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'Hard work pays off' says Kovie Alumnus

# BLOEMFONTEIN Courant VOICE

LENTSWE LA BATHO • VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

WEDNESDAY 11 January 2017

**FREE**

## FS Education takes centre stage

**KATLEHO MORAPELA**

The Free State Province has once again reclaimed the number one spot with its matric results. The province has knocked the Western Cape off the top spot with a 93.2 percent pass rate, excluding progressed learners. Speaking at the top 100 matric achievers' function held at the Central University of Technology (CUT) in Bloemfontein, the provincial MEC for Education, Tate Makgoe, said this should not come as a surprise as the province had invested so much in the teaching and learning of matric pupils. Makgoe said the province has managed to reach the national benchmark and has become the only province to break the 90 percent threshold. "This is an indication of what we can achieve despite the challenges we face. It shows that together we can achieve more. We have made it despite the challenges we faced in terms of limited resources and

teachers' skills. This has proven that as a province we can actually focus and achieve what needs to be achieved," he said. Makgoe said the aim for this year's matriculants is to at least obtain a 95 percent pass rate. In realisation of this objective, the Acting Provincial Premier, Elzabe Rockman, added that this calls for more collaborative work between learners, teachers, subject advisers, SGBs and the community at large. Rockman alluded to support systems that are still needed for raising the bar. She mentioned that although resources in many rural schools remains a challenge, learners at these schools still outperform themselves and this serves as an indication of what is still to be achieved in the province. Rockman congratulated the Free State Education Department on this milestone and added that MEC Makgoe's son also obtained six distinctions, which added a personal touch to the provincial



The Free State Class of 2016 has made the province and country very proud. The matriculants received a 93.2 percent pass rate placing them first in the country, and also making them the only province to break the 90 percent threshold. Celebrations were held on Thursday 5 January 2017 at the Central University of the Free State where the top 100 learners in the province received bursaries and various prizes from the education department and sponsors. Pictured are Salemame Ngakana from Le Reng Secondary School, FS Education MEC, Tate Makgoe, and Johan Champion from Sentraal High School are celebrating their hard work. PHOTO: KATLEHO MORAPELA

achievement. The prideful MEC further congratulated the class of 2016 on their great achievement, adding that the Free State has broken its own record by exceeding the 90 percent pass mark. He thanked teachers, parents and subject advisers for helping the learners. The provincial top student, Johan Champion from Sentraal

High School, achieved eight distinctions. The 18-year-old provincial matric golden boy obtained distinctions in Physical Science, Life Orientation, English First Additional Language, German Second Additional Language, Accounting, Life Sciences, Maths and Afrikaans Home Language. He plans to study medicine at the University

of Stellenbosch. The top performing school in Mathematics and Accounting is Eunice Girls' High School, while Oranje Girls' School performed best in Physical Science. Makgoe concluded by stating that the Free State Province can remain in the number one position.  
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Free State parliamentarian and former Provincial Speaker, Mantsheng Ouma Tsopo, was laid to rest in Virginia in the Free State on Saturday. She was granted a special provincial state funeral by the Office of the President.

## Free State MP, Ouma Tsopo, laid to rest

ANDRE GROBLER

Free State Parliamentarian and former Provincial Speaker, Mantsheng Ouma Tsopo, was laid to rest in Virginia in the Free State on Saturday.

Tsopo died in a hospital in Welkom on New Year's Eve after being admitted earlier. She suffered from diabetes.

The Free State requested, on behalf of family, friends, her colleagues and her political party, the African National Congress, a special provincial state funeral by the Office of the President for the final send-off of Tsopo.

This was granted and the president also ordered that the national flag be flown at half mast in the Free State on the day of the funeral.

Tsopo was described by many as a true leader, hard worker and an example to struggling women, young and old, of what could be achieved. She was further described as a lifelong teacher who started at the Naledi High School before joining the Masilo Town Council (Theunissen) as an administrator during the period 1988-1993.

