

# WALKERVILLE & SAVANNA CITY TIMES



END JUNE 2024 Tel: 011 850 1160 | Email: savannacitytimes1@gmail.com | Website: walkervilleandsavannacitytimes.co.za

## Government of National Unity: A Moment of Profound Significance



Chief Justice Raymond Zondo alongside President Cyril Ramaphosa at the inauguration in Pretoria, Union Buildings

**On 19 June, President Cyril Ramaphosa took his Oath of Office, marking the beginning of South Africa's seventh administration and the establishment of a Government of National Unity.**

This followed the recent National and Provincial Elections on 29 May, which were declared free and fair by the South African Human Rights Commission, underscoring the maturity of South Africa's democracy since its first steps in 1994. Despite no outright majority winner, the election results necessitated cooperation among different

political formations, reminiscent of the country's early democratic years. In his inaugural speech at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, President Ramaphosa emphasized the significance of the Government of National Unity, he declared: "It is the beginning of a new era," stressing the need for a common mission anchored in national unity, peace, stability, inclusive economic growth, non-racialism and non-sexism. He highlighted the electorate's expectation for leaders to work together for the nation's benefit and urged political parties

to set aside animosity and pursue collective goals such as economic growth, job creation, safer communities and effective governance. Parties from across the political spectrum have agreed to collaborate, acknowledging that no single party can govern or legislate alone.

The parties adopted a Statement of Intent, committing to rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, addressing poverty, safeguarding workers' rights, stabilizing government and building state capacity. Additionally, they pledged to pursue a foreign

policy based on human rights, solidarity and peace.

President Ramaphosa called for a National Dialogue involving all societal sectors to tackle critical challenges. He reaffirmed the commitment to invest in quality education and healthcare, combat crime and corruption, strengthen social cohesion and build a united nation. He concluded by urging all South Africans to contribute towards achieving these goals, drawing on every strength to turn the dream of a better South Africa into reality.

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**PERSEVEERANCE**



Ps Taguta and Diana Dube  
Walkerville Winds of Change Church

*Romans 5:3-4 is a powerful passage that emphasizes the transformative power of suffering in the Christian life.*

It reads, "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." This passage encapsulates a profound truth about the spiritual journey and the process of personal growth.

The Apostle Paul, in these verses, presents a sequence that begins with suffering and culminates in hope. Suffering, which is often viewed negatively, is reinterpreted here as a catalyst for positive change. Paul suggests that enduring hardships is not only inevitable but also beneficial. The initial response to suffering is perseverance. This perseverance is more than mere endurance; it is a steadfastness and resilience developed through continuous effort in the face of adversity. As believers persevere, they develop character. Character, in this context, refers to a proven integrity and

strength of spirit. It is the quality of being tested and found genuine. This development of character is crucial because it transforms a person's inner being, aligning them more closely with the virtues and values of the Christian faith. The trials one faces thus serve as a refining fire, purifying and strengthening their faith.

Finally, this tested character leads to hope. Hope here is not a vague or uncertain expectation but a confident assurance rooted in the faithfulness of God. It is the belief that, despite present sufferings, God's promises will be fulfilled. This hope is unwavering and deeply rooted in the experience of God's love and faithfulness throughout the trials. Suffering, when approached with faith, leads to perseverance. This perseverance fosters the development of a strong, tested character, which in turn produces a robust and confident hope. This passage offers a profound perspective on the value of trials in the spiritual journey, encouraging believers to find meaning and growth in their suffering.

**Legalization of Cannabis in South Africa: A landmark shift**

*On the eve of the May 27 general elections, which saw the ruling African National Congress (ANC) lose its majority for the first time in 30 years of South African democracy, a major change to the country's drug laws quietly took place.*

Just one day before the historic ballot, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the Cannabis for Private Purposes Act, making South Africa the first African nation to legalize the use of marijuana.

**The Cannabis for Private Purposes Act**  
The new legislation removes cannabis from the country's list of outlawed narcotics, allowing adults to grow and consume the plant, except in the presence of children. The bill also stipulates that those previously convicted of cannabis-related offenses will have their records expunged, although the specifics of this process remain unclear. There

is also uncertainty regarding the release of the 3,000 people imprisoned for cannabis-related offenses as of 2022. Despite these advancements, activists assert that the fight for full cannabis reform is far from over.

"Ramaphosa finally found his pen at last, and cannabis is no longer classified as a dangerous, dependence-producing substance in South Africa," Myrtle Clarke, co-founder of Fields of Green for ALL, an NGO campaigning for cannabis reform, told Al Jazeera from Johannesburg. "Now we can move on to what to do about trade, which remains illegal."

