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taxiWorld

MARCH - 24 APRIL 2018

TRANSPORTING SOUTH AFRICA



Taxi Industry Black Investors' Road To JSE

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NZIMANDE'S LAST HOPE OF TAXI OPERATORS



Newly appointed transport minister Blade Nzimande may be new to the transport sector – but this is a man who is not new to government. Nzimande certainly is familiar with challenges facing taxi industry in general.

We are impressed by the manner which he immediately familiarized himself with issues such as violence and operational matters in the sector. To date, Nzimande has visited the family of slain Taxify driver Sandile Ngcobo – a fourth-year Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) abducted and killed while driving his work car recently in Pretoria.

Mr Nzimande was quick to indicate that killings within the transport industry will not be tolerated – a sign of hope for things to come if what he says and does as early as now are to be believed.

The mini bus taxi industry is one sector that will surely be knocking at the door of the minister's office now and then. Under the previous ministers, Joe Maswanganyi and Dipuo Peters, respectively, the taxi industry - as alleged by taxi leaders - got absolutely nothing with regards to their demands. The two important issues in their list of demands – operating

permits and subsidies remain a bone of much worry for the industry. Again, we believe the minister is already familiar with the issues because of his history as a longest serving member of parliament.

TaxiWorld welcomes minister Nzimande as it has done with all other previous ministers in the transport sector. The new administration under President Cyril Ramaphosa has brought with it an air of hope in government. It is this air that we believe minister Nzimande is bringing to the taxi industry as well.

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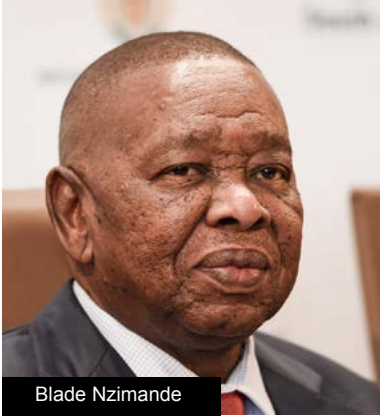
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Motorists Warned To Behave

Minister of Transport Blade Nzimande has cautioned motorists going on the Easter weekend to be mindful of other road users. He was speaking during a road inspection of vehicles for road worthiness on 20th March at the Heidelberg Road. The minister was accompanied by Philip Taabosch, president of the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO).

South Africa ranks among countries with the highest rate of road deaths in the world behind Brazil and Nigeria with over 200 death recorded during festive sessions.

"We want our road users to always bear in mind that there are many others who use the road and appeal for all to always obey road rules," said Nzimande.



Blade Nzimande

E-TOLL HOT POTATO FOR GOVERNMENT

Transport minister Blade Nzimande says that the controversial e-toll in Gauteng should be relooked after indications that many motorists weren't obliging with payment of the system. Last year it was reported that only 20% of Gauteng motorists were paying their e-toll bills.

"The matter will be tabled before the executive

as Premier Makhura has indicated in his state of the province address," said Nzimande. During the Gauteng State of the province address Makhura said that the people of the province have demonstrated their opposition to the e-toll system and that he would take the matter up with President Cyril Ramaphosa.

"The new dawn must also bring a solution

to the protracted and unresolved problem of e-tolls. It is loud and clear for all to see that the e-tolls have not worked. Accordingly, I will engage President Ramaphosa in order to find a new and more equitable funding model to support the continued expansion of Gauteng road network and public transport system," said Makhura

Joburg-Limpopo Railway Train Launched



The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) has gone back to offer train service to the once famous Johannesburg-Musina route after demands from commuters for its use. The route was terminated in 2014 because of the rationalization of the train services. Surprisingly and unique on this service is having a mobile car offering meals, tea or coffee and other types of refreshment at an affordable price.

Joe Maswanganyi, former minister of transport made the announcement before leaving cabinet last month. The route's use became effective on 28 February. Polokwane, Makhado (formerly Louis Trichardt), and Musina are

places to be covered by the trip with customers crossing to Zimbabwe through Beit Bridge also expected to use the train service.

"We have taken a decision that we need to reopen the mainline Passenger services because most of our passengers spend a lot of money and time on transport," said Maswanganyi.

Mthuzuzeli Swartz, PRASA rail acting CEO, said that it was important for them to listen to request from customers.

