



**HOSPITAL CLEANER  
ARRESTED FOR  
SELLING HUMAN  
PLACENTAS**



**BATTLE LINES  
DRAWN FOR  
MUSINA WARD  
NEAR BEIT BRIDGE**

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# Nathi Mthethwa's Mysterious Death in Paris Sparks Controversy



South African ambassador Nkosinathi Emmanuel Mthethwa was found dead outside a Paris hotel under suspicious circumstances. Picture credit: GCIS

By Duncan Mnisi

**S**outh Africa – The shocking death of South African Diplomat Nkosinathi Emmanuel Mthethwa, South Africa's Ambassador to France, was found dead outside a hotel in Paris on Tuesday morning. On the evening before his death, Mthethwa sent a distress message to his wife around 9:30 pm, expressing fear and regret. "His apologies and his intention to end his life"

were part of that message, according to media reports. The next day at 11:10 am, a security guard found him dead outside the Hyatt Regency Paris Étoile, a hotel located about 3.5 kilometers from the South African embassy. Authorities are now investigating whether the Diplomat's death was a deliberate act or something more sinister. The police have not yet confirmed if Mthethwa jumped from the hotel's 22nd floor, but initial investigations suggest it could have been a planned act. No signs of struggle or drug use have been

found so far, fueling the suspicion that this could be a carefully staged incident. The circumstances surrounding his death are under scrutiny, especially since his wife reported his disappearance a day earlier. "He left our home to attend a cocktail party but later went to the hotel, where he had booked a room ten days earlier", she said. French investigators are also looking into whether Mthethwa had been under surveillance. It is believed that security cameras in the area could hold clues about

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# TIMELESS NEWS A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND HOPE

By Thulane Madalane  
(Business Leader)

November 20, 2013, marked a significant turning point in South Africa's media landscape with the founding of **Timeless News**. Launched against the backdrop of deep national emotions surrounding the impending passing of the revered Nelson Mandela, the newspaper was born out of a vision driven by resilience and a commitment to uplift the community. Established by me, Thulane, an individual who faced immense personal challenges, **Timeless News** has evolved into a national newspaper that not only reports news but also embodies the spirit of transformation and hope.

The inception of **Timeless News** was deeply personal for me. After a significant period of unemployment, I was offered a lifeline when I was rehired by my former employer, only to face disappointment when the compensation I received was far less than promised. This experience of betrayal ignited my determination to create something meaningful. Instead of succumbing to despair, I sought a "vehicle" through which I could make a lasting impact. Thus, **Timeless News** was born—its name reflects both the enduring nature of my mission and the necessity for consistent, positive change.

Emphasizing a unique cut-and-paste style of journalism inspired by techniques I mastered while starting my own newspaper in 2000, I aimed to shape **Timeless News** into a platform that would highlight the voices and stories of ordinary South Africans. The newspaper quickly gained a reputation for its commitment to quality

reporting, investigative journalism, and community engagement, providing an alternative narrative to mainstream media. As **Timeless News** grew, it became a vital source of information and inspiration for readers across the nation. The paper adopted a model that prioritized sustainable practices and community involvement, showcasing local heroes and initiatives that often went underreported. The core mission was clear: to foster a sense of dignity and empowerment within the communities we served, aligning with the values that Madiba himself championed throughout his life.

In the years that followed, **Timeless News** evolved beyond the traditional print model. By embracing digital platforms and social media, we effectively expanded our reach, ensuring that our impactful stories and critical insights resonated with a younger, more connected audience. Today, **Timeless News** has become a trusted source of news not only locally but nationally, adapting to the changing media landscapes of 2025.

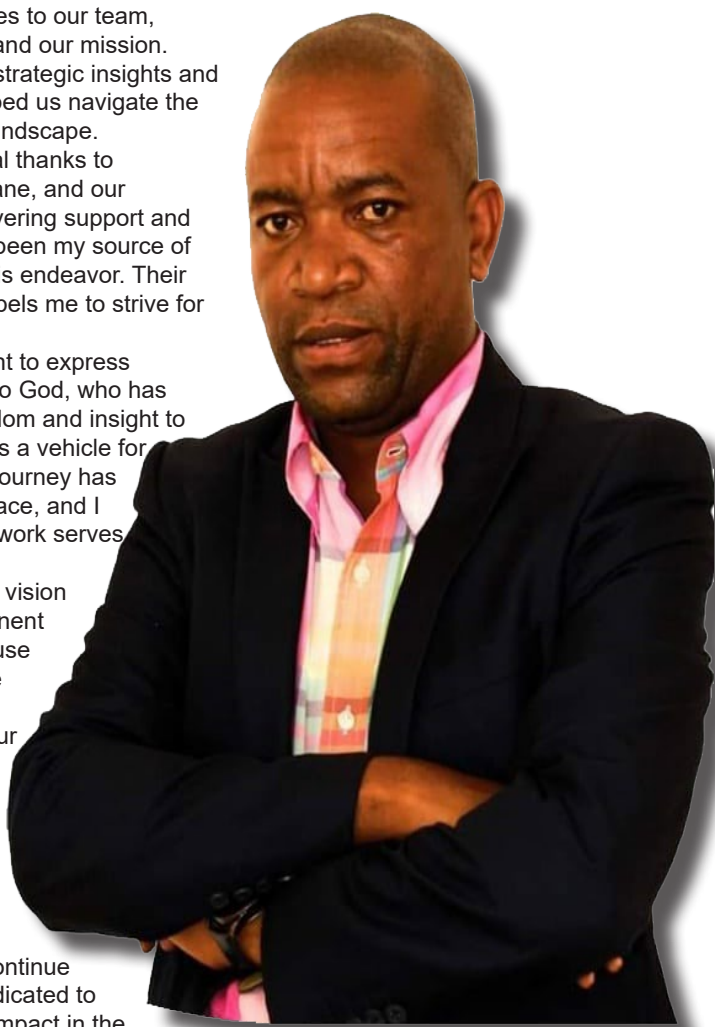
As I reflect on our journey, I must extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who have played an integral role in our growth and success. I acknowledge the following individuals whose contributions have been invaluable to our journey: Prosper Mandiques, our first graphic designer, whose creativity and vision helped shape the aesthetic identity of **Timeless News**. Eric Matome, whose dedication and expertise have been essential in driving our editorial excellence. Dan Mdluli, Lukas Shongwe, Molagadi Kekena, Nothando Makhubela, Buchule Putini, Montsho Matlala, and Duncan Mnisi, each of whom has brought their unique

talents and perspectives to our team, enriching our content and our mission. Aisha Zardad, whose strategic insights and commitment have helped us navigate the ever-evolving media landscape. I must also give special thanks to my wife, Given Madalane, and our children, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been my source of strength throughout this endeavor. Their belief in our vision propels me to strive for excellence every day.

