

PublicSector MANAGER

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THE MAGAZINE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION-MAKERS DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

Not in our name!

Public service roots out corruption

Fighting HIV/AIDS

Women empowerment a valuable weapon



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**government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

No place to hide for corrupt public servants

The fight against corruption is one of the state's major priorities.

We all know that corruption in both the private and public sectors negates efforts to build a better South Africa for all.

It destroys trust in the country, deters investors, diverts funds meant for upliftment programmes, and hampers efforts to deliver effective services to people.

We also know that corruption in the public sector is perceived as rife.

What needs emphasising as the world marked International Anti-Corruption Day, which was commemorated on 9 December, is the decisive measures government has taken to combat corruption.

We all agree that COVID-19-related corruption is an outrage. With many lives devastated by the pandemic, every cent available should be effec-

tively spent. Government emphasised this sentiment by acting swiftly against perpetrators who took advantage of our fight against COVID-19.

A Fusion Centre was established to foster collaboration among nine law enforcement agencies, and this resulted in 196 criminal cases and the recovery of more than R600 million in public money.

By August 2021, the Special Investigating Unit had referred cases worth R1.4 billion to the Special Tribunal to have contracts set aside and recover lost funds.

In addition, 148 individuals and entities were referred to the National Prosecuting Authority for possible criminal action, 127 government officials were referred for disciplinary action and three political office bearers for executive action.

Government's decision to publish details of all

COVID-19 procurement contracts online set a precedent for transparency in public procurement.

Public servants doing business with government have also been outed.

Seventeen priority cases involving public servants getting government contracts after being listed as suppliers on the Central Supplier Database were referred for investigation and in one, legal proceedings are underway.

In September, government launched an ethics and integrity unit to help public bodies institute disciplinary proceedings in cases of misconduct. The unit will also do lifestyle audits of public service employees and investigate unexplained wealth.

While government is doing its bit in the fight against corruption, I urge you to examine what you, as an individual public servant, are doing to positively contribute in fighting this scourge.



Mondli Gungubele
Minister in The Presidency

Overlooking unethical behaviour in our departments and remaining silent while we are aware of our colleagues' corrupt activities make us complicit.

If you are tempted to sacrifice service to the public for your own greed, I urge to rethink your intended course of action. Your first priority should be the people of this country, not your pockets. Corruption does not pay; all it does is take away services from those who need it the most.

Working together, we can rid the public service of self-serving people and help meet the National Anti-Corruption Strategy's commitment to substantially reduce corruption by

COVID-19

**Help prevent the spread of
respiratory diseases like COVID-19**



**Wash your hands often with soap
and water for at least 20 seconds.**

COVID-19 Hotline: 0800 029 999



health

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Health
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A new HIV/AIDS narrative

World AIDS Day 2021 was commemorated on 1 December under the national theme 'Working together to end inequalities, AIDS, TB and COVID-19: Get tested. Get vaccinated. Adhere to treatment.'

With the battle against HIV/AIDS taking a back-seat to the COVID-19 crisis since March 2020, both the message and the call to action encapsulated in this theme are apt.

Despite the immediacy and novelty of COVID-19, it is time to recommit as a nation to defeating HIV/AIDS.

According to Statistics South Africa's Mid-year Population Estimates, the number of people living with HIV in the country is estimated to be 8.2 million. Yet protecting ourselves against the disease mainly involves avoiding unprotected sex and shared needles.

The HIV virus can be transmitted through unprotected sex, shared nee-

dles, non-sterile operating theatres, coming into contact with the blood of an infected person or even, in rare cases, through blood transfusions.

You cannot become infected through ordinary day-to-day contact, such as kissing, hugging, shaking hands, or sharing personal objects, food or water. So unlike COVID-19, preventing the spread of HIV is largely within the power of most of us.

Despite our unacceptably high HIV infection rate, South Africa has earned international respect for the way we have grown our treatment programme into the largest in the world, with five million people on antiretroviral therapy.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown our HIV/AIDS efforts slightly off course, with the lockdown resulting in fewer people being tested and collecting their medication.

A multisectoral Catch-

Up Plan Task Team has now been established to determine how HIV programmes can effectively function during the COVID-19 pandemic. The task team will look at ways to encourage people to get tested for HIV, start on antiretroviral treatment, or continue with their treatment, even during COVID-19 waves.

Another positive development was the launch of the South African National Aids Council Private Sector Forum in June. This will bolster the work done by the Council, by officially including the private sector.

Public servants are by no means immune to HIV/AIDS. I urge all of you to ensure you strive for a healthy lifestyle. We should be leading by example in the fight against HIV/AIDS by practicing and preaching safe sex, and becoming aware of our HIV status by getting tested.



**Phumla Williams,
GCIS Director-General**

It is also our responsibility to educate our communities and families about HIV/AIDS, stressing that it is not a death sentence and can be effectively managed through treatment.

I call on you to play your part in the fight against HIV/AIDS by arming yourselves with the necessary information about this pandemic and spreading the message that we can beat it.

Individual actions have huge power behind them – the power to keep you safe and change South Africa's HIV/AIDS narrative.

WHAT WOULD PEOPLE HAVE SAID?



Police: 10111
Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150
Childline: 0800 055 555

There is no excuse for abuse.
People can only help if they know.
TELL SOMEONE.

Violence and abuse are poison to society. Let's make it stop.



government
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No excuse for GBV

If a nation's character can be judged by how it treats women and children, then we are falling desperately short.

The latest crime statistics released by the South African Police Service (SAPS) show an increase in rapes, domestic violence, and, perhaps most worryingly, in child murders.

Between July and September 2021, 9 556 people, most of whom were women, were raped. This is 7% more than in the previous reporting period.

Of the nearly 73 000 assault cases reported during this period, more than 13 000 were domestic violence-related. The rate of child murders has climbed by nearly a third compared to the previous reporting period.

We have said before that the violence perpetrated by men against women is the second pandemic that our country must confront, and like the COVID-19 pandemic it can be overcome if we all work together.

As government, we have a duty and respon-

sibility to devote the necessary resources to combat crimes of gender-based violence (GBV).

Since the launch of the National Strategic Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence and Femicide (NSP) in 2020, there have been a several interventions to respond to GBV.

This includes far-reaching legislative reform, support to survivors through the provision of evidence kits at police stations and psycho-social services, the establishment of a Gender-Based Violence

and Femicide Fund and supporting the network of Thuthuzela and Khuseleka Care Centres.

The SAPS has indicated we are making progress in reducing the significant backlogs in DNA analysis, which is crucial to securing justice for survivors of sex crimes.

The SAPS also operates 134 GBV desks at police stations around the country and is in the process of establishing more.

GBV is a problem of male violence. It is predominantly men who are rapists. It is mainly men

who are perpetrators of domestic violence.

Because it is men who are the main perpetrators, it should be men taking the lead in speaking out and reporting GBV, in raising awareness, in peer education and in prevention efforts.

It should be men in positions of authority in our educational system, whether as school principals, educators or lecturers, who should be making schools and places of higher learning safe spaces for female learners and students, and never, ever abusing their position of authority to demand sexual favours.

Men should also be playing a more formative and present role in their families, particularly in raising their sons to exhibit healthy, positive masculinity that is respectful of women and children.

Communities and community organisations must work with government to implement interventions that redefine masculinity so that we raise men with

empathy, tolerance and respect.

Just as ending GBV cannot be the state's responsibility alone, the onus cannot be on women and children to end the shocking levels of violence and abuse being visited upon them.