Colleagues within the Free State Legislature described Tsopo as a balanced politician, constantly developing herself academically

within the field of public administration. "She dedicated her life to serve the people of our country until the last day of her life," said Free State Speaker, Mamiki Qabathe, in a statement. As a public servant, Tsopo was deployed to various portfolios as a Member of the Free State Executive Council (MEC). She was the MEC for Education, Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Social Development, and Local Government and Housing. After 2009, Tsopo further served as a Member of the Provincial Legislature where she held the position of Deputy Speaker and then as Acting Speaker until she was formally appointed as Speaker in 2013. Tsopo became a Member of Parliament during 2014 and served as the ANC's Whip in Parliament responsible for Trade and Industry.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Baleka Mbete, described Tsopo as a true and exemplary leader and a person of substance. She said Tsopo was an example of how a leader could succeed as a major player within society.

Tsopo was also hailed for her contribution to programmes aimed at developing members of parliament and other politicians.

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# Sabata o na le mokitlane wa koloï eo a sa e rekang

MATSEKO RAMOTEKOA

Monna e mong le e mong o thabiswa ke ho kganna koloï e majaba-jaba ya theko e hodimo, empa Sabata Makhale yena o kene mathateng a maholo. Lebaka ke hobane, dikgwedi tse mmalwa tse fetileng, monna enwa ya dulang motsaneng wa di F lekweisheneng la Botshabelo o ile a fumana mohala o mo tsebisang hore o salletse morao ka mokitlane o mokalo ka R30 000. Ka matswalo a tshabehang, o ile a leka ho tseba hore na o kene mokitlang jwang. Mme ho ya ka Sabata, o ile a bolellwa ke motho eo a neng a moletseditse mohala hore o rekile koloï ya moetso wa Ford Ranger. Mme e re kaha a hlolehile ho lefa tumellano ya R10 000 ka kgwedi, o salletse morao ka mokitlane wa hae. Sena ha se aka sa thabisa Sabata le hanyenyane feela hobane yena o ne a tseba a ikganna koloï ya moetso wa Polo Playa. Feela o ile a qhelela mohopolo ona ka thoko mme a leka ho lebala ka ona. Mathata a hae ha aka a fella moo. Dikgwedinyana kamora ho fumana mohala oo a neng a leka ho o ntsha mohopolong wa hae kgafetsa-kgafetsa, ho ile hwa hlaha mohlolo o mong hape. Kgetlong lena teng, tjelele e kaalo ka R10 000 e ile ya hulwa banking ya hae ntle le tumellano. "Ke ile ka tsoha haholo. Mme ntle le tshenyoye nako, ke ile ka potlakela banking yaka ele ha ke ne ke batla ho etsa dipuputso," ho rialo Sabata.

O re ha a fihla bankeng, o ile a hlalose hore o na le tumellano le kgwebo e hwebang ka ho rekisa makoloi porofensing ya Leboya Bophirima hore tjelele ya hae e hulwe. Ka matswalo a hodimo, Sabata o ile a lokela ho fan aka bopaki ba hore yena ha a tsebe letho ka tumellano eo. Ka lehlohonolo, banka e ile ya mo thusa hore a fumane tjelele ya hae. Taba yena ha e yaka ya fella mona. Sabata ya ntseng a ikahela ntlo ya ditiro tsa hae mmoho le lelapa la hae o ile a leka ho etsa mokitlane lebenkeleng le rekisang thepa ya ho aha. Mona teng, o ile a bolellwa hore a keke a fumana mokitlane hobane yena ha a tshaphale. Mme lebitso la hae le senyehile ka lebaka la hobane a hloleha ho patala mokitlane wa koloï eo a a rekileng. "Taba yena e ile ya ntena haholo. Mme ke ile ka lokela ho iketsetsa di phuputso tse ding hape. Ke mona moo ke ileng ka kgona ho



Sabata Makhale o re o pharilwe ka molato o mo sentseng lebitso wa hore o na le mokitlane wa koloï eo a sa e rekang. PHOTO: MATSEKO RAMOTEKOA

fumana di nomoro tsa mohala tsa setsha se rekisang makoloi toropong ya Klerksdorp. Ke ile ka leka ho botsa hore na jwale hobaneng ha ba mphara ka molato oo ke sa o tsebeeng. Empa beng ba lebenkele la makoloi ba ile ba hloleha ho mpha dikarabo kapa hona ho rarolla mmathata aka," ho hlalosa Sabata.

