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Rand on a Rollercoaster Ride as ANC-DA GNU Talks Intensify

The rand is on a rollercoaster ride, fluctuating wildly as the country waits with bated breath for the outcome of the ANC's discussions on a Government of National Unity (GNU) with the Democratic Alliance (DA). It seems like the rand jumps at the command of its masters, surging amidst news that the ANC is close to finalising discussions on a GNU.

But this development has sparked widespread criticism from South Africans who disapprove of a coalition government with the DA. ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula, who has been criticized for his efforts in pushing for a GNU with the DA, announced on social media that talks are nearing conclusion.



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Politics



Justice Takes Its Course: IEC Official Charged with Electoral Fraud

By: Samkelisiwe Mzolo

Photo: Getty Images

In a significant development, an Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official, Musawenkosi Mnikathi, has been formally charged with contravening the Electoral Act in the Pietermaritzburg Magistrates Court. This comes after numerous allegations of electoral fraud have been exposed by the MK party, indicating widespread irregularities.

Mnikathi, who served as an area manager for the IEC in Imbali, Pietermaritzburg, during the May elections, is accused of illegally transporting four ballot boxes in his vehicle on voting day. His lawyers' application to have the matter heard by the Electoral Court was dismissed, paving the way for a criminal trial. The Pietermaritzburg Magistrates Court has asserted its jurisdiction over the matter, and Mnikathi is scheduled to appear on July 2 for a statement. According to National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) spokesperson Natasha Ramkisson-Kara, if found guilty, Mnikathi faces a potential 10-year prison sentence.

This development follows a string of exposed rigging cases by the MK party, suggesting that multiple individuals may still face arrest and prosecution. As the investigation unfolds, the public eagerly awaits further developments in this significant case.

EFF's Marshall Dlamini Receives Suspended Sentence for Parliament Assault

Marshall Dlamini, the secretary-general of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), has been sentenced to an 18-month suspended prison term and a R6 000 fine for assaulting a policeman and damaging property in Parliament in 2019. Dlamini has consistently maintained that his actions were driven by a desire to safeguard the well-being of EFF leader Julius Malema, whom he believed was under threat from the policeman, Johan Carstens. "I acted to protect my leader and comrade, Julius Malema, as I believed his safety was at risk," Dlamini explained.

This belief is rooted in the historical context of South Africa, where black people have long harbored a deep-seated fear of law enforcement due to past experiences of brutality and oppression. Dlamini's actions, while deemed unacceptable by the court, are a testament to the ongoing tensions between law enforcement and the black community. In a show of solidarity, MK Party leader Dr. Hlophle was present in court to support Dlamini, demonstrating the spirit of Ubuntu and a rare display of unity among black politicians in South Africa's tumultuous political landscape. As the country grapples with its complex history and ongoing struggles, this case highlights the need for ongoing dialogue and healing between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Politics

Meet SA's new cabinet



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY ANNOUNCED ON 30 JUNE 2024

PORTFOLIO	MINISTERS		DEPUTY MINISTERS			
Agriculture	John Steenhuisen	DA	Rosemary Nokuzola Capa	ANC		
Land Reform and Rural Development	Mzwanele Nyhontso	PAC	Chupu Stanley Mathabatha	ANC		
Basic Education	Siviwe Gwarube	DA	Reginah Mhaule	ANC		
Communications and Digital Technologies	Solly Malatsi	DA	Mondli Gungubele	ANC		
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	Velinkosi Hlabisa	IFP	Dickson Masemola	ANC	Zolile Burns-Ncamashe	ANC
Defence and Military Veterans	Angie Motshekga	ANC	Bantu Holomisa	UDM	Richard Mkhungo	ANC
Electricity and Energy	Kgosientsho Ramokgopa	ANC	Samantha Graham	DA		
Science, Technology and Innovation	Blade Nzimande	ANC	Nomalungelo Gina	ANC		
Employment and Labour	Nomakhosazana Meth	ANC	Jomo Sibiya	ANC	Phumzile Mgcina	ANC
Finance	Enoch Godongwana	ANC	David Masondo	ANC	Ashor Sarupen	DA
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Dion George	DA	Narend Singh	IFP	Bernice Swarts	ANC
Health	Aaron Motsoaledi	ANC	Joe Phaahla	ANC		
Higher Education	Nobuhle Nkabane	ANC	Buti Manamela	ANC	Mimmy Gondwe	DA
Home Affairs	Leon Schreiber	DA	Njabulo Nzuzo	ANC		
Human Settlements	Mmamoloko Kubayi	ANC	Tandi Mahambehlala	ANC		