South African men need to play a greater role in preventing GBV. They need to understand what constitutes GBV, especially sexual violence.

The latest crime statistics show nearly 4 000 people were raped in their homes or that of the perpetrator, and in 400 reported rape cases the victim and perpetrator had a relationship. This suggests that some men do not understand that sexual activity without explicit consent is a crime.

Men must respect their wives and girlfriends and understand that being in an intimate partner relationship is never a justification for domestic violence.

If each man gathers two men and the three pledge to never rape a



woman, never lay a hand on a woman and hold each other accountable to this pledge, we can start to seriously tackle GBV in our country.

It is not enough to intervene only once perpetrators have entered the criminal justice system. We have to prevent GBV before it happens.

I call on all South African men, young and old, city dwellers and rural dwellers, modernists and traditionalists, married and unmarried, to be part of the prevention

efforts that are sorely needed in homes and in our communities.

By refusing to condone violence against women and children, by not being party to it yourself and by reporting such acts, you are setting an example to your fellow men, especially to young men and boys.

You will be sending a clear sign that neither kinship, friendship or loyalty can be an excuse for not standing up for the rights of women and children.

Not in my name, says the public service

Government Ministers, law enforcement agencies and public servants have emphasised their support to the country's anti-corruption drive and pledged to speak out against corruption during recent International Anti-Corruption Day commemorations.

Minister in The Presidency Mondli Gungubele voiced his support for whistle-blowers saying their importance in the fight against corruption cannot be underestimated.

The Minister participated in a picket at the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) head office in Tshwane to commemorate International Anti-Corruption Day.

"I want to express our unwavering commitment to the protection of whistle-blowers and

also our preparedness to deal with our weaknesses where they exist because without [whistle-blowers] the struggle against corruption is going to be a very long journey.

"I call upon [whistle-blowers] to not stop their bravery and to continue to advise on what are the weaknesses in the machinery to protect whistle-blowers," he said.

Minister Gungubele added that corruption undermines service delivery.

"It undermines the ability of investors to actually invest in this country, make a profit, create opportunities, absorb employment and also create opportunities to ensure that there is revenue that comes to the state so that the state can use that money to take care of the vulnerable. It is the worst crime against humanity," he said.

Public servants

GCIS Director-General Phumla Williams called on public servants to act against those who perpetrate corrupt acts and to guard themselves from participating in it.

"We tend to talk about corruption in big projects, in big tenders, but corruption starts with small acts, [such as] not opening an office when you are supposed to open it to serve the people, [and] wanting to be paid a bribe to do what you are supposed to do," she said.

Williams, who was also joined by GCIS staff at the picket, added that although there remains some in the public service who do wrong, most public servants do their duties with integrity.

"A lot of public servants are honest and a lot of public servants know what is expected of them.

That's what we are raising, all is not lost," she said.

Special Investigating Unit Head Advocate Andy Mothibi, who also participated in the picket, reiterated the unit's stance on taking on corruption investigations in the public service.

"Today we are raising up the heat as we continue to investigate [corruption].

"We must all gear up to fight the scourge of corruption and root it out wherever it rears its head. When we find evidence, it doesn't matter who you are, we investigate the allegations without fear, favour or prejudice," Mothibi said.

Defining struggle

Addressing the Public Service Commission's International Anti-Corruption Day commemoration, Public Service and



GCIS staff take a stand against corruption by participating in a picket on World Anti-Corruption Day.

Administration Minister Ayanda Dlodlo said the fight against corruption is one of the “most defining struggles” the country will face.

She emphasised that good ethics, integrity and commitment is desperately needed in the battle against corruption.

“As a country we successfully fought Apartheid. Now is the time to stand together to fight corruption as this is plausibly one of the most defining struggles of our time. It is a priority fight precisely because there

is far too much at stake while both developing and developed countries are battling with this scourge,” she said.

The Minister said fighting corruption will take a concerted effort not only from government but also from civil society, business and the citizenry.

“Fighting corruption is not a simple task. It is a fight that concerns everyone and requires everyone’s involvement to prevent its manifestation or to act decisively to wrongdoing.

“It calls not just for the

dedication of independent anti-corruption [bodies] in preventing, detecting and holding corrupt officials accountable, but also by the active involvement of citizens by saying no to corruption, not turning a blind eye and demanding transparency and accountability from those they vote into public office,” she said.

Exposing corruption

The Minister hailed public servants who have and are exposing corruption in their workplaces.

“I want to unequivocally and openly state that I support you. I regard you as heroes and heroines of the struggle against corruption. If it were not for whistle-blowers, we as a country would not have known about the level of rot facing us until it would have been too late,” she added.

“I urge those in leadership positions to act ethically at all times, [and] create an environment where everyone will know that ethical conduct is expected,” said the Minister.

PSC cracks the whip on corruption

Fighting corruption in the public service remains a government priority and the Public Service Commission (PSC) is contributing to the fight through its National Anti-Corruption Hotline.

Public servants suspected of corrupt activity can be reported via the hotline.

In addition, the PSC has revealed that soon the fight against corruption

will include lifestyle audits for public servants.

National Anti-Corruption Hotline

The National Anti-Corruption Hotline was launched by the PSC in 2004 and since then, more than 100 000 calls reporting allegations of corruption and maladministration have been received.

These calls by whistle-

blowers have resulted in 24 035 cases of corruption, fraud and other crimes being investigated, says Public Service Commissioner Michael Seloane, who oversees the commission's work. In the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year alone, 337 cases were reported via the hotline.

Thirty-five of these involve appointment and procurement irregulari-

ties that are being investigated by the PSC.

The remaining cases were referred to other government departments or law enforcement agencies for investigation. The Reconstruction and Development Programme's (RDP) housing, tender and social grant irregularities are among the most common allegations made.

"During the lockdown



we received a lot of tip-offs through email. We also have an automatic message recording system for those who wish to call our hotline after hours,” Seloane says.

He adds that since the lowering of lockdown levels, there has been a steady increase in the reporting of social grant-related fraud, especially Social Relief of Distress Grants.

What happens after a tip-off is made?

Seloane says when a case is reported via the hotline, early resolution officers check that all the relevant information is provided. This includes the details of who did what, when the alleged act took place, and why.

He says if wrongdoing is found – be it procurement and appointment irregularities, bribery, RDP housing-related corruption, social grant fraud, illegal migration,

assault, theft or fraud – the PSC either recommends remedial action to the relevant department or refers the case to the Hawks, South African Police Service or Anti-Corruption Task Team for further investigation.

Cases the PSC refers to departments for investigation, include:

- Public servants doing extra work for money without consent from departments;
- Undeclared conflicts of interests; and
- Unethical behavior.

Seloane says the PSC gives government departments 60 days to investigate and close a case.

The department then informs the PSC of its findings. “If we are happy with the steps taken by the department, we will close the case, but if we are not satisfied, we revert to them with our areas of concern,” he says.

Anonymity guaranteed

Whistle-blowers who report cases to the PSC hotline are assured protection if they want to remain anonymous, says Seloane. He explains that early resolution officers have been trained to ensure that a whistle-blower's identity remains protected.

Seloane says South Africans must report corruption because it steals from the poor and stops development, which prevents the country from moving forward.

Lifestyle audits

To further curb corruption in the public service, lifestyle audits will soon be introduced to strengthen the existing financial disclosure framework that helps determine conflict of interest.

The then Minister of Public Service and Administration Senzo Mchunu approved a

'Guide to Implement Lifestyle Audits in the Public Service' at the start of the financial year.

