Unpacking the mini budget

Alex Rose-Innes

NEW finance minister, Enoch Godongwana, in his first mini-budget speech after taking over from Tito Mboweni, showed tough love where it hurts most – in the pocket. However, most economists and in reality, most South Africans, would laud him for his stance on stopping bailouts to state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

Further good news is that tax collection was boosted by just more than R120 billion, courtesy of additional mining tax. The country’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth is forecast to settle on just under 2% next year and slightly lower in 2023.

This year’s budget deficit in almost 8% and gross debt is more than R4 trillion, growing to a whopping 77.8% of GDP next year. In laymen’s terms it means that of all the money Treasury and SARS can scrape together on just under 2% next year and slightly lower in 2023.

The only SOE to receive a bailout would be Denel, the country’s arms manufacturer. Eskom is not so lucky and no more money is available for the electricity utility which had been brought to its knees by corrupt and inefficient officials, Zuma and his Gupta cronies. While cabinet is adamant that the focus would not be on fixing Eskom, the powers to be, (especially Gwede Mantashe aka nuclear man), cannot find a common meeting ground with regards to renewable energy.

"The key to solving our development challenges is the need to push ahead with structural reforms necessary to unlock the growth of our economy," Min Godongwana
Welcome to our new friends on our social media page

Like us and become part of the NewsHorn family today

Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
**Eskom battling with non-compliant municipalities**

**Alex Rose-Innes**

IF ever there had been a job that is not worth even R1 million per month, it would be that of Eskom’s CEO, André de Ruyter.

While unpaid workers are downsizing tools, corrupt staff continues to bankrupt the utility and the uninformmed masses calling for De Ruyter’s resignation, it had now been established that municipalities are also not adhering to load shedding requirements.

With technical mishaps, regional system failures, outright sabotage and insufficient funding, out of 160 countrywide municipalities, only Ethekwini and Buffalo City, are complying to load shedding schedules.

This results in South African (SA) businesses losing billions on a daily basis as it results in longer down periods across the country.

Reprimand letters had been sent to misbehaving municipalities during a situation which apparently “kept President Cyril Ramaphosa up at night.” Once again, this failure to work in unity to benefit the country seems to be a common occurrence in SA where offenders get away with a literal slap on the wrist.

De Ruyter, Chief Operating Officer, Jan Oberholzer, Monde Bala, Chief Executive for Transmission and Segomoco Scheppers, Executive for Generation, said the SOE’s increased challenges were laid at the door of defiant municipalities, systems failures in the South African Development Community (SADC) power pool and inefficiencies at its own power plants where equipment blow-outs are likely to render the systems inefficient until mid-December.

At that date, about 1300 kilowatts of energy is expected to return to operation from defunkt generation plants.

Medupi Unit 4, which blew out mid-August due to operational inefficiencies by the Eskom maintenance team, would not be in action for the next 18 months.

In the meantime, senior officials at Eskom had been pilfering fuel at a whopping R1 million plus per month.

**Two poachers behind bars**

**Tumelo Waga Dibakwane**

In February this year, field rangers from the Lower Sabi and Crocodile Bridge sections in the Kruger National Park (KNP) in Mpumalanga, nabbed two poachers. This past week, thanks to dedication and hard work, the two men were found guilty and sentenced.

It was reported that during the chase, field rangers reported a gunshot as they made contact with three armed suspects. One suspect was wounded in the left hand and a second suspect was arrested. The third managed to flee back to Mozambique.

The arrested suspects were identified as Jordan Samuel Mathonsi and Jorge Masangu, both Mozambican nationals. A hunting rifle, ammunition and two fresh rhinoceros horns were recovered during the arrest. The bodies of the dehorned rhinos were discovered in the Crocodile Bridge section of the KNP and the horns were linked to the scene with DNA.

