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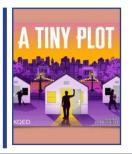
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A DEEP DIVE INTO **POWER DYNAMICS:** "THE 48 LAWS OF **POWER**"



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Bail Granted for Alleged Mastermind **Behind DJ** Sumbody's Murder



🚱 By Aisha Zardad

ohannesburg: High Court in Johannesburg has granted businessman Katiso 'KT' Molefe bail set at R400,000 following his arrest for his alleged involvement in the 2022 murder of Oupa Sefoka, commonly known as DJ Sumbody.

In August, the Alexandra Magistrate's Court denied Molefe bail, stating that he had

failed to present exceptional circumstances to justify his release. Molefe subsequently challenged this ruling, leading to the recent high court decision.

Judge Brad Wanless criticized the lower court's ruling, explaining that it was based on speculation. "Despite the serious nature of the alleged offences, there is no objective evidence before this court to show that should the appellant be granted bail, this would be in conflict with the

provisions of the [Criminal Procedure] Act,"

As part of the bail conditions, Molefe must report to the Morningside Police Station on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. He is restricted to the borders of Gauteng but is permitted to travel to Welkom in the Free State for business purposes, provided he informs the investigating officer of his intent to do so.

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SIBIYA CLAIMS BETRAYAL AMID INVESTIGATIONS LINKED TO BUSINESSMAN MATLALA



Lieutenant-General Shadrack Sibiya calls the recent raid on his home a tactic to intimidate him ahead of key parliamentary hearings. Picture credit: Timeless News

6 By Thulane Madalane

RETORIA: Suspended Deputy
National Police Commissioner
Lieutenant-General Shadrack
Sibiya has expressed feeling under
siege and betrayed by his colleagues
following a raid at his Centurion home
conducted by law enforcement officials
on Thursday. The raid came after Sibiya
was allegedly linked to controversial
businessman Vusimuzi Cat Matlala, who
was implicated by Lieutenant General
Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi during the Madlanga

Commission and the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee investigations.

During the raid, Sibiya confirmed that a laptop and several phones were confiscated, further intensifying the pressure he feels as he prepares to appear before the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Monday.

"I am under pressure, I am under siege, I've been called a criminal in daylight in front of all South Africans, I have been called stupid," Sibiya stated, emphasizing the toll the situation is taking on him. He voiced concerns that the actions taken against him are intended to intimidate him as he approaches these critical proceedings. "I am waiting for myself to have my day at the Commission; ultimately, I will be charged. I expect to be pushed out; it's what this whole thing is all about," he remarked, depicting a sense of inevitability regarding the scrutiny he anticipates.

Sibiya's comments underline the growing tensions surrounding his case and the broader implications for the police leadership in South Africa. As the investigations unfold, Sibiya's forthright admissions and his charged statements suggest a looming confrontation with both legal and institutional frameworks within the South African Police Service (SAPS). The outcomes of the Madlanga Commission and the subsequent disciplinary hearing will be closely watched in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Cedrick Nkabinde, chief of staff to on-leave Police Minister Senzo Mchunu, claims there is a "target on his back" after law enforcement raided his home and allegedly assaulted his brother. Nkabinde believes the police mistook his brother for him during the operation, which he asserts took place on Wednesday night.

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SIU RAIDS BUSINESSMAN HANGWANI MAUMELA AMID R2 BILLION TEMBISA HOSPITAL FRAUD INVESTIGATION



Law enforcement officials direct removal trucks as they execute a raid on the residence of Hangwani Maumela amid ongoing investigations into significant corruption related to Tembisa Hospital. Picture Credit IOL

🎨 By Thulane Madalane

OHANNESBURG: The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) executed a significant raid on the Sandton residence of businessman Hangwani Maumela on Thursday, as part of an expansive investigation into alleged corruption at Tembisa Hospital. This operation follows the release of a troubling interim report that revealed over R2 billion intended for healthcare provision was embezzled through complex fraudulent procurement schemes.

A usually sedate street in upmarket Sandton was bustling with activity on Thursday when the SIU raided Maumela's lavish home. A convoy of removal trucks was parked in the street while SIU teams entered Maumela's three-storey mansion and removed his fleet of luxury vehicles, including three Lamborghinis, each worth several million rands.