**Current Legal Landscape**  
Unlike countries such as Malta, Canada, and Uruguay, where cannabis has been fully legalized, South Africa's bill does not provide a legal framework for purchasing cannabis. Selling cannabis remains illegal unless prescribed for medicinal purposes. Consequently, individuals can grow cannabis for personal use but cannot legally sell it for recreational use. "The bill effectively means that if you get caught with an amount of cannabis that a policeman thinks is too much for your personal use, you can't be charged as a drug dealer," Clarke explained. Essentially, having a substantial personal supply of cannabis is permissible as long as there is no commercial intent.

**Grey Market and Challenges**  
A significant grey market for cannabis already exists in South Africa. Since a 2018 court ruling deemed private consumption of cannabis constitutional, the government has been tasked with drafting legislation to legalize it. During this period, shops and dispensaries have been operating under Section 21 of the Medicines Act, which allows for the sale of "unregistered medicines" if prescribed by a

doctor. Cannabis has been included in this list following the 2018 ruling. However, the legal ambiguities have led to inconsistent enforcement. Some dispensaries and "private members' clubs," which operate under the principle of "private consumption," have been targeted by authorities. For example, The Haze Club (THC) in Johannesburg, a collective of cannabis growers operating on private premises, was raided in 2020, and legal proceedings are ongoing.

**Future Prospects**  
The rapid proliferation of dispensaries and cannabis clubs in South Africa highlights the urgency for comprehensive regulation. "These dispensaries are everywhere in South Africa," noted Charl Henning, another member of Myrtle Clarke's team. As speculation over the legislation intensified, more establishments have opened, saturating the market and operating in a legal grey area. "They've mushroomed up in the last six months; there's been more clubs and shops opening than ever before, they're literally saturating the market, and now they don't have a law to arrest them on. Trade is everywhere already. We just need to regulate it," Henning added.

The Cannabis for Private Purposes Act represents a significant milestone in South Africa's approach to cannabis, marking the country as a pioneer on the African continent. While the legalization of personal use is a crucial step forward, the next challenge lies in establishing a regulated market for cannabis trade. Activists and stakeholders continue to push for comprehensive reforms to ensure that the new legal landscape supports safe, equitable, and economically beneficial cannabis use and trade in South Africa.

**Story fact credit: Al Jazeera**

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**Transport Department Provides Progress on New Driver's Licence Card for RSA**

*The Department of Transport is on track to deliver a new driver's licence card and printing equipment for the country amid the initial challenges of finding suitable service provider/s.*

With the evaluation and adjudication of the bids completed, the Department is almost at a brink of pronouncing a new dawn in the driving licence card environment, with the audit process being the only last hurdle standing in the way.

Cabinet gave a go-ahead to the Department to produce a new driving license card for the country on 30 August 2022.

The Department embarked on its first attempt to source a service provider to deliver a turnkey solution.

The above bid was advertised on 10 November 2022. This bid process was unsuccessful, resulting in a re-advertisement of the bid on 5th April 2023. Bid DLCA/2023/01: Provision of a Turnkey Solution for Personalization of Smart Driving Cards in South Africa was advertised in the government tender portal. The above bid closed on May 5th, 2023, and owing to its technical complexity, this bid continues to be under consideration,

which requires the department to adhere to prescribed SCM prescripts and regulations. Guided by the above, the Department can reveal that five (5) bids were received from the following bidders:

1. REN-FORM CORPORATE PRINT MEDIA
2. NEC XON SYSTEMS (PTY) LTD
3. MUEHLBAUER ID SERVICES GMBH
4. GEMALTO ALTRON FINTECH SOUTHERN AFRICA (PTY) LTD
5. IDEMIA IDENTITY AND SECURITY – SOUTH AFRICA

Just to emphasise, with the evaluation and adjudication of the bid completed, the bid is undergoing standard and required Department's probity/audit processes. The Department cannot finalize the bid process until the above is completed.

The Department pleads for patience as it is prohibited by law not to poke its nose into the affairs of the bidding committees. In compliance with the rules and regulations on tender processes, the Department can therefore not be characterized as lacking transparency. The Department will pronounce on this matter when all processes have been completed.

# MIDVAAL DONATES R290 000 TO NGOs FROM ACROSS MIDVAAL



Midvaal Mayor, Peter Teixeira, presenting donation checks to NGOs to support their ongoing community work

**On 28 May, the Executive Mayor, Alderman Peter Teixeira, donated R290 000 to eleven (11) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in Midvaal.**

The donations followed requests from the NGOs who, to date, have not received funding or have not signed the Service Level Agreements with the Department of Social Development. In addition to the donation fund, the municipality is reviewing relief offers to assist each NGO with managing their municipal rates and taxes accounts. These NGOs provide a wide range of essential services throughout the municipality, including distributing food parcels to those in need, providing meals for children and offering care for the elderly and children's homes.