International Relations and Cooperation	Ronald Lamola	ANC	Alvin Botes	ANC	Tandi Moraka	ANC
Justice and Constitutional Development	Thembi Nkadameng	ANC	Andries Nel	ANC		
Mineral and Petroleum Resources	Gwede Mantashe	ANC	Judith Nemadzinga-Tshabalala	ANC		
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Maropene Ramokgopa	ANC	Seiso Mohai	ANC		
Police	Senzo Mchunu	ANC	Polly Boshielo	ANC	Cassel Mathale	ANC
Presidency	Khumbudzo Ntshavheni	ANC	Nonceba Mhlauli	ANC	Kenneth Morolong	ANC
Public Service and Administration	Mzamo Buthelezi	IFP	Pinky Kekana	ANC		
Public Works and Infrastructure	Dean Macpherson	DA	Sihle Zikalala	ANC		
Small Business Development	Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams	ANC	Jane Sithole	DA		
Social Development	Sisisi Tolashe	ANC	Ganief Hendricks	Al Jama-ah		
Sport, Arts and Culture	Gayton McKenzie	PA	Peace Mabe	ANC		
Tourism	Patricia De Lille	GOOD	Maggie Sotyru	ANC		
Trade, Industry and Competition	Parks Tau	ANC	Zuko Godlimpi	ANC	Andrew Whitfield	DA
Transport	Barbara Creecy	ANC	Mkhuleko Hlengwa	IFP		
Water and Sanitation	Pemmy Majodina	ANC	David Mahlobo	ANC	Isaac Seitlholo	DA
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	Sindisiwe Chikunga	ANC	Mmapaseka Steve Letsike	ANC		
Correctional Services	Pieter Groenewald	FF Plus	Lindiwe Ntshalintshali	ANC		

Economy



“Almost done with GNU discussions, in the best interest of all South Africans,” Mbalula said.

While Bank of America strategists have closed their bearish trade recommendation for the currency, anticipating a coalition government, many South Africans remain sceptical. Online, citizens have expressed their disapproval, citing concerns about the DA's stance on issues like land reform and economic empowerment.

The rand's strengthening to R18.1983 per dollar has done little to alleviate these concerns, as many see the potential GNU as a betrayal of the ANC's historical values. As one Twitter user put it, 'The ANC is selling out to the DA? No thanks, bru! It's clear the rand dances to the tune of its political masters.'

By: Samkelisiwe Mzolo | Photo: Getty Images

Ghana: Rising Costs of Locally Produced Food Drive Ghana's Food Inflation

Food inflation stood at 22.6% in May, a slight reduction from 26.8% in the previous month. However, a detailed analysis reveals that locally produced food has been the primary driver of this inflation, overshadowing the impact of imported foods.

According to the data, locally produced food contributed 28.6% to national inflation, while imported food accounted for only 9.2%. This disparity highlights that the rising cost of locally produced food is the main cause of food inflation in Ghana.

Among the top 20 items with the highest inflation rates, eight were locally produced foods, while only three were imported. The food sub-class comprising vegetables, tubers, and plantain experienced an inflation rate of 37.9%.

Source: Accra Times



Rwanda: Digital Currency Has Power to Accelerate Financial Inclusion - Bahamas Central Bank Governo

The Bahamas became the world's first country to launch a central bank digital currency (CBDC) in 2020. The Sand Dollar as it is known is the digital version of the Bahamian dollar (B\$).

The Bahamian government introduced the CBDC to allow for greater flexibility and accessibility of people who want to participate in financial services through a mobile phone application or a card payment.

