



A Riveting, Refreshing Approach To Community Sport

18 June - 03 July 2026

Free State Crinums Crowned 2026 Telkom Netball League Champions



Final recently.

In a display of skill, determination, and tactical superiority, the Crinums outclassed their opponents from start to finish, securing their status as champions of South Africa's premier netball competition. The victory marks a historic achievement for the team, who were appearing in their fourth consecutive final and eighth final overall. The Crinums's attacking unit was clinical, while their defence remained rock-solid throughout the encounter. The 14-point margin underlined their dominance on the big stage and crowned a memorable season for the Free State franchise.

Premiering the gold medal, the team showed true grit, teamwork, and that unmistakable Free State spirit that had supporters across the province cheering with pride. This victory adds another glittering chapter to the Crinums' legacy. With their eyes firmly set on continued excellence. The Free State Crinums are the 2026 Telkom Netball League Division 1 CHAMPIONS — unbreakable, unstoppable, and worthy titleholders.

Congratulations to the Crinums on a well-deserved triumph that has filled the province with immense pride.

By Kattleho Malangabe

performance to claim the 2026 Telkom Netball League Division 1 title, defeating the Golden Fireballs 46-32 in a thrilling final at the Division 1

The Free State Crinums produced a dominant

A fun-filled day for young football enthusiasts



structures, kicked off a fun-filled 2026 FIFA World Cup activation programme for schools around Mangaung this week.

The main aim of the activation was to rally Free Staters behind the national team, Bafana Bafana, and create a celebratory atmosphere ahead of the FIFA World Cup. The event was also intended to create an inclusive environment where communities can gather to celebrate football, participate in related activities, and strengthen social cohesion through sport. Learners took part in 7-a-side soccer matches, indigenous games, TikTok challenges, and painting competitions. The activities kept young football enthusiasts engaged while promoting teamwork and creativity. MEC for Education Dr Mamiki Maboya, who is currently serving as acting MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, joined in the festivities and interacted with learners. Congratulations to Wilgehof Primary School, who represented Croatia, for being crowned the overall winners of the day's events.

The DSACR said similar activations will continue across the province to build excitement and support for Bafana Bafana as the 2026 FIFA World Cup approaches.

Mangaung

and Recreation (DSACR), through the Free State Sport Confederation (FSSC) in collaboration with South African Football Association (SAFA)

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture



Business breakfast session encourages youth to take action



MEC for Finance, Economic, Development and Tourism, Moses Makume and MEC for Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dibolelo Mance with Dr. Bernard Sebake Dean of Student Affairs at the CUT

Bloemfontein

MEC Dibolelo Mance participated in the Central University of Technology and Free State

online Network Youth Business Breakfast. Speaker after speaker at the Youth Breakfast emphasized the pressing factor of Youth Participation and Involvement on developmental and skills transfer programmes.

"There is a dire need for a collective effort to close the gap on youth unemployment. All role players including the public sector, private sector and institutions of higher learning collaborate to create a conducive environment that would enable economic viability," said MEC Mance. The session was also graced by the CUT Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Bernard Sebake.

"The Youth of today need to be conscious in character, need to be involved and own their spaces," added Dr. Sebake. The session is themed and captured as the: Chapter Two of the Youth Business Session with a theme: From Conversations to Action. MEC Toto Makume was also in attendance and he emphasized the importance of Youth networking and sharing of information amongst young people.

"It is important that young people occupy the space and grab the opportunities in front of them so that there is economic emancipation in our lives," added MEC Makume.

Ganspan Star Tebogo Mashuge Lights Up Premiership Dream with Siwelele Move



By Kattleho Malangabe

Kimberley

Northern Cape football continues to celebrate a major success story with a local striker Tebogo Sheldon Mashuge completing a dream move to top-flight club Siwelele FC at the age of 20 years.

The talented forward, who rose from the dusty fields of Ganspan in the Phokwane Local Football Association, has signed with the green and white outfit after an impressive showing for Jacksa Spears FC during the 2025/26 season.

Siwelele FC announced the signing, describing Mashuge as their "lethal striker" and warmly welcoming him into the club family. The move

marks a significant milestone for football development in the Frances Baard Region and the broader Northern Cape, proving once again that raw talent combined with dedication can open doors to the highest levels of South African football.