The NGOs are struggling to provide services, reach their full capacity in terms of intake, pay staff members and keep up with municipal rates and taxes due to a lack of funding. The municipality hopes the donation will offer interim relief while the Department of Social Development finalise payment. By partnering with these NGOs, Midvaal Municipality can address not only the immediate needs of our communities but also work towards fostering sustainable development and improving the overall well-being of our residents. As a compassionate and caring institution, Midvaal will continue to leverage available resources to uplift the lives of those in need, including the vulnerable and elderly, within our communities.



## Lakeside and Savanna City CPF's boosted to combat crime in their areas

**On 7 June, Midvaal Local Municipality donated two-way radios to the newly established Community Policing Forum (CPF) groups in Lakeside and Savanna City.**

This initiative reflects the municipality's ongoing commitment to fostering safer and more prosperous communities by investing in the safety and security of all its residents.

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# Over 40 certificates awarded to Midvaal residents following skills training



Midvaal Mayor, Peter Teixeira, recently handed over 40 certificates to Midvaal locals who participated in an accredited training for kerb laying, bricklaying, asphalt, and concrete work. The recent graduates gained practical experience from the current upgrading of Johan Le Roux. Midvaal's administration says it understands the importance of upskilling it's people to make them more attractive to the job market and to improve the municipality.

## DA dominates Midvaal in 2024 Provincial Elections



Midvaal DA members during a campaign trail in Sicelo

Following the voting in the 2024 National and Provincial Elections on 29 May, the Electoral Commission has released the results for the national and provincial ballots.

In the Midvaal Local Municipality in Gauteng, out of the registered 62,771 voters, 38,609 votes were cast, with 224 spoilt ballots. The Democratic Alliance demonstrated its dominance in the area, where it also controls the municipality.

Here's how the top 5 parties performed in all voting districts:

- DA: 20,802 votes (54.19%)
- ANC: 9,000 votes (23.45%)
- EFF: 2,514 votes (6.55%)
- MK: 2,363 votes (5.64%)
- VF Plus: 1,379 votes (3.59%)

These results have reinforced the Democratic Alliance's stronghold in Midvaal, a municipality they govern effectively. Garnering over half of the votes cast, the DA's share reflects its sustained support and voter confidence in the party.

The ANC's substantial gap behind the DA indicates challenges in regaining influence in Midvaal, a traditionally DA-favoured area. The Economic Freedom Fighters, although in third place, show a steady presence, though not significant enough to pose a major threat to the leading parties. Their challenge lies in expanding their voter base beyond their core supporters.

MK, with 5.64%, and VF Plus, with 3.59%, round out the top five. MK's performance is noteworthy as a relatively new entrant.

Overall, the results underscore the DA's entrenched position in Midvaal, supported by consistent voter trust in their local governance.

## Operation Shanela nets suspected copper cable thieves in Sebokeng



On 15 June, the Community Policing in Midvaal, in partnership with SAPS apprehended four suspects at a roadblock in Sebokeng during Operation Shanela. The teams discovered stolen copper cables valued between R45 000 and R55 000. In addition, the driver was caught with a fake ID book. Congratulations to the hardworking team and dedicated Compol members for a job well done and for making the community proud!

## Out and about...



MaryAnne Myburgh, Smangele Smash Hadebe the SA and Africa WBU Boxing Champion and Ivan Parkes at the Midvaal Youth Games at the Meyerton Stadium.

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# MIDVAAL OFFICIALLY OPENS REHABILITATED R20-MILLION JOHAN LE ROUX ROAD



Midvaal's Executive Mayor, Peter Teixeira, joined by various stakeholders, inaugurate the newly rehabilitated economic route in Meyerton on 21 June

Midvaal Local Municipality officially opened the newly rehabilitated and upgraded Johan Le Roux Road in Meyerton.

The rehabilitation of the road started in February and was completed last week, with only minor tasks such as pavement finishing and roadside cleanup remaining. Over the years, Johan Le Roux Road deteriorated due

to wear and tear, weather, traffic loads and other environmental factors. The Municipality completed the project within the planned six months and adhered to the stipulated budget of R20 million.