Most importantly, I want to express my deepest gratitude to God, who has endowed me with wisdom and insight to use **Timeless News** as a vehicle for positive change. This journey has been guided by His grace, and I firmly believe that our work serves a higher purpose.

As we look ahead, our vision is to become a preeminent Pan-African media house with global appeal. We aspire to uplift voices from every corner of our continent and beyond, showcasing stories that inspire, inform, and engage. Together, with the support and collaboration of each individual mentioned, **Timeless News** will continue to grow and thrive, dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the world.

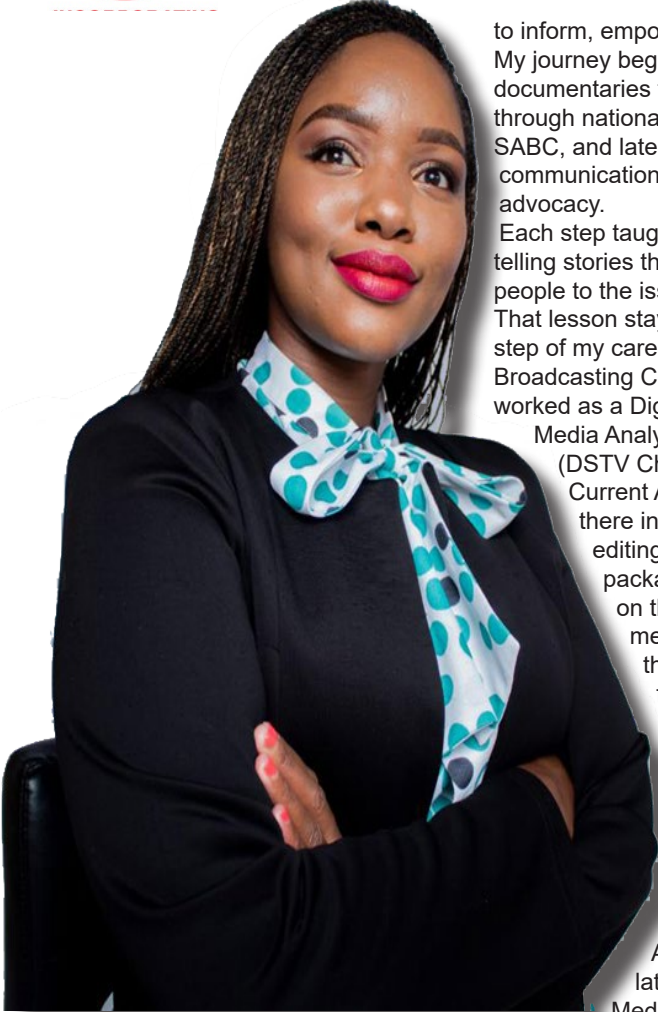
As I am writing this article, the country mourns the passing of Nkosinathi Mthethwa, South African Ambassador to France and former Minister of Police and Sports, Arts, and Culture. May his soul rest



in peace, and may his family find comfort during this difficult time.  
**Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.**  
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## THE NEW FACE OF TIMELESS NEWS



By Buchule Putini  
(Digital News Editor)

As I take on the role of editor of **Timeless News**, I am guided by a lifelong belief that journalism is more than reporting — it is a tool

to inform, empower, and build society. My journey began in 2013 producing documentaries for Bay TV, continued through national broadcasting at the SABC, and later expanded into political communications and social justice advocacy.

Each step taught me the importance of telling stories that matter and connecting people to the issues that shape their lives. That lesson stayed with me through every step of my career. At the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), I worked as a Digital News Producer, Social Media Analyst on Media Monitor (DSTV Channel 404), and later as a Current Affairs Producer. My work there involved researching, writing, editing, and voicing digital news packages, while keeping a finger on the pulse of the fast-moving media landscape. It was here that I gained a deep respect for the craft of newsmaking — the responsibility to inform with accuracy, balance, and integrity.

In 2018, I transitioned into political communications as the Provincial Communications Officer for the Democratic Alliance in Mpumalanga. I later served as Issues and Media Specialist in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

In these roles, I discovered another dimension of communication: the ability to bridge the gap between communities and decision-makers, to amplify voices often drowned out, and to use media as a tool for accountability and service delivery.

I had the privilege of directing political campaigns, coordinating virtual congresses, and mentoring leaders, all of which strengthened my belief in communication as a vehicle for social justice.

Alongside my professional journey, I have also been privileged to pursue leadership development through the DA's Young Leaders Program (2021) and the Futurelect Ethical Leadership Development Programme (2023). I also founded Inzala Yethu, a nonprofit organisation that provides support for single parents facing maintenance issues, because I believe the work of building society goes beyond newsroom walls — it extends into communities where justice and dignity are most needed.

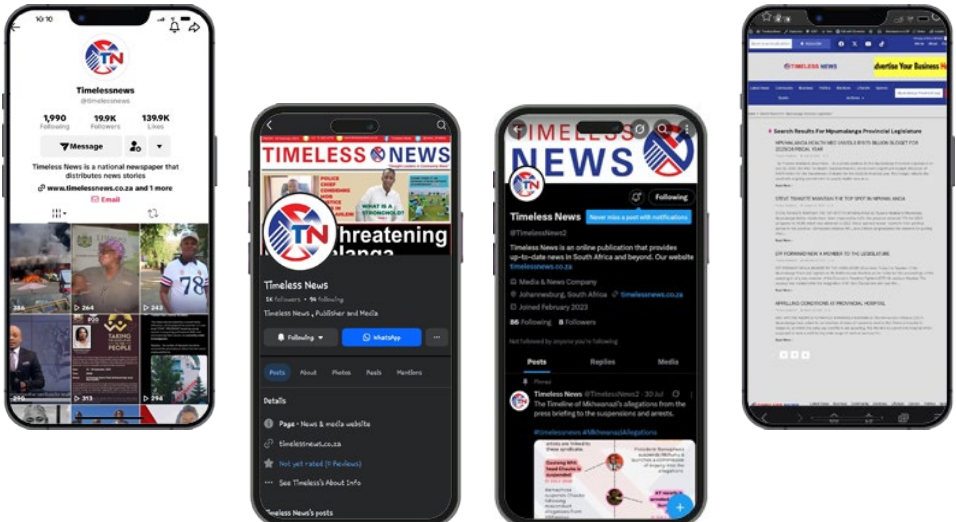
Today, **Timeless News** is entering an exciting new era — one that embraces the digital landscape while remaining rooted in our mission of community engagement

and truth-telling. We will bring news directly to our audiences where they are: through dynamic social media, interactive podcasts, and TikTok live sessions discussing ongoing community topics. These digital platforms will allow us to connect with younger audiences, host real-time conversations, and ensure that our reporting sparks meaningful dialogue rather than just delivering headlines.

