep Renegade, Opel Mokka, Renault Duster and Mazda CX-3, among others.

Segment leader

So, to continue being the segment leader, Ford unveiled a new EcoSport that is even more practical, refined, safe and that comfortable, while offering an exceptional level of standard features that once again contribute to this model's unrivalled value for money. And let's be honest, it still remains one of the cutest designs, retaining much of the previous model's



shape. So, externally, it follows a rather evolutionary progress rather than a revolutionary one.

The 1.5 TDCi Ambiente is the entry point into the EcoSport range, but it boasts an appreciably high and very competitive level of standard equipment. On the safety front, the specification includes Electronic Stability Control, six airbags, ISOFIX child seat mounting points, rear parking sensors and manually activated 'home safe' headlamps.

Electric windows are provided all round, along with remote central locking, a perimeter alarm and power side mirrors. A six-speaker Ford audio system is provided, linked to SYNC® with Bluetooth and voice activation, plus steering wheel audio controls. The instrument cluster also incorporates a trip computer.

Award-winning engine

The Trend series introduces the multiple award-winning 1.0 EcoBoost engine, with the choice of a six-speed manual or automatic

transmission. Over and above all the offerings of the Ambiente series, this model gains Hill Launch Assist and Roll Stability Control, black roof rails, front and rear fog lamps, LED daytime running lamps and sporty gunmetal grey and 16-inch alloy wheels.

Interior appointments are also stepped up a notch and in addition to SYNC®3, there is a 6.5-inch colour touchscreen, Bluetooth and voice control, as well as two USB ports with charging and multimedia functionality. Safety additions include a driver's knee airbag, powered child door locks, a That-cham alarm with double dead-locking and an extra 12-volt power point at the rear.

In line with its range-topping status, the EcoSport Titanium is exceptionally well-appointed. Externally it is distinguished by striking 17-inch alloy wheels, silver roof rails, LED daytime running lights, plus automatic headlight activation, 'home safe' lighting and rain-sensing wipers.

Access to the cabin is by means of a remote key and keyless push-button start, with the added convenience of global remote-operated opening and closing of the windows. The driver and passengers are cosseted in luxurious leather seats with leather trim also used on the steering wheel. The cabin ambience can be adjusted to suit the occupants' moods, with upmarket interior LED lighting.

Driving convenience is enhanced through the provision of an auto-dimming rearview mirror, electronic climate control, cruise control with adjustable speed limiter, the fully featured SYNC®3 with navigation system incorporating a large eight-inch full-colour touchscreen, and a Ford audio system with seven high-end speakers.

With fuel prices increasing every month, many folks would be looking at downsizing. If you happen to be looking for an affordable, trendy vehicle with an active lifestyle image, make a turn at your local Ford dealership. ●



| Engine | 1.5 TDCi | 1.0 T |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Fuel | (Diesel) | (Petrol) |
| Power | 74kW @ 3 750rpm | 92kW @ 6 000rpm |
| Gears | 5 Forward | 6 Forward |
| 0–100km/h | 14.5secs | 12.7secs |
| Fuel consumption | 5.5l/100km | 6.5 and 7.5l/100km |
| Service plan | 4 year/60 000km | 4 year/60 000km |
| Roadside assistance | Yes | Yes |

Festive fashion

If you are looking for some festive fashion that won't break the bank, look no further. We have a selection of items that will be perfect for your own wardrobe or as a gift for family and friends.



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4



5

- 1 Golf shirts are perfect-smart-casual wear for summer, like this Soviet short-sleeve, slim-fit pique golfer, **R279**.
- 2 H&M has a brand-new collection which is available in store now, Moschino [tv] H&M collection t-shirt, **R429**.
- 3 Miss Maxi creates contemporary affordable accessories. This PU strap chocolate brown watch from Zando.co.za is a great gift option, **R299**.
- 4 Choose from a range of trendy tees like this Nike Icon Futura Carbon Heather Obsidian t-shirt, **R279**.
- 5 Keep the sun at bay with this Puma sport-style black cap, **R199**.



6



8

- 6 Trendy tees are the way to go, Moschino [tv] H&M collection t-shirt, H&M, **R329.**
- 7 This G Couture pearl-button beach top is perfect for a day at the beach, **R189.**
- 8 Accessorise your smart or casual outfit with this happy floral yellow scarf, New Look, Zando.co.za, **R189.**
- 9 You can never go wrong with jewellery for that perfect Christmas stocking filler. This pack of three pearl and tassel sets from Queenspark is beautiful, **R119.**
- 10 This lightweight emerald tunic dress is just adorable and easy to wear, Utopia, Zando.co.za, **R199.**



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10

From Greyton to McGregor

Where to start? That is the question in my head as I try to unpack an incredible hike through nature's finest scenery. It started off ordinarily enough, driving through the quaint little town of Greyton, in the Western Cape, looking for a place to park our car and head out on an overnight adventure.