Empa, ena e ne e se qetello ya mathata a Sabata. Dibeke tse mmalwa tse fetileng, Sabata o ile a ya posong ho ya kgafela koloï ya hae. Mona teng o ile a hlalose hore o lokela hore a kgafela koloï ya moetso wa Ford Ranger hore a tle a tsebe ho fumana ditokomane tse pakang hore a kgafetse koloï ya hae. Sabata kannete o ile a hlokomela hore o tlalletse ke naha. Ke mona moo a ileng a ya sepoleseng sa motse wa habo ho lo fana ka tlaleho ya taba yena e mo tshositseng e bile e mo sentse lebitso. Taba yena ya koloï yena ha e yaka ya fella mona feela. Sabata o ile a ba a hlalose hore ho na le nyewe e butsweng ke sepolesa ya bo bodu

kgahlanong le koloï yena. O ile a thuswa ho fumantshwa bopaki bo bontshang hore ha a tsebe letho ka taba ya koloï eo.

Sabata o re taba yena e sentse bophelo ba hae haholo hobane le ha a ne a ka thabela ho kganna koloï eo, tjelele eo a e kgoang ka kgwedi e tlaase ho yena eo ho thweng o lokela ho e patala koloï yena. Voice e ile ya bua le Hillary Mophethe ho lefapha la sepolesa di tselo le di palangwang. O tshepitsitse hore taba ena e tla emelwa ka maoto ke lefapha. "Lefapha le tla etsa di phuputso ho leka ho fihlela sehlohlolo sa tabahadi yena," ho railo Mophethe.

Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone Leboya Bophirima o re nyewe e butswa ke rakgwebo moo koloï ena e rekileng teng. O hlalositse taba ya hore ha hona motho ya seng a tshwerwe ka ona motsotso. "Ho utwahala hore monna ya sa tsebahaleng o ile a sebedisa dinomoro tsa ID tsa lehlatlisa le senepe sa motho e mong ho reka koloï e se e hlalositse,"

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Reitumetsi Mbele, Letshego Moadira, Mosa Mariti, Revi and Deena Pillay (sponsors of the group), Elna van Rensburg (German teacher), Thato Tshabalala, Tshegofatso Tsipane and Ndumiso Mogapi. The group was also sponsored by the Free State premier, Ace Magashule, who has been sponsoring the German project of the school with R350 000 for the past four years.

# Tsoseletso becomes part of German Partner Schools

**MARICELLE BOTHA**

Delegates of the German Embassy and German Goethe Institute visited Mangaung shortly before the end of 2016 when they attended the launch of Tsoseletso High School's *Deutsche Pasch Schule* (school). The school's new status includes a huge donation of new technology, such as a Smart Board and new computers in the German class, installed by the institute. It also involves the provision of learning materials, as well as two additional scholarships for students to study the German language in Germany annually. Tsoseletso is now one of five German Partner Schools in the country. The other schools that share the Pasch status is High School Witteberg in Bethlehem, Linden High School in Johannesburg, Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch and Mbambangalo High School in Pietermaritzburg. Pasch stands for "Schools: Partners for the Future" and comprises a global network of more than 1 500 schools that put a high value on German. It is an initiative of the

Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA), the Goethe-Institut (GI), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Educational Exchange Service of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (PAD). Elna van Rensburg, Tsoseletso's German teacher and the steering force behind the project, said the school's success can be attributed to the motivated learners who are doing their best despite having German as an extra subject, the continued commitment of sponsors who believe in the school, together with the continued support of the wider community. "Being named a Deutsche Pasch Schule will enable us to assist students to do so much more. In addition to the exchange programmes there are many courses in South Africa that learners can participate in. In August this year, for example, two of the school's students will participate in a German media course in Durban." Sponsors and other parties that financially

assist the school's German pupils to participate in the youth exchange programme in Germany also attended the event. Two groups of three learners each will return on 17 January from an exchange

programme. Their German tours started on 2 and 14 December. The school has already sent 36 students to Germany to participate in the exchange programme since 2006. [maricelle@centralmediagroup.co.za](mailto:maricelle@centralmediagroup.co.za)



Mantwa Khubeka, Kgomotso Mojahi (both attended a language course at the Gieseke & Devrient Stiftung in München), Elna van Rensburg (German teacher), Dr Ulrike Lewark (Head of Language Department for Sub-Saharan Africa: Goethe-Institut South Africa), Anita Ohl-Meyer (First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Germany, Pretoria), Katleho Khautsane and Palesa Ntsabo (both attended a Pasch Jugendkurs in Frankfurt).