Mashuge, played a pivotal role in guiding Jacksa Spears to the Last 16 of the 2026 Nedbank Cup. The Jan Kempdorp-based side captured the imagination of many supporters with their spirited cup run before narrowly missing out on a place in the ABC Morupe League Promotional Playoffs.

Siwelele FC officials expressed delight at securing the signature of the young forward, viewing him as a valuable addition to their squad as they compete in the demanding DSTV Premiership.

For the Northern Cape, Mashuge's breakthrough represents more than just a transfer, it is an inspiration for hundreds of young players dreaming of professional careers. Community leaders and football administrators have hailed the signing as proof that talent from rural areas can shine on the national stage when given the right opportunities.

Mashuge is expected to report for pre-season training with his new teammates in the coming weeks. Fans across the province will be watching closely as the Ganspan graduate embarks on the next chapter of what promises to be a bright career.

Congratulations to Tebogo Sheldon Mashuge.

"Think Before You Dive Stay Away, Stay Safe."



**Do not swim in
unsafe water bodies**



**Have Emergency
numbers available
incase of drownings**



**Know where your
children are playing**



**Report children
playing at water
bodies, you can
save a life**

WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY

South Africa is a water-scarce country, use water sparingly



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Save The Date: Macufe 2026 Hits Mangaung 3 - 13 Sept

The image shows a 'Save the Date' poster for Macufe 2026, the Mangaung African Cultural Festival. The poster features the festival's logo, the dates '3-13 SEPTEMBER 2026', and the tagline 'when your heart and soul is african'. Below the poster is a table detailing the festival's program.

DATE	EVENT
31 July	Festival Launch
03 - 04 September	Comedy and Poetry
05 - 10 September	Drama
05 - 10 September	Dance Fiesta
05 - 10 September	Theatre Programme
06 - 09 September	Film Festival
09 - 12 September	Literature Exhibition
11 September	Divas Music Festival
11 September	Amapiao vs Hip hop
12 September	Main Music Festival
13 September	Gospel Music Festival

music, film and more.

An expanded programme will include platforms like the Divas Music Festival, Comedy and Poetry, and Amapiano vs Hip Hop.

MACUFE 2026 programme highlights:-

- 31 July:** Festival Launch
- 03-04 Sept:** Comedy and Poetry
- 05-10 Sept:** Drama, Dance Fiesta, Theatre Programme
- 06-09 Sept:** Film Festival
- 09-12 Sept:** Literature Exhibition
- 11 Sept:** Divas Music Festival + Amapiano vs Hip Hop Music Festival
- 12 Sept:** Main Music Festival
- 13 Sept:** Gospel Music Festival

MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation M Ntombizanele Sifuba said MACUFE 2026 will escalate the upward trajectory set in 2025. "The benefits derived from this festival should always be at the forefront: local economic beneficiation, local artists participation, tourism promotion, as well as social cohesion and nation building enhancement," she stated.

Mangaung... The Mangaung African Cultural Festival is back. MACUFE 2026 will run from 03 to 13 September, building on its successful relaunch and recalibrated programme last year.

Known for its multicultural character and mix of arts genres, the festival will again be staged during Heritage Month to elevate South Africa's cultural heritage "on the highest pedestal", organisers said. Revellers are urged to save the dates for 11 days of comedy, drama,

The Department committed to keeping access affordable so more people can experience and appreciate the festival's focus on cultural heritage. More details on venues, programme contents and ticket prices will be released in due course.

AIP Publishers Represent S.A at Friendship Seminar



Johannesburg

The Association of Independent Publishers (AIP) is pleased to announce that its members, Eric Phiri (AIP Board member and Publisher of Stokvel TALK) and Austin Moyo (Publisher of Khanyisa News and Jozi Advertiser), are currently attending the Seminar on Friendship-City Cultural Exchanges for Indian Ocean Countries, hosted in Kunming City and later Changsha City, in the People's Republic of China from 05 to 25 June 2026. Their participation was made possible by the Chinese Embassy in South Africa and the Chinese Department of Commerce.

The seminar has brought together delegates from several African and Indian Ocean nations, namely South Africa, Kenya, the Comoros, and the Maldives, alongside representatives from China. The seminar has

featured top-drawer professors from China to conduct the lectures, and timely visits to strategic locations are part of the program. Mr. Phiri and Mr. Moyo have made history by being the first small commercial publishers to participate in such a program on behalf of South Africa, leveraging this prestigious platform to advance AIP's strategic international engagement objectives.