"The Shosholozha Meyl was inundated with request from customer, pleading for the return

of the services. Management evaluated the request thoroughly and reached a decision to reinstate this service," Swartz said in a statement.

The trip between Johannesburg and Polokwane takes eight hours while that between Johannesburg and Musina will last for 10 hours. There is strong security in all stations to ensure safety of passengers in their trips.

The collapse of the passenger rail between the late eighties and 1992 led to the closure of the service. The revival of the rail corridor comes in the back of new investments in the sector.



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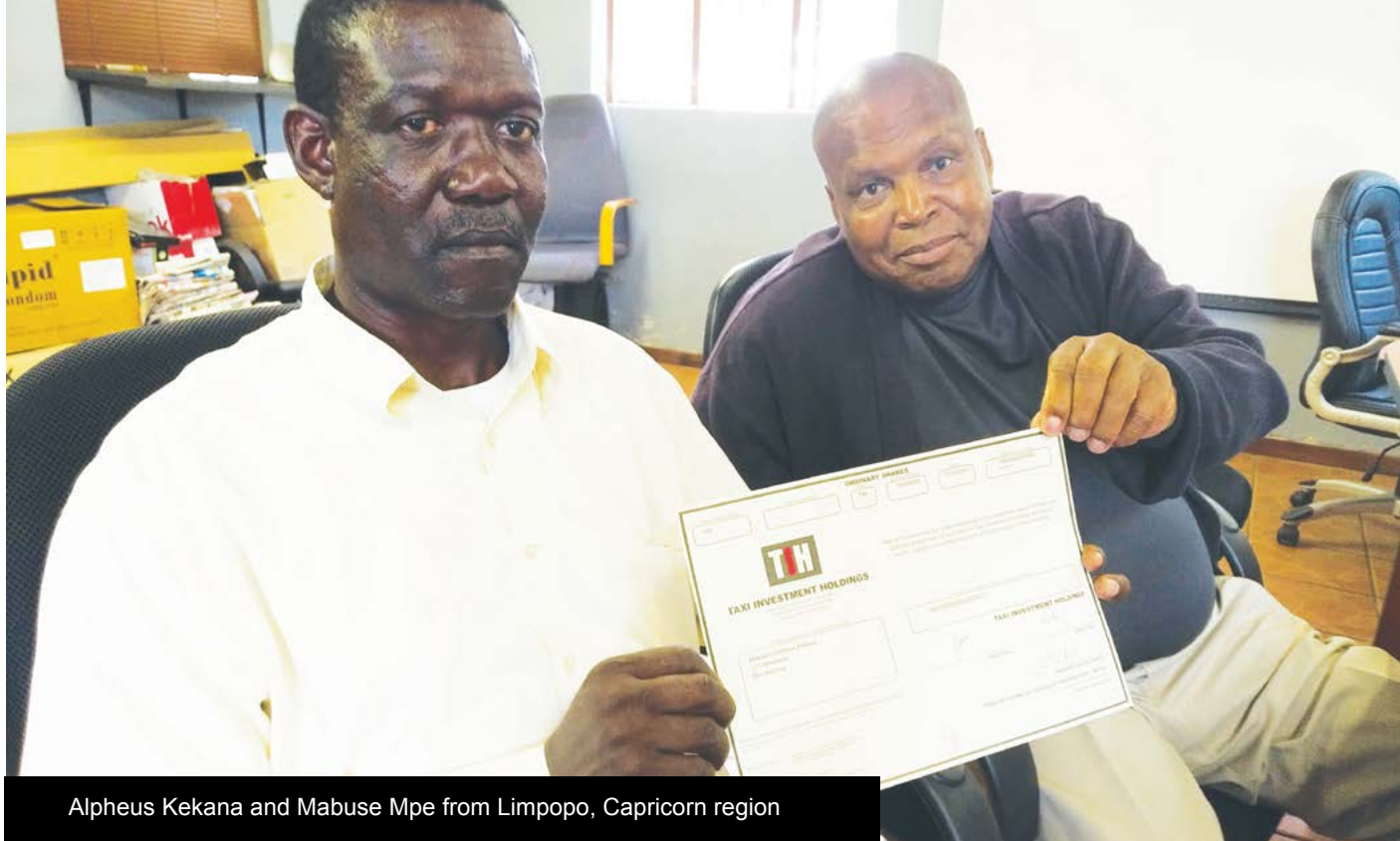
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Alpheus Kekana and Mabuse Mpe from Limpopo, Capricorn region

Taxi Investment Company Delivers Share Certificates To Initial Shareholders

The Taxi Investment Holdings (TIH) public company, an entity at the forefront of championing the effort to list the taxi industry on the JSE has begun the process of issuing share certificates to its initial shareholders.