“The lifestyle audits in the public service will commence in February 2022,” says Seloane.

Lifestyle audits will provide reassurance that the living standards of public servants are in line with their declared financial incomes, he explains.

“As part of ensuring that we do not become a failed state, we have the responsibility to ensure that public servants live according to their reported incomes.”

Seloane says that a lifestyle audit does not question people's rights to wealth, as there are public servants who could have acquired their wealth through honest means.

“The PSC will be the first to undertake lifestyle audits of all its commissioners and employees to lead by example,” he says.

Contact the National Anti-Corruption Hotline at 0800 701 701. You can also send tip-offs via email: integrity@publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za

Fusion Centre

fights corruption

In a clear indication that corruption doesn't pay, state agencies that collectively make up the Fusion Centre, have closed in on those involved in corruption relating to COVID-19 and recovered millions of rands.

President Cyril Ramaphosa established the Fusion Centre in 2020, to strengthen the efforts among law enforcement agencies to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute COVID-19-related corruption.

The centre brings together the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Hawks, Crime Intelligence, the South African Police Service (SAPS) Detective Service, the South African Revenue Service (SARS), the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) and the State Security Agency.

The Fusion Centre

integrates information for analysis, focuses on risk detection, and enables a multi-disciplinary, coordinated approach by law enforcement entities to ensure expedited investigation, prosecution and recovery of assets.

"The Fusion Centre has made recoveries through SARS, the NPA's Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) and the SIU to the value of R445 million," says Advocate Lebo Baloyi, a Special Director of Public Prosecutions at the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit of the NPA.

About R167 million has been recovered in relation to unlawful payments to non-qualifying employees by the Unemployment Insurance Fund through the Temporary Employment Relief Scheme, which was introduced by the President to cushion the economic hardship created by COVID-19.

Explaining the role of the NPA in the Fusion

Centre, Baloyi says the National Prosecuting Service of the NPA is responsible for guiding SAPS criminal investigations of Fusion Centre cases, and conducting the criminal prosecutions arising from these investigations.

The role of the AFU is to recover the proceeds of unlawful activities in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act.

"This is to ensure that no persons benefit from crime," she says.

The Fusion Centre is looking into 426 COVID-19-related cases.

"A total of 196 of these are criminal cases, and 230 are reported incidents emanating from the media, whistle blowers and other sources."

With regard to the criminal cases, 34 cases are in court. These cases involve 58 individuals and 17 legal entities, adds Baloyi.

Sixteen criminal cases have already been finalised, with 11 entities and

four individuals found guilty.

Of the 230 incidents, 48 are now closed and 182 are under investigation.

Baloyi says public servants have a duty to say no to corruption, to name and shame those involved in criminal activities, and to cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation of corruption-related activities.

She adds that public servants must work with law enforcement to address all illicit activities associated with government's COVID-19 relief.

"We must all do our part in the endeavour to fight corruption. Containment interventions will assist in the speedy finalisation of the investigations, and the swift enrolment of cases in court," says Baloyi.

If you are aware of any corruption-related activities, you can email the SIU on info@siu.org.za or call the hotline at 0860 748 748.

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Women empowerment key in fight against HIV/AIDS

Despite all the strides made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the country continues to suffer setbacks in human progress.

According to Deputy President David Mabuza, these setbacks include teenage pregnancy; Gender-Based Violence

and Femicide (GBVF); stigmatisation of those who are HIV positive; killings in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual community; ritual killings; and continued hesitancy to take the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) vaccine.

He was speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) during the commemoration of World AIDS Day in Xikundu Village in Limpopo recently, which was marked under the theme 'Working Together to End Inequalities, AIDS, TB and COVID-19. Get Tested. Get Vaccinated. Adhere to Treatment.'

Deputy President Mabuza said the theme was inspired by government's determination to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and its commitment to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, specifically the goal on good health and well-being of the people.

He added that the theme was a call to encourage all South Africans to get tested and become aware of our

health status, for HIV, TB, COVID-19 and non-communicable diseases.

"It is also a call for treatment, care and support that is free from stigma and discrimination for all those who test positive for any of the diseases [and virus] more especially HIV and TB. Our fight is real for TB is a curable disease, and HIV is a manageable chronic condition."

The Deputy President said until discrimination against people living with HIV is curbed, there will continue to be serious barriers to HIV and TB testing, prevention, access to treatment, care and the mitigation of the impact of these epidemics.

New infections

Citing a United Nations report, he said five out of six new infections



Deputy President David Mabuza addresses an event commemorating World AIDS Day in Limpopo.

“As we battle the COVID-19 pandemic, let us not let our guard down in the fight against HIV, TB and sexually transmitted infections as these equally continue to claim many lives daily.”

in Sub-Saharan Africa were among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19, while teenage girls and young women between the ages of 15 and 24 account for 24% of HIV infections despite them representing 10% of the population.

In addition, AIDS remains the leading cause of death for adolescent girls and women aged between 15 and 49 years.

It is for this reason that SANAC has been holding a series of engagements with various leaders from all sectors of life to address structural barriers and social determinants of the spread of HIV and AIDS.

He said government will also strengthen its role in the integrated response to the dual epidemics of

HIV and TB as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

This includes upscaling interventions to end HIV as a public health threat by the year 2030.

“Furthermore, we have agreed to work together in addressing GBVF and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS.”

This also means regulating the licenses for liquor outlets in communities and campaigning for the elimination of drugs and substance abuse to ensure children are freed from this scourge.

Empowering women and girls

Deputy President Mabuza also spoke out against the

high number of teenage pregnancies in the country.

He described the Statistics South Africa report that indicated that more than 34 000 teenage girls gave birth in 2020, of which 688 were younger than 10 years of age, as concerning and a source of shame.

“We cannot even begin to characterise this as teenage pregnancy, but acts of crime that need to be prosecuted. We must stand up against this social ill and call on law enforcement agencies to track these violations.”

AIDS-related deaths

The Deputy President also reflected on those who have succumbed to AIDS over the years.

He noted that 40 years since the first case of HIV/AIDS was reported, 75 million people in the world have become infected with HIV and over eight million of these cases are in South Africa.

According to Thembisa, which is a mathemati-

cal model of the HIV epidemic in South Africa, it is estimated that over 3.6 million people in the country lost their lives due to AIDS-related illnesses in the period between 1985 and 2020.

Despite the vast knowledge of the disease, he said HIV deaths remain high in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the region accounting for more than half of the infections in the world.

“As we battle the COVID-19 pandemic, let us not let our guard down in the fight against HIV, TB and sexually transmitted infections as these equally continue to claim many lives daily.”

He urged South Africans to get tested and adhere to treatment.

“When those who have tested positive take the antiretroviral treatment properly, it improves quality of life ensuring that one enjoys a lifespan that is similar to that of an HIV negative person, especially if you start treatment early enough,” said the Deputy President.

DG Phindile Baleni

– a symbol of public service excellence

Director-General (DG) in The Presidency and Secretary of Cabinet, Phindile Baleni, is the most senior public servant in government.

Her appointment to the role in April 2021 makes her the first female to occupy this position. She replaced Dr Cassius Lubisi who held the position since November 2010.

Baleni, who was previously DG in the Office of Gauteng Premier from 2015, has a long, rich history in the public service.

She completed BProc and LLB degrees from the University of Witwatersrand, and after admission as an attorney and conveyancer, she served as legal adviser to the then MEC for Housing and Local Government in Gauteng from 1994 to 1996.