The rehabilitation involved a complete overhaul of the road structure, including removing the existing pavement and base layers and replacing them with new

materials. Johan Le Roux Road is a vital economic route for Midvaal, ensuring the movement of goods and services in and out of our region. As part of the municipality's empowerment programme, at least ten SMMEs were hired during the construction to provide various services such as TLB hire, security, paving, site establishment and drainage. Over 14 residents were provided

with employment opportunities, while at least 40 individuals received accredited training in kerb laying, bricklaying, asphalt and concrete work. Midvaal will continue to invest in infrastructure development, such as roads, to ensure our residents can move around easily and to ensure the smooth movement of goods, which is critical in growing the local economy.

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# Vibrant Sunday Market delights visitors in Walkerville



Discover a world of entrepreneurial ingenuity and delish eats at the Market!

Every Sunday, the Walkerville Agricultural Grounds comes alive with a bustling Sunday Market organized by Erika and David O'Brien and Kelly Hendriks. The trio oversees the market's operations, ensuring a warm welcome to visitors. Featuring a diverse array of stalls, attendees enjoy a day filled with delicious pancakes, savoury biltong, fresh vegetables, books, handbags, biscuits, charcoal, wood, raw honey and seed bells. Archery sessions with Heather are a

favourite among visitors of all ages. "Our market aims to provide a fun and engaging community event. The Deep South PUB and The Singing Chef Restaurant contribute to the vibrant atmosphere with their exceptional food offerings. Operating from 9am to 4pm, the Sunday Market welcomes everyone. Stalls are free reflecting our commitment to giving back to the community. Whether booking a stall or simply exploring, everyone is invited to join us for a memorable day," said Erika.



## Two suspected drug dealers arrested in Vereeniging

Earlier this month, two suspected drug dealers were arrested in separate incidents of possession of illicit drugs, including crystal meth, in Vereeniging. Police spokesperson Malesela Ledwaba says the suspects had been allegedly selling the drugs in Limpopo and Gauteng. One suspect was arrested at his residence in Vereeniging while the other one was arrested at a drug laboratory in the same area. "The operation proceeded to a

location and resulted in the discovery of mini laboratory at Stanley Avenue and a 39-year-old male suspect was arrested for possession of items for producing drugs. During the search, police discovered a substance believed to be drugs CAT, three packets of Crystal Meth, one container of Crystal Meth mixture and 1 300 mandrax tablets with an estimated value of R200 000," added Ledwaba. Source: SABC News

## Spicy Chicken Pasta (Ultimate Flavour Burst)



This Spicy Chicken Pasta serving 4 from Cook Quickly ready in under an hour is worth a try...

### Ingredients:

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 12 oz pasta (such as linguine or fettuccine)
- 1 cup marinara sauce
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped

### Method:

1. Preheat grill to medium-high heat. Rub

- the chicken breasts with olive oil, smoked paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, cayenne pepper, salt and pepper.
2. Grill the chicken breasts for 6-7 minutes on each side or until fully cooked. Let them rest for a few minutes before slicing.
3. Cook pasta according to package instructions until al dente. Drain and set aside.
4. In a large skillet, heat some olive oil over medium heat. Add minced garlic and sauté for about 1 minute.
5. Pour in marinara sauce and heavy cream, stirring to combine. Let it simmer for a few minutes until slightly thickened.
6. Add cooked pasta to the skillet, tossing to coat in the sauce. Mix in grated Parmesan cheese.
7. Top the pasta with sliced grilled chicken and sprinkle with chopped fresh parsley before serving.

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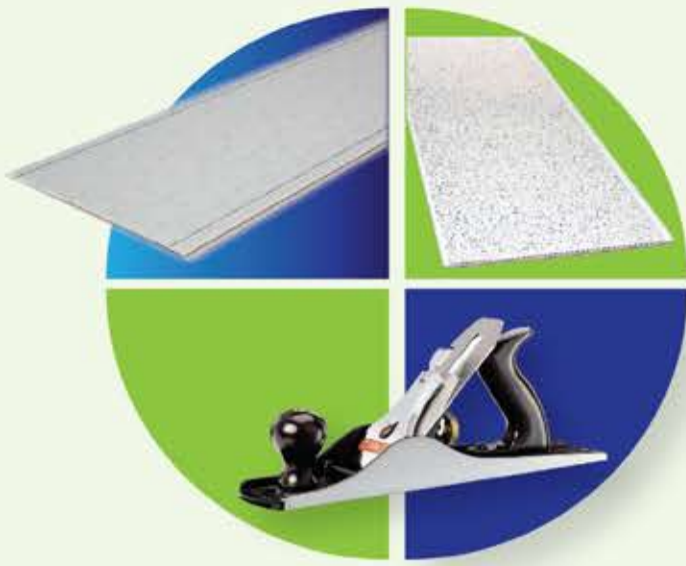
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## #Nakajani - MAC athletes shine at Comrades 2024



Meyerton Athletic Club Comrades Marathon 2024 participants with Midvaal Local Municipality representatives at the send off event held earlier this month

**Meyerton Athletics Club (MAC) is extremely proud of its athletes who competed in this year's Comrades Marathon.**

"The Up run is a challenging feat, and every MAC athlete who participated is a true achiever. Congratulations to those who earned medals - wear them with pride, especially the novices!" MAC's Chairperson Timothy Kriel told *Walkerville & Savanna City Times*.