Our vision is simple: to create a **Timeless News** that is accessible, relevant, and responsive — a media house that informs, inspires, and empowers South Africans in every corner of the country. As we embark on this journey, we invite you to engage with us, share your stories, and be part of a news platform that reflects the pulse of our communities in real time.

The future of journalism is interactive, inclusive, and digital — and **Timeless News** is ready to lead that transformation.

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# R2 BILLION STOLEN FROM TEMBISA HOSPITAL IN HEALTHCARE SCAM



The Special Investigating Unit uncovers a massive fraud scheme involving over R2 billion meant for healthcare at Tembisa Hospital. Credits: Health-e News

By Duncan Mnisi

**T**embisa — The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has revealed a shocking case of corruption and theft involving more than R2 billion in funds intended for healthcare services at Tembisa Hospital. The investigation uncovered three major syndicates accused of siphoning off the money through fraud, corruption, and money laundering. In a recent report, SIU head Andy Mothibi explained how officials and service providers manipulated procurement processes for personal gain. “We have identified irregularities, fraudulent activities, and corrupt practices by officials and service providers,” said Mothibi. Although the investigation is ongoing, early findings point to a complex web of illegal activities. The SIU, working closely with the Office of the Gauteng Premier, has identified three main syndicates: Maumela Syndicate: Linked to Hangwani Morgan Maumela, this group is responsible for R816 million in irregular procurement. Assets linked to Maumela include luxury vehicles and properties in Bantry Bay, Sandton, and Zimbali, collectively valued at over R520 million. Several properties and high-end cars, including Lamborghinis and Bentleys, have already been seized. Mazibuko Syndicate: Associated with Rudolph Mazibuko, this group controlled assets worth R42 million, including

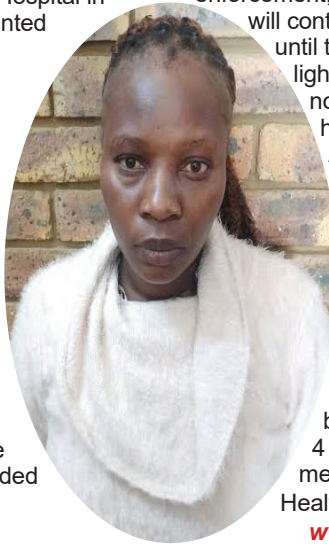
properties in Gauteng and the Western Cape. Syndicate X: Comprised of several smaller groups, this network is linked to R596 million in procurement fraud, with assets estimated at R150 million. The investigation has also implicated at least 15 current and former officials from the Gauteng Department of Health and Tembisa Hospital. They stand accused of accepting bribes, money laundering, and bid rigging. So far, 116 disciplinary referrals have been made against 13 officials, with some also facing civil litigation. The syndicates’ modus operandi included falsified procurement documents, collusion between service providers and officials, and splitting contracts to bypass proper bidding processes. Funds were often channeled to front companies or intermediaries, with no goods or services delivered. “All the money went from the hospital to fronts and beneficiaries,” the SIU said. The SIU is now working to recover stolen assets and plans to continue its investigation until November 2027. The agency also cautioned that senior officials may be implicated and called for stricter vetting and oversight to curb future corruption. “This betrayal of trust is unacceptable. We will pursue every cent stolen and ensure justice is served,” Mothibi declared.

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## HOSPITAL CLEANER ARRESTED FOR SELLING HUMAN PLACENTAS, GRANTED R10K BAIL

By Duncan Mnisi

**L**ydenburg — Rose Mnisi, a cleaner at Lydenburg Hospital in Mpumalanga, was granted bail of R10,000 after being caught allegedly trying to sell human placentas. Police found her carrying a plastic bag containing an undisclosed number of placentas during routine patrols. According to police, Mnisi was hitchhiking in the Nelspruit area when she was stopped and arrested last week. She admitted to working as a cleaner in the maternity ward of the hospital. Police allege Mnisi was looking for buyers for the placentas and was apprehended following a tip-off. Her case remains under investigation. Although the exact intended use of the placentas is unknown, authorities suspect they may have been linked to illegal activities involving traditional rituals.



The Mpumalanga Department of Health welcomed the swift police action. MEC for Health, Sasekani Manzini, praised law enforcement, stating: “The department will continue investigating this case until the end and hopefully bring light to what transpired.” This is not the first incident involving human body parts in South Africa. Earlier this month, a Mozambican traditional healer appeared in court in Tshwane after police found human remains in his possession. Investigators believe those parts were linked to violent crimes. Mnisi faces charges of illegal possession of human tissue. Her case has been postponed to November 4 for further investigation. In the meantime, the Department of Health has formally suspended her.

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Rose Mnisi, a hospital cleaner in Lydenburg Hospital, was granted R10K bail after being accused of illegally possessing human tissues. Credits: Maroela Media

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his movements before he died. Some reports suggest that the diplomat’s phone was last used at Bois de Boulogne, a large park in Paris, which could provide further evidence. Mthethwa, was a well-known politician in South Africa. He had a long career, starting in the anti-Apartheid struggle and later holding important government roles. He was the organizing secretary of the ANC Youth League in 1994 and joined the South African National Assembly in 2002. In 2008, he became Minister of Safety and Security before moving to his diplomatic role in France. His career was marked by public service and strong political influence. Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi mentioned Mthethwa during his testimony

at the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry. Mthethwa held the position of Police Minister from May 11, 2009, to May 25, 2014. Adding to the intrigue, KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner claimed that Mthethwa pressured Faith Radebe, the former Inspector-General of Intelligence, to drop a criminal case against Richard Mdluli. Mdluli used to head Crime Intelligence and was accused of misusing the police’s secret fund for personal trips and using police safe houses for himself. A detailed review of his phone records, security footage, and personal communications is underway to uncover what led to this tragic event. This is a developing story as investigations continue.