During the seminar, the two publishers are actively working to strengthen existing ties with the Chinese Department of Commerce through Mr. Pan and his senior Mr. Lee, as well as the Embassy in South Africa, to facilitate deeper people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and to explore new avenues for collaboration between AIP and leading Chinese institutions across the publishing, media, education, and cultural sectors. This will be done through the soon-to-be-launched China-South Africa Local Media

Club in August.

"The seminar offers an invaluable opportunity to build bridges, share knowledge, and forge lasting partnerships with the host country," said Austin Moyo during a telephone interview. "Our participation underscores AIP's commitment to positioning South Africa as a key partner in regional and overseas cultural dialogue and the possible formation of sister cities between China and South Africa through the AIP and the Chinese Embassy in South Africa. While here in China, we are also exploring ways to make printing easier for all print publishers," concluded Mr. Moyo, a veteran in this industry since 1995.

"I became very excited when I heard that we would be coming here, and in my mind I knew that the knowledge we would gain would be for the benefit of the local media industry in South Africa," said Eric Phiri, who is also the AIP Chairperson in Gauteng and a veteran in the industry since 2005. "While many think that print is dying, many of our people still cannot afford data to go online, and the printed copy fills that gap to make sure that all South Africans, especially those in the townships and semi-rural areas, stay informed," concluded Mr. Phiri.

Participation in this seminar is expected to open doors for future joint ventures, including co-publishing projects, media partnerships, cultural programs, and educational initiatives. These collaborations aim to further enhance bilateral relations between South Africa and China while substantially expanding AIP's international footprint.

AIP remains dedicated to fostering cross-border understanding and creating sustainable networks that benefit the publishing industry and the broader creative economy.

Government allocates R12.3 billion to municipal infrastructure



billion Mandlakazi Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme in KwaZulu-Natal.

In Gauteng, the Hammanskraal water intervention is nearing completion, with a new 50-megalitre-per-day water package plant expected to improve access to clean water for approximately 47 000 households.

Majodina also outlined progress in Mpumalanga, the North West, Northern Cape and Western Cape, where several large-scale projects are under construction or nearing completion to improve water reliability and reduce service backlogs. The department is increasingly using water boards as implementing agents to support struggling municipalities and is working with the Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and National Treasury to improve governance and financial sustainability in the sector.

The Minister announced the rollout of a nationwide Rural Water Access Programme aimed at improving water security in unserved communities through borehole drilling, spring protection, rainwater harvesting and rehabilitation of non-functional systems.

More than 2 600 settlements have already been identified under the programme, with over R200 million allocated for the first phase in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape.

Implementation is scheduled to begin in July and conclude in September this year. Majodina said government was also strengthening anti-corruption measures through the Water Sector Anti-Corruption Forum, established in partnership with the Special Investigating Unit. She urged all spheres of government, communities and the private sector to work together to secure the country's water future.

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Government is intensifying efforts to address South Africa's water and sanitation challenges, with the Department of Water and Sanitation allocating R12.3 billion in infrastructure grants to municipalities during the current financial year.

Delivering her budget vote speech in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) recently, Water and Sanitation Minister Pemmy Majodina said government was implementing decisive interventions to improve water security, rehabilitate ageing infrastructure and expand access to reliable services across all nine provinces. Majodina acknowledged that many communities continue to face water interruptions, sewage spillages, deteriorating wastewater treatment systems and high levels of water losses.

These challenges had prompted President Cyril Ramaphosa to establish the National Water Crisis

Committee and direct the implementation of the National Water Action Plan. "The message we bring to this House is clear: Government is intervening decisively, projects are being accelerated, and partnerships are being strengthened to ensure that communities receive reliable water and sanitation services," she said.

The Minister said the department's priorities include completing delayed infrastructure projects, rehabilitating failing water treatment and wastewater works, expanding water supply to underserved communities, developing groundwater resources, and investing in water reuse and desalination initiatives. Among the major projects highlighted were the R2.6 billion bulk water supply programme serving Mthatha, Libode, Ngqeleni and Mqanduli in the Eastern Cape; the R4 billion water and sanitation intervention in Maluti-a-Phofung in the Free State; the R1.3 billion Giyani water project in Limpopo, which has already connected 24 villages; and the R4.9

President pays tribute to global jazz icon Abdullah Ibrahim



campaigned against apartheid.