## Summer breakfast

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## Reduce back-to-school costs by planning

**KATLEHO MORAPELA**

As schools re-open and back-to-school campaigns draw to an end, many parents and guardians are left with no option but to cough up money for registration fees, school fees and other costs related to this academic year.

A mother of a grade twelve learner, Maswabi Mokhothu, told *Voice* that she battles to cover the cost of her son's education as she is a pensioner. "I wish for my son to acquire the best quality education, but unfortunately most private schools do not come cheap. I would be relieved if he could manage to pass this year with distinctions so that he could at least secure a bursary for tertiary education."

Debt Counsellor, Zune Coetzer, warns parents against the most common mistakes they often make during this time of the year. She warns parents against unnecessary expenditure. She advises that budgeting and prioritising school expenses is the way to go. Coetzer said although the cost of getting children in school is often unbearable for most parents, they should plan to ensure that their children are afforded a good education.

"At this time of the year school fees are always due. By planning in advance parents can ensure that they pay the fees in advance to receive a cash discount. The most important aspects of surviving a cash flow crisis during these first three months of the year is to prioritise back-to-school costs. They should consider recycling some of the back-to-school items and only buy what's necessary." Coetzer advises parents not to apply for credit or additional loans. She advises them to take the amount owed for the year and divide it by ten to work out a sum that they should include in their monthly budget.

The Economic Freedom Fighter's Free State Chairperson, Kgotso Morapela, adds that parents should not bear the cost of education alone. He says there are means to reduce the cost of obtaining a quality education, and cited corruption as one of the sources that hinder free education. "We have proposed that as a country we prioritise education and resources needed at schools. We need to focus on ensuring that free quality education is accessible to everyone."

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## FS EMS personnel laid to rest

**PULANE CHOANE**

Free State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff were among those paying their last respects to the families of Tshepo Moshapo and Dimpho Maoko, the two Buthelezi EMS staff members who died in an accident on New Year's Day.

According to Free State Health spokesperson, Mondli Mvambi, the EMS staff and a few of its senior management officials were sent to represent the province in showing support and sympathy to the affected families of the two.

Mvambi said the staff had to stay the entire duration of the weekend as the funerals were in separate areas on separate days. The staff, who first arrived on 4 January 2017 at a joint memorial service held for the pair in Dobsonville, stayed and split themselves up to attend the prayer services of the two leading up to the funerals.

Moshapo (37) was buried in Giyani, a town in Limpopo, on Saturday. In the wee hours of Sunday, the whole team then drove to Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, to attend the funeral of Maoko (22) before returning to Bloemfontein on Sunday evening.

It is reported by EMS spokesperson,

Reuben Ruiters, that the accident had one survivor, being the patient at the back who was transported from Heilbron to the Pelonomi Hospital.

However, police spokesperson, Peter Kareli, says the fact that the accident did not involve another car, or that the affected patient cannot be considered a witness as he was at the back of the emergency vehicle, makes determining the cause of the accident difficult. However, he added that police are still investigating.

Since the fatal accident, which happened only 30 kilometres outside of Bloemfontein on the N1 north, Free State MEC for Health, Butana Komphela, has sent his condolences to the families, colleagues and loved ones of the deceased. He has also made efforts to increase EMS's capacity to respond to any emergency call as road traffic volumes are increasing daily. Furthermore, he has urged all road users to travel with care, caution and great consideration during this high peak season. Those mainly using the N1, N3, N5, N6, N8, R30 routes should be extra vigilant as many accidents happen on these routes.