After a quick coffee at one of the local restaurants and a reassessment of our departure point, it is with some trepidation that we find shade near a structure which seems to resemble the start of some hiking trails and set off on quite a rapid ascent.

It's not long before we reach a summit and the path turns us back in the direction from which we came. Some out of breath mutterings among the group

suggest that we are not entirely sure if we are on the correct trail. This is confirmed as our initial undulating trail spits us out, near our car but at the start of Greyton national park situated at the bottom of Narina street. This short up and down detour would prepare us well for what lay ahead.

It certainly is not the flattest hike and some degree of fitness is strongly encouraged as you make your way along the Boesmansklou Trail, which winds its way through the Rivierseind Mountains that separate the two villages of Greyton and McGregor.

Magnificent viewpoint

The early jeep track leads you up towards a magnificent viewpoint called Breakfast Rock. Aptly named, the breakfast snacks were passed around as we took some time to appreciate the hard work it had taken to get to this point.

It's well worth taking a breather here as the uphill battle continues all the way to signage indicating the "Boesmansklou Hiking Trail". About 7km in marks the beginning of your decent into a world of beautiful Cape Fynbos wildflowers, steep

gorges and tranquil rock pools. Of course, the birdlife is exquisite and if you are quiet and lucky enough, you may catch sight of some wild animals like duiker, grey rhebuck, klipspringer, baboon, dassie, spotted genet and leopards.

On a hot summer's day, the refreshing sound of a waterfall is too good to resist and even though the legs are weary there seems to be a certain freshness among the group as the pace quickens down a staircase that has been crafted into the mountainside. The water is cold and offers us the opportunity to refill our low supplies of water. Some in the group opt to fully immerse themselves in the water as many of the aches and pains from the day's travels cease to exist in this moment of paradise.

Luscious paradise

The top pool can get very busy as many hikers make their way down for a lunch-time stop, but this luscious paradise extends further downriver into multiple other pools. If you are looking for a bit more privacy, it is well worth making your way downstream to a place where others would not even know you were sitting.





The waterfall stop marks 9km into the walk leaving just 5km to complete the 14km trail. However, this is where the trail really begins to feel like you are in the middle of the mountains as single tracks meander along the river and through some overgrown sections.

In the quietness of our footsteps it is evident that the birdlife is thriving as different calls echo through the valley. We reach a small overhanging cave which would offer another great rest point, but knowing we are close to the finish we push on, ignoring the last offer of shade.

Final destination

In hindsight this was a mistake, as suddenly the path shoots vertically as we ascend out of the valley to the huts silhouetted into the mountain peaks. It is only 1km, but without a doubt the toughest kilometre we have faced today. As a group we are defeated just a few hundred metres from our final destination.

Heaving oxygen into our lungs we regroup slowly and trudge the final few steps to what would be home for the night.

Die Galg is a group of huts run by Barry and his wife Ruth Oosthuizen. They offer all the amenities one might need for an overnight stay. We are particularly happy that we did not need to carry any bedding or food, although on this scorching day as we clambered up the final steps we were concerned that we had not ordered enough liquid refreshments. Fortunately, Ruth is accommodating. She has been doing the shopping for hikers for many years and spotted this flaw in our order, so when we opened the fridge on arrival there were

many sighs of relief.

Starting the hike before 8am meant a 3pm arrival and we now had the rest of the day to spend around the pool, retelling tales from the day. Thousands of sugar birds jostle for position on the brightly coloured flowers which are farmed around the huts and it is these sounds and the crackling of firewood that we enjoy as the sun sets over a beautiful day in the mountains. Tomorrow we would do it all again in reverse. ●

For more information call

028 254 9414/9564 or

email: info@greytontourism.com.

You will require a hiking permit which can be bought at the Greyton Tourism office.



'Tis the season *to be gifting*

Are you scratching your head trying to figure out what gifts to get your friends and family this holiday season? Well, let us take the stress off your shoulders with these amazing gift options for mom, dad and the kids that won't break the bank.