Both accused pleaded guilty in the Skukuza Regional Court and were sentenced as follows:

**Count 1:** Trespassing in a National Park - 3 years imprisonment

**Count 2:** Illegal immigration - 1 year imprisonment

**Count 3:** Hunting of rhinoceros in a National Park - 10 years imprisonment

**Count 4:** Possession of an unlicensed firearm - 5 years imprisonment

**Count 5:** Possession of unlicensed ammunition - 2 years imprisonment

**Count 6:** Possession of a prohibited firearm (no serial number) - 6 years imprisonment

Certain sentences would run concurrently, but both men would effectively spend 16 years in jail.

SAPS management under leadership of the Provincial Commissioner, Lt-Gen Mananamela, had welcomed the sentencing and applauded the sterling work and commitment displayed by these members. They should keep it this way so that we can protect our endangered species. Should we not protect them, our children would not have an opportunity to see them.

“They must continue to do the good work;” he said.

**Public warned against latest scams**

(Worker COVID relief and RDP housing)

**Tumelo Waga Dibakwane**

THE Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development had warned the public, especially farmers, against people who promise to fast-track farmers’ applications for agricultural COVID-19 relief funds.

According to the Department’s spokesperson, Reggie Ngcobo, the scam artists are pretending to be government officials. The fraudulent text message doing the rounds reads:

“We see that last year you have applied for Agricultural COVID-19 fund of R50 000 we want to process it fast so you can send R2000 so we can process it before December. Capitec Bank W. W. ALSH Acc no: 1332654701 Branch Code 47010.”

The department had appealed to farmers to be careful of such fraudulent activities. “We are appealing to all our farmers to be careful of this fraudulent activities coordinated by unscrupulous and faceless people, it is a scam.

Farmers and members of the public must know that they do not have to pay for any government service, especially agricultural relief funding which is meant to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The department has finalised the adjudication of all applications received from farmers and the process is now closed. Those farmers who were either successful or unsuccessful have been notified through SMS’s,” Ngcobo said.

Another scam for RDP housing.

The Department of Human Settlements had also warned the public to be aware of fake Facebook messages calling for people to apply for Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) houses online.

“The department will never request you to send your personal information or apply for an RDP house online or request you to share posts on social media platforms in order to get an RDP/ BNG (Breaking New Ground) house,” a statement from the department reads.

The Department also urged the public to report any fake or suspicious accounts misleading people about the application process for potential beneficiaries.

“To apply for any of our subsidy programmes, please visit your nearest provincial department of human settlements or local municipality.”

**news@newshorn.co.za**
SA’s last white president dies

FW de Klerk, former South African president had died aged of 85. He was the last white president to rule the country.

De Klerk, a key figure in the nation’s transition to democracy, was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. He was known as a heavy smoker.

As head of state between September 1989 and May 1994, he released anti-apartheid leader, Nelson Mandela, in 1990, leading to multi-party polls in 1994. He shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela for helping to negotiate an end to apartheid. However, he had been a divisive figure in the country and embroiled in various scandals.

A statement from the FW de Klerk Foundation said that he died peacefully at his home in Cape Town following his struggle with cancer. He is survived by his second wife, Elita, his children Jan and Susan and his grandchildren.

As former lawyer, he retired from politics in 1997 saying: “I am resigning because I am convinced it is in the best interest of the party and the country.” However, many black South Africans blamed him for failing to curb violence during his time in power. Last year, he became embroiled in a row in which he was accused of playing down the seriousness of apartheid. He later apologised for “quibbling” over the matter.

Barberton inmates write matric

A total of 31 inmates incarcerated at Barberton Correctional Centres sat for their first National Senior Certificate examination paper on October 27. They described it as a lifetime opportunity which they would not miss for anything and regarded it as a game changer on their rehabilitation journey.

Sicelo Ndwandwe (35), serving life sentence for murder at the Maximum Correctional Centre, said he still vividly remembers the day he was sentenced and thought it was the end of his dreams of studying business management. However, when he was recruited to study further, he grabbed the opportunity with both hands and had never looked back.

