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SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

From Festival Mogul to Mangaung Mayor? PA Eyes Free State Tycoon Ben Moseme for the Top Job

SIPHO GUMEDE:

Free State business tycoon, festival pioneer and entertainment heavyweight Ben Moseme is increasingly being mentioned as a possible contender for the Mangaung Metro mayoralty as residents and Patriotic Alliance (PA) supporters look beyond traditional political candidates ahead of the 2026 local government elections.

Moseme, a multimillionaire businessman best known for his central role in turning the Mangaung African Cultural Festival (Macufe) into one of the country's biggest annual entertainment and tourism spectacles, has found himself at the centre of growing political speculation across the metro.

From township streets and taxi ranks to boardrooms, community meetings and social media conversations, one question is gaining momentum: Could the man who helped put Mangaung on the national entertainment map become the city's next mayor?

The businessman, who later launched his own major festival, CUFA, after his Macufe contract with the government ended, is being viewed by supporters as a potential fresh face capable of bringing business discipline, tourism expertise and investment-focused leadership to Mangaung.

Speaking to Insider Chronicle, Moseme said he was unaware of the growing speculation surrounding a possible mayoral bid. However, the tycoon left the door open should he receive a formal political approach.

"I have not been approached about becoming mayor, and I have not been part of those discussions," Moseme said. "But should there be a formal approach, it is something I would consider carefully. Mangaung is home, and any opportunity to contribute positively to the growth of the city must be taken seriously."

Moseme's response is likely to intensify speculation among political players and residents who believe the metro needs a high-profile leader with a proven track record in business, events, branding and economic mobilisation.

For many, the Bram Fischer Building — the seat of the Mangaung Metro — has become a symbol of a city in need of stronger leadership. Residents say the municipality faces serious challenges, including poor service delivery, deteriorating infrastructure, unemployment, declining investor confidence and uncertainty over its long-term political leadership.

The build-up to the 2026 local government elections has further fuelled the conversation. Mangaung's political future remains uncertain, with no clear indication of who could emerge as mayor after the elections.

The ANC's candidate-list challenges and the possibility of coalition arrangements have created a political opening that could benefit smaller parties, independent-minded candidates and influential community figures.

With the South African Communist Party (SACP) appearing likely to play an important role in the evolving political landscape — and with the ANC potentially needing support from other parties — PA members in Mangaung say the party should seriously consider putting Moseme's name forward for the mayoralty.

"But should there be a formal approach, it is something I would consider carefully. Mangaung is home, and any opportunity to contribute positively to the growth of the city must be taken seriously."



Ben Moseme: Image Supplied

One PA member told Insider Chronicle that the party should be transparent about whether it views Moseme as a potential mayoral candidate.

"The party should be open about whether it is considering him for the position," the member said. "Ben Moseme is widely known for his business ventures and major events, but a mayoral bid would require him to engage directly with communities, listen to their concerns and present a clear plan for changing Mangaung."

Another PA supporter said Moseme's background could give the party a competitive edge across the metro's diverse voting base.

"He is a proven businessman. He understands how to build something from the ground up, and he has the education and experience," the supporter said. "Mangaung needs somebody who can talk to young people in the townships, business owners in the CBD and families in the suburbs. He has broad appeal and could help shift the political balance."

Moseme's supporters argue that his experience with Macufe demonstrated his ability to turn an idea into an economic attraction with national reach.

At its height, Macufe brought musicians, visitors, media organisations, tourism operators, informal traders, transport providers and hospitality businesses to Mangaung.

For many small traders, festival season was not merely about entertainment — it was about survival, sales and opportunity.

"When big events came to Mangaung, people made money," said Bongani Buthelezi, a community member from Bloemfontein. "Street vendors sold food, taxis carried passengers, guest houses filled up and local artists had a platform. We need that kind of thinking at City Hall every day, not only during festival season."

Young entrepreneur Lefa Mohapi said Moseme's name had gained support because people were looking for leaders who understood the pressures facing small businesses.

