



A Riveting, Refreshing Approach To Community Sport

19 March - 2 April 2026

Cashibe Easter Tournament Gets Boost from Herotel South Africa Partnership



Itumeleng Isaack Ntaopane - Brand Manager @ Khuma Herotel, Mr Cashibe - Tournament Organiser and Reginald Reggy Mathuloe - Marketing Manager Potchefstroom Herotel

Potchefstroom.

The partnership is a win-win for both parties, with Herotel South Africa providing support to the tournament and creating job opportunities for young, unemployed community members during the event. According to tournament organiser Mr. Cashibe, the partnership is a key part of their efforts to develop the community and provide young people with positive alternatives to street life. "Giving young players a motivation to live for, staying away from bad behavior and street life, is a top priority for us," said Mr. Cashibe. "We're excited to partner with Herotel Potchefstroom to make a positive impact on our community."

The tournament will take place from April 3rd to 6th at Ikageng Stadium, and promises to be an exciting event, with local teams competing for top prizes. Herotel South Africa's involvement is seen as a significant boost to the tournament, and a demonstration of their commitment to community development and reducing unemployment in the area.

The agreement between Herotel Potchefstroom and Cashibe World Cup was signed this week, and both parties are looking forward to a successful tournament.

By Sista Masilo

Potchefstroom

The Cashibe Easter Tournament is set to kick off

on April 3rd, and this year's event is expected to be bigger and better than ever, with 16 teams gearing up to compete. The tournament has just secured a major sponsorship deal with Herotel South Africa, a leading WiFi supplier based in

NWU Eagles Soar to the Top of Varsity Cup Standings

By Rorisang Rampheteng

The North-West University Eagles have firmly stamped their authority in this year's Varsity Cup, climbing to the top of the log with an impressive unbeaten run. After five matches played, NWU leads the standings with four wins and no losses, accumulating 22 points and setting the pace for the rest of the competition.

Their consistent performances, attacking flair, and disciplined defence have made them the team to beat this season. The Eagles have showcased a well-balanced game, combining powerful forward play with quick, creative backline movements. Their ability to convert opportunities into points has been key, as reflected in their strong tally of tries scored so far. Each match has seen NWU grow in confidence, executing their game plan with precision and maintaining composure under pressure.

Their unbeaten record is a clear indication of a side that is both mentally and physically prepared for the demands of the competition.

A major factor behind NWU's rise to the top has been their unity on and off the field. The squad has demonstrated strong cohesion, with players stepping up in crucial moments and supporting one another throughout matches. The coaching staff has also played a vital role, ensuring that the team remains focused and adaptable against different opponents. Their strategic approach has allowed the Eagles to maintain consistency, even against tough competition. With the tournament progressing, NWU will be looking to maintain their momentum and secure a place in the knockout stages.

While other teams remain close behind, the Eagles have set a high standard early in the season. If they continue on this trajectory, North-West University could be well on their way to lifting the Varsity Cup trophy, cementing their status as one of the most formidable university rugby teams in the country. As the competition heats up, all eyes will remain on the Eagles to see if they can sustain their dominance and finish what they have so strongly started.



Spelling Bee Sensation to Represent SA in Zimbabwe



Mbulelo Tolom

Klerksdorp

The North West Department of Education is proud to announce that Mbulelo Tolom, a 12 year old, Grade 7 learner from Klerksdorp Primary School in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda Local Municipality, has been selected to represent South Africa at the Continental Spelling Bee

Competition to be held in Zimbabwe from 18–21 March 2026.

Last year, Mbulelo Tolom won the 2025 South African National Spelling Bee Finals held in Sun City. By winning the national title, he earned the opportunity to represent South Africa at the African Junior Championship Spelling Competition, which will be hosted in Zimbabwe.

The participants in the competition won the spelling competition from School, Cluster, Local Education Area, District and National level. The Spelling Bee Competition promotes literacy, reading, language skills, and academic excellence among learners.

The MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi wished the best of luck to Mbulelo Tolom and the entire team representing South Africa in the continental competition. "On behalf of the North West Department of Education, I take this opportunity to wish our learner, Mulelo Tolom the best of luck together with the entire South African team which will be participating in the Spelling Bee competition. As the Department we are exceptionally proud that one of our learners is part of the team that will be competing with the best in the continent." Let me also take this moment to congratulate all the educators for their sterling work in nurturing this talent.

Without our educators, we would not be able to identify and develop learners with such remarkable potential. Their dedication and commitment continue to inspire learners to strive for excellence and reach greater heights", added MEC Motsumi. The trip to Harare is fully funded by the Department of Basic Education, while the provincial department will cover all local travel costs for the learner and one accompanying adult.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A POLITICAL PARTY IN TERMS OF SECTION 16(1)(A) OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION ACT, 1996 (ACT 51 OF 1996)

1. Notice is hereby given that BAAGI is applying for the registration in terms of the Electoral Commission Act, 1996 (Act No. 51 of 1996).

2. Date on which the application will be or has been submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer: 23 March 2026.

3. There is no abbreviation of the name of the party.

4. The distinguishing mark or symbol of the party is printed underneath.



5. Anyone wishing to raise an objection against the intended registration must do so by written notice in which are set out the grounds for the objections and which must be delivered at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer within fourteen days after the publication of this notice.

ANNEXURE 2

Bafenyi Trust Appeals for Support to Help Bring Warmth This Winter By Rorisang Rampheteng



Previous beneficiaries of Bafenyi Initiative

Potchefstroom

By Rorisang Rampheteng

As winter approaches, many vulnerable families across communities will soon face the harsh cold without proper clothing or blankets to keep them warm. In response to this challenge, Bafenyi Trust has launched its Winter Project and is calling on members of the public, local businesses and organisations to support the initiative through donations.

The organisation is appealing for contributions such as blankets, warm clothing, shoes and financial support to help assist families who struggle during the cold winter months. According to Bafenyi Trust, the project aims to ensure that disadvantaged individuals, especially children and the elderly, are protected from the cold and can face winter with dignity and comfort.

Bafenyi Trust believes that even a

small act of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life. By donating warm items or making a financial contribution, community members can help bring hope and relief to families who need it the most during the cold season. Members of the public who wish to support the Winter Project can make a financial donation through the organisation's Absa cheque account. The banking details are as follows: Absa Cheque account - Account Number 4076601476, Branch Code 632005, using the reference "Winter Project1". For those who would like to partner with the organisation or get more information about the Winter Project, Bafenyi Trust encourages people to get in touch.

Supporters can call or send a WhatsApp message to 078 060 7398 or email admin@bafenyi.org.za.

Through the support of the community, the organisation hopes to reach many families and ensure that no one is left out in the cold this winter.

Mahlobo calls for science-driven action to tackle water crisis



bringing together government, academia and sector stakeholders to advance practical, evidence-based responses to the country's water crisis. Highlighting the importance of academia, Mahlobo said the country's response must be firmly grounded in scientific evidence, innovation and technical expertise.

"Universities and research institutions must be at the centre of our national response. We need solutions that are informed by data, guided by science and capable of being implemented at scale." He called for a decisive shift from research to implementation, arguing that while South Africa has sufficient knowledge and innovation, it faces challenges in translating these into tangible outcomes. "We must close the gap between knowledge and delivery. Scientific capability must find expression in municipal systems, infrastructure operations and the daily management of water services." The Deputy Minister also reiterated that government cannot achieve water security alone, calling for a whole-of-society response that brings together government, academia, industry and communities in a coordinated national effort.

He reaffirmed government's commitment to stabilising the sector through infrastructure investment, improved municipal performance, strengthened oversight and coordinated interventions under the National Water Crisis Committee chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Mahlobo urged all South Africans to recognise water security as a shared national responsibility, and to actively support efforts to protect and sustain the country's limited water resources.

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Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister David Mahlobo has underscored the critical role of academic institutions in shaping solutions to South Africa's water challenges.