The SIU's findings highlight the existence of three coordinated syndicates implicated in this substantial financial loss, all of which have reportedly undermined public trust and jeopardized care for vulnerable communities. SIU spokesperson Ngwako Motsieng confirmed the operations, stating, "We can confirm that there was an operation involving the search and seizure of assets suspected to be linked to fraudulent activities at Tembisa Hospital. This investigation is part of a broader effort to combat corruption in the procurement processes and hold individuals accountable."

In a concurrent operation, another SIU team launched a search at a car dealership in Witbank, although details regarding its relevance to Maumela's case remain undisclosed. "While we were unable to recover assets from the Witbank operation,

we are following every lead to ensure that all aspects related to this investigation are thoroughly examined," Motsieng added. Assets linked to the Maumela Syndicate alone are valued at approximately R520 million, encompassing extravagant properties and luxury vehicles. The SIU is collaborating with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to ensure the preservation of these assets amid ongoing legal proceedings.

The scrutiny of Tembisa Hospital emerged after whistleblower Babita Deokaran exposed irregularities in August 2021. Following her revelations, the Gauteng Office of the Premier referred the case to the SIU in September 2022, initiating a thorough examination of procurement processes dating back to 2019. To date, the investigation has scrutinized dealings involving 207 service providers, exposing systematic corruption and fraudulent practices that allowed these providers to bypass essential tender regulations. Approximately R122 million in corrupt payments have been traced to various officials within the Gauteng Department of Health and Tembisa Hospital, and that figure is expected to rise as more evidence is uncovered. The SIU has already referred 60 cases for disciplinary action against implicated officials, ranging from low-level employees to higher management, revealing deepseated corruption within the healthcare system. As the investigation progresses, the SIU remains dedicated to ensuring accountability and restoring integrity in South Africa's procurement systems, emphasizing that the mismanagement of healthcare funds has left the nation's most vulnerable populations exposed.

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Molefe faces multiple serious charges, including murder and illegal possession of firearms, and is accused of orchestrating the killing of DJ Sumbody and other notable figures. He was arrested in July 2025 by the SAPS Political Killings Task Team, and he is currently detained at the Kgosi Mampuru II Correctional Centre. Prosecutors maintain that the cumulative evidence against Molefe presents a compelling narrative of his alleged involvement in the crimes, arguing that "the state doesn't need each piece of evidence to stand alone" and that the circumstantial evidence collectively indicates guilt. With the bail granted, the investigation into Molefe's involvement in high-profile criminal activities continues to unfold.











MPUMALANGA CULTURAL XPERIENCE

Celebrates a Decade of Memories

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A DECADE OF CELEBRATING

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

By Thulane Madalane

ilgrim's Rest: The Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience (commonly referred to as MPUCE) has reached a significant milestone, celebrating its tenth anniversary since its inception in 2015. This year's festivities were formally launched at a media event held at Ndalo Lodge in Mbombela. drawing media representatives from various outlets across Mpumalanga. as well as participants from eSwatini and Mozambique. The theme for this year's event is "From Sunrise to Sunset." In the lead-up to the official launch, a media excursion took place on Monday, allowing journalists to explore the historic site of Pilgrim's Rest. Designated as a heritage site by the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, Pilgrim's Rest is home to numerous museums that paint a picture of the region's rich history. Among the notable sites is the now-defunct Transvaal Gold Mining Estates Limited (TGME), which ceased operations in 1972. However, smallscale mining resumed in the 1980s, leading to an upsurge in illegal mining activities in the surrounding area. Journalists also visited a printing museum where the Gold News newspaper was produced from its inception in 1874. Remarkably, W.J. Phelan, the newspaper's outspoken editor, faced imprisonment and a fine in 1876 for critiquing the government of President Burger. Additionally, the excursion included a visit to the Central Garage, a Chevrolet dealership established in 1924, and the Dredzen House, which operated between 1930 and 1950. Another highlight was the Victorian House Museum, a grand 37-room structure that once served as the residence for the mining manager. Dudu Mpinga spoke about the Victorian House Museum, stating, "The Victorian House Museum is a remarkable legacy of our

mining history. It offers a glimpse into the life of the mining manager and his family during the gold rush era. The architecture and furnishings reflect the wealth generated by the mines and provide insight into the social dynamics of that time." Queen Thobela remarked on the cultural significance of the area, saying, "Pilgrim's Rest is a treasure trove of our heritage. Each museum we visited tells a unique story that contributes to the greater narrative of who we are as a community. It's crucial that we preserve these stories for future generations to understand their roots." She further elaborated, "The Victorian House Museum not only showcases the elegance of the time but also serves as a reminder of the hard work and dedication of those who contributed to the mining industry. It encapsulates the essence of our history and the stories that shaped our present." The tour also featured the Wall Museum, which housed a grocery store, and other significant sites such

as the Diggings Site Museum and Allangdale House. The insights gained during the tour were enriched by the contributions of local experts like Queen Thobela and Dudu Mpinga. Following a comprehensive tour of the various museums, participants tried their hand at gold panningancient method of separating gold from soil, which involves whirling a pan of soil and water so that the heavier gold settles at the bottom. As the day came to a close, the journalists engaged in a fun-filled karaoke night and challenging games that helped to refresh the minds of the attendees from the media sector.

The Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience continues to be an important celebration of the region's cultural heritage while fostering tourism and community engagement over the past decade.

MEC LEAH MABUZA LAUNCHES: THE 2025 MPUMALANGA CULTURAL XPERIENCE



MEC Leah Mabuza delivering a keynote address during Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience Media Launch in Mbombela on Tuesday. Picture Credit : Ngobe Media.

n By Thulane Madalane

bombela:MEC Leah Mabuza officially launched the 10th edition of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience during a vibrant ceremony that celebrated a decade of cultural richness and artistic expression in the province. The event, attended by dignitaries, members of the media, and festive guests, marked a

significant milestone in the promotion of Mpumalanga's arts and creative industry. Mabuza emphasized the importance of the Cultural Xperience as more than just a series of events. "This is a testament to our long-term vision to harness the arts for community and economic development," she stated, highlighting the festival's role as a platform for culture, music, comedy, tradition, and sport. Reflecting on the unwavering growth of the Cultural

Xperience since its inception in 2015, she noted, "Over the years, this event has created opportunities for artists, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, while also boosting our tourism industry." The ceremony also welcomed prominent figures from various sectors, including South African Football Association Deputy President Linda Zwane. In an interview with Timeless News, Zwane encouraged the people of Mpumalanga to come out in large numbers to support Bafana Bafana in their upcoming match against Rwanda on Friday at Mbombela Stadium. "I am excited that the province of Mpumalanga has been afforded an opportunity to host a game of this magnitude. I plea to the soccer-loving people of Mpumalanga to fill Mbombela Stadium on Tuesday to show support for our boys in their quest to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup," he urged. The excitement was palpable as Miss Mpumalanga 2025, Malibongwe Mkhwanazi, expressed her enthusiasm for engaging with other prominent guests during the media launch. The beauty queen, who serves as the ambassador for the Mpumalanga Economic Regulator, spoke about her commitment to community and charity work. "I know that poverty can encroach on one's self-confidence and create limiting beliefs for our young people, especially our little girls," she said. Xolane Khumalo, a social media influencer and ambassador for the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience, expressed his gratitude for the platform provided to him. "I am ecstatic about this opportunity. I will use

this chance to maximize the exposure of MPUCE beyond this event," Khumalo, also a breakfast show host for Radio Langa, stated. The highlight of the event came when an ensemble of young artists from across Mpumalanga performed their captivating single "Phumalanga." The performance showcased the province's diverse languages and artistic talents, celebrating the creative spirit of its people. The collaboration was the brainchild of DJ Mnyasa and DJ Zoe, both advocates the Mpumalanga Creative Workshop and the song was produced by DJ Zoe's Company Redamancy Studios. MEC Mabuza announced that this year's festival would revolve around seven dynamic pillars, featuring events such as the Kasi Xperience, Comedy Xperience, Carnival Xperience, and the Mpumalanga Gospel Music Awards. Each activity is aimed at highlighting the creativity and resilience of local artists. Mabuza officially declared the 10th anniversary of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience open, inviting everyone to participate in the celebrations and support local talents. "Let us remember that the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience belongs to all of us. It is a living testament to the opportunities we can create when we celebrate who we are," she concluded, energizing the audience for the festivities ahead. As the curtain rises on this milestone celebration, Mpumalanga looks forward to a year of cultural excellence. continuing its legacy as a vibrant hub of artistic expression.