"We do not only need politicians who know how to make speeches," Mohapi said. "We need leaders who understand the struggle of starting a business, paying workers and creating opportunities. A tycoon like Moseme understands what it takes to build an economy."

Others believe a Moseme mayoral campaign could restore a sense of pride in the city.

"Mangaung has history, talent and potential, but we have lost confidence in ourselves," another resident said. "We need someone who can sell Mangaung to South Africa and the world. Moseme has done that before through events. Maybe now he can do it through leadership."

However, the growing enthusiasm is not shared by everyone.

Critics have warned that business success and event-management experience, while valuable, do not automatically translate into the ability to govern a complex metropolitan municipality.

They say any candidate seeking to lead Mangaung must provide detailed answers on water supply, electricity challenges, roads, billing systems, housing, municipal debt, governance, corruption allegations and the city's financial sustainability.

"The mayor's office is not a festival office," said a Mangaung resident who was sceptical about the calls for Moseme to run. "The city needs a leader who understands administration, budgets and service delivery.

If he wants the position, he must present a serious programme and surround himself with capable people."

Another critic, Thabo Mabaso, said residents should avoid choosing leaders based solely on celebrity, wealth or public recognition.

"Being a tycoon can help because it demonstrates experience, but residents must ask difficult questions," Mabaso said. "How will he fix the city? How will he create jobs? How will he deal with failing infrastructure? Those are the answers we need."

The debate reflects a broader shift in South African politics, with figures from business, activism, media and entertainment increasingly entering the political arena.

Rise Mzansi leader Songezo Zibi moved from journalism into politics and Parliament, while businessman Herman Mashaba rose to national prominence in the Democratic Alliance before becoming Johannesburg's mayor and later forming ActionSA.

Anti-drug activist Xolani Khumalo has also entered politics, while PA leaders Gayton McKenzie and Kenny Kunene have demonstrated how high-profile public figures can reshape political conversations.

For Moseme's supporters, this changing political climate means Mangaung should not be afraid to consider a non-traditional candidate.

"The old way has not worked for us," said Clinton Van Wyk, a Patriotic Alliance member from Mangaung. "We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect different results. Ben Moseme is not perfect, but he is a builder, a risk-taker and somebody who knows how to attract opportunities."

Another resident, Christopher Smith, said the businessman's potential candidacy could inspire young people who feel disconnected from conventional politics.

"Young people see businesspeople and other successful individuals as proof that it is possible to rise," Smith said.

"If Moseme enters politics, he must use that influence to open doors for unemployed youth, artists, entrepreneurs and graduates."

Political analysts are likely to watch closely as parties begin preparing their candidate lists, campaign strategies and possible coalition options.

After the elections, parties may amend their lists — a process that could become important if no single party wins an outright majority in the metro.