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## POLICE OFFICER JAILED FOR MURDER AND PLANTING DRUGS IN VICTIM’S CAR



A police officer was sentenced to 15 years’ direct imprisonment for fatally shooting a suspected drug peddler without provocation. Picture credit: Timeless News

By Montsho Matlala

**P**olokwane: A police officer found guilty of murder after shooting a suspected drug peddler at a traffic robot has been sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment by the Limpopo High Court sitting in Polokwane. The court heard that Avhahumi Adolphus Netshikweta (41), attached to the police’s Highway Patrol Unit, was on duty with his colleagues when they received a false tip-off about a man distributing drugs in the Lebowakgomo area. The officers later spotted a VW Polo matching the description provided and gave chase. The driver of the VW Polo, Thlompho Mabiletja, unaware that the officers were pursuing him, stopped at the robot. The police instructed him to switch off the engine and, while he was still complying, Netshikweta shot him dead. Upon searching the deceased’s car, police initially claimed to have found drugs, money, and a toy gun. However, during the

trial, the State proved that the items were planted to justify the killing. “This followed a thorough investigation by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID), which led to a murder case being opened against Netshikweta,” said Limpopo National Prosecuting Authority spokesperson Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang. In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Andisa Vavilova Mudau for the State argued that the accused was the aggressor on the day of the incident and that the deceased had done nothing to warrant losing his life. Mudau further submitted that Netshikweta still faces two pending cases of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. “The accused is a law enforcement officer and, as such, his conduct has brought the criminal justice system into disrepute. His actions violated the South African Constitution, which he had taken an oath to protect and serve,” Mudau added. The court sentenced Netshikweta to 15 years’ direct imprisonment for murder.

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## MAN WHO RAPED A MINOR SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

By Montsho Matlala

**P**olokwane: A 44-year-old man who abducted and raped a minor girl at a village outside Polokwane has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the Seshego Magistrate’s Court. The court heard that Poulis Ngoepe spotted the child at night while she was fetching water outside her family home in Ga-Ramoshoana village. He followed her, covered her mouth with his hand, and dragged her to his residence. There, he repeatedly raped her while threatening to kill her if she told anyone about what he described as “their love affair.” The next day, Ngoepe released the girl but warned her to remain silent. However, she confided in her grandmother, who immediately reported the matter to Matlala Police. The case was

transferred to the Seshego Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit for further investigation. Limpopo police spokesperson Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba said: “The meticulous investigation by Sergeant Victor Mokhudu led to the accused being arrested and charged with rape. Although he was released on bail, he was ultimately found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.” Acting Provincial Police Commissioner Major General Jan Scheepers welcomed the ruling. “The sentence reflects the seriousness of the offence and the commitment of the justice system to protecting vulnerable members of our society,” he said. The victim’s family expressed relief, saying the rapist would “rot in jail.”

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# LIMPOPO PREMIER TO MEET FAMILIES OF 12 KILLED IN MULTI-VEHICLE COALITION



Twelve people lost their lives when a minibus taxi was torn apart in a collision with two trucks and a bakkie at Ga-Sekgopo, Limpopo  
Picture credit: Limpopo Transport Department

By Montsho Matlala

**Modjadjiskloof:** Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba has expressed shock at the deaths of 12 people, including a taxi driver, who lost their lives in a collision involving a minibus taxi, two trucks, and a bakkie at Ga-Sekgopo on Saturday. “The news of this tragic accident is deeply touching, particularly when we consider the mothers and families affected by this loss. The provincial government stands in solidarity with the families during this difficult time, and we are prepared to provide the necessary support,” said Ramathuba. Among the victims was a six-year-old girl, one of 11 females who died alongside the male driver in the horror crash on the mountainous R81 Munnik Road. According to provincial government spokesperson Nдавhe Ramakuela,

the premier, along with Transport and Community Safety MEC Violet Mathye and Health MEC Dieketseng Mashego, will meet the grieving families at Pietersburg Hospital Recreational Hall to assist with the painful task of identifying the deceased. Transport and Community Safety spokesperson Tidimalo Chuene said the cause of the crash is under investigation. However, preliminary reports received from officers who rushed to the scene state: “A Mercedes-Benz HMV truck with two attached trailers experienced brake failure and sideswiped a Mahindra LDV (bakkie). The truck then collided head-on with the rear of a Toyota minibus taxi and dragged it for about 150 metres until it crashed into another Mercedes-Benz HMV truck with a single trailer that was ahead.” Traffic authorities confirmed there were no injuries in the two Mercedes-Benz HMV trucks or the Mahindra bakkie.

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# ZIM MAN GETS 34 YEARS FOR POWER INFRASTRUCTURE SABOTAGE



Zimbabwean national Zakhele Hadebe was sentenced to 34 years’ imprisonment for stealing and destroying power infrastructure.  
Picture: NPA

By Montsho Matlala

**Musina** — A Zimbabwean man who vandalised and stole power infrastructure on a farm was recently sentenced to 34 years’ imprisonment by the Musina Regional Court, which also found he was in South Africa illegally. Zakhele Hadebe, 51, and another man still

at large, opened a transformer and dug up several metres of underground cables supplying electricity to Maremani Nature Reserve, leaving wildlife and residents without power. The farm also suffered a water shortage, as the electricity that powered water-pumping machinery was cut, the court heard. “While the second man managed to escape, Hadebe was arrested on site after being traced through their escape route. Throughout the trial, he admitted to being an illegal immigrant and to trespassing, but denied other charges, including tampering with essential infrastructure and theft of non-ferrous metal,” said National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) spokesperson in Limpopo, Mashudu Malabi-Dzhangiri. State prosecutor Jan Krijt argued that infrastructure crimes were rampant across the country and particularly devastating to farmers as well as rural communities, who were often left without basic services. Krijt stressed that there were no compelling reasons for the court to deviate from the prescribed sentence of 34 years’ imprisonment. Advocate Ivy Thenga, director of the NPA in Limpopo, welcomed the prison term for Hadebe, saying crimes that targeted infrastructure deprived communities of basic services. “The NPA will continue to adopt a focused approach to ensure that, upon conviction, harsher sentences are imposed. We also commend the sterling work of the prosecutor and the investigating police officers for securing conviction and sentence in this particular case,” added Thenga.