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2025 MPUMALANGA CULTURAL XPERIENCE MEDIA LAUNCH

Picture Credit Ngobe Media























































Kasi Xperience - 22 November 2025



Embalenhle, Secunda, Gert Sibande District

Carnival Xperience - 28 November 2025



Promenade Centre, City of Mbombela, Ehlanzeni District

Soul Session Xperience - 30 November 2025



Lowveld Botanical Gardens, City of Mbombela, **Ehlanzeni District**

Traditional Xperience - 06 December 2025



Ndundza Somphalali Traditional Authority, Nkangala **District**

Comedy Xperience - 27 November 2025



City of Mbombela, Ehlanzeni District

013 Summer Blaze - 29 November 2025



Mbombela Stadium, City of Mbombela, Ehlanzeni **District**

Marathon Xperience - 06 December 2025



Kameelrevier B Stadium, Dr JS Moroka Local **Municipality, Nkangala District**

Mpumalanga Gospel Music Awards -**07 December 2025**



Communio Church Auditorium, City of Mbombela, **Ehlanzeni District**



THE MPUMALANGA CULTURAL XPERIENCE

The Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience is a premier event offering patrons entertainment across the board. The weeklong cultural festival was started in 2015 with the aim of promoting social cohesion, celebrating cultural diversity in song and dance.

















10 FRIDAY 10 October 2025

PUMALANGA CULTURAL XPERIENCE

Celebrates a Decade of Memories

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 10TH MPUCE GAIN MOMENTUM



DJ Mnyasa and DJ Zoe flanked by an ensemble of artists from all over Mpumalanga during the recording of MPUCE ten years anniversary signature song called Mphumalanga. Picture Credit DCSR

Reporter

manzana unanimity:

Preparations for the 10th edition of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience (MPUCE) gained momentum, drawing in local artists heading into the festival. The event took place from August 12 to 14 in Emanzana, a vibrant community that hosted the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience. The festival's developmental arm, the Creatives Workshop, played a key role over the years in nurturing local talent and launching the careers of artists such as Phuma

Muñoz, among many others. Launched in 2015 to promote social cohesion, tourism, and the arts, MPUCE became known for celebrating South Africa's largest cultural festival. It featured a street parade, local cuisine, and a prestigious gospel music awards ceremony.

The festival was held across all districts of the province. During this year's event, organizers were excited about the possibilities that lay ahead. "We were thrilled to present the

festival, which focused on a song that commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience," said spokesperson Sibonile Nkosi. She added, "We are proud of our legacy, showcasing the talent of the artists in Mpumalanga."

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https://timelessnews. co.za/prepa-<u>rations-for-</u> the-10th-<u>mpuce-gain-</u> <u>momentum/</u>

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CULTURAL DIVE

By Staff Reporter

■he Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience (MPUCE) aimed to become the biggest cultural festival in South Africa, receiving a huge boost at the Africa Tourism Indaba (ATI) in Durban recently.

The organizers of MPUCE—The Department of Culture, Sport, and Recreation—visited the International Convention Centre for an activation drive as they prepared for the 10th edition of the festival from May 27 to 29. The event received positive feedback from the attendees, who praised the program's efforts to promote social cohesion and attract international audiences.

MPUCE officials shared details of the festival's history and significance over the years. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the festival aimed to strengthen its legacy and promote Mpumalanga as a premier cultural destination.

The festival will continue to showcase various artistic expressions and celebrate the cultural diversity within the province, drawing attendees from near and far. The latest initiatives included a new website designed to serve as a gateway for everything MPUCE has to offer, including lineups, artist bios, ticket sales, travel tips, and tourist attractions. It aimed to elevate the experience and engage audiences with behind-the-scenes content.

With a commitment to enhancing the cultural landscape, MPUCE looked forward to a successful 10th edition that encapsulated both its past achievements and future aspirations.





SERMON BY THULANE: "REJOICING IN THE LORD IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS"



By Thulane Madalane

y dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we turn our hearts and minds to a powerful prayer of the prophet Habakkuk found in Habakkuk 3:1-19. This text speaks to the depths of human anguish and the heights of divine assurance. As we navigate our lives, often filled with uncertainty and anxiety, we must learn to rejoice in the God of our salvation, even amidst chaos.

I. A Prayer in Distress (Verses 1-2)

The chapter begins with Habakkuk offering a prayer. He cries out to God with deep reverence and fear, aware of the seriousness of his pleas. "O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy."

Habakkuk recognizes the gravity of the situation—he feels the weight of impending judgment yet holds onto hope for revival. How often do we find ourselves in this position? Perhaps we are confronted with personal struggles, societal turmoil, or the overwhelming darkness of our times. Let this prayer resonate within us: "Revive Your work, O Lord!" In our distress, we must remember that God is not distant; He is present, longing to restore and renew His creation.