Delivering the keynote address at a recent Water Imbizo hosted by the University of South Africa (UNISA), Mahlobo described the country's water challenges as structural and systemic in nature, saying that coordinated and science-based interventions are essential to addressing the crisis. While South Africa remains water-scarce, Mahlobo noted that current shortages are largely driven by ageing and deteriorating infrastructure, weak governance, declining municipal capacity, pollution, and

persistently high levels of non-revenue water, which stands at approximately 47%. "This is not just a resource challenge. It is a governance, infrastructure and capability challenge that demands coordinated action across the entire system," the Deputy Minister said.

Mahlobo emphasised that water security is both a constitutional obligation and a developmental and economic imperative, underpinning public health, food security, industrial growth and human dignity. He warned that without decisive intervention, increasing demand, climate variability and inefficiencies will place growing strain on already vulnerable water systems. The imbizo was positioned as a key national platform,

SA Innovation Week highlights gains of investing in research and development



Science, Technology and Innovation Deputy Minister Dr Nomalungelo Gina says innovation is the lifeblood of any forward-looking country and industrialisation.

"...All fast-growing economies are driven by strong investments in research and development (R&D) and a robust system for commercialising prototypes," Gina said at the opening of the South African Innovation Week (SAIW) 2026 held at Nasrec, Johannesburg. Further, the Deputy Minister said all countries that innovate, rather than import technology solutions, are "the strongest".

"The department's Science, Technology, and Innovation

Decadal Plan (2022-2032), a government strategic roadmap to place innovation at the heart of the country's socio-economic development, sets an ambitious target to increase funding for research and innovation to a Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) of 1.5% of the GDP, an improvement from the current 1%," Gina said.

Gina said R&D has been under-funded and industries have not been investing enough in R&D to develop new technologies. "Another hurdle we face is that agencies like the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and universities host many technology demonstrators as prototypes that have not been translated into the economy. "In other words, the private sector is not taking up these technologies, which are ready for diffusion into the economy. It is these innovation gaps that we seek to address through industry partnership engagements as the DSTI. The Decadal Plan further defines key priority areas as grand challenges to be addressed through our efforts," she said. Gina said another challenge the country faces is that the future economy, driven mainly by new technologies, including AI, is confronted with a skills deficit.

"We have a skills mismatch as a country. More graduates

are unemployed because they have skills that this gig economy doesn't really need, yet we need to develop these skills and capabilities very quickly to be critical players in this emerging economy. "At the heart of our efforts is building the new pipeline of STEM-related professionals, who will be key players in the new economy, including future innovators." Gina told delegates that innovation is an engine of industrialisation and development, and that government is making a call for a coordinated approach, instead of different players functioning in silos.

"Part of this coordination is pooling funding instruments to support research, development, and commercialisation, including the registration of Intellectual Property (IP). Ecosystem-wide coordination is fundamental to the system's success. "Our adopted mantra is 'Placing Science, Technology and Innovation at the Centre of Government, Education, Industry and Science'." The SAIW26 brings together the energy, talent and capital of the innovation ecosystem into one shared showcase, networking and dialogue platform. It is designed as a week-long national programme to feature provincial innovation engagements across South Africa.

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Sipho Chaine dropped as Themba Zwane returns to Bafana squad



Bundesliga 2 side Hannover, has also been included, while Mbekezeli Mbokazi is set to travel from Chicago Fire to join the national team.

Sundowns midfielder Jayden Adams returns to the fold, while Renaldo Leaner of Sekhukhune has been included among goalkeepers.

Goalkeepers:
Ronwen Williams (Mamelodi Sundowns), Ricardo Goss (Siwelele), Renaldo Leaner (Sekhukhune United)

Defenders:
Samukelo Kabini (Molde), Thabang Matuludi (Polokwane City), Mbekezeli Mbokazi (Chicago Fire), Aubrey Modiba, Khuliso Mudau, Khulumani Ndamane (all Mamelodi Sundowns), Ime Okon (Hannover 96), Nkosinathi Sibisi (Orlando Pirates)

Midfielders:
Thalente Mbatha (Orlando Pirates), Teboho Mokoena, Jayden Adams (All Mamelodi Sundowns), Sphephelo Sithole (Tondela)

Forwards:
Oswin Appollis, Evidence Makgopa, Tshepang Moremi, Relebohile Mofokeng (All Orlando Pirates), Lyle Foster (Burnley), Bongokuhle Hlongwane (Minnesota), Thapelo Maseko (AEL Limassol), Themba Zwane (Mamelodi Sundowns).