The effort to ensure listing by the volatile but dynamic industry began two years ago. Katlego Mogale from TIH's advisory company River Group said working with the taxi industry has been a positive challenge that he feels will bear fruit soon. Mogale indicated that many of the taxi industry leaders mostly needed clarity about how their investment would be used to empower them.

"We do a lot of explanation about what the listing and shares are all about. Some of these people are very sharp and intelligent and know what the JSE listing is all about," said Mogale, an accountant by profession who holds a diploma from the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).

He says that some of the taxi industry leaders already have a strong interest to learn a lot outside of their business and are ready to embrace the outside business world. The taxi industry, with an estimated

R60-billion contribution to the country's growth domestic product (GDP) is one of the sectors at the heart beat of the country's financial stability," said Mogale.

Enock Miya, a taxi owner from Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape, who is one of the TIH founding shareholders says he's proud to be a first investor to buy shares in the company from his region. "TIH is truly a public company that will empower taxi operators as we have never benefited from other black empowerment schemes. As a first-time investor from Lusikisiki to participate I hope others will now follow in my footsteps to invest for the long-term in securing their family's future," says optimistic Maya. Alpheus Kekana, a taxi operator from Moletlane in Limpopo adds: "We can't wait for TIH to list at the JSE as this will help empower black people especially us taxi operators who are currently not invested at the stock exchange," Kekana said. The share certificates issued by TIH are processed through Terbiem Financial Services a company registered with the Financial Services Board (FSB) which act as TIH Transfer Secretary.



Enock Miya from Eastern Cape, Lusikisiki

VBS Bank Collapse To Be Investigated - Parliament Heard

South African Reserve Bank deputy governor Kuben Naidoo believes that a commission of inquiry and a forensic investigation into the collapse of VBS Mutual Bank, currently under curatorship, is likely.

Appearing before Parliament's standing committee on finance, Naidoo said action would be taken against those found to be responsible for any malfeasance or fraud uncovered, no matter how long it took, as it was critical that consequences were seen to result from remedial action.

Naidoo revealed that the curatorship has brought to light matters of which the Reserve Bank was previously unaware. He told the committee that the curatorship, which was precipitated by a liquidity crisis is the first step in stabilising the bank.

Burial societies, Stokvels, and other savings clubs face uncertainty about their funds after the VBS Mutual Bank run into troubles. "It is not true that we have no plan to protect the depositors," Naidoo said that the adoption of a "look through principle" for members of stokvels, funeral societies, clubs or associations, along with the application of a guarantee of R50,000 for retail deposits for each individual member of these organisations, would ensure that 99.8% of depositors would be protected. The bank has about R390m in

retail deposits.

However, Naidoo conceded that hardship would result from the lack of liquidity, but assured bank's clients that the curator was working hard to resolve these issues. Withdrawals will be allowed for new deposits, such as salaries.

He said the authorities had no choice but to put the bank under curatorship because of its lack of liquidity and that this only happened at the end of a long process of the Reserve Bank trying to help the bank remedy its problems. Naidoo raised concerns including deficient compliance culture, weak asset and liability management, potentially illegal municipal depositions and poor quality in regulatory reports.

Members of Parliament heard with disbelief that VBS had been warned of the risk attached to municipal deposits that it allowed on more than one occasion but said these practices continued, contrary to criticism that the Reserve Bank has not acted the same way it did when defending Capitec Bank from Viceroy Report attack when the bank was accused of



Tshifhiwa Matodzi

being involved in unethical behaviour.

Naidoo said in September 2015 and September 2016 it warned VBS Mutual Bank against its practices where it related to the municipal deposits. He said in spite of efforts to turn things around for VBS, the bank did the opposite.