II. The Majesty of God (Verses 3-6)

Habakkuk paints a vivid picture of God's glory and sovereignty. He describes God coming from Teman and Mount Paran, His glory covering the heavens and the earth full of praise (v. 3). The imagery of God measuring the earth and startling nations (v. 6) reveals His absolute authority over all creation.

In times of uncertainty, let us reflect on the majesty of God. He is the Creator, majestic and powerful, yet intimately involved in our lives. Even when everything around us seems wild and out of control, we serve a God whose strength is beyond measure. He divides lands and calms seas.

III. God's Deliverance (Verses 7-15)

As we continue, Habakkuk recounts instances of God's past deliverance for His people. He asks poignant questions: "Did You ride on Your horses... for salvation?" (v. 8). In every verse, we see God being portrayed not just as a passive observer but as the active warrior for His people.

God's power is evident in the way He tramples enemies and brings salvation. Church, remember the times God has intervened in your life! As we look at the world today, filled with pain and injustice, we should recall that God is still marching forth for our salvation. Each act of deliverance encourages us to trust that He will act again.

IV. A Reminder of Our Response (Verses 16-18)**

Upon hearing God's message, Habakkuk's response is profound—he trembles and quakes, acknowledging the severity of God's impending response to sin. Yet, even in his fear, he makes a bold declaration of faith: "Though the fig tree may not blossom... Yet I will rejoice in the Lord!" (v.

In moments of despair, we often choose to dwell on the negative, the 'what ifs' and 'if onlys.' Habakkuk challenges us to shift our perspective! Despite the barren fig tree and the failed harvest, we must choose to rejoice in the goodness of our God! This is not a denial of our circumstances, but a profound affirmation that our joy is rooted in who God is, not what we see around us.

V. The Source of Our Strength (Verse

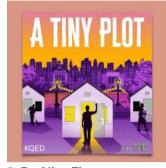
Finally, we see Habakkuk's confidence in the Lord. "The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills." (v. 19). God is not merely a source of strength; He is the strength we need. He enables us to rise above our circumstances and walk confidently over our trials, just as a deer leaps effortlessly over mountains. When the world gives us reasons to despair, we lean into the strength of God. We are not alone; He sustains us. Finally

As we conclude today, let us take Habakkuk's journey to heart. Whether we find ourselves in distress, reflecting on God's majesty, recognizing His deliverance, or affirming our joy amidst hardship, we are called to rejoice in the Lord. Remember, the God we serve is the same yesterday, today, and forever. In the chaos of life, may we hold fast to faith, proclaiming, "Even though everything around me crumbles, I will rejoice in the Lord!" Let us pray for His revival, trust in His strength, and walk in His ways. Amen.

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FAITH MATTERS PODCAST REVIEWS

3 PODCASTS TO LISTEN TO IN OCTOBER







By Alice Florence

ach month, Podcast Review's staff offers recommendations on the best new shows to listen to. Here are our ■ favorite podcasts for September.

From KQED's Snap Judgment, A Tiny Plot is a five-part podcast that took years to produce. The series follows a group of unhoused people in Oakland, CA as they fight for a radical idea: their own plot of land from the city, where they can live in community, set their own rules, and finally feel in control of their futures. The City of Oakland called it an "experiment in co-governance." Surprisingly, the city had never tried anything this ambitious to tackle their homelessness rates; if it worked, this small group of people hoped their example would be a model that would help others across the state. As you might expect, complex problems don't have easy answers. But the story is one of unexpected beauty — a must-listen podcast in both content and execution.

Camp Swamp Road

Spotify and The Wall Street Journal have teamed up on a new true crime podcast called Camp Swamp Road. The story begins on September 9, 2023, in rural South Carolina. A man is killed in a shootout on

The 48 Laws of Power" by Robert

Greene is a compelling and

Camp Swamp Road. Police say it's a clear case of self-defense, but is that really the whole story? When secret recordings tell a different story, the case begins to unravel. WSJ reporter Valerie Bauerlein leads an investigation into a shooting that could have gone unnoticed if the victim's sister had not committed to uncovering the truth.

How to Get Wet When You're Dry

There are some excellent recovery podcasts out there, but few that focus on the impact of sobriety on sexual relationships. How to Get Wet When You're Dry is a new podcast from journalist Anna Wolfe that draws from influences like Marc Maron and Ottessa Moshfegh to turn personal discomfort into art. During her recovery, Anna learned two key truths. Firstly, she wasn't alone in her experiences. And secondly, her story wasn't unique — a realization that was both humbling and healing. The journey hasn't been smooth. As it turns out, replacing alcohol with seven cans of Diet Coke per day has its own consequences. Indeed, when I asked why she decided to start a podcast about her recovery, Anna replied, "People got sick of my writing." Featuring guests including Margaret Cho and Gorillaz's bassist Seye Adelekan, How to Get Wet When You're Dry is a sexy, provocative show that will appeal to both serious AA members and the sober curious.