Bafana Bafana coach Hugo Broos has announced his 23-man squad for the upcoming international friendlies against Panama, with Orlando Pirates goalkeeper Sipho Chaine a notable omission.

While Mamelodi Sundowns star Themba Zwane makes a return. Bafana will play a FIFA World Cup preparation match against Panama on Friday, 27 March at the Moses Mabhida Stadium before the second encounter at the DHL Stadium in Cape Town on Tuesday, 31 March.

Germany-based defender Ime Okon, who plays for

Pres. Ramaphosa addresses SA's unemployment crisis



President Cyril Ramaphosa says job creation remains government's top priority, as South Africa continues to grapple with high unemployment.

commends the organisers for confronting the unemployment challenge head-on by bringing together key stakeholders to seek workable solutions.

Addressing the opening of News24's On The Record Summit at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, the President stresses that unemployment is not the result of a single failure, but the outcome of deep seated historical and policy factors that have evolved over time. The summit, themed "Five Million Jobs in Ten Years", aims to find practical and implementable solutions to meet this ambitious employment target.

"Creating jobs is the most and foremost priority of our government. Our single greatest challenge is to translate positive economic momentum into jobs for the million. It is about dignity. It is about confidence. It is about a sense of belonging and an ability to contribute to our community and our society. The rate of unemployment in our country is unique. It has its roots, as I said, in our past, which was built only for a small part of the people of South Africa. And so therefore, it is the result of our inability to fully reverse that legacy of exclusion."

President Ramaphosa says achieving this goal will require inclusive economic growth, supported by structural reforms to unlock job opportunities. He also

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Come to the stadiums, come to Durban, come to Cape Town and support Bafana – Broos



Bafana Bafana coach Hugo Broos has named the final squad to face Panama in two international friendly matches later this month.

Durban’s Moses Mabhida Stadium and DHL Cape Town Stadium will host the two matches against the Central American country. The South African senior men’s national team will host the first match at

Moses Mabhida Stadium on Friday 27 March before facing the visitors in the second game in Cape Town on Tuesday, 31 March 2026. Broos appealed to supporters in KwaZulu-Natal and in the Western Cape to descend on the two stadiums in large numbers and support the South African senior men’s national team.

“Come to the stadium and support us. You saw what it means for the players when the supporters are there, and there is a good crowd at the stadium. The players do more when there is a difficult moment in the game, or when we play a difficult game (and a passionate crowd offers support in numbers). Just come to the stadiums, come to Durban, come to Cape Town and support us, and then it will be easier for us to deliver good performances,” he said. The team will assemble in Tshwane on Monday, 23 March 2026 and remain in the nation’s capital until Thursday morning when they depart to Durban.

Panama officials will start arriving in South Africa from Friday, 20 March 2026 and the rest of the team will land in Durban on Monday afternoon. They start training on Tuesday afternoon.

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Home Affairs cuts red tape for visa applications



events move quickly, and host nations must be ready to respond with equal speed. Through MEETS, Home Affairs is modernising visa processing to support large delegations in a secure and coordinated manner, unlocking greater economic impact from every event hosted in South Africa.

"Instead of fragmented processes and uncertainty, MEETS enables streamlined online submissions tailored for major international events, ensuring that high-volume applications can be processed efficiently when every second counts," the Minister said. He emphasised that the launch of MEETS marks another decisive step in the department's journey of digital transformation. "By modernising our visa system, we are positioning Home Affairs as an economic enabler that supports tourism, investment, and allows for job creation. The events sector is a powerful driver of growth, and MEETS ensures that our visa regime matches South Africa's ambition to host world-class international gatherings," the Minister said.

Domestic event organisers with a proven track record in the sector are invited to submit expressions of interest to join the MEETS visa scheme, subject to qualifying criteria, by visiting

<https://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/meets>.