He drew audiences to his carefully curated performances, which showcased both his accomplishment as a soloist and his collaborations with established and emerging talent. His music also reflected his spirituality and contemplative practice of martial arts. In 2009, he was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the arts, his success in placing South African music on the international map, and his lifelong fight against racism and apartheid.

"As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Youth Uprising, the passing of Abdullah Ibrahim reminds us of the then illegal benefit concert he organised in support of the liberation movement following the Uprising, as a demonstration of his commitment to our struggle. "We give thanks for the many decades of his life that he devoted to his personal passion which he shared with humanity through his recordings and his appearances in clubs and concert halls throughout the globe.

"He has enriched our lives with his musical gifts and his involvement in making the world a better place. May his soul rest in peace," the President said. He offered his deepest condolences to Ibrahim's children, pianist Tsakwe and hip-hop artist Jean Grae. Their mother, Sathima Bea Benjamin, a performer and recording artist in her own right, passed away in 2013, nine years after she received the Order of Ikhamanga. Gauteng MEC for Education, Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Lebogang Maile said South Africa had lost a giant whose music

transcended entertainment and became a powerful instrument of consciousness, resistance and hope.

"Ibrahim did not merely play jazz; he gave sound to the aspirations of oppressed people and helped the world hear the pain, resilience and dignity of South Africans during the darkest years of apartheid. "Through Mannenberg, he reminded the world that music can be a weapon against injustice and a beacon of hope for those yearning for freedom. His melodies carried the spirit of a people who refused to surrender their humanity," Maile said.

The MEC added that South Africa's rich jazz heritage owes much to Ibrahim's pioneering work, which elevated South African jazz onto the global stage while remaining deeply rooted in the rhythms, traditions and stories of home. He noted the transformative role jazz played in shaping township culture and intellectual life in communities such as Alexandra, Sophiatown and Soweto.

"Jazz clubs, community halls and township gatherings became spaces where ideas flourished, identities were affirmed, and consciousness was raised. "Jazz nurtured creativity, encouraged critical thought and provided communities with a sense of pride and belonging. Ibrahim stood at the centre of that cultural awakening, inspiring generations of artists, thinkers and ordinary citizens," Maile said.

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President Cyril Ramaphosa has expressed profound sadness at the passing of cultural activist, global jazz icon and member of the Order of Ikhamanga, Abdullah Ibrahim.

"Our nation mourns the passing of an international icon and global citizen whose profound creations honoured the South Africa that shaped his political commitment and musical brilliance," the President said in a statement. Ibrahim passed away at the age of 91, concluding a life in music that spanned jazz genres and geographies. As a pianist, composer, arranger and mentor, Ibrahim

President Ramaphosa discusses migration and National Dialogue with faith leaders



He underscored the role of faith communities in ensuring the success and inclusivity of the National Dialogue. "Faith communities are vital to this endeavour, for you reach into every village, township and suburb. The National Dialogue continues our proud tradition of coming together to confront our challenges, to build consensus and to chart a course for the future. At every defining moment in our history, we have found our way forward through dialogue with one another.

"The National Dialogue is a people-led process that unfolds from local dialogue to national gatherings, through which all South Africans are able to define a vision and plan for our country," President Ramaphosa said.

The religious and interfaith leaders welcomed government's comprehensive approach to migration management, which is anchored on five pillars: the enforcement of migration laws, securing South Africa's borders, strengthening immigration systems, closing gaps in laws and policies, and working with sister African countries through diplomatic channels. Among the issues raised by religious and interfaith leaders was the need to strengthen law enforcement's response to vigilantism, amplify government communication efforts, enhance diplomatic engagement and address the situation in Sherwood, Durban, in KwaZulu-Natal.

Government said the Department of Home Affairs has begun deportation proceedings through dedicated priority courts to accelerate the processing of Malawian nationals seeking to leave the country. The intervention follows capacity challenges affecting the Malawian government's repatriation efforts. The Department of Social Development will also mobilise resources to provide relief assistance.

President Ramaphosa expressed appreciation to the religious and interfaith leaders for their contributions and inputs during the engagement.

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President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday met with religious and interfaith leaders at the Union Buildings in Pretoria to discuss migration and the National Dialogue, as government continues to implement a comprehensive approach to migration management.