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# ALLEGATIONS OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE UNCOVERED AT THE MADLANGA COMMISSION

By Thulane Madalane

**Pretoria** —The Madlanga Commission of Inquiry, which is investigating allegations of misconduct and corruption within the South African Police Service (SAPS), continues to reveal tensions between law enforcement officials and political leaders. Recent testimonies from KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi and National Police Commissioner General Fannie Masemola have highlighted instances of interference and breaches of protocol within the police force. During his testimony, Mkhwanazi discussed the precarious position of the Priority Crime Tactical Team (PKTT), stating that it faces potential disbandment due to factions within the state apparatus. He referred to a media briefing held on July 6, where he expressed his displeasure with the conduct of Members of Parliament, specifically Dianne Kohler Barnard and Fadiel Adams. Mkhwanazi accused Kohler Barnard of abusing her position by interfering with Crime Intelligence activities and claimed that Adams accessed sensitive information without authorization. Both MPs have denied these allegations, but they are scheduled to present their defense in the upcoming phase of the hearings. Mkhwanazi also detailed communications with Vusumuzi “Cat” Matlala and businessman Brown Mogotsi. He stated that Mogotsi had contacted him via WhatsApp concerning a smear campaign against him. Mogotsi provided police documents that should not have been accessible to civilians, raising concerns about the potential misuse of sensitive police information. Mkhwanazi further indicated that Mogotsi’s comments suggested high-ranking officials were discussing matters that he, as a civilian, should not be privy to. He inferred that Police Minister Senzo Mchunu had shared excessive information with Mogotsi, indicating undue influence over the minister. “We are fighting for the very existence of the PKTT against forces within the state apparatus,” Mkhwanazi stated during his testimony, underscoring the challenges faced by the unit.



Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner, testifies at the Madlanga Commission about serious allegations of political interference within the SAPS

General Fannie Masemola’s testimony on Monday and Tuesday emphasized the strained relationship between the SAPS and political leadership. He described Minister Mchunu’s actions as “a total encroachment,” cautioning that they violate Section 207 of the South African Constitution, which ensures operational independence for the police. Masemola expressed concern about the lack of communication regarding the PKTT’s supposed disbandment, noting he had learned of it through WhatsApp while on leave. He defended the unit’s operations and questioned the reliability of the information that informed Mchunu’s decisions, raising issues of transparency and accountability. “While the minister can set national policing objectives, operational decisions must rest with law enforcement leaders to maintain integrity and effectiveness,” Masemola emphasized during his testimony. The Madlanga Commission serves as a crucial examination of the relationship between politics and policing in South Africa. The testimonies of Mkhwanazi and Masemola bring to light serious allegations of misconduct, unauthorized access to sensitive information, and the erosion of police independence due to political interference. As the commission progresses, its findings will play a significant role in shaping the future of the SAPS and in restoring public trust in law enforcement.

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# HUNGRY LION GUTTED BY FIRE IN POLOKWANE

By Montsho Matlala

**Polokwane:** Fast-food outlet Hungry Lion was gutted by fire on Monday at Excelsior Street in Polokwane, Limpopo, raising fears of possible job losses among employees who had only recently started working there after its grand opening less than a month ago. According to eyewitnesses, the blaze broke out around midday, sending thick black smoke and flames high into the sky. The inferno caused panic in the city while also drawing crowds of onlookers to the corner of Excelsior and Paul Kruger streets at Polokwane CBD’s India Centre. “Hungry Lion staged its grand opening just two weeks ago, and I had already submitted my CV. I fear it may have gone up in flames along with the food and equipment. It’s hard luck for those who just got jobs — I wonder if they even received their first salaries yet,” said a 22-year-old job seeker at the scene. Polokwane Municipality spokesperson Thipa Selala said no injuries had been reported. “Municipal firefighters are still battling the blaze. What we know is that Hungry Lion and the adjacent clothing store, Tip Top, have been extensively damaged. We are monitoring the situation closely,” Selala said. Provincial police spokesperson Brigadier

Hlulani Mashaba confirmed the fire but said details of the damages were still being compiled at the time of going to print. Amid the chaos, looters were reported to have taken goods from nearby shops while others recorded videos and snapped pictures to share on social media. Some eyewitnesses claimed the fire may have been caused by an iron left plugged in by owners of a nearby shop who had gone for midday prayers. Affected shop owners could not be reached for comment.

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Social media users shared pictures and videos showing flames engulfing the Hungry Lion outlet in Polokwane. Credit: Facebook

EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is invited to the Community Outreach Meetings (Mayoral Izimbizo) according to Section 29 (b)(i)(ii)(iii) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act No.32 of 2000, as per the dates mentioned below:

WARDS	DATE	DAY	TIME	VENUE
1, 2, 4	11/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Besilindile Primary School - Open Space
5	11/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Extension 4 Park opposite Siphosensimbi Clinic
6	11/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Extension 7 Park
7	11/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Kwa-Guqa Primary School Open Space
8	11/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Sinqobile Community Hall
3, 23, 29	11/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Extension 11 Community Hall

WARDS	DATE	DAY	TIME	VENUE
9	11/10/2025	Saturday	14:00	Sinqobile Community Hall
10, 11, 13	11/10/2025	Saturday	14:00	Sy Mthimunye Stadium
14, 16, 17	11/10/2025	Saturday	14:00	Lynnville Community Hall

WARDS	DATE	DAY	TIME	VENUE
19	12/10/2025	Sunday	09:00	El Paso Sports Field
21	12/10/2025	Sunday	09:00	T.P Sililo Secondary School

WARDS	DATE	DAY	TIME	VENUE
18	15/10/2025	Wednesday	17:30	AGS Oasis Church
20 & 22	15/10/2025	Wednesday	17:30	Banquet Hall
33	15/10/2025	Wednesday	17:30	Ronelle Park (Klipfontein)
24 & 34	15/10/2025	Wednesday	17:30	180° (River Crescent)

WARDS	DATE	DAY	TIME	VENUE
25	18/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Thubelihle Community Hall
26 & 27	18/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Ga-Nala Community Hall
28,30,31	18/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Mabande Comprehensive High School - Sports Ground
32	18/10/2025	Saturday	09:00	Rietspruit Rugby Field