In 1996, she joined the City of Johannesburg



**Director-General
in The Presidency
Phindile Baleni.**

where she played a strategic role in strategic planning, high-level project management and the development of local-government policy.

Prior to becoming DG in the Gauteng Premier's Office, she served as CEO of state-owned entity Electricity Distribution Industry Holdings. She has also

been at the helm of the National Energy Regulator of South Africa as CEO.

She has served on several Boards of Directors, including the Boards of the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Service to others

Born and raised in Gauteng, Baleni says service to others is an ethos she was raised with.

"I was particularly drawn to government at the dawn of democracy as the task of reconstruction and development of South African society was very attractive and hard to resist.

"The opportunity to contribute to building a new country, starting with a brand new human rights-based Constitution

was just too precious and a historical duty not to be missed,” Baleni explains.

She adds that the Xitsonga saying, Mintirho ya vulavula, which loosely translated means 'work hard and let your work speak for you', resonates with her.

“My approach to the various roles that I have played, and positions I have held throughout my professional career, including my school days, has been fuelled by a determination to fulfil what I’m tasked to the very best of my ability, to create impactful and positive change that moves us forward as humanity.

“Specifically at work, I have always raised my hand to do projects in addition to my regular job and in so doing deliberately immerse myself in the detail of any assignment to deepen my knowledge and expertise.”

Breaking the glass ceiling

As the first woman to be appointed DG in

The Presidency, Baleni believes her appointment is a step in the right direction.

She says that now, more than ever before, government’s commitment to women’s economic inclusion has intensified.

“The economic exclusion and discrimination of women and girls is not only historically entrenched but is persistent, systemic and structural.

“Transforming such a deeply rooted phenomenon demands vigorous intervention to disassemble. Black women, particularly of our country, have had to contend with cross-cutting historical injustice of racism as well as sexism,” Baleni notes.

Women’s lack of access to financial services in Africa is a notable challenge that disproportionately affects poorer women working in the informal sector, she adds.

“In a world that is rapidly digitising, this means there are people who are being left behind and rendered vulnerable.”

She highlights that despite government’s efforts to address these gender inequalities and exclusions, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed company ownership index still shows that black women in particular are lagging behind, as the majority ownership rests in the hands of white males.

“The legacy of our past has placed them on an economic back foot where statistics still illuminate gender pay parity, unequal access to top management and leadership positions and basic employment and business opportunities.”

Despite the challenges, she believes government interventions to drive the economic and financial empowerment of women, and women being appointed to high ranking roles is a step in the right direction.

“Although we still have a lot of economic transformation ground to cover, I feel that with more women holding positions

of power like the position I hold, the closer we are to attaining gender equality in our lifetime,” says Baleni.

The journey ahead

Taking over from Dr Lubisi may seem like no easy feat, but Baleni says she has cemented herself in the position as not much needed to be changed.

“The role comes in the folds of being at the helm of the functioning of The Presidency as the apex of the system of government. This also includes being the Secretary of Cabinet, ensuring the optimal functioning of Cabinet and its committees, as well as being Chairperson of the Forum of South African Directors-General, amongst others.”

One of her responsibilities entails leading government-wide integration and coordination of the development and implementation of government’s mandate.

Tamara Mathebula champions gender equality

Achieving gender equality and helping create a society free from all forms of discrimination is Tamara Mathebula's long-term vision as the Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE).

The CGE has a mandate to advance gender equality in South Africa. One of its functions is the promotion of anti-discriminatory legislation, policies and laws.

People need to know that they have rights, and know when these rights are being violated, says Mathebula.

"We raise awareness about the importance of gender transformation, and address sexual harassment and bullying in the workplace. We also teach the public about the

rights of widows, widowers and domestic workers, among other groups," she explains.

This includes educating the public about the Constitution and the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act of 2000. The Act intends to prevent and prohibit unfair discrimination and harassment, to promote equality, and prevent and prohibit hate speech.

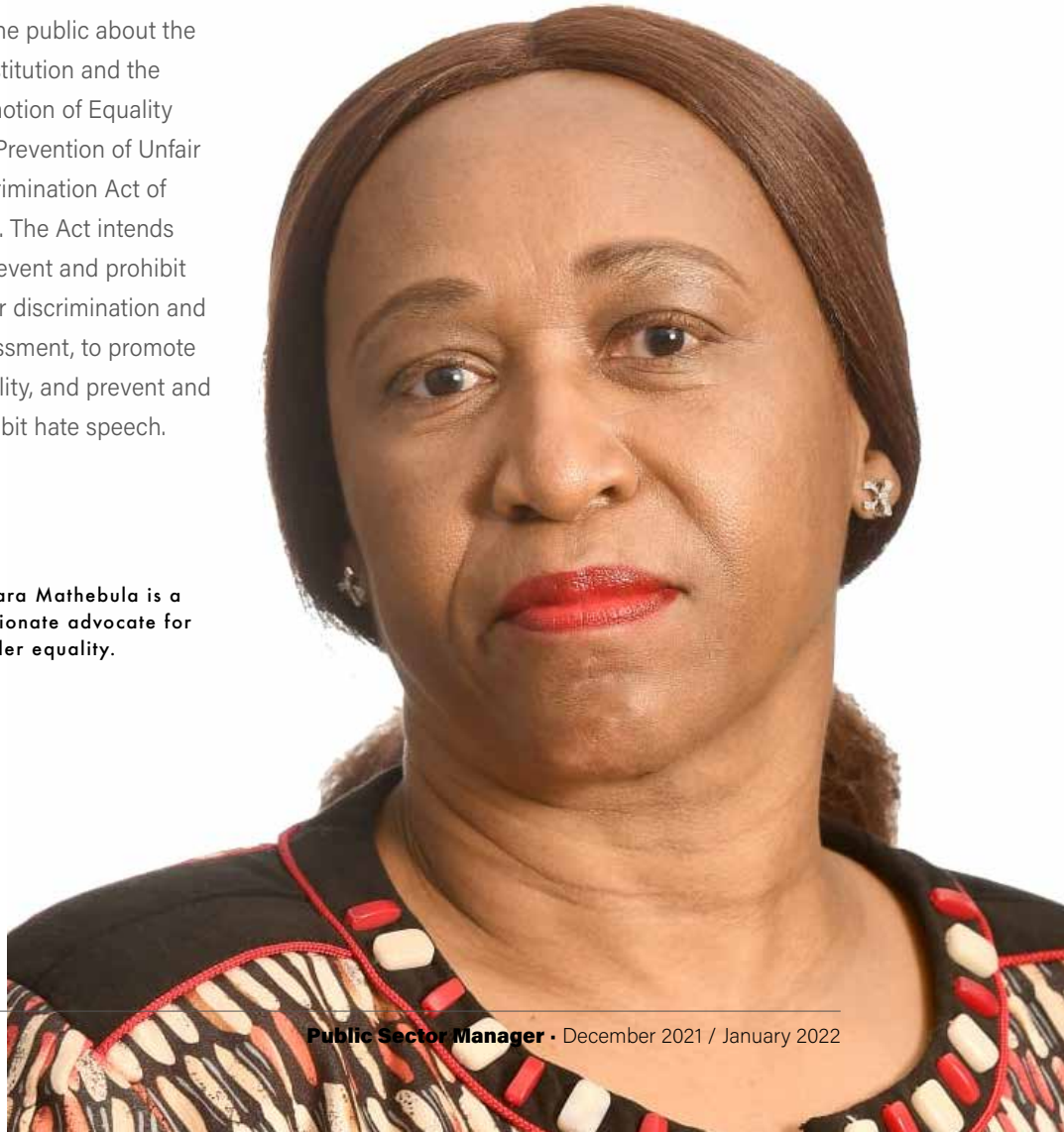
Tamara Mathebula is a passionate advocate for gender equality.