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Tshepo Moshapo (37)



Dimpho Maoko (22)

**Ready... Set... School!**

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The festival is intended to be held twice a year, with a mid-year festival being held for university students all over South Africa to showcase their traditional dances and improve diplomacy activities. PHOTOS: THABO KATSADE



Prince Zulu says that bringing the cultural festivities to the central province has proven to be a great decision, hailing it as the best so far.

# Zulu prince hosts cultural festival in FS

## MATSEKO RAMOTEKOA

His Royal Highness, Prince Africa Zulu of Onkweni, held a three-day festival in Qwaqwa to honour the people of the Free State late in December last year. According to Prince Zulu, the Onkweni Royal Cultural Festival International (ORCF) has been at the forefront of using traditional dance and the African culture as a rallying point for solidarity for the past nine years. He said the main purpose of the festival was to focus on traditional dance, cultural diplomacy and rural development.

The festival was attended by hundreds of traditional dance-loving people from across the province. During the festival, the rich and colourful cultural heritage of South Africa was on display as a spectacle of performances was there for everyone to enjoy.

The prince reiterated that the event also contributed immensely to nation building as people have begun to appreciate each other's cultures and break down stereotypes. "This year the event was held out of KwaZulu-Natal at the University of the Free

State's Qwaqwa Campus and it involved all nine provinces of South Africa, showcasing their traditional dance routines for the first time," he said.

Zulu told *Voice* the decision to relocate to the Free State after all these years was influenced by the fact that the province is a central cultural melting pot of South Africa and coupled with the blessings from the Free State Premier, Ace Magashule, and his government, the decision to move the festival from KwaZulu-Natal to the scenic and mountainous eastern Free State was very easy.

The prince regarded the event as an important example of social cohesion at grassroots. "The ORCF festival seeks to use culture and traditional dance to build bridges and understanding in our communities," he said.

Prince Zulu is further looking into expanding the event to include indigenous food fairs and clothing fabrics, thus generating economic benefits that will improve rural livelihoods.

The 2016 ORCF has been hailed as the best due to the excitement, warm reception and

support the festival received in the Free State.

According to the prince it has definitely generated enough excitement for them to build on for the next one as they are seeking to keep the festival in the Free State for the next couple of years. Going forward, the festival intends to be held twice a year. He said the mid-year festival will be for university students all over South Africa to not only showcase their traditional dances but also to engage in cultural diplomacy activities that break the socially created boundaries among our people.

Resident Lerato Moholo said she has not seen anything like that in her hometown for such a long time. Moholo, who sells

handmade traditional beads, said she managed to sell all her work to the tourists and dancers. "I would like to thank the prince for bringing such a wonderful festival to my community as I managed to triple my profit," she said.

Speaking on rural development, the prince stated that cultural tourism could also be a potential economic stimulator for marginalised rural communities with rich cultural heritage. "We are looking forward to hosting these festivals both locally and internationally in order to spread and highlight traditional dances and indigenous cultures as rallying points of social cohesion," he concluded.

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Different dance groups with their colourful traditional attires partook in the cultural festival which is celebrated annually.



Different cultural dance groups from across the country thoroughly entertained the crowds.

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# auto**dealer**

Your weekly motoring guide

11 January 2017

Bloemfontein Edition



## Fastest and most powerful production Bentley detailed

**T**EASED in a single image earlier this week, Bentley has officially unveiled its most powerful production car to date and possibly the swansong version of the current generation Continental GT.

Based on the flagship W12 model with components lifted from the limited run GT3-R, the new Supersports is also touted by the British marque as being the fastest four-seat luxury car on sale today in both coupe and convertible guises.

Boasting a revised charge-air cooling system for additional boost,

upgraded cranktrain and higher capacity turbochargers, the 6.0-litre twin-turbo W12 now produces 522 kW and a colossal 1 017 Nm of torque - 59 kW more than the previous Supersports and 99 kW more than the standard W12 - which allows for a 0-100 km/h sprint of 3.5 seconds (3.7 for the convertible) and a top speed of 336 km/h for the coupe with the convertible rated at 330 km/h.