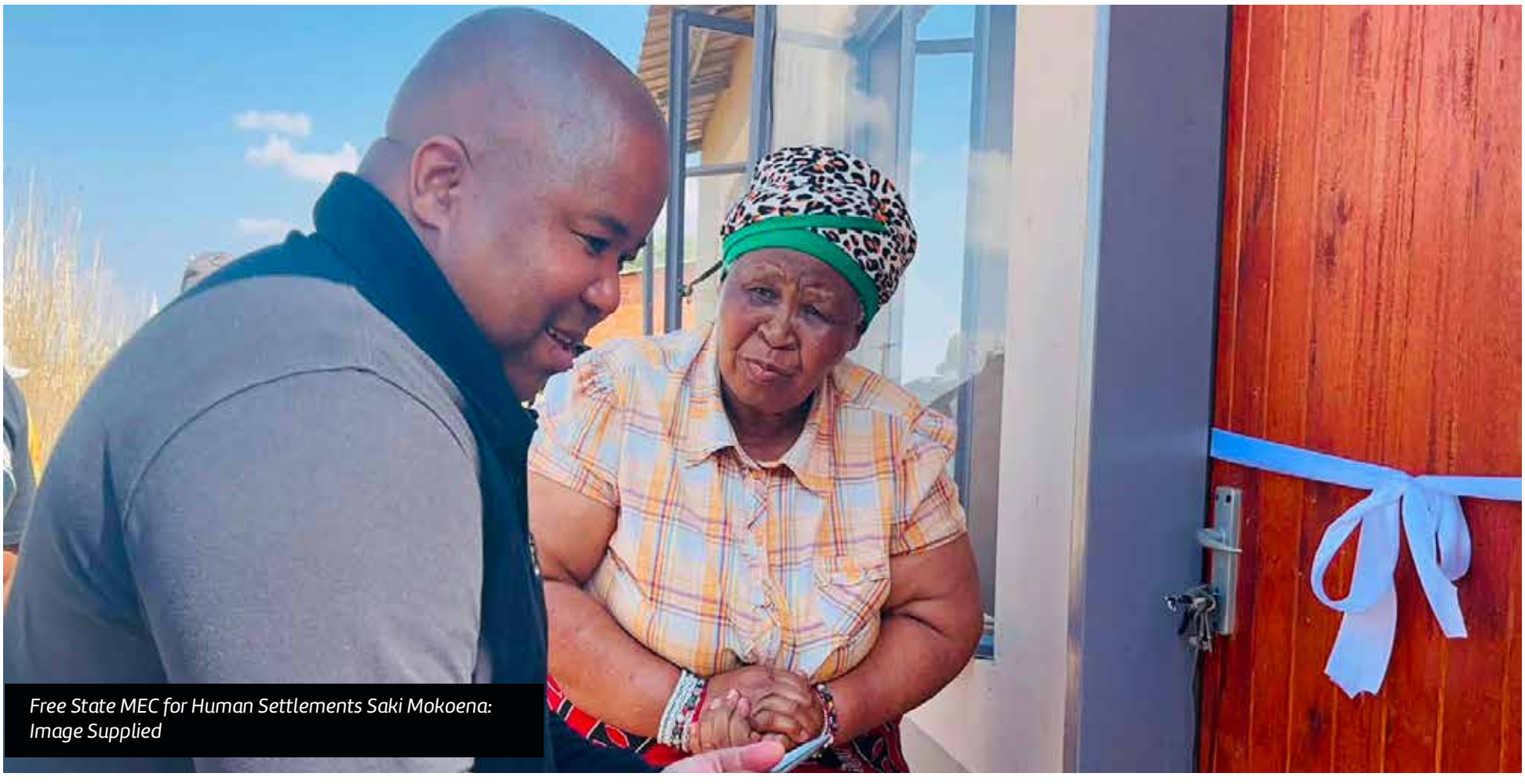
For now, Moseme has not announced any formal political ambitions. However, his carefully measured response — that he would consider an approach — has ensured that the speculation will not disappear anytime soon.

As Mangaung enters a decisive political period, one thing is clear: Ben Moseme's name is no longer being discussed only in the worlds of festivals, business and entertainment.

It is now being whispered in political circles, debated in communities and mentioned with growing seriousness as the race for the Bram Fischer Building begins to take shape.

Whether the Free State tycoon will become a candidate remains to be seen, but the call from some sections of Mangaung is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore: "Moseme must come and lead."

From Temporary Shelters to Permanent Hope: 41 Homes Rushed for Tikwana Residents



Free State MEC for Human Settlements Saki Mokoena: Image Supplied

MPHO MOKOENA:

In the wake of devastating floods that left vulnerable Tikwana families exposed in Temporary Residential Units (TRUs), the Free State Department of Human Settlements has stepped up efforts to fast-track the delivery of 41 BNG houses — bringing renewed hope, safety and permanent shelter to affected residents.

Under the rallying call of "Beke Le Beke", government continues to deliver on its commitment to provide communities with safe, dignified and quality homes.

The accelerated housing programme follows flooding that struck Tikwana on Monday evening, damaging temporary structures and highlighting the harsh reality faced by families still waiting for permanent housing. For many residents, the floods were not only a natural disaster, but a painful reminder of the risks of living in vulnerable and temporary accommodation.