"VBS was warned against reliance placed against the ten largest depositors, with municipalities the largest. VBS was alerted against the increasing sectorial concentration of municipalities and worsening liquidity mismatch positions," Naidoo said. The SARB said in August of 2017 VBS was advised to seek alternative liquidity contingency plans in the event of total municipality deposit outflow. Naidoo said the bank failed because its management repeatedly failed to heed the Reserve Bank's advice.

VBS Bank Puts Service Delivery At Risk, Says Treasury



Kuben Naidoo

Treasury deputy director-general Ismail Momoniat said Treasury was worried that the unavailability of funds invested by municipalities in VBS would affect service delivery. Their deposits are not guaranteed.

According to Momoniat, the municipalities that had deposited funds with VBS were small and relatively poor and would suffer from the lack of availability of their funds as they do not generate much revenue. Municipalities in Gauteng (two municipalities with R130m invested), Limpopo (nine with R1.12bn invested) and North West (four with R330m invested) have R1.5bn invested with the bank in total. These funds are either the conditional grants or allocations by national government for the equitable share.

The bank's asset and liability management practices were weak, leading to a high liquidity

risk. Its depositor profile was highly concentrated on municipalities for which the deposits were short term, while the bank's lending was long term.

South African Reserve Bank deputy governor Kuben Naidoo said they warned the bank repeatedly about the risk of this concentration, but the warning had been ignored. "The VBS board and management failed to manage the bank's rapid growth and its funding and liquidity position. "The bank suffered regular and significant losses caused by high operating expenses due to its aggressive infrastructure expansion plans. These losses had a negative impact on capital. It had also ventured into new products and services without a commensurate investment in the enhancement of internal controls," Naidoo explained.

VBS Bank chairman, Tshifhiwa Matodzi resigned when the bank was placed under curatorship.



Bishop Solly Msiza

The Holy Spirit Created You

The Holy Spirit Created You. You are His Greatest Product. Job knew this. The spirit of God hath made me, and the Almighty hath given me life (Job 33:4).

Your personality, body and everything about you is the design of the Holy Spirit. Think of this incredible body that functions miraculously. I Will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are your works and that my soul knows very well (Psalm 139 :14).

Your body is his temple. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom have from God, and you are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19).

The Holy Spirit was involved in the creative designing of the temple through Solomon. And the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit of the courts of the house of the Lord, and of all the chambers round- abouts of the treasures of the house of the God, and of the treasures of the dedicating things (1 Chronicles 28:12).

The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the earth at the beginning. And the earth was without form, and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of waters (Generis 1:2).

The Holy Spirit is the One sent to form new creations on earth. You send forth your Spirit, they are created and you renew the face of earth (Psalms 104:30).

The Holy Spirit appears to be the One Who decides the shape of every animal. By His spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pieced the fleeing serpent (Job 26:13).

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit within you that keeps living and breathing every single moment. The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life (Job 33:4) Thus says the Lord God to these boned : Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live: and I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you , and cover your skin and put breath in you, and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord vs 14. I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that, I the Lord has spoken, I have performed it, says the Lord (Ezekiel 37:5,6,14).

The holy spirit also is the one that gives you the new life after your second birth, the regeneration. Not by the works of righteousness which we have done, but calling to his mercy He saves, through the washing of regeneration and renewing the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).
The Holy Spirit is the Source of our lives.....every part of your life.

The Holy Spirit is the Giver of Life.
Life is a priceless, precious gift to us.
The Giver is the Holy Spirit. ...but the spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3:6).

The Holy spirit impregnated Mary, the mother of Jesus. (Matthew 1:18,20). Any words spoken by the Holy Spirit will bring life and energy into you. The Spirit gives life, the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life (John 6:63).

Faraday's Mbatha leads from the front



Bheki Mbatha

In August 2014 Bheki Mbatha was elected the chairperson of the Faraday Taxi Association (FTA).

He took over from S.K. Skhosana and has never looked back ever since. The FTA is regarded the oldest taxi association in South Africa established in the 1950s but only got registered in 1964.

Mbatha, from Paul Petersburg in Edumbe, KwaZulu-Natal, began working as a driver in 1989 until he got a promotion in 1999 – a tradition in the FTA's books that only allows a person for promotion after serving 10 years as a driver to become an owner. His first taxi was a Toyota Zola Budd 14-seater PDK 367 T (then Transvaal) region that moved between Natalspruit and Johannesburg. Mbatha looks back with pride and believes his election to the top position at FTA is a sign of trust from the members.