Accredited organisers will enter into a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Home Affairs to regulate participation and governance of the scheme. The gazette is available here:

https://www.dha.gov.za/images/gazettes/54210_25-2HomeAffairs.pdf.

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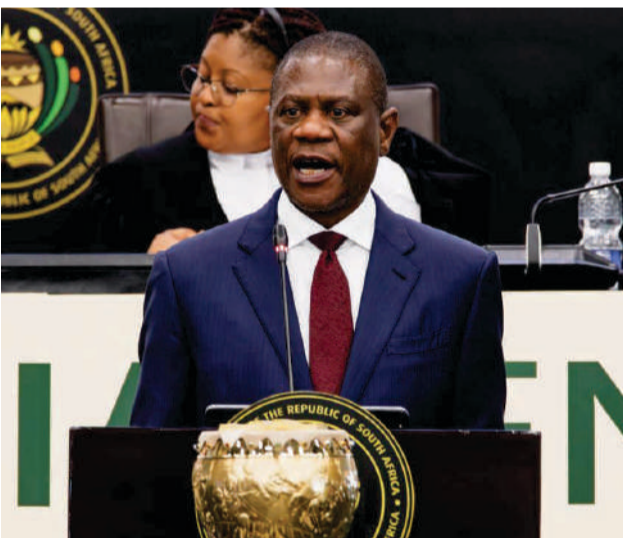
The Department of Home Affairs has launched a groundbreaking digital platform to fast-track the processing of visa applications for individuals attending major international events. The new Meetings, Exhibitions, Events and Tourism Scheme (MEETS) serves as a catalytic visa reform designed to boost South Africa's standing as a leading global destination for international conferences, exhibitions, sporting tournaments and major cultural and entertainment events.

For the first time, MEETS introduces a secure avenue to process high-volume, time-sensitive group visa applications linked to international events hosted in South Africa. "By cutting red tape and accelerating secure visa processing through technological reform, MEETS ensures that when the world chooses South Africa as a

host, our visa system is ready. "Through MEETS, we are ensuring that our visa system becomes a competitive advantage that helps attract even more conferences, exhibitions, sporting tournaments and cultural events that create jobs and stimulate economic growth," Minister of Home Affairs Leon Schreiber said on Tuesday, in a statement.

From major music concerts and global trade gatherings such as Mining Indaba, to World Cup tournaments and international academic conferences, South Africa regularly hosts events that attract high volumes of international participants. These large-scale events often require entire teams, performers, delegates and technical staff to travel together within strict timelines. "Global

Govt reassures South Africans of reliable water access



Deputy President Paul Mashatile has reaffirmed government's commitment to ensuring access to sufficient, safe and reliable water, as parts of the country continue to grapple with supply challenges.

"We have come up with several resolutions that will assist provinces and municipalities and all water authorities to be able to manage our water supplies," the Deputy President said. He was responding to Oral Questions in the National Assembly as part of Parliament's oversight and accountability processes.

"One of the important issues that we have raised is that water authorities must maintain infrastructure, invest more in water infrastructure, and also attend to problems caused by leaks. "We lose a lot of clean water through leakages or leaks all over the country. That's what we have emphasised to all these water authorities... to ensure that the bulk supply of water is reliable. "Our challenge now remains reticulation, particularly in municipalities. That's

where we're going to focus to ensure that municipalities, once water reaches the reservoirs in municipalities, the water must then reach households and businesses," the Deputy President said.

As part of efforts to turn around the long-term decline in service delivery, National Treasury has introduced a performance-based incentive grant that will unlock R100 billion in investment to encourage metropolitan municipalities to deliver reliable water, electricity, sanitation, and refuse removal services.

"Metropolitan municipalities are now developing water and sanitation turnaround strategies, as part of the Reform of Metropolitan Trading Services Programme. "One of the key reforms of this programme is to develop water and sanitation turnaround strategies, focusing on ringfencing revenue from the sale of water, specifically for the water function," Mashatile said. The implementation of these reforms seeks to stabilise and strengthen the delivery of core basic services in Metropolitan municipalities. They will also set foundations for increased investment and economic growth in South Africa's eight largest cities.