MEC for Human Settlements Saki Mokoena said the disaster had strengthened the Department's resolve to ensure that families are moved into secure homes as quickly as possible.

"The floods have reminded us that housing delivery cannot be treated as a routine administrative process when families are living in difficult and vulnerable conditions," said Mokoena.

"Every family deserves the comfort of knowing that when the rain comes, they have a safe roof over their heads and walls that protect their children."

The Department's intervention is set to provide more than houses; it is expected to give families a fresh start after the emotional and physical strain caused by the floods.

The 41 BNG homes are intended to offer beneficiaries lasting security, improved living conditions and the dignity of a place they can proudly call home.

Mokoena said the government's responsibility extends beyond responding after a crisis, stressing that the ultimate goal is to prevent vulnerable households from being repeatedly exposed to unsafe living conditions.

"We are working with urgency because a dignified home is not a privilege — it is the foundation upon which families rebuild their lives, raise their children and plan for the future," he said.

"Our people must not be left behind in temporary structures when we have a duty to deliver permanent, quality housing."

The housing programme also included the handover of six title deeds, giving beneficiaries formal ownership of their properties. The documents provide residents with legal certainty, a sense of belonging and the confidence that comes with owning a home.

For MEC Mokoena, the title-deed handover carries the same weight as the construction of the houses themselves.

"Bodulo, my son" — a home is a place of dignity, security, belonging and pride. Having a house that you can call your own is an important part of restoring dignity to families.

He added that title deeds empower families by turning a house into an asset that can be protected, passed down to future generations and used as a foundation for long-term stability.

As construction gains momentum in Tikwana, the Free State Department of Human Settlements says it remains focused on turning urgent need into meaningful delivery.

Through Beke Le Beke, the Department continues to accelerate housing projects, respond decisively to communities facing hardship and ensure that every beneficiary receives a quality home worthy of their dignity.



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SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

Transport Minister Orders Probe After Video Shows SANRAL Contractor Mudzingayima Threatening to Kill Women

LINDA MGOMEZULU:

Transport Minister Barbara Creecy has ordered a closer examination of a controversial public infrastructure contract after a businessman linked to a viral Sandton restaurant confrontation was identified as having alleged ties to engineering and construction company Moriel Infrastructure Group.

Creecy has directed the board of the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) to determine whether Moriel Infrastructure Group was appointed lawfully and whether it is fulfilling its contractual obligations.

SANRAL has confirmed that it will conduct the investigation.

The move places the spotlight not only on the company's public-sector work, but also on questions surrounding its alleged links to Zimbabwean businessman Lawrence Chamurwa Mudzingayima.

Mudzingayima was identified as the man seen in footage recorded at Vlamo restaurant at Sandton Gate.

The video, which spread widely on social media, appears to show him confronting a group of women after they allegedly rejected his romantic advances. The women are not visible in the footage. The confrontation reportedly occurred inside the restaurant's ladies' bathroom.

The recording captures a series of alleged threats, including: "I'll murder you now and walk" and "I'll put a bullet in all of you."

The man is also heard boasting about his wealth and claiming ownership of the restaurant.

"I buy this restaurant. I own it," he says. "I'm a wealthy man. You guys are poor ladies." He further insults one of the women, telling her: "You're a cheap b*h and you will remain that." Vlamo has distanced itself from Mudzingayima and rejected claims that he was connected to the restaurant.

The establishment said he was not affiliated with, employed by or associated with Vlamo, despite statements allegedly made during the confrontation.

"Once management became aware of the incident, immediate action was taken and the individual was removed from the premises," the restaurant said.



Lawrence Chamurwa Mudzingayima: Image Screenshot

Vlamo said it had "zero tolerance" for conduct that endangered or undermined the safety and dignity of women, guests and staff.

The restaurant added that its immediate priority was the wellbeing of the women involved.

"We are in contact with them and are committed to supporting them through the appropriate processes following the incident," it said. Vlamo also pledged to cooperate with any process arising from the incident and said the behaviour captured in the footage did not reflect the values it sought to uphold.

"We remain committed to providing a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for everyone who walks through our doors," the statement said.