“I have been eagerly waiting for this day to come. I started preparing way back, before schools could open. I gathered information from inmates who were doing grade 12 the previous year and started preparing for this day. When the 2021 school calendar commenced I was way ahead with the curriculum and I am optimistic that I will obtain a pass,” Secelo said.

The Barberton Management Area has two formal schools - Mvuselela at the Maximum Correctional Centre and Umlalagi at the Town Youth Correctional Centre. These render Basic Education in line with the curriculum of the Department of Basic Education. In 2020 the Barberton Correctional Services had 24 candidates. Eighteen (18) passed, a pass rate of 75%. This year the Centre is aiming for a 100% pass rate.

According to the Manager of Education and Training at the Centre, Thomas Myeni, the number of inmates who enrol for formal education had been increasing significantly and it signalled the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes.

“In spite of the challenges brought by Covid-19, we are satisfied with the level of preparations and the support provided to the learners. Much appreciation to educators who worked extra hours and on weekends to provide extra lessons to learners,” Myeni said.

The Area Commissioner of the Barberton Management Area, Mdlindo Mhlongo, wished them well and encouraged them to fight till the end. Inmates are expected to conclude their exams on November 30 with the Sepedi paper 3 and isiZulu paper 3.

Newshorn’s GM ties the knot

A beautiful cross-cultural ceremony, the general manager of Newshorn, Solomon Twumasi, married Phethile Lukhole in Mbombela.

The traditional and white wedding took place four years after Twumasi laid eyes on Phethile. Twumasi said it took some time to win the heart of the woman he calls Precious. At first, the bride said she could not believe the sof-spoken young man was “for real,” but eventually realised that he was a humble and kind person and decided to spend the rest of her life with him.

“What I love the most about him is his love towards me. He is kind, always humble, respects me and his gives me his undivided attention. The fact that he doesn’t judge me due to our culture differences it’s a bonus to me,” she said

Apostle Dr Ken Darko from Power Restoration Chapel International church officiated at the wedding. Both of the couple’s wedding attire had been designed by the groom himself.

“As Africans, we will go for nothing but the taste of our African culture fuelled by food, clothes and our customs. In view of this, we did it in the African way, by dressing in quality, expensive and royal Kente clothes from Ghana with a glimpse of South African designs,” the couple said during the ceremony.

The wedding was a true display of African culture.

“The father of the groom, Apostle Samuel Twumasi, is the leader of Faith in God Healing Church in Ghana blessed the newly wedded couple.

As former lawyer, he retired from politics in 1997 saying: “I am resigning because I am convinced it is in the best interest of the party and the country.” However, many black South Africans blamed him for failing to curb violence during his time in power. Last year, he became embroiled in a row in which he was accused of playing down the seriousness of apartheid. He later apologised for “quibbling” over the matter.
"Pay up or.." - SARS

Alex Rose-Innes

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) sent a letter to stakeholders warning it planned to get tougher on non-compliant taxpayers.

In a statement it said it was part of a strategic objective of making non-compliance difficult and costly and to enhance its ability to impose administrative penalties in a more responsive manner. “With effect from December 1, SARS has been empowered to levy a late submission of return penalty where one or more personal income tax returns are outstanding tax returns. The statement read.

"Prior to this date, SARS could only levy a late submission of return penalty where two or more outstanding tax returns.

This older rule will remain in place for one more year for 2020 and earlier returns." SARS also urged South Africans to accept their auto-assessments and meet the deadline for individual non-provisional taxpayers on November 23. In July this year, SARS used data received from employers and other third-party data providers to issue simulated assessments to a significant number of non-provisional individual taxpayers. "As part of the auto-assessment process, SARS requests taxpayers to either accept or edit the simulated assessment via eFiling or the SARS MobiApp, which is then followed by an original assessment issued by SARS." A large number of taxpayers have already either accepted or edited their simulated assessments and received an original assessment from SARS.