He added: "A special thank you goes to Midvaal Municipality for their ongoing support, particularly to Chief Whip Phil Pretorius, who came down to cheer on the athletes along the route."

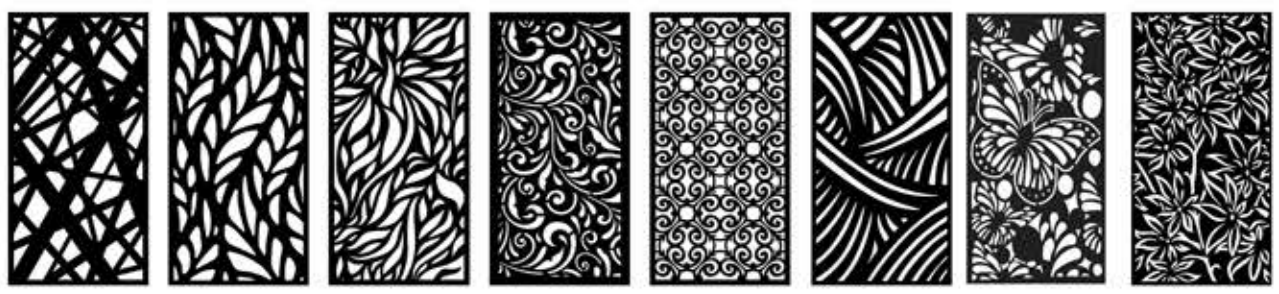
**Notable Achievements by MAC Athletes:**  
*Katlego Nkwane:* silver medal - 07:25:25 - novice; *Heinrich Kemp:* 08:06:14 - Bill Rowan medal; *Thato Nyankula:* 09:09:07 - Robert Mtshali medal; *Tenus Opperman:* 09:23:42 - Robert Mtshali medal; *Samantha Prokopiou:* 09:33:12 - Robert Mtshali medal; *Phafudi Magale:* 09:43:35- Robert Mtshali medal; *Armand Strydom:* bronze medal - 10:06:45; *Forget Kofi:* 10:07:35 - bronze medal; *Sipho Radebe:* 10:28:25 - bronze medal; *Pierre Swanepoel:* 10:28:28 - bronze medal; *Philip Viljoen:* 10:47:51 - bronze medal; *Louise-Marié Kriel:* 10:49:07 - bronze medal; *Tavis Pienaar:* bronze medal - 10:56:16; *Joseph Zondo:* 10:57:24 - bronze medal; *Kirsten*

*Sham:* 11:01:48 - Vic Clapham medal  
*Lezane Storm (Van Schalkwyk):* Vic Clapham medal - 11:01:48; *Jacqueline Jansen van Rensburg:* green number with a time of 11:03:44 for completing her 10th Comrades Marathon; *Joseph Masitenyane:* Also earned a green number with a time of 11:21:41, marking his 10th finish; *Marcus Sham:* 11:29:13 - Vic Clapham medal; *Attie Brits:* Vic Clapham medal -11:29:52; *Lindi Penning:* A Type 1 diabetic, finished as a novice with a time of 11:29:52, earning a Vic Clapham medal; *Mariette van der Merwe:* 11:34:05 - Vic Clapham medal; *Mark van Rensburg:* 11:35:43 - Vic Clapham medal; *Nicole Steenkamp:* Vic Clapham medal - 11:35:51;

*Eileen Opperman:* 11:37:05 - Vic Clapham medal; *Marelize La Grange:* Vic Clapham medal - 11:46:02; *Phillip La Grange:* 11:46:05 - Vic Clapham medal; *Melissa Franken:* 11:56:06 - Vic Clapham medal and *Engela Kotzee:* Vic Clapham medal -11:57:18.

Additional athletes who completed the marathon include *Jackie Mabuya* (12:04:38), *Motloung Lehlohonolo* (12:12:00), *Nadia van Rensburg*, and *Elzana Swanepoel*, who reached the 80.12km and 41.97km marks respectively.

Well done to all MAC athletes for their remarkable performances!  
**Wakerville & Savanna City Times** joins MAC in celebrating these athletes.



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