EMPD Chief Julius Mkhwanazi Fired as Legal Woes Deepen



Julius Mkhwanazi: Image Supplied

DAKALO MULAUDZI:

Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department (EMPD) top cop Julius Mkhwanazi has been dismissed by the City of Ekurhuleni after an internal disciplinary process that stretched on for years — adding another dramatic chapter to the embattled officer's mounting legal troubles. The City confirmed that Mkhwanazi's contract was terminated following a disciplinary hearing in which he faced four internal charges, including allegations that he unlawfully issued police blue lights to a company linked to alleged criminal figure Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala.

The hearing, initially expected to get under way in 2023, was only recently concluded — three years after it was first meant to begin. The prolonged process had drawn scrutiny amid allegations that former city manager Imogen Mashazi and other officials shielded Mkhwanazi from accountability during the early stages of the blue-lights saga.

For Mkhwanazi, the dismissal comes at a time when his legal position has become increasingly precarious.

He has reportedly been arrested five times in five months and was recently denied bail, leaving the former senior EMPD official without his job while he faces multiple criminal allegations.

In one of the criminal cases, Mkhwanazi is accused of helping to dispose of the body of murdered businessman Emmanuel Mbense.

In another, he allegedly facilitated the theft of almost R15 million worth of precious stones — gems which were later allegedly sold for only R110,000.

The City of Ekurhuleni said the decision to terminate Mkhwanazi's employment was intended to help rebuild public confidence in the metro police force. "The city emphasises that the termination is an employment decision based on the circumstances affecting the employment relationship.

The criminal charges against Mt Mkhwanazi remain matters for the courts, and he retains the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty," the city said in a statement.

While the disciplinary process has now reached its conclusion, Mkhwanazi's criminal cases remain before the courts.

The City stressed that its employment decision must be separated from the ongoing criminal proceedings, where the allegations against him will still have to be tested.

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SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

Inanda Becomes Battleground as EFF Pushes Back on "No-Go" Claims—Maskandi Stars Take Sides

LINDA MGOMEZULU:

KwaZulu-Natal's political turf is fast turning into a high-stakes clash of rallies, music, and counter-accusations—this time with Maskandi thrust into the spotlight alongside the EFF's campaign bid.

The tension flared in Inanda, where the EFF's manifesto launch reportedly drew crowds at a time that a Maskandi event was planned in the same area. Yet as speculation swirled that the party's supporters were being pushed away from certain spaces, EFF Secretary-General Marshall Dlamini dismissed the notion of so-called "no-go areas," saying the party would campaign wherever it pleases.

Dlamini said the EFF would not accept restrictions on where it holds events, framing the push as part of rebuilding momentum after the 2024 election.

"There's no law that restricts me to be anywhere, so all is well. The rally is happening there, and while here I can be anywhere. The president is in Mthatha now, so there's no restriction of us being anywhere.

"I've decided to come here just to check because there's no one who's going to tell us that there's a no-go area of EFF in KZN.

So when we were told that no fighters are not allowed to come here, I thought let me come and check this no-go area and test it, so we're fine. We've got candidates all over on all the wards of KZN.



"They were campaigning freely and nicely in KZN. We are rebuilding what we suffered in the 2024 election, so all is well, and the rally is part of that rebuilding program.

That is why we are here in KZN, just to make sure that there's no issues, everyone else can campaign freely, and that's what we're doing."

As the EFF's provincial push unfolded, Ngizwe Mchunu—a prominent Maskandi figure—was reportedly hosting a free entry maskanda concert about 4km away, adding fuel to the growing narrative of overlapping agendas and competing influence.

Mchunu, who did not wait to respond, took aim at the EFF leadership and specifically accused EFF leader Julius Malema of offering little of substance for KwaZulu-Natal. He also alleged Malema was using the province as a stage to win public favour. "The events are not similar. We've not gone to their event, we've respected it. I will not allow Malema to disrespect the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

"He's similar to someone sending a 'view once' message. He comes here once in a blue moon then disappears. He's never said anything worthy about KZN.