"I hope to do even much better and work well with all our structures and other associations. For me this association is a big institution and I will keep doing better things for it," says Mbatha.

One of the better things was to see FTA having its own head quarter. That has been achieved. The FTA head office is a huge and big white and green building in Rossettenville, not far away from the Rand stadium in the east of Johannesburg. Green and white are the famous colours of FTA. For Mbatha, having a good relationship with other associations in the greater Johannesburg area makes being in the business easy. The FTA is a structure of

the United Taxi Association Forum (UTAF) – an affiliate of the National Taxi Alliance (NTA). Mbatha is also vice-chairperson of UTAF.

"We now sit on the table and share ideas with many of the associations – from Alexandra Taxi Association (ATA), Dobsonville, Roodepoort, Leratong Johannesburg Taxi Association (DORLJOTA) and many others. At the beginning it was not easy for these groups to work together. It was more of a cat and mouse story but we now are one," says Mbatha.

He says that he trusts many people in the taxi industry because he believes they too trust him.

"I don't fear people I work with in the industry because we trust each other. That is the reason you will not see me with bodyguards," says Mbatha.

The FTA has five small branches – Yeoville, Faraday, Kensington, Bree and Little Zandas – all with managers but report to the Faraday head office. The next big challenge for FTA and UTAF as well as the taxi industry will be to see how they will be integrated into the bus service system. Putco is set to leave its routes in June and the taxi industry has been encouraged to become involved in the bus services through forming cooperatives.

"We are still consulting because we need to know how all our members will benefit. We refused to be part of Rea Vaya because there was no consultation and we hope with Putco we will know what is in store for us," said Mbatha.

He is an Orlando Pirates fan and loves Gospel music, especially that of Tebogo. Mbatha is a member of the Uniting Reformed Church (URC) in Wattville, Ekurhuleni. Mbatha is the fifth born from a family of 11 siblings born from Elsie Zodwa and his late father John Sakayedwa Mbatha. His highest educational qualification is a grade 12.

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Fanyana Sibanyoni
SANTACO National Spokesperson

Speaking taxi language

We Welcome Minister With Open Arms But Delivery Is Expected

Recent developments in the national Administration of the government that has seen a number of new appointments made are a cause for celebration in the taxi industry. The newly appointed minister of transport, Blade Nzimande, is welcomed. As the industry we will work with him as we have done with all previous ministers. What is quite clear, though, is that the taxi industry is still behind when it comes to issues of self-regulating.

What is also clear again is that the mini bus taxi industry is still grappling with issues of

operating permits – an issue and a serious one for that matter that was supposed to have long been resolved. What is also interestingly clear again, is that as the taxi industry we know what we want. We also know how government should respond to our demands. This also goes to other stakeholders in the private sectors who tell us how good it is to work with the industry.

It is still very early to can want to judge minister Nzimande. He has not yet warmed up to his desk but what is quite clear is that

in this administration under President Cyril Ramaphosa urgency and diligence are two key factors. The mini bus taxi industry will always hold him accountable and will engage with him when the need arises. Minister Nzimande knows the issues of the mini bus taxi industry based on his experience and history in government over the years. We will always hold him to account for what he promises the industry.

SOUL CORNER

Believe

Believe
If I believe...
I can perceive
If I can perceive
I can see
And if for a moment I disagree
I will feel like I'm an absentee
Absent of his word
The word that lingers in the air and is unheard

I hear, but I don't listen
But I know God will glisten
I may not see, but I shall have faith
And the Ten Commandments, the eighth
The devil will not steal my joy
Only if I believe,
I will have a good New Year's Eve
But if I get side tracked...

That's when I'll get attacked
But retract
And you will be okay
Wake up tomorrow and it will be a new day
Just be ready on judgment day
Have faith and hope
And you will be able to cope.

Poem by: Vanessa



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Name:.....

Tel:..... **Cell:**.....

E-mail:.....

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Want Credit? A New Court Ruling Says You May Not Need To Provide Payslips Or Bank Statements Any More

Truworths, Foschini and Mr Price have taken government to court. They want to judge whether a client can afford credit by using more than pay slips or bank statements.