Fighting GBVF

Mathebula says the CGE also plays a role in the country's fight against

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

"We have done numerous campaigns, commu-



nity dialogues and webinars over the years to educate the citizens about the scourge of GBVF," she adds.

THE CGE has also undertaken research projects related to GBVF.

In 2016, it released a report titled 'Fighting Fire With(out) Fire,' which assessed the work of police stations in combating violence against women.

In 2020, the CGE released the 'Assessing Government's Emergency Response Action Plan on GBVF' report. It was compiled in the context of the Coronavirus Disease restrictions and identified the achievements made, and the numerous challenges that impacted on the success of the plan.

"The Commission will continue to monitor the establishment and functioning of the National Council on GBVF," she adds.

Protecting rights

Protecting the rights of

lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual and queer (LGBTIAQ+) people is also high on the commission's agenda.

It conducts monitoring visits to the areas considered hotspots for hate crimes against LGBTIAQ+ people to get a better understanding of the challenges they face.

"We partner with Gay Pride to ensure the Constitutional rights as enshrined in the Constitution are protected," says Mathebula.

The CGE has also assisted in various court cases concerning the rights of women and children.

The commission was admitted as a friend of the court in a Constitutional Court case involving the compensation of domestic workers. The court ruling resulted in domestic workers in private households now being covered under the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act.

The CGE also as-

sisted in banning the practice of testing girls' virginity before awarding education bursaries, in a bursary scheme in KwaZulu-Natal; and helped fight the cultural practice of child and forced marriage, called Ukuthwala, in the Eastern Cape.

Speak up

Mathebula encourages public servants to speak up about gender equality in their communities.

She says public servants have the power to educate people about gender equality, human and women's rights and GBVF, especially when they witness injustices.

"Public servants should shun wrongdoing and report incidents to the relevant law enforcement agencies.

"If public servants live by the Batho Pele principles and care about their neighbourhoods and families, many societal ills will be eradicated," she says.

About Mathebula

Mathebula joined the CGE as a commissioner in 2017 and was appointed deputy chairperson in February 2018. She served as the acting chairperson in 2019 and took over the reigns as chairperson in August 2019.

She holds a Master's Degree in Education (cum laude) from the Royal Melbourne Institute and is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education at the same institution. Mathebula also has a certificate in Gender and Human Rights from the University of Pretoria.

She previously worked as senior technical adviser and programme manager for gender, human rights, health, HIV and AIDS Programmes in South Africa for USAID and Irish Aid.

Prior to that, Mathebula was a gender equality, human rights and development facilitator and trainer for short courses offered by the Centre for Human Rights, and the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender at the University of Pretoria.

Auditor-General Tsakani Maluleke briefs media on audit outcomes of national, provincial departments and their entities.

Incremental improvement in audit outcomes

Auditor-General (AG) Tsakani Maluleke has called on government departments and public entities to implement and exercise more controls in the use of public funds in order to achieve cleaner audit outcomes.

According to the 2020-21 Public Finance Management Act audit outcomes general report released recently, clean audits in the public sec-

tor increased from 109 in 2019/20 to 115 this financial year.

Maluleke said the increase in clean audits demonstrates that messages of good governance coming from the AG's office are taking hold.

"The improvements are a clear indication that some auditees are listening to our messages, heeding our call and implementing the

necessary interventions to realise improvements.

"Whilst we are yet to see the progressive and sustainable improvements required to realise overall change in outcomes, we note and acknowledge the efforts of the many accounting officers and authorities that seek to instil a culture of good governance, accountability and discipline in the system," Maluleke said.

In the 2020-21 audit cycle, 679 departments and public entities were audited. The report focuses on the results of 425 audits, as there were 34 incomplete audits, which require attention.

The 48 departments and 67 public entities that obtained clean audit outcomes are responsible for 19% of the R1.9 trillion expenditure budget managed by

national and provincial governments.

Improvements

The improvement in the audit outcomes have been attributed to:

- Accounting officers, authorities and senior management being committed to, and getting directly involved in, ensuring that internal control processes were improved and the audit office's recommendations were implemented. There was also notable stability in these key positions.
- Internal controls were improved – this includes the consistent implementation of preventative controls.
- Accounting officers and authorities, executive authorities, internal audit and audit committees provided oversight, monitoring and assurance.

"If all auditees were to consistently implement these basics, the drive towards overall good governance in the public sector would be realised

sooner and be sustained in the future," Maluleke added.

According to the AG, 31 departments and state entities are actually close to achieving clean audit outcomes.

"With some extra effort they will be able to enter that desired space of clean audit outcomes. With this effort, they will be able to contribute to this impressive trend of improvement by this sixth administration," she said.

Financial health of departments

Despite the improved audit outcomes, Maluleke warned that some public institutions and departments "continue to show slow progress in the journey towards good governance".

"This is particularly concerning. Those that are still lagging behind this improvement trend [are] state-owned entities and the key service delivery departments, specifically those of health, education, housing or human settlements and public works. [Those] have the largest

impact on the lives of citizens and government's financial health," Maluleke said.

According to the AG, unauthorised expenditure in the public sector amounted to R3.21 billion in the past financial year – driven in the main by overspending.

"[In] such challenging circumstances, good financial management should be reinforced to ensure that the limited funds available are spent wisely and within budget.

"We caution that the growing trend of departments using next year's budget to pay the current year's expenses and claims adversely affected their ability to pay creditors on time, and continues to have a negative impact on service delivery."

Legal claims

According to Maluleke, legal claims against departments further decreased available budgets within departments, with provincial health departments in particular paying out at least R1.76 billion in medico-legal

claims.

"The key service delivery departments of health, education and public works have the poorest financial health of all, which affects their ability to deliver services to citizens.

"In total, these departments incurred 90% of all unauthorised expenditure and their deficits amounted to R15.65 billion. Five provincial health departments had deficits totalling R6.2 billion," Maluleke said.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure was measured at R1.72 billion with irregular expenditure increasing to at least R166 billion.

"At a time when there are limited funds available, the state cannot afford further leakages, and urgent action is required from accounting officers, the executive and oversight.

"Such expenditure, especially as it relates to procurement, is an indication that auditees do not follow supply chain laws and regulations when making procurement decisions," Maluleke said.

Health • Rural Development • Employment • Safety & Security • Education

Vuk'uzenzele

Vuk'uzenzele Print Edition Rate Card for Government Departments and Entities

Vuk'uzenzele Government Newspaper is published twice a month (one print edition, which is also available online, and one online-only edition) by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). It is a widely-read newspaper which endeavours to carry an eight-page recruitment, tender, notices and advertisement section. This section is part of the newspaper that focuses on communicating programmes and opportunities created by government and how to access these opportunities. It is a free newspaper with selected pages translated in all official languages and the majority of the print run in English. It is also available in Braille, on the GCIS website and Gov APP.



Media Info

Total Monthly Print-run	850 000 copies
Frequency	Twice a month (one print edition, which is also available online, and one online-only edition)
Distribution	Distributed in all nine provinces in rural and peri-urban areas, directly to homes and GCIS offices.