"His statements are something else, he's asking for unity when people are in the country illegally. Women have died in Ekurhuleni and there's been no leads.

Malema is in favour of illegal immigrants so that they can commit crime freely."

While the back-and-forth intensifies, the EFF in KwaZulu-Natal says it will press ahead with what it calls its constitutional right to organise and engage communities—regardless of claims, threats, or controversy.

The drama, however, may not be limited to speeches and music. Reports claimed there was commotion between activist and former radio presenter Ngizwe Mchunu and EFF members in Inanda on Friday afternoon—ahead of the EFF provincial manifesto rally scheduled for Saturday at JL Dube Stadium.

According to accounts shared with the SABC, party volunteers at the venue alleged that Mchunu and his bodyguards fired shots at them while they were preparing for the manifesto launch.

But Mchunu denied the allegations, saying EFF members provoked him and his supporters, while police reportedly had to intervene to restore order.

In a response reflecting on the unrest, the party's provincial leadership said it has "noted" reports of disturbances and alleged attempts to interfere with preparations for the gathering. The EFF said it had complied with the necessary requirements and regulations governing the event.

EFF KZN elections spokesperson Mazwi Blose issued a firm warning, insisting there would be no competing programme staged near the EFF rally.

"We wish to place it firmly on record that there will be no parallel program, gathering, or activity that is organized in the close proximity of the EFF rally.

The EFF calls on the South African Police Services to protect and defend the program of the EFF. Failure to do so, the EFF will have no option but to defend itself."

DA Defends Its Cape Town Stronghold as Rivals Unveil Mayoral Contenders

STAFF WRITER:

As parties unveil their candidates, the city's political heavyweights return to the front line—while disputed nominations threaten to overshadow the campaign

Cape Town's upcoming municipal election is shaping up as a contest between continuity and reinvention, with the Democratic Alliance (DA) relying heavily on familiar figures while its rivals attempt to present voters with alternative leadership.

Two decades after taking control of the Cape Town metro, the DA has signalled that it intends to defend its grip on the city by putting experience at the centre of its campaign. Incumbent mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis features among the party's top three candidates, alongside aldermen JP Smith and Xanthea Limberg.

The choice reflects a strategy built around established leadership rather than a dramatic political overhaul. But the party's list has also drawn criticism, particularly over the inclusion of councillor Abdulkader Elyas at number four on its proportional representation list.

Elyas was previously sanctioned by the DA after being accused of lying about his academic qualifications and presenting himself as a medical doctor. His prominent position on the list is likely to fuel debate over party accountability and the standards expected of candidates seeking public office.

The ANC, meanwhile, has opted for a combination of campaign experience and internal political prominence. Party campaigner Banoyolo Yawa has been placed first on its list, ahead of current opposition leader in council Ndithini Tyhido, who is among the party's mayoral contenders.

ANC provincial convenor Jeremiah Thuynsma also appears on the party's mayoral shortlist.

However, his absence from the candidate list means he will not contest the election as one of the party's listed candidates.

That distinction could become politically significant as the ANC seeks to rebuild its influence in a city where it has struggled to dislodge the DA.

The party will need to convert its mayoral ambitions into a campaign capable of challenging the governing party's long-standing urban support base.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) has chosen parliamentary whip Nontando Nolutshungu as its mayoral candidate. Nolutshungu is also the only proportional representation candidate from the party to appear on its list, placing the EFF's campaign firmly around a single prominent figure.

A smaller party is also hoping to build on its breakthrough in the last election. After entering the Cape Town City Council for the first time in 2021 with seven seats, the National Coloured Congress has nominated Ellen Pakkies as its mayoral candidate.

Pakkies became nationally known in 2007 after killing her drug-addicted son. She received a suspended sentence, with the court recognising the difficult circumstances and lack of support she had faced while trying to help him.

Her nomination adds an intensely personal and socially charged dimension to the contest, potentially allowing the National Coloured Congress to frame its campaign around communities affected by addiction, poverty and inadequate social services.

