

MEC officially opens and hands over Platberg Sports Facilities



Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Ms Ntombizanele Sifuba speaking at the handover

The Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation officially opened and handed over a number of refurbished and newly constructed sports facilities in Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality.

The facilities include the refurbished Platberg Stadium Athletics Track, reconstructed Multipurpose Combi Court, refurbished change rooms and pavilion, as well as the newly constructed Platberg Swimming Pool. These upgraded and newly developed facilities will provide improved sporting infrastructure and create greater opportunities for athletes, young people and communities in Maluti-A-Phofung and surrounding areas. Addressing the community and guest present, the MEC emphasised the important

role of sport in promoting social cohesion, unity and community development. She called on communities to embrace the facilities as spaces that bring people together, develop talent and strengthen social bonds. The MEC also highlighted the importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in advancing sports development, noting that government, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders must work together to ensure that sporting infrastructure is developed, maintained and used effectively.

She further called on the community to take ownership of the facilities and play an active role in safeguarding them. "These facilities belong to the community. We must take ownership of them,

protect them and ensure that they remain available for generations to come. Government cannot do this alone. Through partnerships and working together, we can ensure that these facilities are maintained and continue to serve our communities." Addressing the schools and learners who attended the event, the MEC encouraged them to make full use of the opportunities provided through school sport. She urged learners to participate actively in school sport, work hard and pursue their sporting dreams. "To the learners, we are counting on you. Participate in school sport, make your mark and make it a mark that cannot be erased. We are counting on you to make it big in sport."

The MEC also paid a courtesy visit to JP Gym, where she witnessed a swimming demonstration by children, including young swimmers as young as eight years old. The demonstration highlighted the importance of introducing children to swimming and aquatic activities from an early age and creating a strong foundation for the development of aquatic sport. The MEC was accompanied by His Majesty Morena Monthoedi Mota, the Executive Mayor of Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality, Cllr Thebe, Hon. Pitso Noe (MP), Member of the National Parliament, FSSC President Mr Saunderson, Free State Aquatics President Ms Ramatsa, as well as the appointed consultant and contractor involved in the projects and MMCs of MAP.

The official opening and handover represent an important milestone in the continued development of sports infrastructure in the Free State. It demonstrates the commitment of the provincial government and its partners to providing communities and athletes with quality sporting facilities that promote participation, development, social cohesion and excellence in sport. The facilities are expected to contribute significantly to the development of athletes, particularly young people, while creating platforms for communities to participate in sport and recreational activities in a safe and improved environment.

Tri-Province Tourism Cooperation Launched in Colesburg



*Northern Cape MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Venus Blennies,
Free State MEC for Finance, Tourism and Economic Development Ketso Makume and
Eastern Cape MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Nonkubela Pieters*

By Kaya Mntsantsa

Three provinces – the Free State, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape – today launched a historic Tri-Province Tourism Cooperation aimed at growing the tourism industry across their shared borders.

The launch was held in Colesberg and was led by Northern Cape MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Venus Blennies, together with Free State MEC for Finance, Tourism and Economic Development Ketso Makume and Eastern Cape MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Nonkubela Pieters.

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CEOs of the Provincial Tourism Entities signing a memorandum of agreement

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The initiative, spearheaded by MECs Makume, Blennies and Pieters, recognises that tourists experience destinations as connected journeys rather than provincial boundaries. By positioning the three provinces as one tourism region centred around the iconic Lake Gariep, the cooperation seeks to promote domestic travel, strengthen regional partnerships, increase visitor numbers, support tourism enterprises and maximise the impact of limited marketing resources.

Speaking at the launch, Northern Cape MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Venus Blennies said the collaboration marks a new chapter for regional tourism: "This pioneering collaboration is about breaking down provincial boundaries and selling one destination. Tourists don't see borders, they see experiences.

By positioning the Free State, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape as one tourism region around Lake Gariep, we will promote domestic travel, support our tourism

enterprises, and ensure that tourism spend benefits our communities. This is how we turn our shared heritage and landscapes into inclusive economic growth," said MEC Blennies.