Taxpayers in the auto-assessment population, who neither accepted nor edited and submitted their simulated assessments by this date, will receive an original assessment based on an estimate per section 95 of the Tax Administration Act, the revenue collector was quoted. This assessment is not subject to objection and appeal, it warned. "However, a taxpayer who is not in agreement with his or her assessment may file a complete and accurate tax return within 40 business days of the assessment date. Such a return will be late, which means that normal late submission penalties and interest, where applicable, will apply." 

Showcase products with Umnotho Wesive

We want more money – Nehawu

Alex Rose-Innes

THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers’ Union, (Nehawu), had threatened action should the National Treasury fail to table suitable wage increases when delivering its Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) on 11 November.

Nehawu is one of South Africa’s largest labour unions and represents nearly 280,000 members across both the public and private sectors. In a media briefing, the labour union said that it would not accept ‘petty’ increases from the government and that it rejects the 1.5% pay increase tabled for public servants in the 2022/23 financial year.

“Our congress has sent out a clear message to the government that we remain resolute in the rejection of the petty allowances in substitution for a real wage increase,” it said.

“We are a union of workers, whose basic reason for existing in the first place is to ensure workers’ salaries, reduce the rate of exploitation and to improve the conditions of service for its members and public service workers in general.”

Data from the 2020 Budget shows that the average government worker remuneration passed R400,000 a year in 2019, with this figure heading towards R450,000 in 2021.

This is not spread equally across all public servants, but there had been a clear trend towards public servants being paid a lot more, in general. A perfect example of the killing the goose who lays the golden eggs. Economists have warned that on-going issues of wage increases could lead to further service delivery issues in South Africa.

“After several rounds of slashing the goods and services budget, further reprioritisation of expenditure may negatively affect service delivery, said Sanisha Packirisamy, an economist at Momentum Investments, was quoted in BusinessTech.

“Consequently, above-budgeted wage settlements continue to pose an upside threat to government expenditure.”

We want more money – Nehawu

Tumelo Wag Dibakwane

Millions to address Kinross informal settlements

"PEOPLE ought to be settled in habitable and dignified conditions in keeping with the integrated sustainable human settlement resolve, Human Settlement’s MEC, Speedy Mashilo, said at a sod turning ceremony at Kinross in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality recently.

The project, which is estimated at over R65 million includes the servicing of more than 2500 stands and infrastructure development such as water, sewerage, storm water drainage, internal roads and top houses.

This followed a commitment by Mashilo to the community of Kinross earlier this year that the Department will upgrade the informal settlements. The community had raised a need for houses and lack of adequate water and sanitation infrastructure.

This multi-year project is be implemented in incremental phases until 2024. It is expected to also make a significant dent in unemployment in the area and opportunities for small business development.

Mashilo said the contractor should leave skills and a better community behind. "Contractors must partner with communities and local business for purposes of skills transfer and legacy. We expect the contractor to source local skills and business capabilities for this project."

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Nhlakaniph Zuma welcomed the provincial government’s zeal to prioritise the municipality in dealing with issues of land invasion and provision of serviced sites. "We appreciate the Department’s interventions on a cohort of issues, in particular involving land invasion and servicing of sites,” Zuma said. He also urged the community to co-operate with the contractor and protect the project.

Govan Mbeki is one of the municipalities classified as Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas (PHSDAs).

The Department and municipality would also address bulk infrastructure challenges at Kinross Ext. 34, working together in planning and funding in the 2022/23 financial year. Other classified PHSDAs had also been identified for development in other parts Mpumalanga.

We want more money – Nehawu

Continued salary increase demands would further cripple SA.

(Image: BusinessTech)
For in Him we live we move and have our being

By Evangelist Mthandeni Mazibuko from Edwaleni Assemblies of God

We've asked the question what is God like. Because it's a really important question not only for the sake of "oh isn't that interesting, wouldn't that be good to know". It's one of those questions that I think everyone at some point in life asks. Or maybe they start before this question "is there a God?" but at some point you end up having to come up with some sort of definition to begin to grow in your understanding of what God is like because that affects everything we do.