Aside from the power upgrade, the Supersports has also been revised underneath with a lowered

and stiffened suspension, carbon ceramic brakes claimed to be the biggest of their type in the world, optional titanium exhaust for a five kilogram save in overall weight and a set of lightweight 21-inch forged alloy wheels for an additional 20kg weight save.

Tipping the scales at 2.2 tons despite being lighter than the standard W12 and previous Supersports, the newcomer retains the same torque-split four-wheel drive system as before, but with a recalibrated version of the GT3-R's

torque vectoring system allowing for individual front and rear braking and ability to send up 60% of available power to the rear wheels.

Although small, exterior and interior changes to the standard Continental GT are noticeable with new front and rear bumpers, carbon-fibre front spoiler, gloss-black carbon-fibre front wing vents, carbon-fibre diffuser, new door sill extensions, gloss-black ruffled exhaust, optional Supersports-branded carbon-fibre engine cover, black tinted front and rear lights and

optional rear spoiler.

Inside, the interior receives a new tri-colour finish with diamond quilted pattern on the Alcantara finished seats and door panels, chequered Supersports carbon-fibre panels, new Supersports emblem stitching, bespoke steering and gear lever and ten facia veneer options with unique detailing.

In the UK, pricing starts at £212 500 (R3 589 119) for the coupe and £233 800 (R3 948 875) for the convertible with local availability yet to be confirmed. ● ad

## Next-gen Mercedes-AMG A45 could crack 400 hp

**A**LREADY the most powerful production 2.0-litre engine on sale today, a new report has suggested that Mercedes-AMG could be upping the power of the unit doing

duty in the AMG-A45, AMG-GLA45 and AMG-CLA45 from its current 280 kW, to a mammoth 298 kW later this year.

Speaking to British weekly

AutoExpress, AMG boss Tobias Moers stated that engineers had started working "with a blank piece of paper" to develop a brand new engine since the current mill has reached its limits. When asked if the new unit would surpass 400 horsepower (298 kW) from 376 hp (280 kW), Moers simply replied, "Yes, I think so."

Originally packing a substantial 265 kW with the launch of the third generation A-Class in 2013, the A45 gained an additional 15 kW in 2015 to re-take the unofficial title of most powerful hatch after briefly playing second fiddle to the Audi RS3.

Mercedes is expected to reveal complete details only after the launch of the new A-Class in the second quarter of this year. ● ad



## New Kia Picanto bows

**F**OLLOWING the release of numerous spy and teaser images towards the end of last year, Kia has officially revealed the first official pictures together with more details of the forthcoming third generation Picanto.

Set to make its world debut at the Geneva Motor Show in March, the newcomer, shown in sporty GT-Line trim, will make use of the same underpinnings at its predecessor, albeit with a 15mm increase in wheelbase with overall length remaining unchanged at 3 595mm.

Borrowing styling element from the recently shown Rio, the Picanto will reportedly receive the marque's new 1.0 T-GDI turbocharged three

cylinder engine as well as revised versions of the existing normally aspirated 1.0 and 1.2 mills, although more details will only be revealed closer to Geneva. ● ad



## Celtic hunt for striker as Seema stays on

**MORGAN PIEK**

The Premier Soccer League club, Bloemfontein Celtic, will be targeting the Kaizer Chiefs striker, Siphelele Mthembu, during the January transfer window.

Phunya Sele Sele have just managed to score 8 goals in all competitions thus far this season and they have indicated that the marksman is high on their shopping list. Celtic will be looking to get Mthembu on a 12-month loan spell from the Amakhosi. The player has previously played for Celtic and during the 2011/12 season scored six goals in 12 matches for the club.

The former Celtic captain and great, Lehlohonolo Seema, who is in charge of the team on an interim basis earlier indicated they are targeting the striker to give the team more bite. "Upfront we are toothless," said the legendary former Celtic captain. "But not in a bad way because we haven't created chances. We have strikers that can score but we need somebody. We have more of the 10s, the false 9s or whatever term you want to use.

"We need more of a box player, the ones that my ex-coach (Paul) Dolezar used to call the big animals. "I am happy with what I have and I have worked through with what I have until the break. We got points here and there and we got disappointed here and there but I will hear from the management."