MEC Blennies added that the programme announced by the three MECs included an official Tourism Month Media Launch followed by a multi-day hosted media familiarisation showcasing diverse tourism offerings across the three provinces. Through partnerships with municipalities, tourism associations and the private sector, the initiative is expected to generate significant national media exposure while encouraging longer stays and increased tourism spend.

The Eastern Cape MEC highlighted tourism opportunities in the Eastern Cape, from the Wild Coast, Adventure and Frontier Country to cultural heritage and township tourism, and welcomed the move to create joint itineraries that connect the three provinces.

The Free State MEC, Ketso Makume, highlighted the Free State's leisure, heritage and events tourism offerings, including the Gariep Dam, Golden Gate Highlands and the province's cultural festivals, and said collaboration would make travel more affordable and accessible through joint packages under Sho't Left.

The three MECs said they will use Tourism Month, celebrated annually in September, to promote inter-provincial travel routes, support SMME market access, and drive job creation in local communities.

Young Kovsie squad gains confidence ahead of Varsity Netball



By Manyanya Kula

The University of the Free State's Kovsie netball team is using every match as an opportunity to sharpen its game ahead of the Varsity Netball series. The Kovies produced mixed results in

two recent encounters, beating Wits 50-42 on Sunday before suffering a narrow 48-50 defeat against North-West University (NWU).

Despite the results, head coach Burta de Kock believes the matches have been valuable for

a squad that includes several young players. "We have a lot of youngsters and every game [is] making the experience more and developing them to make better decisions under pressure," said De Kock.

The close contest against NWU showed the Kovies can compete against strong university opposition, while also highlighting areas that require improvement.

De Kock was pleased with the pressure her team created and the turnovers they managed to win, but said the players need to become more disciplined when in possession. "We need to have more patience and discipline with ball in hand. A higher successful transition rate," she said.

Improving their transition from defence into attack will be a key focus as the team continues its preparations.

With a blend of youthful talent and experienced players, De Kock believes the Kovies have the depth to make their presence felt when Varsity Netball gets underway. "Kovsie netball has a brilliant depth with talented players and we believe they are going to take the netball up to the top during the Varsity Netball series!" she said.

For now, the Kovies are turning close matches and hard lessons into preparation for the bigger challenge ahead

Free State Students bag prestigious gong at National Awards



Approximately a month ago, Malefa Selefo's world began to change following the intervention of the Free State Provincial Government.

Selefo and several other young people were placed with different companies on internship programs to help them gain valuable work experience. The 26 year-old from Bloemfontein has been hitting home runs since. On Tuesday 01 September 2026, Malefa Selefo began her career as a Civil Engineering intern with Lequbu Specialised Services, an engineering and construction company in Bloemfontein. Yesterday, Thursday 03 September, Selefo, who is

the Chairperson of the South African Institute of Civil Engineers (SAICE) Student Chapter at the Central University of Technology, led her team to second place of the student chapter of the year for the SAICE National Awards in Johannesburg, Gauteng province. Selefo was understandably delighted with winning the award, adding that it was a demonstration of the hard work they put into their work.

"Winning this award means so much to our team because it is a recognition of the hard work, passion, dedication, and sacrifices we have poured into everything we do. To see young, passionate civil engineers working tirelessly

towards excellence reminds us that our efforts are not in vain, and this achievement will truly go down in the books for us," Selefo said. She also thanked the Free State Provincial Government for providing the youth with opportunities to change their lives. "Personally, being placed at Lequbu Specialized Services as a young civil engineer means so much to me, because it gives me the opportunity to gain real industry experience, grow professionally, and put into practice what I have learned.

We sincerely thank the Free State Government for creating opportunities like these for young professionals, because it shows a genuine commitment to empowering the youth and giving us the experience we need to build a better future," she concluded. Premier of the Free State MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae congratulated team Central University of Technology. "This award is a reminder of what the people of our province are capable of. I would like to congratulate Chairperson of the South African Institute of Civil Engineers (SAICE) Student Chapter at the Central University of Technology Malefa Selefo and her team for representing our province well.