WARDS	DATE	DAY	TIME	VENUE
12	18/10/2025	Saturday	14:00	Klarinet Extension 6 Community Hall
15	18/10/2025	Saturday	14:00	Klarinet Extension 3 Thusong Service Centre

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# MPUMALANGA EXPO PUTS SMALL BUSINESSES ON THE MAP



Tourism entrepreneurs and product owners from Nkangala District with Director of Tourism at MPG:DEDT Dr DJ Mdluli  
Credits: Daluxolo

By Duncan Mnisi

**Mbombela:** The Mpumalanga Tourism Expo, held from September 26 to 28 at Riverside Mall in Mbombela, has become a key event for promoting tourism and supporting small businesses. Now in its fifth year, the expo aims to revive the region's tourism industry and connect entrepreneurs with buyers from across the SADC region. The Eswatini Tourism Authority showcased its attractions alongside local hospitality partners, including Mountain View International Hotel and Global Village Guest House. Meanwhile, Nkangala SMMEs — small, medium, and micro enterprises — displayed their handcrafted products, including beadwork, crochet, leather goods, and fashion designs. "The expo provided a vital opportunity for small businesses to connect with potential customers and gain exposure," said Ms. Immy Serakalala, Head of Tourism. "We

aim to empower entrepreneurs and give them a platform for growth." The event attracted industry buyers, tour operators, and other tourism stakeholders. A speed-marketing activity helped match product owners with potential buyers, opening new markets for local artisans. Margaret Mahlangu, Secretary of Nkangala RTO, emphasized: "The expo has expanded SMMEs' opportunities to network, establish collaborations, and diversify their offerings." Caroline Nake, former Chairperson of Mpumalanga Women in Tourism, highlighted the importance of visibility: "SMMEs can build support structures for their products, placing crafts in tourism establishments and curio shops to increase sales and market share." The expo also prepares local entrepreneurs for upcoming events, such as the Durban Travel Indaba 2026, helping them learn how to package and present their products effectively.

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# MPUMALANGA'S GOVT BOOSTS TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP WITH VEHICLE SUPPORT

By Duncan Mnisi

**Mpumalanga** — The Mpumalanga Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has handed over a new vehicle to Inkosi Themba Yende of the Ogenyani Traditional Council in Mkhondo. Yende, who also serves as Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders (HTKL), received the vehicle as part of government efforts to ease transportation challenges for traditional leaders, particularly in rural areas. During the recent 2025/26 Policy and Budget Vote, the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) announced an allocation of over R250 million for Traditional Leaders and R30 million for the House of Traditional Leaders. MEC Speed Mashilo explained that the vehicle was more than a symbolic gesture. "It's a tool to help traditional leaders connect better with their people," he said, emphasizing government's commitment to supporting leaders like Inkosi Yende in their community duties and cultural events. Expressing his gratitude, Yende remarked: "Mpumalanga is the best province for supporting traditional leaders." He welcomed the provision of resources that enable leaders to serve effectively. Government also announced restructuring measures under the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, recognizing five traditional councils and updating leadership roles. The initiative further includes plans to



Mpumalanga Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has provided a new vehicle to traditional leaders to improve their work and service delivery.  
Credits: Mpumalanga CoGHSTA

modernize offices of traditional councils, with new facilities to be built in areas such as Esetleni and Enikwayungwenga. A perimeter wall will also be erected around King Makhoshe II's royal residence. These projects, according to the department, aim to strengthen traditional leadership and enhance service delivery in rural communities.

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# BATTLE LINES DRAWN FOR MUSINA WARD NEAR BEIT BRIDGE

By Montsho Matlala

**Musina** — Six political parties are expected to battle it out in a By-Election at Ward 2 of the Musina Local Municipality, located near the Beit Bridge Port of Entry with Zimbabwe, next month. IEC provincial electoral officer in Limpopo, Nkaro Mateta, said applications for special votes would open on Monday and close on Friday. "Voters wishing to apply to cast a special vote can apply at the Musina local IEC office during office hours by submitting MEC 35 forms. Forms can only be hand-delivered (no emails or faxes accepted), but someone else (a proxy) may deliver your completed form on your behalf. Applications can also be made online via the IEC website (www.elections.org.za)," explained Mateta. Ward 2 became vacant following the death of ANC councillor David Mokobi in July. While the ANC is eager to retain the ward, the outcome is uncertain this time around. A long-time ally in the race, the SACP, has broken ranks and will, for the first time, contest the by-election independently. Other contestants vying for control of the water-scarce ward include the EFF, DA, Build a Better South Africa, and the



IEC Provincial Electoral Officer Nkaro Mateta says it is all systems go for Musina's special voter registration starting Monday.  
Picture credit: Montsho Matlala

Economic Liberators Forum South Africa. Jerry Muthambi, a resident of Nancefield under Musina Municipality, said: "The water is scarce and people with tap water face high bills, while most places here smell of sewage. The biggest problem is crime; undocumented immigrants commit crimes and slip into Zimbabwe. This does not mean locals are angels—they also commit crimes, but at least they have fingerprint records."

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# YOUNG POTENTIAL VOTERS JOIN VOTER REGISTRATION LINES IN LIMPOPO'S BY-ELECTIONS

By Montsho Matlala

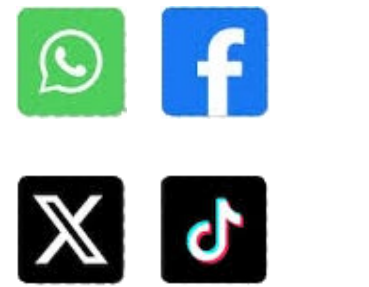
**Sekhukhune:** The two day voter registration drive for the coming by elections in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality in Sekhukhune district, Limpopo managed to attract some young potential voters. The voting registration took place on Saturday and Sunday respectively at six voting stations of Ward37 to pave way for the by elections that will take place in November. According to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), 889 people turned up to the voting stations of which 210 were new registrations. IEC provincial electoral officer Nkaro Mateta noted, "Five hundred and three (503) came to verify their status, while 176 moved into the Ward 37 from elsewhere. Even more exciting is that 151 of the new registration are younger than 21 years. We encourage voters to turn up on 5 November to choose a Candidate of their choice to strengthen our democracy." Ward 37 which boasts 5114 registered voters became vacant for by-election following the death of ANC councillor, Mateta added. Candidates nomination would start after the provincial Cooperative Governance Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs MEC has proclaimed the by elections. Meanwhile the ANC welcomed its victory in Ward 9 of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Marble Hall in a Sekhukhune district. ANC provincial spokesperson Jimmy Machaka said "We wish the elected councillor well and urge him to prioritise the services to the people of the ward. We also salute our volunteers, regional leadership



Mateta: IEC Limpopo provincial electoral officer Nkaro Mateta says voting strengthens democracy. Picture Credit: Facebook

and the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC)." The ANC retained the ward with 69.08% thus making its candidate Collis Nkwane Maleswene the ward councillor, the IEC confirmed. EFF scored 23.60%, MKP 4.28% while SAMEBA got 1.99% in the hotly contested by election. Voter turnout was 48.87%, according to the IEC.