In Qwaqwa 14th placed Free State Stars are in the process of accessing the Malian striker, Mohamed Diallo, for a possible move to Ea Lla Koto. It is reported that the 20-year-old marksman turned down a lucrative offer to ply in trade in Denmark in order to play in South Africa.

Diallo will link up with this team next week for assessment. The January transfer period, which started last week Monday, closes at midnight on 31 January. Meanwhile, Seema could be one step closer to being named as Celtic's full-time head coach. The club has indicated that Seema will remain in charge for the new year and this could mean the search for Serame Letsoaka's successor is over.

While Celtic will start the new year with confidence after beating Orlando Pirates 2-1 in December, they have a tough one first up when they host the PSL champions and Kings of Africa, Mamelodi Sundowns, in their first match of 2017 on 8 February.

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# Venter hopeful of recovery in time for Super Rugby

**MORGAN PIEK**

The Toyota Cheetahs enjoyed a last week of rest before the grind started again on Monday.

They started their programme at the beginning of the week ahead of the 2017 Super Rugby season, which is just around the corner. One of the big talking points at the moment is the recovery of the Springbok centre and team captain, Francois Venter.

The player underwent surgery on his ankle following the Springboks' end-of-year tour last year to repair the damage sustained during the Free State Cheetahs Currie Cup second round tie against the Blue Bulls. Venter is in doubt for their first few matches of the Super Rugby,

however, he confirmed to *Voice* that he is on the mend and is hoping to be ready for the opening game against the Lions.

"It's coming along nicely, hopefully, I will be ready for the first game."

Venter missed a large part of the Cheetahs Currie Cup campaign, however, was able to lead the team to the title. He went on to make his long-awaited Springbok debut and played in all four their tour matches in November. This included the tour match against the Barbarians as well as Tests against England, Italy and Wales. The Cheetahs will tackle the Lions on 25 February at the Toyota Stadium in their opening match.

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The Toyota Cheetahs' inspirational captain, Francois Venter, is hopeful that he will recover from his ankle surgery before the team's Super Rugby opening match against the Lions on 25 February at the Toyota Stadium. PHOTO: MORGAN PIEK

## Rossouw confirms move to Hampshire

**MORGAN PIEK**

The VKB Knights and Proteas batsman, Rilee Rossouw, has confirmed that he will be playing his cricket at the County team, Hampshire, in England. The move means that the player will no longer be eligible to represent the Proteas at international level. In a statement, Rossouw confirmed his move to the UK and said it wasn't an easy decision to make. "I can confirm that I have agreed and signed

a 3-year deal with Hampshire Cricket.

"Deciding to leave South Africa is something I have thought long and hard about and moving to England will give me and my family the long-term career security that I believe is important at this stage of my life.

"I have loved representing the Proteas and will watch from afar with great affection every time they take the field from now on, but I am hugely dedicated to making Hampshire cricket

successful on the field.

"I would like to express my thanks to Cricket South Africa for the opportunity to represent my country and also to the Knights for their continued support.

"The move to England and Hampshire Cricket is one that I can't wait to get underway. I have come close to playing county cricket a couple of times in the past and it is a challenge most cricketers want to take on at some stage in their careers. I am delighted it is at a county

with as strong a pedigree as Hampshire's."

The 27-year-old Rossouw has represented South Africa in 36 One-Day Internationals as well as in 15 T20 Internationals. Rossouw will be joined at Hampshire by his Proteas teammate, the seamer Kyle Abbott. Abbott's move to the County side was confirmed at the conclusion of South Africa's 282-run win over Sri Lanka in the 2nd Test at Newlands.