The meeting follows government's recent announcement of measures aimed at managing migration and comes amid growing public concern over illegal immigration. This as South Africans have raised concerns about migration, and illegal immigration in particular. President Ramaphosa noted that these concerns arise in conditions of persistently high unemployment, poverty and hardship, as well as in communities affected by crime, violence and corruption and increasing pressure on public services.

However, the President emphasised that illegal immigration is not the cause of South Africa's social and economic challenges. "To tackle the challenges our country faces, we need faster and more inclusive

growth, investment and the creation of jobs. We need to strengthen our efforts to tackle poverty and hunger. We must build safer communities by addressing the causes of crime, improving policing and ending corruption. "Migration is not the cause of our problems, but it is something that we must manage constructively and collectively, always holding firm to our Constitutional principles and shared values," he said.

President Ramaphosa called on religious and interfaith leaders to work with government and other social partners to ensure that frustration over migration does not lead to hatred or intolerance. "We must demonstrate that there is a better way to manage these genuine concerns – a way that builds cohesion in communities and strengthens the bonds between us," President Ramaphosa said. The President also highlighted the importance of the National Dialogue, saying both migration and the dialogue process touch on the values that bind South Africans together and the shared responsibility to build a better future.

New R2 coin pays tribute to the 1976 Youth Uprising



The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has launched a new R2 commemorative circulation coin in honour of the June 1976 Youth Uprising in Soweto, at the Hector Pieterse Museum, in Johannesburg.

The Hector Pieterse Museum in Orlando West is

dedicated to preserving the memory of the 1976 uprisings, when thousands of learners across Soweto took to the streets to protest the enforced use of Afrikaans in schools and the injustices of the inferior "Bantu Education" system. President Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled the new R2 circulation coin on Tuesday to mark 50 years since the children of Soweto walked out of their classrooms in protest against apartheid's oppressive education policies. The coin features an image of learners raising their fists in defiance of the police during protests against apartheid-era education policies. The raised fist symbolises resistance, solidarity and the courage of the learners who stood up to an oppressive government.

The coin's design draws inspiration from the events of 1976 and reflects themes of remembrance, resistance and hope. Visitors to the Hector Pieterse Memorial exchanged their R2 coins for the new commemorative circulation coin honouring the 1976 Youth Uprising. "Although the commemorative coin is special, it carries

the same value as ordinary R2 coins in circulation. Commemorative circulation coins serve as a tool for national storytelling because, as they move through communities, people can share these stories in their homes, at malls, taxi ranks and wherever money is used daily," SARB said.

The 1976 Youth Uprising remains one of the defining moments in South Africa's liberation struggle and democratic journey. The commemoration honours the courage, resilience and sacrifices of the young people who stood against injustice and helped shape the future of a free and democratic South Africa. The Youth Day commemorations coincided with other major milestones in the country's journey to freedom, including the 50th anniversary of the Soweto uprising, 70 years since the Women's March of 1956 and 30 years since the adoption of the democratic Constitution in 1996.

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Free State Government beneficiary's drive to become success



Perhaps that would explain his fascination with electricity because Sin City is known for its bright lights. Mokoena has recently qualified as an artisan electrician from the Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's Artisan Development Program and he has his sights set on becoming a great success.

"I want to be a powerhouse in the field of electricity and leave a long-lasting legacy. I have always liked and been fascinated by electricity. In my community, I assist people whenever they have problems with their electricity. There is currently a project underway by Eskom and sometimes they (Eskom technicians) call me to assist. It is wonderful because I am gaining a lot of experience," Mokoena said proudly.

Having grown up in a household where no one managed to further their education beyond matric, Mokoena said he has always been determined to change that and make his family proud. "I grew up in a family where there were 10 of us living under the same roof. My grandmother Dorah had seven daughters who had children of their own, so there were a lot of us in our home.

I was determined to further my education because no one in my family has managed to

do that, so when the opportunity to become an artisan was presented to me, I took it with both hands," he said. Having worked on several projects such as the electrification of clinics across Matjhabeng local municipality, Mokoena has gained invaluable experience.

"I thank MEC Mance for this opportunity and I hope more young people can go through the artisan development program. It is empowering and you practically do the job," he said.

MEC Mance said the artisan development program has been successful and helped many young people across the province. "The program has proven successful and I am proud that when given an opportunity, the youth of our province made full use of it," MEC Mance said.