As government, we are going to continue working together with the private sector to make opportunities available for the youth of our province so that they can thrive. Congratulations once again to them," said Premier Letsoha-Mathae.

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mangaung african cultural festival

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DANCE

Fiesta

SEPTEMBER

07+08

TICKET R50

17H30 - 18H30

LIFE AFTER TEARS

PRESENTED BY: NDS ENTERTAINMENT

PACOF'S ANDRE HUGUENET THEATRE

WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY:

ZANE MULLER

STARRING

BOIPELO MONNAMORWE LEBO LEPOGO MOUMPOTA

AND MICHELLE KWALEPE

FEATURING

AZANIA INDIGENOUS VOICES AND LADYBIRD

TICKETS R300

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11 SEPTEMBER 2026

LEMO GREEN PARK

LIRA | ZONKE | BRENDA MTAMBO

SIPHOKAZI

PULENG PHOOFOLO • NTHABI SINGS • S'NAZO • MO'LES TWINS

EVENT MC: ALPHI

11 DAYS, ONE PEOPLE, COUNTLESS STORIES



CULTURAL EVENTS

07 SEP
DANCE FIESTA

R50

MADE TO MOVE
15H00 - 16H00/ PACOFS - STUDIO 2

FLAME WE CARRY
16H00 - 17H00/ PACOFS - STUDIO 2

LIFE AFTER TEARS
17H30 - 18H30/ PACOFS - ANDRE HUGUENET

08 SEP
DANCE FIESTA

R50

FLAME WE CARRY
15H00 - 16H00/ PACOFS - STUDIO 2

MADE TO MOVE
16H00 - 17H00/ PACOFS - STUDIO 2

LIFE AFTER TEARS
17H30 - 18H30/ PACOFS - ANDRE HUGUENET

07 SEP
DRAMATISTS AGAINST GBV

R100

BLEEDING HANDS
12H0 13H00/ PACOFS - STUDIO 2

WORDS
14H00 - 15H00/ PACOFS - ANDRE HUGUENET

UNSEEN
16H00 - 17H00/ PACOFS - ANDRE HUGUENET

08 SEP
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CULTURAL EVENTS



09 SEP

DRAMATISTS AGAINST GBV

R100

BLEEDING HEARTS

12H00 – 13H00 / PACOFS – ANDRE HUGUENET

BENEATH THE SOIL

16H00 – 17H00/ PACOFS – ANDRE HUGUENET

10 SEP

DRAMATISTS AGAINST GBV

R100

BENEATH THE SOIL

12H00 – 13H00 / PACOFS – ANDRE HUGUENET

BLEEDING HEARTS

16H00 – 17H00/ PACOFS – ANDRE HUGUENET

3-12 SEP

MACUFE ARTS & CRAFT VILLAGE

FREE

BASOTHO CULTURAL VILLAGE; BUSHFIRE AND CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

10:00 TO 20:00/ NATIONAL AFRIKAANS LITERATURE MUSEUM (NALN)

7-9 SEP

FILMFESTIVAL

9-12 SEP

VISUAL ARTS, CRAFTS & LITERATURE EXHIBITION

FREE

SCREENING OF MAINSTREAM FILMS, LOCAL FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES. WORKSHOPS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH INDUSTRY ROLE PLAYERS

10:00 TO 18:00/ PACOFS

BEST VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS PRODUCTS ON EXHIBITION AND FOR SALE. INTERACTIONS WITH CRAFTERS AND VISUAL ARTISTS. INSTANT SKETCHES. PUBLISHED LITERARY WORKS ON EXHIBITION AND FOR SALE. INTERACTIONS WITH THE AUTHORS.

09:00 TO 18:00/ MIMOSA MALL

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FREE STATE PROVINCE

Bridging The Sport News Divide

Cheetahs set to jump higher than Pumas in semi-final showdown



Photo: Toyota Cheetahs

By Rorisang Rampheteng

The Toyota Cheetahs will host the Airlink Pumas in a Carling Black Label Currie Cup semi-final at Toyota Stadium in Bloemfontein on Sunday, 6 September, with kick-off scheduled for 15:30.