A DIVE INTO POWER DYNAMICS: "THE 48 LAWS OF POWER" BY ROBERT GR

By Aisha Zardad

provocative exploration of the dynamics of power and influence throughout history. First published in 1998, the book has become a cult classic, appealing to a wide audience ranging from business professionals to creatives and even political figures. The book is structured around 48 distinct laws that Greene distills from historical events,

figures, and philosophical thoughts. Each law is presented with historical anecdotes, quotes, and illustrative examples that bring the concepts to life. Greene encourages readers to understand the frequency of manipulation and strategy in personal and professional relationships. Greene delves into the darker aspects of human nature, emphasizing that power dynamics often rely on deception, cunning, and manipulation. He pulls from various historical figures—from Machiavelli to Sun Tzu—to highlight timeless strategies. Many readers find the book controversial because Greene advocates a pragmatic approach to power that can seem ruthless or morally ambiguous. This can lead to debates about the ethics of strategies proposed in the book. Beyond teaching how to wield power, Greene also provides

insight into how to protect oneself from others' manipulative tactics. Understanding the laws can be empowering for those looking to navigate complex relationships and environments. Greene's writing is engaging and often reads like a historical narrative, which captivates readers. The style is didactic, with a strong emphasis on actionable insights drawn from both ancient history and modern incidents. Each law is succinctly explained, making it easy for readers to digest. Critics of the book argue that its cynical view of human relationships can foster distrust and encourage unethical behavior. Some label it as a guide for manipulation rather than a constructive tool for leadership. It is crucial for readers to approach the book with discernment, understanding that not every law may align with their personal values or ethical standards. "The 48 Laws of Power" is a fascinating read that offers a lens through which to view power dynamics in various contexts. While it provides valuable insights into strategy and human behavior, readers should remain conscious of the ethical implications of employing such tactics in their own lives. Ultimately, the book serves as a reminder of the complex interplay of power, where knowledge can both elevate and undermine relationships



TIMELESS SPORTS

ANA BAFANA HELD TO DRAW BY ZIMBABWE IN WORLD CUP QUALIFIER



Picture Credit: X

By Aisha Zardad

urban:In a tightly contested 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier, Bafana Bafana faced a disappointing goalless draw against Zimbabwe at Moses Mabhida Stadium on Friday

Coach Hugo Broos and his squad left no stone unturned in their quest for victory, pouring relentless pressure on the Zimbabwean defense. Despite their efforts, Lady Luck was not on their side. A shot destined for the net was heroically cleared off the line, while two additional attempts struck the goalposts, denying Bafana

Bafana a crucial win.

Though frustrated by the outcome, Broos remained optimistic, urging his team to bounce back as there are still significant opportunities ahead in qualifying Group C. "We are currently second on the table, trailing Benin by just two points," Broos noted. The team is set to host Rwanda in the final group match at Mbombela on Tuesday, where a win is essential. "The game against Rwanda is pivotal for us," Broos stated. "We must secure the three points and hope Nigeria can do

us a favor against Benin at home." He

emphasized that the team's focus needs

to be solely on their own performance. "If

we win against Rwanda, we will see what happens in the other game—this is our priority."

Despite the disappointment from the draw, the coach acknowledged the importance of maintaining belief within the squad. "It won't be easy, but as long as there's a chance, we have to continue believing," he affirmed.

In a match that saw both teams finish with ten players, Zimbabwe's Knowledge Musona received his marching orders in the 62nd minute, followed closely by Bafana Bafana's Mbekezeli Mbokazi, who was sent off just before the final whistle. Bafana Bafana will make their way to

Mbombela on Saturday, gearing up for their decisive encounter against Rwanda. In light of Bafana Bafana's recent goalless draw against Zimbabwe, Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Gayton McKenzie expressed his thoughts on social media. He stated, "Truth be told, that was not our best performance for such a crucial game, we have absolutely no choice but to fight harder against Rwanda. I still have hope in BafanaBafana, let's rally behind our Boyz on Tuesday, we don't give up we rise to the occasion. We shall qualify."