Thabang Mokoena hails from a section of Thabong, near Welkom, called Las Vegas.

Youth must engineer their own future



Free State Premier MaQueen Letsosa-Mathae

areas such as culinary arts, heritage, and tourism services. Deputy Minister of Tourism Makhotso Sotyu led the engagement, emphasising that young people must take an active role in shaping the future of the tourism economy and positioning themselves as contributors rather than observers. Sotyu stressed that meaningful inclusion in the sector requires initiative, innovation, and active participation. "Young people must not be passive observers but active participants in shaping the future of the country," Sotyu said.

Free State Premier MaQueen Letsosa-Mathae noted that while government continues to provide support and opportunities, young people must be able to experience tangible progress in their communities. "Youth cannot live by hope alone but rather need to see and feel the impact of progress in their lives. Young people must be equipped with skills and provided with various kinds of opportunities and support, both financial and non-financial," Mathae said. Mathae further highlighted that recent investment missions to China and Italy were beginning to yield positive outcomes for the province, particularly in creating potential opportunities that could benefit young people. "Our mission was not for leisure but to secure resources that will better the lives of our people, particularly the youth who continue to be plagued by unemployment, poverty, and inequality," Mathae said.

The engagement concluded with a shared message that while government support remains important, long-term change depends on young people taking ownership of their development, building skills, and actively engineering their own economic future.

By Rorisang Rampheteng

Bloemfontein

What opportunities are available for young people, how are they being supported, and what role must they play in shaping their own economic future?

These were the key questions raised at the Youth Month Tourism Engagement Programme held at Mahube Tumelo Hall in Bloemfontein. The engagement brought together young people from across the province, government

representatives, and stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sector to reflect on pathways to employment, entrepreneurship opportunities, and the barriers that continue to limit youth participation in the economy. Discussions focused on persistent challenges including access to funding, shortage of business premises, lengthy application processes, inadequate tourism marketing, and under-investment in youth-led enterprises.

Despite these obstacles, the programme also highlighted the potential of the sector to create meaningful opportunities for young people in

Bafana share the spoils with Czechia



Bafana Bafana were held to a 1-1 draw by Czechia at Atlanta Stadium in a 2026 FIFA World Cup group match that the South African senior men's national team could have won with a bit of luck on Thursday afternoon.

Coach Hugo Broos' charges found themselves on the backfoot early in the game after Michal Sadílek put Czechia in the lead in the sixth minute. The South African fans who arrived in Atlanta, the capital of the U.S. state of Georgia, in huge numbers had to wait until the 82nd minute when inspirational midfielder Teboho Mokoena drew Bafana Bafana level from the

penalty spot. Mokoena calmly converted the penalty and made Czechia pay the price after livewire Thapelo Maseko's shot was blocked by the arm of Pavel Šulcwas inside the area to earn the spot kick.

"I think that we played a very good game today, except for the one moment in the beginning of the first half where we did not concentrate, nor maintain focus. We knew that number five (Vladimír Coufal) had a long throw-in, but we let him surprise us. You know that at this level, you pay for such a mistake in cash. But except for that, I think that Bafana Bafana had

a very good game," Broos said. "I thought we were not aggressive enough in the first half when we lost the ball, so I gave this message to the players before the second half, and also the fact that we needed someone in the free space and Rele Mofokeng was the man for that to make us more dangerous. The guys were very determined and they showed a lot of perseverance because they wanted to win that game and that makes me very happy."

Asked about the continued criticism from some quarters back home, Broos says people forget where they are coming from with Bafana Bafana, when he started this job five years ago. The difficult part for Broos and his team will be to face the South Koreans without the services of Mokoena, who is suspended for the last game, after receiving his second yellow card in this tournament. The Belgian-born head coach says they won't be short of options to replace Mokoena.

"It's a pity that we got those two yellow cards during a tournament in which we have to pay the price. They are not the weakest players in our team, they are some of the best players in our team so it's a problem we have to solve."

Broos believes that if they can maintain their second-half performance in the next game against South Korea, they stand a very good chance of reaching the 2026 FIFA World Cup knockout stages.

Bafana Bafana will return to their base camp in Pachuca, Mexico, tomorrow ahead of next week's final 2026 FIFA World Cup Group A match against South Korea.

Source: safa.net & sabcspport.com

2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

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