The Cheetahs will be looking to make home advantage count as they fight for a place in the Currie Cup final. The Airlink Pumas,

however, will arrive determined to upset the hosts and secure their own place in the title decider.

With a place in the final at stake, both sides will need to be disciplined and clinical throughout the knockout fixture. The match promises an intense contest as the two teams battle for a spot in the Currie Cup final, with supporters expected to create a strong atmosphere at Toyota Stadium.



SAFA announces the final list of candidates for the SAFA Elective Congress



The South African Football Association (SAFA) has announced the final list of the candidate nominations for the Association's Elective Congress next month.

The Governance Committee confirmed to SAFA that incumbent President Dr Danny Jordaan and Sandile Zungu were verified as compliant candidates for the position of the Association's President. The nominations for various positions that will be contested next month were also under scrutiny and Mxolisi Sibam, Mzimkhulu Fina, Solomon Mkhabela, Anastasia Tschlas, Bennett

Bailey, Linda Zwane, Poobalan Govindasamy and Tankiso Modipa, among others, were confirmed for the National list.

Mosimanegape Mathe, Andile Ngconjana, Bonginkosi Job Mchunu, Kwenzakwakhe Ngwenya, Jack Maluleka, Lebogang Riet and Leanne Jonkers, among others, appear on the final Provincial list of nominees. SAFA can also reveal that the Governance Committee confirmed Premier Soccer League (PSL) Chairman Irvin Khoza, Thokozile Madlala, Kaizer Motaung and Sifiso Biyela as the Special

Member's nominees. The SAFA Elective Congress will be held on 12 September 2026 and the Governance Committee, which is an independent body, was tasked with dealing with any issues around the candidates, and checking whether they meet the criteria for nomination in terms of the SAFA statutes.

The Governance Committee submitted the final findings of the candidate nominations before the members of the media at SAFA House on Friday, 28 August 2026. The Committee has now confirmed the eligibility of the final list of candidates for the position of President, the National Executive Committee and the Provincial office.

Governance Committee chairman Dr Victor Mogajane, deputy chairperson Tumi Dlamini, Anzel Laubscher and Abel Ramolotja handed over the final list to SAFA CEO Lydia Monyepao recently.

"Let me take this opportunity to thank the members of the Governance Committee who ensured that the eligibility test was conducted on time, and therefore with gratitude and confidence that we have been able to complete the exercise. The results have been submitted to the SAFA management, who will in turn communicate this to their respective nominees. We therefor believe that the process was indeed above board," Dr Mogajane told www.safa.net.

safa.net



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R300

COMPUTICKET


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MAIN Festival



12 SEPTEMBER 2026

ROSE GARDEN

LIRA | ZONKE | SANNERE | NATHI | NTANDO
JAZIEL BROTHERS

KUTHALA * FANTAS TIE DJ * PULENG PHOOFOLO * VICTOR
KGANTLAPE * KHAYA * PETER NTHWANE BAND * THABISO WA MALUTI
DJ FINZO

MC: THEMBI SEETE & TEBOHO NKADU

11 DAYS, ONE PEOPLE, COUNTLESS STORIES





Siwelele seek first win against Kaizer Chiefs



matches. For Siwelele, Sunday's encounter is more than another league fixture. It is an opportunity to build on their previous success against Chiefs and finally register their first victory of the season.

With both teams looking for valuable points, another closely fought encounter could be on the cards.