Gifts for home

1. Jo Malone London Peony & Blush suede home candle, **R565.**
2. Present Time Stripes vase glass, **R349.**
3. Humble & Mash oil and vinegar pourer, **R129.**



Gifts for her

4. The Body Shop almond milk and honey gift set, **R510.**
5. Aldo Prianna hoop earrings, **R149.**
6. Nike gym tote, **R499.**

Gifts for him

7. Happy Socks gift box, **R499.**
8. Quicksilver vintage wallet, **R299.**
9. Philips aquatouch wet and dry electric shaver, **R559.**

Gifts for kids

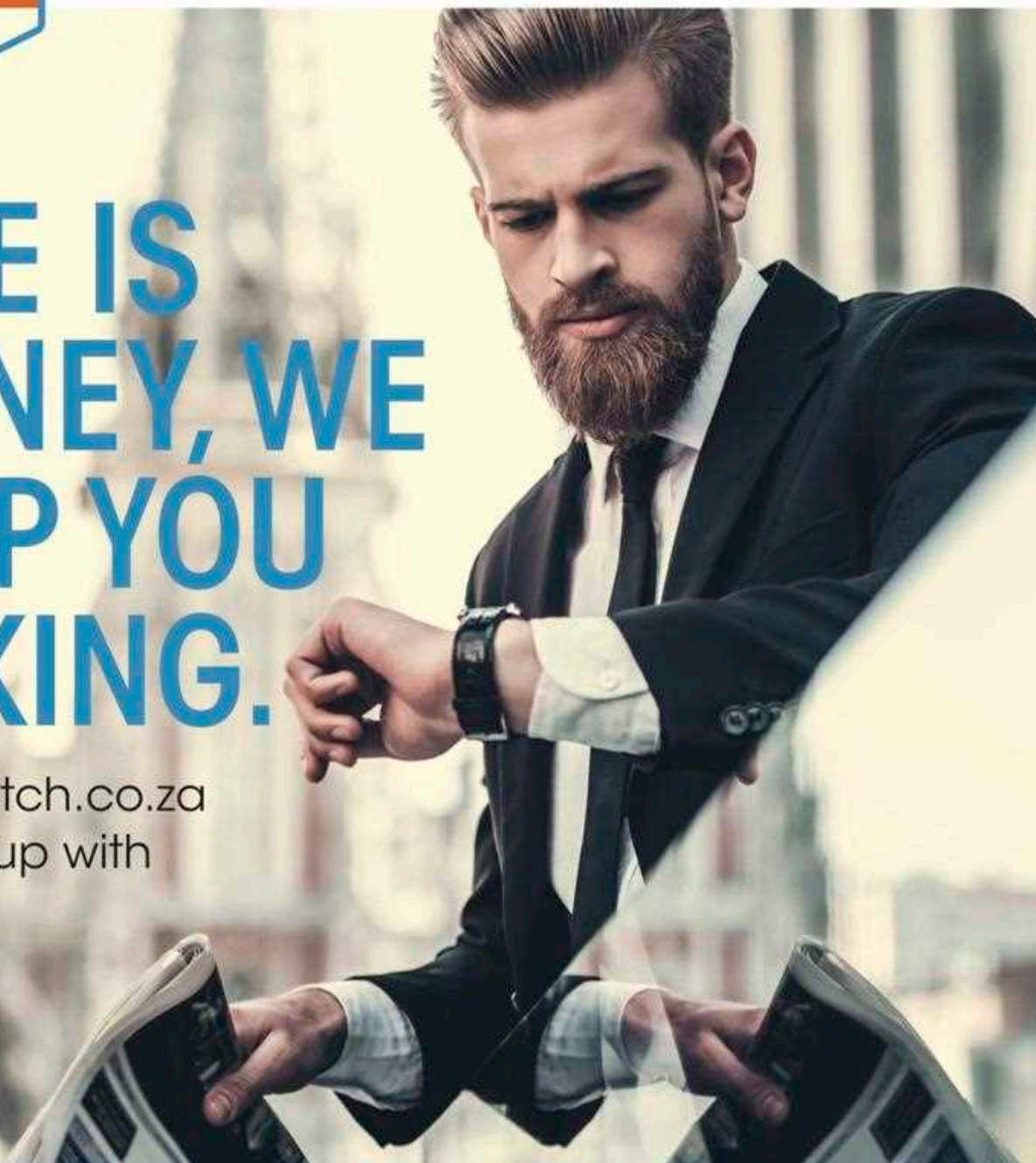
10. Paw Patrol wallet and watch set, **R139.**
11. Typo shower speaker, **R299.**
12. PS4 FIFA 19 game, **R999.**





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