Advertising Rates

Tabloid Size	2021/22 Rate (R's)
1 Page	R 89 999.52
1/2 Page	R 46 153.60
1/4 Page	R 20 769.12
The rate per column centimeter	R 288.46

Booking and Material deadlines for Vuk'uzenzele print editions 2021/22

November 2021, Edition 1

- Booking deadline – 10 October 2021
- Delivery deadline – 15 October 2021

December 2021

- Booking deadline – 10 November 2021
- Delivery deadline – 15 November 2021

January 2022

- Booking deadline – 1 December 2021
- Delivery deadline – 5 December 2021

February 2022, Edition 2

- Booking deadline – 1 February 2022
- Delivery deadline – 5 February 2022

March 2022, Edition 1

- Booking deadline – 15 February 2022
- Delivery deadline – 20 February 2022



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Technical specifications

Full page advert size	254 mm (w) x 377 mm (h)
Half page advert size	254 mm (w) x 187 mm (h)
Quarter page advert size	125 mm (w) x 187 mm (h)
Material format (requiring layout)	Word document with logos and images separate
Material format (artwork supplied by client)	Pdf/tiff with fonts embedded
Resolution	300dpi and above
Colour	Full colour (for any other adverts) Grey scale (for recruitment adverts)

Publishing dates

Issue date	Publishing / distribution date
First edition of the month e.g. April 2022 edition 1	1st of each month
Second edition of the month e.g. April 2022 edition 2	15th of each month

Vuk'uzenzele will not be held responsible for advertisements published with incorrect closing dates. For full colour advertisements, the artwork should be designed in CMYK no RGB or pantone colours will be accepted.

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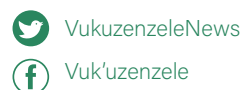
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Vaccines made in Africa, for Africans

The Omicron variant of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has thrown the spotlight on the COVID-19 vaccine shortfall in Africa, with the continent remaining the worst hit by inequitable

access to safe and effective vaccines.

However, this could be a thing of the past, as Africa forges ahead to develop its first vaccine manufacturing capacity, to ensure viable vaccine security.

In 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO), together with the South African and French governments, announced that South Africa would host Africa's COVID-19 vaccine production facil-

ity, paving the way for African companies to begin manufacturing mRNA vaccines.

The WHO, a South African consortium and partners from COVAX have been working tirelessly to



make this a reality.

The mRNA technology instructs cells to make a protein that generates an immune response in the body, producing antibodies that protect against disease, a key ingredient in Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

Speaking during a recent open forum hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), Dr Martin Friede of the WHO, said one of the biggest challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic is inequity.

"Rich countries got vaccines and the poor countries did not," he said.

Friede explained that one of the objectives of vaccine manufacturing hubs is to increase the number of companies accessing the technology needed to produce vaccines, especially in regions where there is insufficient vaccine capacity.

The South African consortium has since been set up to build a technology transfer hub, with Biovac being the first spoke; and local company Af-

rigen, which will develop the continent's first locally produced mRNA jab.

The other partners include the DSI, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the South African Medical Research Council and top local universities.

"It is really important that South Africa takes the lead on this and tries not just making copies of vaccines, but tries to make new vaccines made in Africa for Africans."

According to Friede, Afrigen will enter Phase 1 clinical trials by the end of next year, while Biovac

is expected to produce material for clinical trials in 2023.

"It is really important that South Africa takes the lead on this and tries not just making copies of vaccines, but tries to make new vaccines made in Africa for Africans. Now we can't do this without money," he added.

Crunching the numbers, he said the budget is €92 billion (approximately R1.6 trillion rands) for about five years, with more than half of that amount already raised so far.

"This is a lot of money by some people's perspectives. But it's not a lot of money when you look at how much has been spent on the pandemic."

The initiative has backing from many donors, including France, Canada, Germany, ELMA Foundation and KFW Development Bank.

Afrigen Managing Director Professor Petro Terblanche said the support from all its partners was essential for success.

She announced that the company has completed its vaccine facility suit-

able for the production of mRNA vaccines and clinical trials.

This was made possible by the company's 26-member team consisting of scientists, engineers, technologists, technicians, pharmacists and pharmacologists.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela said government was honoured that the vaccine hub for Africa is in Cape Town.

"This is a testament to the quality of South African scientific expertise and infrastructure and a vote of confidence in our country's capability for vaccine submissions."

He was hopeful that the mRNA technology will also be used to fight TB, malaria, and HIV/AIDS.

"We do not doubt that this facility will be of considerable benefit to our country, the continent and middle-income countries, and make a significant contribution to the development of essential skills and knowledge," said the Deputy Minister.

SIPs spark development in Limpopo



The Musina Ring Road, which is nearing completion, will help boost the economy.

Government's Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) are taking shape across the country, transforming towns and boosting the economy.

The eight-kilometre Musina Ring Road in Limpopo, which is nearing completion, is one of the 55 development projects that make up the SIPs. The Musina Ring Road is a single carriage-

way freeway that has three major bridges and two interchanges.

During a recent visit to Musina Ring Road, Minister in The Presidency Mondli Gungubele said once completed, the R640 million road will see trucks, cars and public transport move between South Africa and Zimbabwe much quicker.

"When this project is

complete, it will make sure that mobility on the South African side continues uninterrupted," he said.

Head of Infrastructure and Investment Office in The Presidency Kgosientso Ramokgopa said the road will make a significant contribution to the economy.

"With 61% of the country's economy carried on

the N1 and N3 national roads, the ring road will help to boost the country's economy. We are contributing towards employment through these projects," he added.

The construction of the Musina Ring Road has already created 3 500 jobs. The project is led by the Department of Transport and the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL).

Women-owned companies, local community members and about 14 small, medium and micro enterprises were subcontracted to work on the project.

Manager for SANRAL's Northern Region Progress Hlahla said R50 million was allocated to subcontractors.

SANRAL Chairperson Themba Mhambi said the road will allow the approximately 1 000 trucks travelling daily between the Beitbridge Border Post and Musina to bypass the often overcrowded small town's central business district.

Trucks travelling to and from the Beitbridge Border Post cause major



damage to the road infrastructure in the town and add to traffic congestion.

Roads in towns such as Musina are deteriorating as they are not designed

to handle heavy trucks, he added.

Mhambi explained that one way of easing congestion, while simultaneously ensuring that roads last longer, is

the construction of such ring roads.

The Beitbridge Border Post is a gateway to import capital equipment, textiles and agricultural produce from South Af-

rica, and the upgrade is expected to improve the flow of economic activity.

The Musina Ring Road project is scheduled to be completed and opened in March 2022.

What are the SIPs?

There are 55 SIPs which form part of the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

These are projects in the water and sanitation, energy, transport, digital infrastructure, agriculture and agro-processing and human settlements sectors.

The SIPs include:

- Rural Bridges 'Welisizwe' Programme;
- Rural Roads Upgrade Programme;
- Upgrading and Repair of Township Roads in Municipalities Programme;
- PV and Water Savings on Government Buildings Programme;
- Comprehensive Urban Management Programme;

- Digitising of Government Information Programme;
- Removal of Alien Vegetation and Innovative Building Materials Programme;
- National Upgrading Support Programme;
- Solar Water Initiatives Programme;
- Student Accommodation Programme;
- SA Connect Phase 1B Programme; and
- Salvokop Precinct Programme.

Ramokgopa said 19 SIPs are already in progress and are at different stages, with some already funded, some having business plans drawn up, and others under construction. The SIPs are expected to cost a total of R340 billion.



Bill to strengthen systems of learning

The Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill proposes significant changes in public schools, including making Grade R mandatory and adopting more

than one language of instruction.