"To assist Gauteng municipalities in turning around water supply interruptions, the Department of Water and Sanitation has confirmed an increase of 200 megalitres in the water use license allocated to Rand Water. "This expansion enables Rand Water to extract and treat additional volumes, a measure that will support the stabilisation of municipal water supply systems and strengthen delivery to households and businesses alike," the Deputy President said. Immediate relief is being secured through the commissioning of the Brixton Reservoir and insourcing of water tankers, while long-term stability will come from the 20 million litre Carlswald

Reservoir and expanded Rand Water capacity.

These interventions, alongside leak repairs and stricter water use enforcement, will ensure that every household has access to a reliable, dignified water supply.

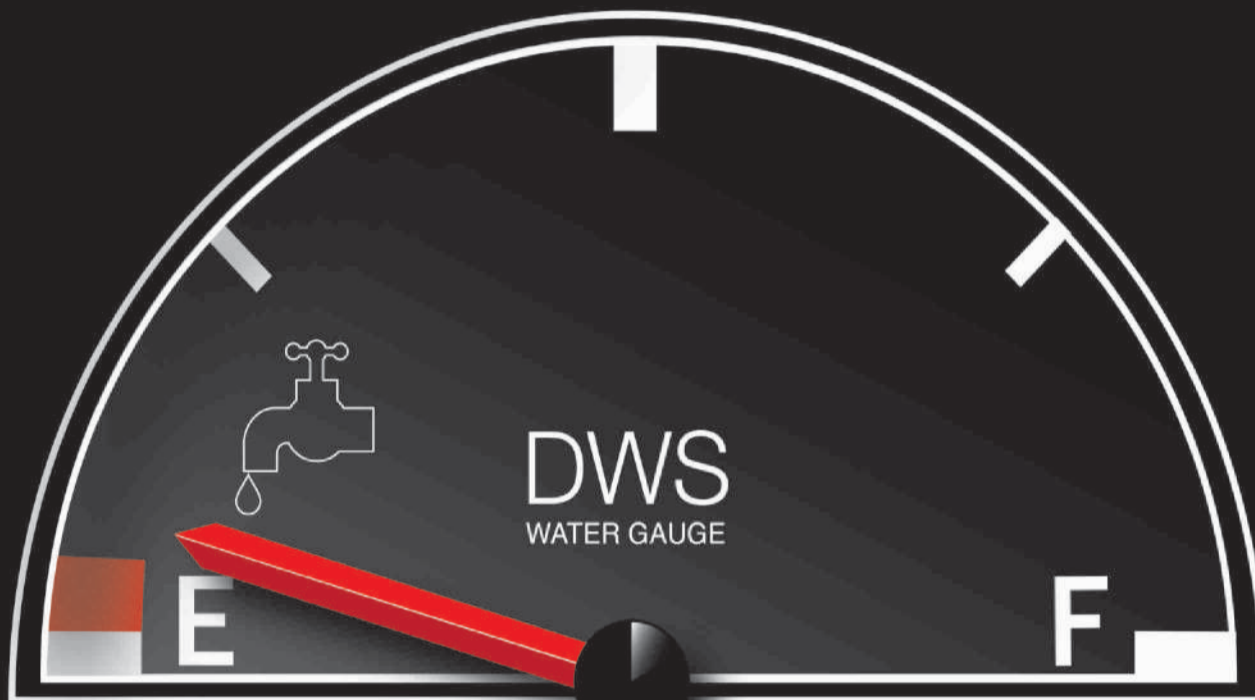
Meanwhile, the Deputy President stressed that abandoning Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) is not an option. The fundamental objective of the policy is to advance economic transformation and enhance the economic participation of black people in the South African economy. "Abandoning BBBEE would mean abandoning transformation itself. BBBEE is a necessary tool for transformation, essential for achieving economic equality," he said.

Instead, the government is embarking on a two-phase review of the B-BBEE framework led by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Parks Tau. "The review will occur in two phases: a short-term review and a long-term review. The review aims to strengthen the execution of Section 9(2) of the South African Constitution, focusing on reimagining economic transformation and accelerating the participation of black South Africans in the economy," he said. Among other critical interventions, the two-phase review of the B-BBEE includes the following:

- Improve the effectiveness of B-BBEE implementation;
- Strengthen implementation gaps and compliance;
- Setting timelines for the achievement of milestones; and
- Provide for a strong linkage between B-BBEE, the growth path and industrial policy.