The New Times' Business Editor *Julius Bizimungu* spoke exclusively to the Central Bank of the Bahamas Governor, Derek Sean Rolle, on the sidelines of the just-concluded African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) Annual Meetings in Nassau, the Bahamas.

Source: New Times

Business



Is the Dangote Refinery Being Sabotaged?

Devakumar Edwin, Vice President of Oil and Gas at Dangote Industries Limited (DIL), has said that multinationals are deliberately frustrating the refinery's efforts to buy local crude by increasing premium prices above the market price. He said that the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) was indiscriminately granting import licenses to marketers to import dirty refined products into the country.

The Dangote refinery, which has a processing capacity of 650,000 barrels per day, is expected to meet 100% of Nigeria's demand for all refined petroleum products and have a surplus of each product for export. The largest petroleum refinery in Africa aims to address Nigeria's ongoing fuel shortages, reduce import dependency, and stimulate economic growth.

Kenya: China's E-Vehicle Brand Neta Enters Kenya's Market

Chinese automotive brand Neta announced its entry into the Kenyan market Wednesday, with Moja EV Kenya, a motor dealer, as its distributor.

Zhou Jiang, the overseas business general manager at Neta, told journalists in Nairobi that the firm will initially offer the Neta V model, which will retail for 4 million Kenyan shillings (about 31,000 U.S. dollars) and has a range of about 380 km on a full charge. "The electric vehicle is ideal for the Kenyan market because it offers affordability combined with low operational costs compared to conventional vehicles," Zhou said.

Neta chose to establish a presence in Kenya because it is a regional economic hub and will serve as a gateway for exporting e-vehicles to the rest of the African continent, Zhou added.

Source: Capital FM



Zimbabwe: Manufacturers, Tuckshops Alliance Sabotaging Zig

The advance of the ZiG, which has maintained its value in the almost three months since its launch, is being slowed by the reluctance of some manufacturers to accept it, and the determination of the informal "tuckshop" end of the retail markets to sell only in US dollars.

The Financial Intelligence Unit of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, which plays a major role in enforcement of currency laws and regulations, has noted that the formal retail sector is easily the most compliant, leaving its customers to choose what currency they use and making sure that the exchange rates in use are the correct or allowable ones.

Wholesalers in general are also ZiG compliant, reports the FIU, and so there is this solid central section of the economy that accepts the new currency has consequently done so much to make it a functioning national currency.

Feature

A Big Con by Mduduzi Mike Kathide

How many levels does the South African court system have? We have:

1. Magistrate's Court
2. High Court
3. Supreme Court of Appeals and
4. Constitutional Court.

But the Dutch who established Roman-Dutch law in these shores and the British who imposed their system of Common law, and the Americans who presently exercise power of global empire, have these levels:

Netherlands	United Kingdom	United States of America
11 District Courts	Magistrate -> Crown Court	94 District Courts
4 Appeal Courts	High Court	13 Appellate Courts
1 Supreme Court	1 Appeal Court	1 Supreme Court
	1 Supreme Court (2005 ->)	

That the millennia long British law system only got a Supreme Court in 2005 should be interesting. As it happens, it was not introduced in 2005 but was merely reorganised in that year. It had for a long time been in the upper house of parliament, the House of Lords, and known as Lords of Appeal, consisted of 12 most senior judges. Thus, it was set apart from the court system of England & Wales. In fact, the Lord/Lady Chief Justice leads the Appeal Court and not the Supreme Court. Therefore, England has a three-tier court system, and the Supreme Court is outside this system and hence is in effect an oversight authority over the courts of the United Kingdom (England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). 1 The author's opinion is that the 2005 restructuring was mostly cosmetic to align with separation of powers doctrine —wholly unnecessary in the UK because the House of Lords is in any case not an elected body but an extension of the constitutional but non-executive Crown.

As discussed in A Big Con (2024-06-16)², South Africa used to have a Constitutional Court which was located outside the three-tier court system as a check on the Judiciary, the Executive and Legislature. Through direct access as well as through appeal “from any other court” and working within the adversarial common law framework, it would enable the choreographic chaos of doing away with unjust laws, precedents and traditions at a time, rate and programme determined by residents within the Republic.