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# FAITH + MATTERS

## LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE. (SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN)



By Given Aphane

Dear Beloved, today let me share about what we think it's suffering after receiving or accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. We tend to think that we're suffering because we no longer enjoy the things we did before we came to Christ. Yes you might say its suffering because before life was easy you lived the way wanted, did everything you wanted whenever. So now because you are no longer living according to your will, you have to deny yourself the things you were used to, deny things of the world that cause us to live a sinful life. For us to live a sin free life we have to go through the suffering, we have to let our bodies suffer so that sin can lose its power. In the book of **Peter 4:1** says **"Since Christ suffered and underwent pain, you must have the same attitude He did, you must be ready to suffer too. For remember, when your body suffer, sin loses its power and you won't be spending the rest of your life chasing after evil desires, but we will be anxious to do the will of God"**. And we have to know that after receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we are no longer living according to our will but His. So that's why we might say we're suffering because we are not doing our will anymore. We must also know that the world will not be friendly or kind to us because from the start it has never loved or accepted Jesus. It hated Him because He was reprimanding them from their wicked ways and sinful living.

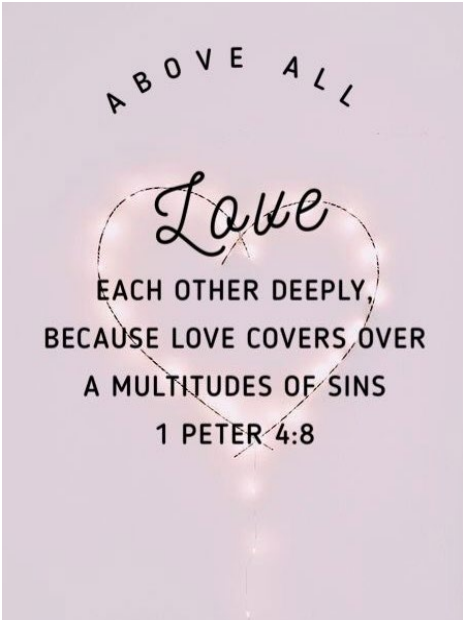
### James 1:12

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.



So if (us) we truly accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we will live according to His ways and live away from sin. For if we don't we are guilty of breaking God's law, in the book of **1 John 3:4** says **"whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is breaking the law. You know that Christ appeared in order to take away sins, and that there is no sin in him. So everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin, but whoever continues to sin has never seen him or known Him."** And again we will suffer spiritual war because the enemy will never just let us free without a fight. We'll get attacked spiritually. The scripture in **James 1:12** says **"Happy are those who remain faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such test, they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love Him"**. So beloved whatever we're going through we must remain faithful to God. We must endure every suffering that comes our way because it is better to suffer in the Lord than be joyful with the things of this world, for we know that when we suffer in the Lord we will have an eternal life. So beloved let us conclude by saying we are not suffering anymore and let us say it is joy to accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour because when we walk in His light we don't stumble in sinful choices, we are directed by His light to recognize and resist the temptation of the flesh and delivered us from death. Amen.

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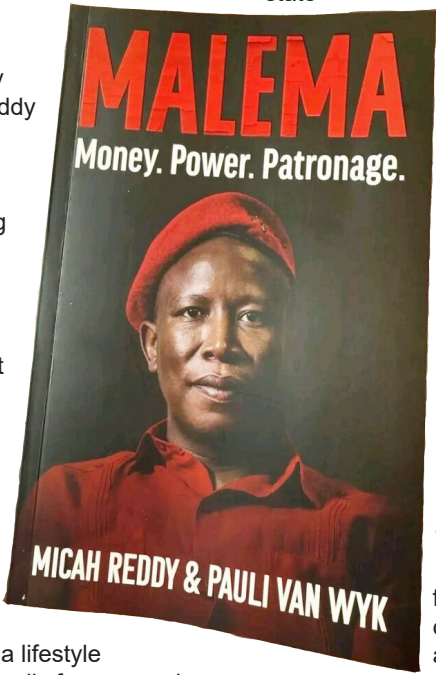
# BOOK REVIEWS



## NEW BOOK PROBES MALEMA'S WEALTH AND POLITICAL POWER

By Duncan Mnisi

South Africa —A new book on Julius Malema is stirring debate across South Africa. Malema: Money. Power. Patronage, by Journalists Micah Reddy and Pauli van Wyk, takes aim at the EFF leader's wealth and influence, questioning whether he is a champion of the poor or simply exploiting their trust. The book alleges that Malema's fortune—estimated in the millions—is tied to political networks that keep the ruling elite in power. It claims he owns 10 luxury properties worth more than R21 million and lives a lifestyle far removed from his calls for economic justice.



authors write, suggesting he is another politician living in luxury while preaching poverty. They accuse him of looting funds meant for the poor, diverting money from state programs, and using it to bankroll his lifestyle. The story, they argue, mirrors that of other leaders who promise justice but protect their own wealth. Malema's true goal, the book suggests, is self-enrichment. Reactions have been swift. Supporters dismiss the book as a political smear, while critics say it confirms long-held suspicions. One reviewer summed it up bluntly: "Malema is just another politician in red overalls." Whether praised or condemned, the book forces South Africans to confront tough questions about political promises, corruption, and who really benefits from power.