The full candidate list, running to more than 2 000 pages, was published by the Electoral Commission this week for public scrutiny. Councillors are expected to officially receive their certificates of participation next week.

The lists also reveal the return of several experienced ANC figures. Former provincial secretary and MP Faiez



Jacobs has been placed at number 14 on the proportional representation list, while former provincial MEC Leonard Ramatlakane will contest a ward in Durbanville.

With the formal candidate process nearing completion, Cape Town's election campaign is moving into a more confrontational phase. The DA is presenting continuity and administrative experience; the ANC is attempting to reassert itself through established organisers and political leaders; the EFF is putting forward a high-profile parliamentary figure; and the National Coloured Congress is betting on a candidate whose life story resonates with some of the city's most difficult social challenges.

But as voters scrutinise more than 2 000 pages of names, the contest may be shaped as much by controversy as by party promises.

For the DA, the central question will be whether its record in office outweighs concerns about candidate selection. For its opponents, the challenge is turning dissatisfaction into enough support to break the party's hold over Cape Town.

Madlanga Commission Gets More Time as Criminal Justice Probe Deepens



Mbuyiseli Madlanga: Image Supplied

DAKALO MULAUDZI:

The Madlanga Commission of Inquiry will remain at work for several more months after President Cyril Ramaphosa approved an extension that pushes the submission of its final report to Monday, 25 January 2027.

The new deadline replaces the previous date of 16 November 2026, giving the commission additional time to examine evidence, hear outstanding witnesses and consider recommendations from experts assisting the inquiry.

The extension comes at a critical moment for the investigation, which is examining allegations of corruption, political interference and criminality within South Africa's criminal justice system.

According to the Presidency, additional issues emerged during the hearings, making more time necessary for the commission to complete its work.

Presidential spokesperson Vincent Magwenya said the extension would allow commissioners to assess further evidence and expert testimony relevant to the inquiry's terms of reference.

Magwenya also conveyed Ramaphosa's appreciation for the commission's work, as well as the steps being taken by law-enforcement agencies in response to evidence emerging from the hearings.

The commission began public hearings in September last year and was initially expected to sit for only six months.

Since then, the inquiry has expanded into a wide-ranging examination of the police, metropolitan law-enforcement structures and alleged networks of influence operating inside the justice system.

The commission was established after KwaZulu-Natal police commissioner Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi made a series of serious allegations in July 2025 concerning interference and corruption within law-enforcement structures. Retired Constitutional Court Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga chairs the inquiry.

At the commission's one-year milestone, Madlanga warned that the evidence had exposed deeply troubling signs within the country's criminal justice architecture.

"Unfortunately, what is emerging from the evidence is that there are indications of serious criminality within the criminal justice system and that this is the result of the infiltration of, and undue influence on, the criminal justice system by elements of criminality."

Madlanga also thanked members of the public for supporting the inquiry during its hearings. "The overwhelming public support for the commission process is not going unnoticed. For that too, we are truly grateful."

The commission has already submitted two interim reports to Ramaphosa.

The first was handed to the President on 17 December 2025, followed by the second on 29 May 2026. By the time the second report was delivered, commissioners had heard 32 witnesses over 64 days of hearings involving the South African Police Service, the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department and the Tshwane Metropolitan Police Department. The first report led to referrals involving several serving and former SAPS members for further investigation and possible disciplinary action.

Those referred included:

- Major General Lesetja Senona, who later resigned as head of the KwaZulu-Natal Hawks.
- Major General Richard Shibiri, who was dismissed for misconduct.
- Brigadier Mbangwa Nkhwashu.
- Brigadier Rachel Matjeng, who was dismissed on charges including money laundering and dishonesty.

The inquiry's fallout also reached Sergeant Fannie Nkosi, who was arrested after a police raid at his home uncovered items linked to firearm-related charges and allegations of defeating the ends of justice.

Nkosi additionally faces accusations of posing as a senior police officer at a Thohoyandou police station and stealing marijuana from the station. He has made two unsuccessful bail applications.

The commission's second interim report included further recommendations after individuals implicated in evidence were given an opportunity to respond.