They won. This means self-employed entrepreneurs and those without bank accounts may get easier access to credit. One of South Africa's most dreaded requirements apart from the infamous 'proof of residence' is 'proof of income.'

We have heard many accounts from self-employed business people with perfect credit records who can't get finance because they don't have official payslips. For small entrepreneurs in the informal sector, it's even trickier because they often don't even have bank statements to back up their income. Giant clothing retailers Truworths, Foschini and Mr Price took the Minister of Trade and Industry to court to set aside the current requirement in the National Credit Act (NCA) – that credit applicants need to produce three months' worth of payslips or bank statements as proof of income. They won.

The three retailers' lawyer, Lauren Fine with Norton Rose's Cape Town office, tells Business

Insider South Africa that her clients will still require proof of income as part of assessing affordability.

But Fine says that they wanted the "impractical" current requirement be set aside so that they have the leeway to determine affordability using their own mechanisms, models and procedures – which they believe will still meet the obligations for assessing affordability under the NCA.

In his ruling at the Western Cape High Court, Judge Keith Engers gave the example of a flower seller who wants to apply for credit to pay for her child's school uniform. Because she doesn't have a bank account, she would be automatically excluded from obtaining credit due to lack of documentary evidence like financial statements to prove gross income. Engers made the point that 20% of the South African population don't have bank accounts. Therefore, this results in credit providers "having to decline many would-be credit-seeking customers who actually can afford the credit."

The main aims of NCA were to promote a fair and non-discriminating access to consumer credit, to prohibit unfair credit practices,

promote responsible and prohibit reckless credit granting. However it seems that over time, credit providers drifted from the promotion of responsible lending to prohibiting reckless lending, mainly to comply with the Act, says Nick Dekker, a certified financial advisor with PrivateAdvisor, which has offices in Pretoria and Randburg.

"Instead of using creative ways of establishing a lender's ability to repay loans, credit providers rely heavily on salary-slips as proof of income. This created a problem for anyone that is self-employed and especially in the informal sector.

"The High Court judgement does not take away the responsibility of credit providers to establish the borrower's ability to repay a loan, but rather requires them to look more holistically into a person's circumstances, rather than relying only on pay-slips." Banks have warned that this will cause chaos in the market, while retailers have also lodged their objections.

Source: Timothy Rangongo, Business Insider SA

Horoscope

March - April

Taurus (April 23- May 23)

Your personality works magic for you to get lucky. It is now time for your star to shine.

Love: Don't stress. What is key is your inner happiness.

Aries (March 21- April 21)

Things are about to fall into place. Take one step at a time to see where it ends.

Love: This time it's better to first test the water because this is a critical stage of your life. See if it's real or not.

Pisces (Feb 20- March 20)

Grab the opportunity to rake in a fortune. Don't waste time because it is there for the taking.

Love: Look not for temporary happiness but for life happiness.

Aquarius (Jan 21- Feb 19)

Hail your self-confidence because it is one thing to be strong and quite another thing to be brave.

Love: It is time for you to take a stand.

Scorpio (Oct 24- Oct 22)

Take charge and lead from the front because it either you swim or you sink. Time is running out.

Love: Just let go and forget.

Gemini (May 21- June 22)

Give more to the needy as this makes you happy.

Love: Never let negative thoughts stand in your way because it is that what will break your resolve to be happy.

Leo (July 22- Aug 22)

Seek all that makes you want to look for tomorrow with pride and joy. Don't listen to doomsayers.

Love: It is not a sin to seek what makes your life happier. The best way will be to seek good company in a way that makes you feel wanted and important.

Virgo (Aug 23- Sept 22)

You need to separate good from bad company as you will not know what stops your progress.

Love: Make efforts to be with the one you love. Don't compromise on your union.

Libra (Sept 22- Oct 22)

Good people are what you need right now because they also need you.

Love: If it is well within your soul to be happy with what you see before you – then go for it. If it is not worth it then don't do it at all.

Cancer (June 22- July 23)

Many a times people will criticize you for the decisions you take in life because they are made within your rights and ability. Stick to your plans and work hard.

Love: A headache that makes no sense at all isn't worth your time. Rather focus on finding a cure and find a good medication that makes the pain go away. Good love is worth your time.