All our lives flow out of this understanding, this relationship of and with God. Which is why I think it is so important, My prayer for you is that your understanding of God would just grow and grow and grow.

It's a really good time to reflect on our freedoms and to acknowledge the sacrifice that others have made for us. It makes us more thankful in the moment that we're in, even in the midst of Covid and restrictions, I'm so grateful for those that have gone before and especially those that fought and have given their lives so that we can experience freedom. Deuteronomy. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments (Deuteronomy 7:9).

I really love this verse, I love the way it emphasises that the Lord your God is God. I like the fact we have the word "the", he is "the" faithful God, not he is "a" faithful God, one among many. This is it; He is "the" faithful God. He is keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations.

Again faithfulness is about being trustworthy, doing what you say you're going to do, being there always, coming through when you promise.

God does that to a thousand generations for those that love Him and keep His commandments. Be encouraged today that God is the faithful God. You can trust Him with your life today.

God is Faithful

We have received Christ Jesus the lord, so let us walk in Him while we are rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith.

By Evangelist Sanele Khubeja from Mahushu AOG

FAITH is strong belief. Faith is complete trust in someone. The truth about the gospel brings us to the true Word of God, which is Christ Himself. He is the author and the finisher of our faith, in Him the messenger and the message have become one. By faith, Sarah received strength to conceive seed and bore a child when she was past child-bearing age because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

The Gospel according to John reveals Christ as the only Son of God who was in the beginning with God and all things were made through Him. In him was life and the life was the light of men. Jesus Christ, through His ministry, proposed a solution to mankind's problems on earth - the establishment of the kingdom of heaven on earth, for the truth about faith is only found in the kingdom of God and those who seek the truth about the kingdom are rooted and established in the faith. Jesus is pre-eminent, first and foremost in everything and the Christian's life should reflect that priority.

The Epistle of Jude encourages us to earnestly contend for the faith against ungodly teachers who had entered the church and are promoting immoral behaviour and false teaching denying the lord Jesus Christ. We are to fight, contend when apostasy arises and when false teachers emerge. When the truth of God is attacked is time to fight for the faith.

We have to put on the full armour of God which is the assurance of victory, to gird our waists with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness and on our feet the willing to content for the gospel of peace and finally, taking the shield of faith which will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

If the church can stand firm on the truth of faith and putting on the seven assurances of victory (armour of God), we shall surely overcome the darkness of this age.
Equality in pregnancy

PREGNANT Black women are more than four times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than white women. This is according to a review of death reports in the United Kingdom. The Mbrrace report found women from Asian backgrounds are almost twice as likely to die as white women, with the charity, Birthrights, concerned that overall “this bleak picture had not changed in over a decade.” University of Oxford researchers say for the vast majority of people, pregnancy remains very safe in the UK. However, despite slight decreases in the maternal death rate in recent years, there had been no significant improvements to these rates since 2010 to 2012.

The latest report shows heart disease, epilepsy and stroke continuing to be the most common causes of death, but in 37% of cases, improvements in care had made a difference to the outcome. The report also showed the risk of dy-

Medical groups warring over Covid booster shots

The South African Medical Association (SAMA), representing doctors, had called for a choice of Covid-19 booster vaccines after Johnson & Johnson (J&J) won the right to run further research on 500,000 South African (SA) health workers who took the J&J shot in an initial study.

The government said last month that the Sisonke Trial, providing SA’s health workers with vaccination ahead of a general rollout of vaccines, would be extended with health workers offered a second J&J inoculation.

SAMA said it was concerned because of potential evidence that a booster in the form of a messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine, as produced by Pfizer, could potentially be more effective than a second dose of a more traditional vector-based shot as produced by J&J.

“What is it that informs the decision to roll out the Sisonke phase 2 trial in isolation?” SAMA asked in an open letter to South African Health Ministe, Joe Phaahla. “Will health care workers be given the right to choose which booster they choose to take?”

Vaccine apartheid

J&J’s doses use a piece of a modified cold virus to stimulate an immune response, while mRNA vaccines use genetic material to instruct cells to defend themselves against the coronavirus.