- SAnews.gov.za

Almost empty



What if it was the last drop?

Our country ranks as one of the 30 driest countries in the world with an average rainfall of about 40% less than the annual world average rainfall.

We have an average annual rainfall of less than 500mm, while that of the world is about 850mm. Despite all this, between 37% and 42% of potable water is unaccounted for. It is lost through **leaks, wastage and illegal connections**.

The International average water usage per day is 173 litres. South Africans use 61,8% more water than the world's average.

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Do You Still Remember Our Very Own Legendary Goalkeeper?



Itumeleng Khune

By Rorisang Rampheteng

Itumeleng Khune was born on 20 June 1987 in

Ventersdorp in the North West. He rose from humble beginnings to become one of South Africa's most respected goalkeepers, known for

his discipline, talent and determination.

Khune spent his entire professional career at Kaizer Chiefs after being promoted to the senior team in 2004. He became the club's first-choice goalkeeper in 2007 and went on to make over 300 appearances. His leadership qualities saw him captain the team, while his performances helped the club secure multiple league titles and domestic trophies.

On the international stage, Khune represented South Africa national football team with distinction. He earned over 90 caps and was South Africa's first-choice goalkeeper for many years. He played at the 2010 FIFA World Cup and featured in several Africa Cup of Nations tournaments. Khune's career is decorated with numerous achievements, including Premier Soccer League titles, Nedbank Cup and MTN8 victories. Individually, he has been awarded Goalkeeper of the Season multiple times, highlighting his consistency and excellence between the posts.

Currently, Khune remains part of Kaizer Chiefs, serving in a senior role within the squad. As a veteran goalkeeper, he contributes experience, leadership and mentorship to younger players, continuing to influence the team beyond his years as a regular starter. Khune is widely regarded as one of South Africa's greatest goalkeepers. His loyalty to Kaizer Chiefs and his impact on the national team have cemented his legacy as a true legend of the game.

Morocco crowned AFCON champions after CAF strips Senegal of title



The Senegalese Football Federation has reacted to the Confederation of African Football's decision to declare Morocco the champions of the 2025 AFCON.

In the early hours of Wednesday, people in Senegal woke up to the heartbreaking news that they were no longer African champions after CAF overturned the result of the final. This follows a ruling by the CAF Appeal Board, which reversed the outcome of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations decider and officially handed the title to

Morocco. The final was overshadowed by controversy, as Senegal walked off the pitch late in the match following a penalty awarded to Morocco, which was ultimately missed. Senegal went on to secure a 1-0 victory in extra time, but the Appeal Board has since ruled otherwise, awarding the match to Morocco and effectively forfeiting the result against Senegal.

"The Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) has today taken note of the notification of the decision rendered on March 17, 2026, by the

Appeals Board of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), in case DC23316," the federation stated.

"This procedure follows the complaint filed during match no. 52 of the Total Energies Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), Morocco 2025, between Senegal and Morocco. "By this decision, the CAF Appeals Board declared the appeal of the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF) admissible and accepted it. "In doing so, the body overturned the decision that had been rendered by the CAF Disciplinary Board, on the grounds that the appellant's right to be heard had not been respected during the first instance proceedings.

"The Appeals Committee also determined that the conduct of the Senegalese team fell under Articles 82 and 84 of the Africa Cup of Nations Regulations. "Consequently, CAF declared that the FSF had violated Article 82 and awarded the match by forfeit to Senegal, with a recorded score of 3-0 in favour of the FRMF, pursuant to Article 84. "The Senegalese Football Federation denounces this unfair, unprecedented, and unacceptable decision, which discredits African football," Senegal added.

"To defend its rights and the interests of Senegalese football, the Federation will initiate an appeal as soon as possible before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne. "The FSF reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the values of integrity and sporting justice and will keep the public informed of developments in this matter."

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