Sagittarius (Nov 22- Dec 21)

Your peers may not like your way of life because they don't work hard. Look for what makes you progress and stick to it.

Love: Keep on searching as true love is within reach.

Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 19)

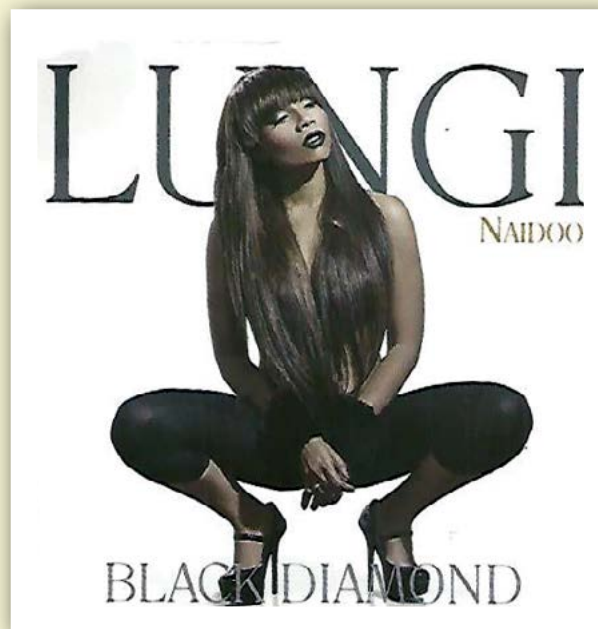
This is your greatest opportunity in your life. See to it that you seize the moment with great zeal and determination.

Love: Don't worry about lost time but rather worry about spending time knowing what kind of a person you are looking for. It is worth waiting.

BACKSEAT MUSIC

Black Diamond

Artist: Lungi Naidoo



Black Diamond is Lungi Naidoo's debut album under Universal Record. The 10-track album is a mixture of house and some bit of kwaito. The song *Falling in* which Naidoo features Black Coffee is one of the good songs in the album.

There is not much to write home about except that in its whole the album is a good package. Many of the songs here have been produced by Mondli Ngcobo while Black Coffee has produced the song *Away With Me*. Other good songs in the album include *Kiss Madolo*, *Niqhapele*, *Qhela* and *You Are*, among others. For whatever good reasons this album needs special attention. It can be played in different environments and situations because the songs rightly cater and accommodate different lovers of different music genres. This is not an album to be ignored if you really enjoy fast beats and like dancing.

Main Recipe: Beef Tagliata



Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Juicy rib-eye steak, thinly sliced and served with a rich red wine reduction, infused with rosemary

Ingredients

- 600g-700g beef rib eye
- Extra virgin olive oil

To make the red wine reduction

- 1/2 litre good red wine
- a sprig of fresh rosemary
- 3/4 bay leaves
- half a red onion, diced
- 2 tbsp honey

To serve

- Rocket
- Rosa tomatoes
- Parmesan cheese, grated

Method

1. To make the reduction, bring to the boil, wine, herbs and red onion in a saucepan.
2. Add honey.
3. Cook until 3/4 tablespoons of liquid remain (after

straining).

4. Coat the steaks in olive oil and cook to your preference (rare, medium rare or well done).

5. Cut steak into 3cm thick slices and place on a bed of rocket.

6. Drizzle the wine reduction on top and garnish with grated parmesan and sliced tomatoes.



Dessert: Banana Split

Prep Time: 10 mins

A classic ice-cream dessert featuring banana filled with creamy ice-cream and toppings.

Ingredients

- 6 bananas
- SPAR lemon Juice
- SPAR Vanilla & Chocolate Flavoured Ice Cream
- Mini marshmallows
- 200 g peanut brittle

Method

1. Peel bananas and slice lengthways.
2. Drizzle with a splash of lemon juice to prevent the bananas discolouring.
3. Arrange the bananas in bowls and place 2-3 large scoops of ice cream on top of the banana.
4. Sprinkle with marshmallows and crushed peanut brittle.
5. Serve immediately.



Santaco Ekurhuleni wants mayor fired

The South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) in Ekurhuleni says the Ekurhuleni city council under mayor Mzwandile Masina doesn't care about the taxi industry. Joined by other structures from the National Taxi Alliance (NTA) in the region, the industry believes there's a hidden agenda within the city management to ensure that the mini bus taxi industry and facilities it uses are not developed. The industry wants Masina out as the executive Mayor.