The rollout of the booster started last week and the addition of a choice would delay it by six weeks, according to Nicholas Crisp, deputy director-general of the South African Health De-
As a result of extreme climate change, China, the world's biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, had seen parts of the country come to a standstill after a recent snowstorm. CHINESE are experiencing freezing temperatures and the highest snowfall since 1905. In the capital city of Shenyang, in Liaoning province, average snowfall reached and with the country experiencing power outages, the extreme weather event had already led to fatalities with thousands more affected. Meteorological researchers in the Mongolian city of Tongliao said the snowstorm was one of 27 red alerts, the highest warning alert for snowstorms. Temperatures plummeted by at least 14 degrees in some parts of north-eastern China. Traffic had been severely affected by the heavy onslaught, with most train and bus stations closed and airports shut. Authorities were intensifying efforts to keep homes warm by ramping up coal imports and maximising energy production capacity. It also urged markets and grocery stores to increase food supplies and reduce prices. China is highly dependent on coal for power, though Chinese leader Xi Jinping had pledged that his country would erase carbon emissions within nine years.
Rising agri costs for SA growers

Regarding direct input products, some form of intervention. crops and horticulture, had called for agrochemical products for those in field of fuel, labour, fertiliser, energy and Rising input costs such as higher costs not paint the full financial picture. improvement in farmers' finances do Intelligence, the good news about Theo Boshoff, Head of Legal essential investments. The large 2020 harvests also incrementally improved farmers' finances and allowed some to undertake essential investments. But, according to Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of SA (Agbiz) and Theo Boshoff, Head of Legal Intelligence, the good news about improvement in farmers' finances do not paint the full financial picture. Rising input costs such as higher costs of fuel, labour, fertiliser, energy and agrochemical products for those in field crops and horticulture, had called for some form of intervention. Regarding direct input products, herbicide prices rose by 99%, 33% and 32% respectively with the same trend noted in products such as ammonium nitrate, urea and potassium chloride. These prices increased by 107%, 58% and 125% respectively. SA imports roughly 80% of its annual fertiliser used in maize production and sugar cane at 18%. Fertiliser constitutes about 35% of grain farmers' input costs and a substantial share in other agricultural commodities and crops. These increases are caused by supply constraints and disruptions in production lines in fertiliser and agrochemical producing countries such as China, India, the US, Russia and Canada. Rising shipping costs and oil prices had also been contributing factors. At home, supply constraints had been affected by civil unrest and the cyber-attack at Transnet.

Avocado scarcity in SA leads to massive price hikes

A seasonal shortage of avocados is seeing healthy consumers crying in their salads. Being out of season, not even trusty old Woolies can provide the daily green fix. And should you be able to find an avocado somewhere, be prepared to pay top dollar for it. According to Derek Donkin, CEO of SA Subtropical Growers’ Association, the South African (SA) season runs from February to October. Some regions harvest during November to January, but not enough is yielded to meet demand.

At Woolworths, a reasonable sized 2-pack of ripe avos cost R54.99, while Pick ‘n Pay sells small, green ones for R49.99 per pack. Next to the road, a small bag of minute, green avos sell for R50 and the bigger bag for R100. However, let us not complain as we remember that Shoprite sold these golden fruits, ripe and ready to be consumed for a mere R7 each, last year. The rest of the world, with its insatiable demand for avocados, had caused the superfod to double in price in the United States. (And we thought they only ate hamburgers!) With people looking for healthy food

Kiwi fruit growers find 2022 a huge challenge

WHILE South Africa (SA) is not known for a robust kiwifruit production, a group of committed growers had been producing gold varieties during the last seven years. While being continually challenged in a young industry, growers said that the year so far had been one of the most problematic across the country. Limpopo's heavy rain season was not beneficial to cultivation and in