Recently, Cabinet approved the submission of the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill to Parliament. The Bill

intends to amend the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996), and the Employment of Educators Act, 1998 (Act 76 of 1998).

Minister in The Presi-

dency Mondli Gungubele said the proposed amendments seek to strengthen the systems of learning in education as envisaged in the Constitution.

"The amendments, among others, give effect to universal access to two years of early childhood development; enforces accountability in school governing bodies; and clarifies admission, language and code of conduct policies," he added.

Access to education

These proposed amendments will improve access to education for all learners across the country, said Minister Gungubele.

In the Department of Basic Education's explanatory summary of the Bill, it said that the amendments provide for system improvements in terms of the admission of learners, particularly undocumented learners; and for financial and public accountability frameworks for governing bodies and provincial departments.

In addition, the Bill provides for additional regulatory powers of the Minister, enhances deci-

sion making and oversight powers of heads of departments and members of executive councils, and addresses provincial contextual needs relating to central procurement, home education and dispute resolution.

Necessary tool

During consultations with relevant stakeholders in 2020, Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga said the legislation should not be a stumbling block. "It should rather be viewed as a necessary tool to assist the sector to deal with some of the challenges at schools."

The Bill seeks to make attendance of Grade R compulsory and provides for South African Sign Language to have the status of an official language for purposes of learning at a public school.

It states that the head of department may direct a public school to adopt more than one language of instruction,

where it is practicable to do so.

The Bill also states that the code of conduct of a public school must take into account the diverse cultural beliefs, religious observances and medical circumstances of learners at the school; and provide for the inclusion of an exemption clause in the code of conduct.

It further refines the provisions relating to the possession of drugs on school premises or during school activities and to provide for conditions under which liquor may be possessed, sold or consumed on school premises or during school activities

The Bill refines the provisions relating to suspension and expulsion from public school by inserting a definition of serious misconduct, and prohibits corporal punishment and initiation practices during school activities and at hostels accommodating learners.

It also allows for the

centralised procurement of identified learning and teaching support material for public schools.

The Bill states that a member of a governing body must disclose their personal interest and declare a direct or indirect personal interest that they or their family member may have in the recruitment or employment of staff at a public school, or in the procurement of goods and services for a public school. The member of the governing body must recuse themselves from a meeting of the governing body under such circumstances.

For more information about the Bill, go to <https://www.gov.za/documents/basic-education-laws-amendment-bill>

Voice tech for all SA languages



The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is helping make information more accessible to all South Africans through its Qfrenzy Text-to-Speech (TTS) product.

The technology tool gives speakers of all 11 South African languages access to information in their mother tongue, even if they are unable to read or if they have vision challenges.

The Qfrenzy Text-to-Speech (TTS) product was developed by the

CSIR and creates human-like voices from written text.

The CSIR's research group leader for voice computing, Dr Karen Calteaux, says the software can be used on phones, computers and tablets.

In a practical sense, a person who understands Tshivenda, for instance, but is unable to read, will benefit from the system, which will 'read' the text to them in Tshivenda.

The technology is a first for the country, in that existing South African

TTS tools focus only on English and Afrikaans. Calteaux says that the Afrikaans TTS tools are largely based on Dutch, so do not necessarily get it right.

She adds that developers used speech application programming interface software to create the end-user voices. A voice is available for each of the 11 languages.

Calteaux says software development kit (SDK) technology enables an app developer who wants to integrate Qfrenzy into

their app, to obtain the necessary licensing permission from the CSIR.

Once licensed, developers of websites and other online platforms can incorporate the technology to enable visitors to listen to the information available on the site in the language in which it is written.

"The TTS system can make information more accessible to users who have reading impediments, such as poor vision," says Calteaux.

The tool has proven



Our text-to-speech system creates human-like voices from written text for the South African market.

English Candice
English Tim
English Tim DNN
Afrikaans Maryna
Afrikaans Kobus
Afrikaans Kobus DNN
isiXhosa Vuyo
isiXhosa Zoleka
isiZulu Lindiwe
isiZulu Sifiso
isiZulu Sifiso DNN
Sepedi Mmapitsi
Sepedi Tshapo
isiNdebele Banele
Sesotho Kamohelo
Setswana Lethabo
siSwati Temaswati
Tshivenda Rabelani
Xitsonga Sasekani

Version 2.0 voices, also a few DNN test voices (NEW)

non-commercial demonstration purposes only. Note that all synthesis requests are logged. This demo does not yet include extension extensions.

the text box below. The voices ending with "DNN" are our latest Deep Neural Network research voices. Click the an audio file.

Voice: English Candice

popular with eLearning app developers, who are keen to incorporate it into their own apps.

Calteaux says prior to the development and commercialisation of the Qfrenzy TTS system, a TTS product able to deliver synthetic voices in all 11 official South African languages was not available.

The technology generates synthetic speech

that is as close to human speech as possible, including articulation and accent.

"We have progressed with our research and development of deep neural network (DNN) voices to the point that this technology presents a major leap in the naturalness of the synthetic voices that employ these DNN techniques.

To advance the capabili-

ties of the Qfrenzy TTS system, Calteaux says they are working on improving the tonality of the tool, to capture the voice pitch that characterises many of South Africa's languages.

She says the system has the potential to dramatically improve communication in times of crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals can down-

load the app from the Google Play Store, and are able to choose one of 11 voices, from Candice (South African English), to Lindiwe (isiZulu), Zoleka (isiXhosa), Rabelani (Tshivenda), Kobus (Afrikaans), Mmapitsi (Sepedi), Banele (isiNdebele), Kamohelo (Sesotho), Lethabo (Setswana), Temaswati (Siswati) and Sasekani (Xitsonga).

Be sun smart this summer

Summer is here and that means South Africans need to protect their skin from the harmful effects of solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which is a risk factor for skin cancer.

Despite popular belief, even those with darker skin can get skin cancer, although they are generally less susceptible because their skin contains more natural melanin, which protects against sun damage.

"The good news is that skin cancer can be prevented by respecting the sun. At least 80% of sun-induced skin damage occurs before the age of 18 and only manifests later in life," says Lucy Balona, Head of Marketing and Communication at the Cancer Association of South Africa (Cansa).

She says it is imperative to take particular care of children in the sun, whether it is at the pool,



on the beach, at play, or at school.

"People with fair skin, especially those with red hair, moles or skin spots, as well as people with a personal or family history of skin cancer, or who play sport outdoors, work in the sun or spend a lot of time driving, are

considered high risk," she adds.

Basic safety practices

Cansa advises following these tips to stay safe in the sun:

- Use sunscreen – It is important to apply sunscreen of SPF 20

or higher 20 minutes before you go outside and re-apply at least every two hours, after towel drying, perspiring or swimming. However, the use of sunscreen is not a licence to 'bare all' in the sun. Avoid direct sunlight between 10am and 4pm, when the sun's rays are most dangerous.

- Keep babies out of direct sunlight – Their skin contains too little melanin and as such, cannot provide enough protection from the sun.
- Wear protective clothing – Wear sunglasses with a UV protection rating of UV400. Wear protective clothing and swimsuits. Use a thickly-woven fabric hat with a wide brim instead of a cap that leaves the neck and ears exposed.
- Hydrate – Drink water throughout the day and stay hydrated.

For more information on being sun smart, visit the website www.cansa.org.za,

VOOMA BEFORE THE VARIANT CATCHES UP



The WHO has designated
the new Coronavirus strain, Omicron,
first detected here in South Africa
as a variant of concern.