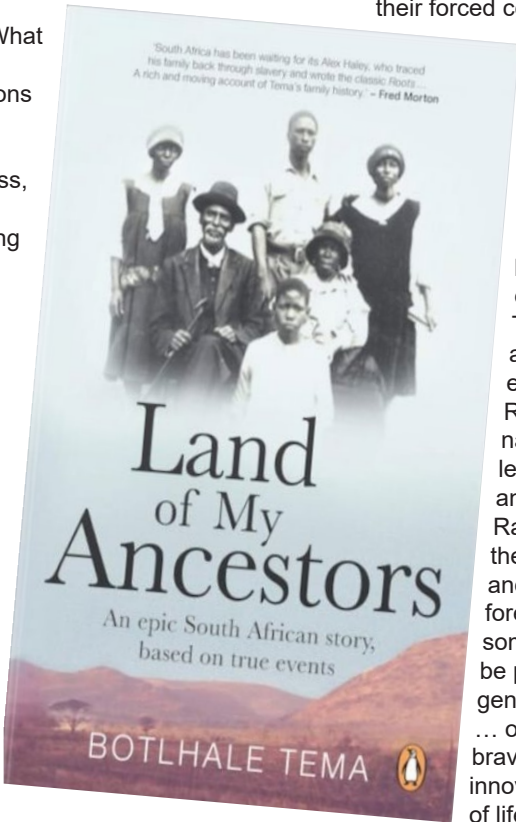
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## BOTHLALE TEMA'S "LAND OF MY ANCESTORS" REDEFINES SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY

By Duncan Mnisi

In Land of My Ancestors, Dr Bothlale Tema resurrects a silenced past that connects personal memory with South Africa's broader historical wounds. What begins as nostalgic childhood recollections soon evolves into a powerful reckoning with slavery, land loss, and resilience. Tema grew up visiting Welgeval, a once-thriving farming community near Rustenburg. "Every weekend we would travel back to Welgeval, where I knew everyone and was related to nine out of ten people I encountered," she recalls. For her, this village was a place of warmth and belonging—until she unearthed a darker truth. While working on a UNESCO project, Tema discovered her ancestors were not simply Dutch-speaking Africans but the descendants of slaves. Boer commandos had raided villages, seizing women and children—what they chillingly called "black ivory"—to work on farms in the western Transvaal. "How did my people transform that amount of pain and trauma from their

past to produce me, who felt privileged by my upbringing?" she asks in one of the book's most haunting reflections. The book traces the community's struggles with land dispossession, from the 1913 Land Act to their forced cession of land titles in the 20th century, culminating in 1980 when Bophuthatswana incorporated Welgeval into the Pilanesberg National Park. The loss of home was devastating, yet Tema frames it within a broader story of endurance. Reviewers hail the narrative for its dual lens—at once intimate and historical. Thekgo Raseala writes that the story of Polomane and Maja, Tema's forebears, "started something that could be passed down from generation to generation ... our ancestors were brave and strong and innovative in their years of life. They made a way and that is our heritage."



At less than 250 pages, "Land of My Ancestors" is both memoir and manifesto, reminding South Africans that confronting painful truths is essential to reclaiming dignity. Tema's journey ensures that Welgeval, though erased from the map, lives on in memory and history.

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# TIMELESS SPORTS

## SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETES CELEBRATE THEIR BRONZE AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



SA's 4x400m team receives a warm welcome at OR Tambo International Airport after winning Bronze in Tokyo. Credits: EyeWitness News

By Duncan Mnisi

Cape Town – South Africa's men's 4x400m relay team made the nation proud by winning a bronze medal at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. The athletes returned home to a warm welcome, with officials and fans gathering at OR Tambo International Airport to celebrate their success. The team's achievement marked a significant moment, as it was South Africa's first medal in this event in eight years. The relay squad's performance was a mix of hard work and determination, with one member, Van Niekerk, emphasizing the importance of future planning and investment. "It's a pity we couldn't bring home a silver or gold," Van Niekerk admitted, "but it also just shows where we stand as track and field athletes right now. We have so much potential and talent." He highlighted. Van Niekerk also shared the struggles athletes face balancing training with studies and jobs. "I've seen teammates

attending university classes online or submitting assignments late at night before races," he said. Despite these challenges, he praised his team for their dedication and compared their efforts to international teams like the Springboks and Proteas, who perform well because their needs are met. Looking ahead, Van Niekerk said South Africa has a big opportunity at the upcoming Commonwealth Games in July. "We have medallists among us, but we need to support them better so they can reach their full potential," he explained. The athletes' return was marked by a quiet but proud reception. A small crowd, including officials, friends, and family, gathered to welcome them back peacefully, reflecting the respect for their accomplishments. South Africa's next big challenge is the Commonwealth Games, where Van Niekerk hopes the team can shine even brighter. "Our goal is to bring home gold medals," he said confidently, "and with the right support, we can do it."

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## VINCENT TSHITUKA'S RISE TO LEAD THE SHARKS

By Duncan Mnisi

Johannesburg – Vincent Tshituka, a 27-year-old rugby star recently shared insights into his transition, from Johannesburg to becoming the captain of the Sharks in Scotland, revealing that settling into his new environment took time but eventually became a source of pride. "It took me a while to feel at home at the Sharks after a life in Johannesburg, but now I live and breathe Kings Park," Tshituka said. Born in Northcliff, Johannesburg, Tshituka moved to South Africa from the Democratic Republic of Congo at age four. His journey from a young immigrant to a team leader underscores his commitment and adaptability. He described the significance of gaining South African citizenship: "I did a dance when the citizenship came through," he recalled, highlighting the personal milestone. His rugby career reached a new high when he captained the Sharks for the first time—a moment he called "massive" and unforgettable. The achievement was made even more special by the fact that he married two weeks later, marking a memorable period in his life. Tshituka emphasized that leadership is a collective effort. "I'm not carrying the captaincy alone," he stated. He credited the support of senior teammates like Jaden Hendrikse and Franco Venter, reiterating that "leadership is never a one-man journey. You need everyone's buy-in." He also stressed the importance of team bonding, especially during tours. "Touring allows us to bond and build relationships. It's like being at work 24/7," he explained.

The recent tour to Ireland aimed to foster familiarity and comfort among players, helping them perform at their best. Looking ahead, Tshituka hopes his story will inspire others. "It's about making players feel at home and helping them perform at their best," he said. As the Sharks prepare for upcoming fixtures—including matches in Dublin and against Leinster—Tshituka remains focused on leadership and team unity.

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Vincent Tshituka, now captain of the Sharks, shares his inspiring story of overcoming challenges, gaining South African citizenship, and embracing the Sharks' language and team spirit. Credits: TimesLive



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