At Woolworths, a reasonable sized 2-pack of ripe avos cost R54.99, while Pick ‘n Pay sells small, green ones for R49.99 per pack. Next to the road, a small bag of minute, green avos sell for R50 and the bigger bag for R100. However, let us not complain as we remember that Shoprite sold these golden fruits, ripe and ready to be consumed for a mere R7 each, last year. The rest of the world, with its insatiable demand for avocados, had caused the superfod to double in price in the United States. (And we thought they only ate hamburgers!) With people looking for healthy food
Mpumalanga is a tourism paradise

Mpumalanga, (Zulu for “the place where the sun rises”), is a province in eastern South Africa, bordering the nations of Swaziland and Mozambique. It embraces the southern half of the iconic Kruger National Park (KNP), a large nature reserve, home to the Big 5 and other abundant wildlife. The province’s magnificent Blyde River Canyon, among the world’s largest, is known as a green canyon because of its subtropical temperature and biomes.

Formerly known as the Eastern Transvaal, Mpumalanga is one of South Africa’s top tourist destinations. People are drawn to the province by the magnificent scenery, abundant fauna and flora and by the saga of the 1870s gold rush era and wealth of fascinating tribal legends.

Many of these towns played an important role in the province’s history and are a crucial part of its cultural heritage. These towns also showcase some of the province’s finest landscapes and natural attractions, from ancient Bakoni settlement ruins, geological rock formations and Bushmen rock art to Anglo-Boer War battle fields and farmlands far removed from bustling city centres.

The Liberation Heritage Route highlights the key freedom fighters who fought for justice and freedom from oppression, as well as destinations which featured prominently during the liberation struggle. Six towns which were extensively involved in the anti-apartheid liberation struggle include Bethal, Daggakraal, Ermelo, Saul Mkhizeville (formerly Driefontein), Secunda and Volksrust.

The Route is home to Big 5 safari’s, rich in Gold Rush history and its unique geology is found nowhere else in the world, packed full of vibrant cultural experiences and action packed adventures. It also provides excellent spots for those wanting a relaxing weekend getaway.

The Cultural Heartlands tour epitomises the vibrancy and spirit of South Africa’s ‘Rainbow Nation,’ with its mix of culture, history, wildlife, industry, agriculture and adventure, all of which have their place in the region and give it its unique appeal.

It is an area characterised by a mix of rolling Highveld grasslands, mountain bushveld, dams, rivers and temporary pans. These diverse habitats is home to a wide selection of South African plants and wildlife, including a number of rare and endangered species such the Woolly Cycad, nowhere else to be found in the world! It is also home to the colourful Ndebele people with their striking traditional dress and painted houses, a rich cultural region.

The Genesis Route lies in the heart of Mpumalanga in the Makhojwa Mountain Range. The 220km figure eight Route connects the historic town of Barberton to the holiday destination of Badplaas and the agricultural community of Low’s Creek. It showcases some of Mpumalanga’s most diverse landscapes from rolling savannah grasslands to rocky mountain ravines and indigenous forests.

It had recently been awarded tentative World Heritage Status, making it only the ninth place in South Africa to do so.

The cultural region.

The Ndebele people of Mpumalanga

******

ADVERTISE WITH US

Accounts Manager: Gugu 072-829-4886
gugu@newshorn.co.za

Sales Manager: Gugu on 072-829-4886 or gugu@newshorn.co.za
New elite force to fight Islamic jihadists in Moz

Mozambique last week launched a special elite force to combat the Islamist uprising threatening the country’s lucrative natural gas projects in Cabo Delgado.

Elite soldiers and police would toughen up the government’s existing forces. President Filipe Nyusi had also dismissed the former ministers of Defence and Interior and appointed new men to these ministries to crackdown on the continued fighting in the northern province.

These changes are hoped to put an end to kidnappings in Cabo Delgado and elsewhere in Mozambique amid reports that police had been involved in the abductions.

LAM resumes services

AFTER suspending its domestic flights in Mozambique in 2018, Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique (LAM), would resume services from December 19.