Get Vaccinated



Wear a Mask



Sanitise or Wash
Your Hands Often



Maintain Social
Distancing



Meet Outside
or in Well Ventilated
Spaces

Call 0800 029 999 or email info@vaccinesupport.org.za for more information.



No pre-booking
or SMS required.



Just walk in.



Bring required
identification
document

Keep it *casual*

Summer days are for casual wear – fuss free and light items that you can throw on and head out the door. We found some great, fashionable options that will work well for days spent outdoors, soaking up the sun.

Compiled by: Gilda Narsimdas



2



3



1



4



5

- 1 – The H&M holiday range brings together crisp and cool shapes with lush styling for practical outdoor and party wear, like these wide-legged pants, **R529**.
- 2 – Spice Girls singer Victoria Beckham has designed an active wear range with Reebok. It features a seamless tank can be worn casually and accessorised, Reebok, **R999**.
- 3 – Cross body bags are perfect for when you're on the go and need your hands free. Try this floral cross body bag from Polo, available from Superbalist.com, **R1 799**.
- 4 – Stay cool and look stylish in this straw, wide brim hat from Superbalist.com, **R199**.
- 5 – Put your best foot forward in these chic new designs from Steve Madden, which includes a chic sneaker with an easy tongueless design and geometrically sculpted sole, **R1 399**.

* Prices correct at the time of publishing.



6 – Actor John Boyega teamed up with H&M to design a sustainable menswear collection. The range is called Edition by John Boyega, and includes this organic cotton, Conscious t-shirt, **R259**.

7 – Pair the Edition by John Boyega t-shirt with this denim jacket made from recycled material, H&M, **R849**.

8 – Nike has created a nostalgic basketball inspired range, made from sustainable material. Try the Dri-Fit jersey R1 800 and Dri-Fit shorts **R1 500**.

9 – These Under Armour Hovr Phantom 2 sneakers are light and breathable, **R3 199**.

10 – Finish off your look with this Puma cap that will keep you cool with its perforated panels that offer air circulation, available from Superbalist.com, **R349**.



* Prices correct at the time of publishing.

Christmas cheat treats

If you're responsible for Christmas lunch this year, we've got you covered. Here are some quick, cost effective and delicious dishes that do not require hours of preparation.

Easy roast chicken

Ingredients

- 2kg whole chicken
- 1 lemon, chopped
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 1 dried bay leaf
- 1 tbsp olive oil

- Cajun spice

Directions

Preheat the oven at 200°C. Rinse the chicken, pat it dry with paper towels and place in a large

roasting pan.

Place the bay leaf, lemon and celery in the chicken cavity. Drizzle the chicken with oil and season with Cajun spice. Tie the legs together with

kitchen string and roast for an hour or until the juices run clear when thickest part of chicken is pierced with a skewer.

Rainbow pasta salad

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 3 cups dried elbow pasta
- 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 small red cabbage, chopped
- 420g can corn kernels, drained
- 2 baby gem lettuces, shredded
- 2 large tomatoes, diced
- 1 cucumber, diced
- 3/4 cup grated cheese
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup traditional mayonnaise
- 1 cup parsley leaves, chopped





- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard

Directions

Boil pasta in a large pot of saltwater until cooked.

Make the creamy mustard dressing by combining mustard, parsley, sour cream, lemon juice and mayonnaise. Season with salt and pepper and mix all together in a bowl.

Place the cabbage in a salad bowl. Top the cabbage with corn, followed by 3/4 of the pasta. Spoon over half of the dressing and then arrange the lettuce. Toss the remaining pasta, cucumber, lettuce and tomato together and add to the bowl. Drizzle

remaining dressing and then sprinkle cheese and green onion.

Strawberry cheesecake cups

Ingredients

- 80g chocolate biscuits
- 250ml whipped cream
- 40g butter, melted

- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 250g strawberries sliced
- 350g plain cream cheese
- 1 cup castor sugar
- 250ml whipped cream

Directions

Crush the chocolate

biscuits in a blender, then add melted butter to the biscuits and mix it together.

Spoon in the biscuit mixture into glasses and set aside. In a bowl, mix castor sugar, lemon zest and cream cheese until creamy.

Whip the cream until stiff peaks form and fold into the cream cheese mixture. Spoon the cream cheese mixture on the biscuit base in the glasses and garnish with strawberries.

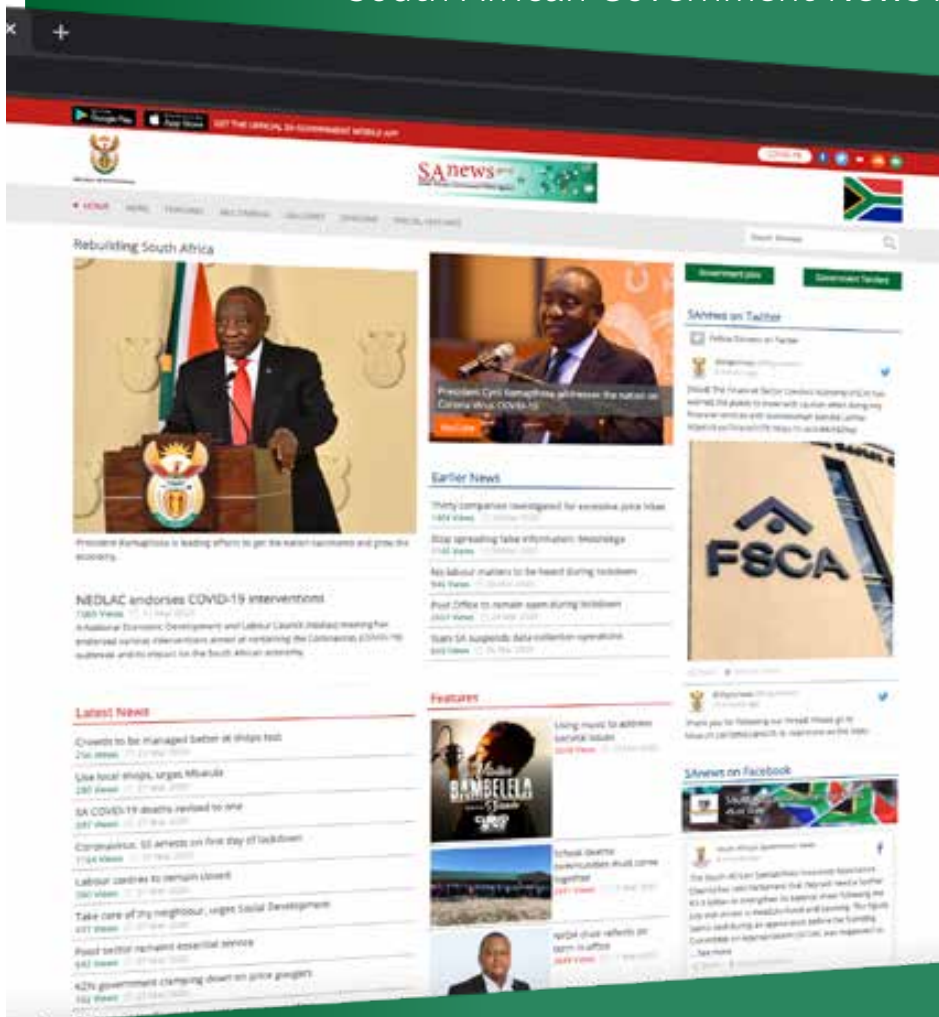
Place in fridge for 30 minutes to set before serving.

Recipes courtesy of
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