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South Africa's Rilee Rossouw plays a shot during the first One-day International (ODI) cricket match between the West Indies and South Africa in the Tri-Nations Series in Georgetown. PHOTO: CRICINFO



The 24-year-old VKB Knights seamer, Duanne Olivier, expressed his shock at being called up to the Proteas Test squad. Olivier has been working extensively with the Free State and South African bowling great, Allan Donald, in order to prepare mentally for Test cricket. PHOTO: LEE WARREN

# Olivier expresses shock at Proteas call-up

**MORGAN PIEK**

The VKB Knights seamer, Duanne Olivier, has expressed his shock at being called up to the Proteas Test squad so soon in his career. Olivier has been one of the leading fast bowlers in South Africa for the past two seasons and was the second leading wicket-taker in the domestic four-day standings last season. The tall 24-year-old quick was named in the Proteas squad on Thursday for the third and final Test against Sri Lanka, which starts in Johannesburg in a week's time. His inclusion comes at the express of Kyle Abbott, who has been released from his national contract with immediate effect after signing as a

Kolkap player. Abbott, as well as Olivier's Knights teammate, Rilee Rossouw, will be playing for Hampshire in the English Country Championship. Rossouw earned him the wrath of Cricket South Africa and his national contract is also in the process of being terminated. It is *Voice's* understanding that Rossouw will, however, still be playing for the Knights. Olivier said that its any kid's dream to represent his country and it's something he couldn't do without the help of the South African bowling great, Allan Donald. "Yes, I'm still very much in shock," the seamer told *Voice*. "I've always wanted to play for my country

and yes, Allan did help me a lot on the mental side and with game plans to go forward. "I'm just very happy at the moment." Olivier's captain at the Knights, Theunis de Bruyn, and the left-arm seamer, Wayne Parnell, have been recalled after being released to play in the Sunfoil Series this week. The third and final Test at the Wanderers in Johannesburg will start on 12 January. **Proteas squad** – Faf du Plessis (capt), Duanne Olivier, Hashim Amla, Temba Bavuma, Stephen Cook, Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock (wk), JP Duminy, Dean Elgar, Keshav Maharaj, Wayne Parnell, Vernon Philander, Kagiso Rabada. [morgan@centralmediagroup.co.za](mailto:morgan@centralmediagroup.co.za)

## 2017 Africa Cup of Nations Fixtures (Group phase)

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| <p><b>Saturday 14 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gabon vs. Guinea-Bissau, Stade d'Angondje, 18:00</li> <li>■ Burkina Faso vs. Cameroon, Stade d'Angondje, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Sunday 15 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Algeria vs. Zimbabwe, Stade de Franceville, 18:00</li> <li>■ Tunisia vs. Senegal, Stade de Franceville, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Monday 16 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cote d'Ivoire vs. Togo, Stade d'Oyem, 18:00</li> <li>■ DR Congo vs. Morocco, Stade de Franceville, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Tuesday 17 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ghana vs. Uganda, Stade de Port Gentil, 18:00</li> <li>■ Mali vs. Egypt, Stade de Port Gentil, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Wednesday 18 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gabon vs. Burkina Faso, Stade d'Angondje, 18:00</li> <li>■ Cameroon vs. Guinea-Bissau, Stade d'Angondje, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Thursday 19 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Algeria vs. Tunisia, Stade de Franceville, 18:00</li> <li>■ Senegal vs. Zimbabwe, Stade de Franceville, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Friday 20 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cote d'Ivoire vs. DR Congo, Stade d'Oyem, 18:00</li> <li>■ Morocco vs. Togo, Stade d'Oyem, 21:00</li> </ul> | <p><b>Saturday 21 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ghana vs. Mali, Stade de Port Gentil, 18:00</li> <li>■ Egypt vs. Uganda, Stade de Port Gentil, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Sunday 22 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Guinea-Bissau vs. Burkina Faso, Stade de Franceville, 21:00</li> <li>■ Cameroon vs. Gabon, Stade d'Angondje, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Monday 23 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Senegal vs. Algeria, Stade de Franceville, 21:00</li> <li>■ Zimbabwe vs. Tunisia, Stade d'Angondje, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Tuesday 24 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Togo vs. DR Congo, Stade de Port Gentil, 21:00</li> <li>■ Morocco vs. Cote d'Ivoire, Stade d'Oyem, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><b>Wednesday 25 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Egypt vs. Ghana, Stade de Port Gentil, 21:00</li> <li>■ Uganda vs. Mali, Stade d'Oyem, 21:00</li> </ul> <p><i>morgan@centralmediagroup.co.za</i></p> |
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