According to Notícias, the state airline would offer direct flights between Maputo and Harare on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, allowing connections to passengers from Beira, Nampula, Tete and Johannesburg.

General Director of LAM, João Carlos Pó Jorge, said these flights were part of the revitalisation of regional destinations.

He also said the new schedules could perhaps in the future, provide connecting flights to destinations beyond Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

The resumption of operations would contribute to improving exchange between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, boosting tourism and investments.

The flights would be undertaken with an Embraer 145 aircraft with a capacity of 50 seats, operated by Moçambique Expresso, a subsidiary of LAM.

Departure from Maputo will be at 12:00 am with arrival in Harare at 1.50 pm. Flights will depart from Harare to Maputo at 2.40 pm with arrival expected at 4.00 pm.

Moz supply chain brings benefits for SA importers

DP World Maputo had implemented a unique supply chain solution, providing Southern African (SA) importers of fertiliser and other similar commodities with an effective and reliable option using the Maputo Corridor.

The company has the concession to manage, develop and operate the container terminal at the Port of Maputo. It would be able to provide SA hinterland customers with an efficient and reliable trade route to promote economic development in the region.

The Port of Maputo is already established as an important export gateway for various bulk mineral commodities delivered from SA. It would benefit SA importers with an unique opportunity to take advantage of the high volume trucking capacity returning empty to SA.

Transit import containers would be unloaded at the organisation's Maputo container terminal and the cargo cross docked into waiting trucks, before being moved to SA.

Final clearance would be done on route at Lebombo/Komatipoort border and products delivered directly to the customer's door.

Through the ongoing investments in the Maputo Container Terminal, Komatipoort Dry Port, this would promote regional trade.

Save Water | Every drop counts

Sales: Joseph on 079-971-3755 or joseph@newshorn.co.za
Ox Nche, had without a doubt, found his feet at international level and the 25-year old Shark loose head is tipped to follow in Beast Mtawarira’s footsteps. Nche is becoming more engaging on public forums and humbly confident that he now is in a position to build on the legacy left by the legendary Mtawarira.

“It’s a massive honour for me, I must say. If you look at a guy like Beast who was playing before me and look at public forums and humbly confident that he now is in a position to build on the legacy left by the legendary Mtawarira. “It’s a massive honour for me, I must say. If you look at a guy like Beast who was playing before me and look at

THANKS to Teboho Mokoena, the boys in yellow had secured the top spot in group G of the CAF 2022 World Cup qualifiers after a 1-0 win over Zimbabwe at the FNB Stadium. Despite a slow start to the game in Soweto and Mokoena seemingly battling a hurt ankle, he met the challenge and gave Keagan Dolly opportunity to run the game. The soccer gods smiled at Bafana as their nearest rivals could only manage a tie with Ethiopia in their penultimate qualifier.

Having found his feet, Dolly began to drive the game, but his well-timed pass to Bongakuhle Hlongwane came to nought with Hlongwane unable to connect and score. Zimbabwe’s best effort was during the first half, but Ronwen William’s inability to think on his feet saw the visitors lose another opportunity.

Going into the break, Bafana was already clinging tightly to their lead of 1-0. The second half saw Zim taking out all the stops, but they still could not manage to outwit our boys and by the 63rd minute, it was clear that Bafana could not be stopped. With their three-point lead into the final qualifier and another win, Bafana can progress to the CAF playoffs. The Top Ten group winners will face each other in home-and-away leg ties to decide which teams would Africa’s five representatives in Qatar.

The Ox could be the next Beast

The legend, Beast Mtawarira

Alex Rose-Innes

Ox Nche, had without a doubt, found his feet at international level and the 25-year old Shark loose head is tipped to follow in Beast Mtawarira’s footsteps. Nche is becoming more engaging on public forums and humbly confident that he now is in a position to build on the legacy left by the legendary Mtawarira.

“If you look at a guy like Beast who was playing before me and look at the better place as well. Whatever I do, wherever I play and how I play should leave the jersey in a better place. That’s really important and I need to make the most of every opportunity.”