It was widely believed that the strike on Tuesday, 20th March was about the industry's unhappiness with the introduction of the Harambee Bus Services between Tembisa and Isando. But J.B. Mahlangu, general secretary of Santaco in Ekurhuleni, said the taxi industry in the region was part of the Harambee Bus Services as the industry wanted to also participate in the bus operation.

"One of the things mainly talked about is that we don't like the Harambee BRT system. It is

not true. In fact, we are also operating buses," Mahlangu pointed out.

He said that under Mayor Masina not only has the city ignored even acknowledging receipt of the letters the taxi leadership wrote for them, but have refused to accept that some of the taxi ranks in the region such as Germiston were in the state of collapse and needed upgrading.

"The city has promised to upgrade the taxi ranks in the same manner they do with the bus system facilities but nothing has happened," said Mahlangu.

Themba Gadebe, spokesman for the City of Ekurhuleni has said that the city has been aware of the state of some of the ranks on the region. Meanwhile the taxi industry has indicated that it would embark on a shutdown strike after handing a memorandum of grievances to the authorities.

NTA leader solely missed

The death of Limpopo National Taxi Alliance (NTA) leader Stephen Masombuka has left the industry poor

He died on February 24th and buried on 3rd March in Tweefontein in Mpumalanga and among those who attended the funeral were NTA top officials like general secretary Alpheus Mlalazi and Dumisani Mpanza as well as John Mokgakwe

Joyce Mmalau is Limpopo NTA deputy secretary and said she still can't believe that Masombuka is no more.

'I still find it extremely hard to believe that he's dead. He was one person who never complained when given a task,' said Mmalau.

Last year in Kga-Sekororo in Limpopo during a launch of a women league branch in the area Masombuka encouraged women to stand up against some men in the industry who he said undermined women in the taxi industry.

'They will come to you and pretend to want to help you with your taxi fleet knowing they want to fool you and run your business down,' he said then.





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In-form Free State Stars Fight for Honours



The last time any recognition was ever given to Premier League soccer club Free State Stars was when it used to offer players to other big teams. Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs used to be beneficiaries of such generosity with players such as Goodman Mazibuko, Hleza Mopedi, Robson Muchicwa, Jimmy Kauleza, Steve Khompela, John Tlale and many others who flocked to teams in Gauteng in years gone by.

However, over the past year Stars have emerged as a formidable force playing good football under coach Luke Eymael. Long serving player and captain Paulus

Masebe has led the team with distinction and is playing a big role in advising young and coming players such as Nyiko Mobbie, Danny Venter, Mxime Cosse and Mohammed Anas.

Masebe is one of the many experienced players in the team playing an important role to ensure they finished in a respectable position that will ensure a place in the Top 8. Others include former Orlando Pirates defenders Rooi Mahamutsa and Patrick Phungwayo, Goodman Dlamini and goalkeeper Thela Ngobeni. Chairman Mike Mokoena has invested wisely in the team and has, to

his credit, stayed away from meddling in the technical issues. "We do not want to talk much about Top 8 but it is our aim to finish the season in a good position. The mandate to all of us is to ensure we end the season on a high note," said coach Eymael.

The team is currently in the top 8 bracket on the log and may even finish higher if they win all their remaining eight games. Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns are the only teams that above Stars in the PSL log standing.

Gauteng celebrates Nelson Mandela Centenary

As we celebrate the Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela centenary, take time to visit many of the Madiba-inspired attractions in the Gauteng City Region. The Mandela Museum House located on the only street in the world that has produced two Nobel Peace Prize laureates ushers you into an oasis of culture, heritage and struggle. Another national icon Desmond Mpilo Tutu lives on the famous Vilakazi Street in Orlando West, Soweto. It is named after Benedict Wallet Vilakazi, the first black South African to earn a PhD degree.

The family-friendly Vilakazi precinct offers world-class eateries, crafts and activities that appeal to the young and old. The other Mandela-related sites in the golden city region include the Kliptown open-air museum also in Soweto and his biggest statue in the world on the lawns of the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Celebrating 100 Years of Nelson Mandela

1918-2018

100 Years

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Union Buildings, Mandela Statue



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