By Rorisang Rampheteng

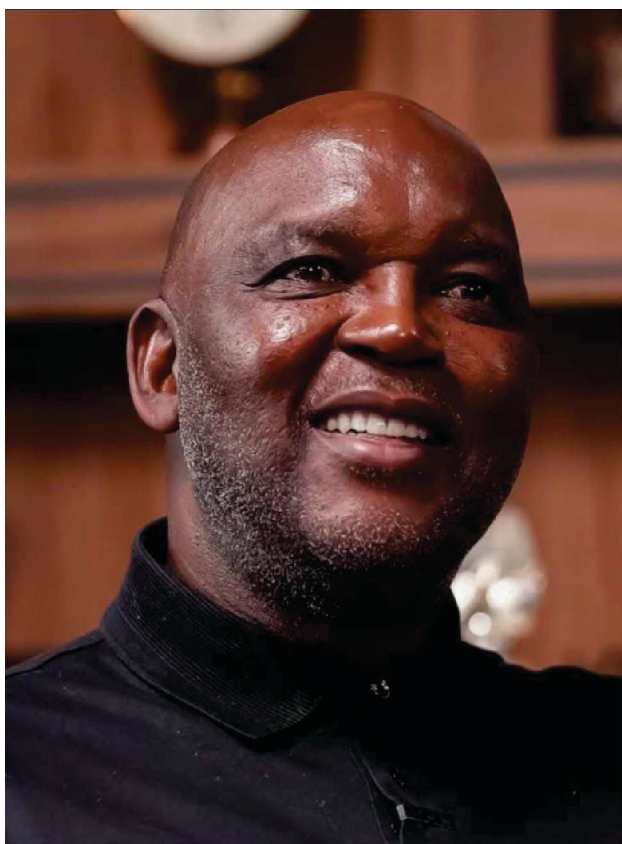
Siwelele FC will be hoping to secure their first win of the 2026/27 Betway Premiership season when they face Kaizer Chiefs at Dobsonville Stadium on Sunday.

The match, scheduled to kick off at 17:30, presents Siwelele with another opportunity to turn their promising moments into points after a difficult start to the campaign. The Bloemfontein-based side have collected two points from their opening four league matches, recording two

draws and two defeats. Their latest match ended in a 1-1 draw against Chippa United. Siwelele will take confidence from their recent record against Chiefs. The sides met twice in the 2025/26 campaign, with their first encounter ending in a goalless draw at FNB Stadium.

The second meeting produced a memorable result for Siwelele, who defeated Chiefs 2-0 at the Free State Stadium in April. Tebogo Potsane and Sphehile Jeza scored for the home side. Chiefs, meanwhile, have made a stronger start to the new campaign, collecting eight points from four

Mosimane names Bafana squad for AFCON qualifiers



By Rorisang Rampheteng

Bafana Bafana head coach Pitso Mosimane has announced his preliminary squad for South Africa's upcoming 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers against Guinea and Eritrea. The squad was announced on Friday, 4 September 2026, ahead of South Africa's home clash against Guinea on Saturday, 26 September, followed by an away encounter against Eritrea on Wednesday, 30 September.

Goalkeepers

Mosimane has selected Ronwen Williams, Sipho Chaine and Ricardo Goss as the goalkeeping options for the upcoming international window.

Defenders

The defensive department includes Aubrey Modiba, Samukele Kabini, Fawaaz Basadien, Kamogelo Sebelebele, Thapelo Morena, Thabang Matuludi, Olwethu Makhanya and Khulumani Ndamane.

The group combines domestic experience with players currently developing their careers abroad.

Midfielders

The midfield is led by established names such as Teboho Mokoena, Lebohlang Maboe, Cemran Dansin, Sphephelo Sithole, Bathusi Aubaas and Brooklyn Poggenpoel.

The squad also includes Tashreeq Matthews, Relebohile Mofokeng, Themba Zwane, Ronaldo Van Neel and Tshipeng Moremi.

Forwards

Up front, Mosimane has called on Iqraam Rayners, Lyle Foster, Cassius Mailula, Oswin Appollis, Puso Dithejane, Thapelo Maseko, Luther Singh and Shandre Campbell.

Following the two AFCON qualifiers, Bafana will travel for an international friendly against Egypt on 4 October, giving Mosimane another opportunity to assess his squad.

With the qualifiers approaching, attention now turns to preparations as South Africa begins its campaign to secure a place at the 2027 AFCON tournament.