It recommended disciplinary proceedings and immediate investigations into alleged criminal conduct involving suspended Deputy National Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Shadrack Sibiya, Witness G, suspended SAPS Sergeant Fannie Nkosi and businessman Brown Mogotsi.

It also called for an investigation by the Office of the Inspector-General for Intelligence—or another suitably authorised body—into an alleged "off-the-books" Crime Intelligence operation involving Mogotsi and Witness G.

These recommendations were made under provisions allowing the commission to refer matters for urgent criminal investigations, prosecution-related decisions or further inquiry.

The latest extension comes as commissioners continue working through unresolved testimony and evidence.

Crime Intelligence deputy Major General Feroz Khan was expected to testify earlier this month, but his appearance was postponed to 28 September after he was hospitalised. Justice Madlanga imposed conditions on any further absence, including the possibility of an independent medical assessment.

Despite the commission's referrals and interim reports, Madlanga has stressed that the inquiry has not yet made definitive findings on the allegations raised by Mkhwanazi.

That distinction is likely to remain important as the commission enters its next phase: separating testimony from proven facts, assessing expert recommendations and determining what action should follow.

With the final deadline now set for January 2027, the commission has been given more time—but also a heavier responsibility.

Its eventual report is expected to shape the national debate on police accountability, political influence, institutional corruption and the future integrity of South Africa's criminal justice system.

insider Chronicle Sport
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Sundowns Soar to Victory: African Champions Claim African-Asian-Pacific Cup!

STAFF WRITER:

In a thrilling display of skill and determination, the African champions have clinched the African-Asian-Pacific Cup, setting the stage for an exhilarating next chapter.

They are now poised to face the winner of the highly anticipated Derby of the Americas, where Mexican powerhouse Toluca will clash with a yet-to-be-confirmed South American contender.

This forthcoming match not only offers glory but also a coveted spot in the Challenger Cup, culminating in a final showdown against the illustrious Paris Saint-Germain.

The action ignited early in the match when Sundowns took the lead in the 17th minute. Santos, showcasing his aerial prowess, met an in-swinging cross from Teboho Mokoena with a perfectly executed header that soared into the top corner, leaving Senegal's goalkeeper Edouard Mendy with no chance. This moment marked Santos' first significant contribution of the 2026/27 campaign, following an impressive season where he netted five goals and provided eleven assists.

However, Al Ahli refused to back down, responding just two minutes later with a swift attack. Ivan Toney surged down the left flank, delivering a precise low cross aimed at Firas Al Buraikan.

The initial save by Ronwen Williams was unfortunate; the ball ricocheted off the goalkeeper and trickled into the net, leveling the score.

The intensity ramped up as Al Ahli continued to press forward. Toney nearly turned the tide again, linking up with Trincao whose curling shot narrowly missed the target.

A pivotal moment arrived when Toney was brought down in the box, leading to a penalty appeal.

However, the referee overturned the decision, ruling Toney offside in the build-up, much to the relief of Sundowns' supporters.

Sundowns, undeterred, sought to reclaim their lead. A golden opportunity arose when Khulumani Ndamane sent a free-kick from Aubrey Modiba skimming over the crossbar, missing by inches.

The decisive moment came in the 80th minute when debutant Thabang Matuludi delivered a stunning cross that found Santos once more.

In a display of athleticism, Santos executed a diving header, completing his brace and putting Sundowns back in front.

The South African side held firm, ultimately securing victory and advancing further in this prestigious competition. Their triumph not only cements their status on the continental stage but also sets them up for a thrilling clash ahead.

As a side note, the stakes are high at the international level, with Paris Saint-Germain having claimed the 2025 FIFA Intercontinental Cup, earning a whopping $5 million in prize money.

Meanwhile, runners-up Flamengo pocketed $4 million, while Pyramids FC, who faced elimination in the Challenger Cup, received $2 million.

As the dust settles on this exhilarating match, all eyes will be on the next challenge for Sundowns as they aim to add another trophy to their illustrious collection.

The journey continues, and the excitement is just beginning!