Feature

While cosmetically, it appears that the South African Apex Court (misleadingly sometimes still referred to as a Constitutional Court) is similar to the UK's apex court, their Supreme Court, it remains fundamentally and materially different in that the South African apex court is headed by the head of the Judiciary, the Chief Justice whereas the UK's Lord/Lady Chief Justice leads the Appeal Court, the South African equivalent of which is the Supreme Court of Appeals (SCA). Thus, South Africans are being taken for a ride in that the judicial referees are also participants in the tournament. As things stand, the supreme-SCA (a.k.a. Apex Court) is worse than merely fruitless and wasteful expenditure, it is a judicial monstrosity because it provides direct access whereas it is above the SCA to which there is no direct access. This Frankenstein arrangement was activated to disastrous effect by non-other than the then deputy and present Chief Justice Zondo when he obtained direct access against President Zuma's refusal to attend Zondo's Commission, pending Zuma's litigation of Zondo's refusal to recuse himself in the lower courts. Zuma was imprisoned and yet to date, his application for the courts to review Zondo's refusal to recuse is yet to reach finality. If this were the only demonstration of the absurdity of the Apex Court without *raison d'être*, it would suffice to warrant its abolition. But this is not all.



The four-tier court system in South Africa delays finality, increases the costs and sets justice further away from the lived experience of many. Without the sophisticated and well-resourced team that Please Call Me inventor Mr Nkosana Makate has, how could he have survived Vodacom's endless appeals to the Apex Court? Given that South Africa is the most economically unequal country on earth, increasing the cost of legal finality places the legacies of apartheid further away from legally competent and decisive challenge. The Apex Court is an effective sustainer of the status quo. There is no reason why matters of general law should go beyond the SCA. This is not the author's subjective opinion, but the position of the original constitution which limited the Constitutional Court to constitutional questions.

When we consider that the constitutional amendment act of 2012 retired the Constitutional Court and replaced it with the Apex Court by giving it powers to decide matters of general law, we understand that the Apex Court must now be a defender of laws in general. Therefore, those laws that are inconsistent with the values of the constitution, for not being inconsistent with the letter of the constitution, can now be upheld by the Apex Court. This creates an environment where only the strictest textualists can win cases at the Apex Court. When we consider the volume of laws against which the constitution stands, it is crystal clear that the constitution can never assail all unjust laws that remain in effect. Therefore, a strict textualist approach should not be entertained in South Africa because of the judicial legacy of human rights violations against Africans and other non-European ethnicities. This is quite apart from the fact that former United States Chief Justice Antonin Scalia in any case rejected strict textualism as absurd.³ At another time and opportunity, an argument could be presented showing how strict textualism barred President Zuma from returning to parliament when the Apex Court set aside the Electoral Court's decision that the Constitution did not prevent Zuma from standing for election to the National Assembly. Once again, the ugliness of an Apex Court posing as, and vested with powers of a Constitutional Court was there for all to see.

Feature

When the Apex Court balances the Constitution against other consideration then the Constitution is no longer what it claims to be, it has become just another piece of law, like all other laws. Again, it was in the same Zondo's Commission vs Zuma case that the Apex Court held that Zuma's rights to not be convicted and sentenced without trial was to be weighed against the alleged (not tested in cross examination) impugned dignity of that court⁴. Clearly, the authority of the court was deemed more worthy of protection than Zuma's constitutional rights —even though direct access had been granted to the Apex Court against whose decision there is no appeal. An impartial assessment of the facts would have concluded that at worst, the impugned dignity would have been that of a court of first instance and not the dignity of an apex court, the sentence given would have been that ordinarily given for contempt of a court of first instance —which in this case, the Apex Court was. This is not an accident of history, but an engineered outcome of the dissolution of the Constitutional Court in 2012. This absurdity would not be as easy to sustain were the Constitutional Court apart from the courts —for then it would be its duty to challenge the courts where they undermined rights enshrined in the constitution. As it happens, no institution can challenge its own authority and the Apex Court is now part of the institution of courts it was to transform and reshape in the mould of the Constitution.

In all this, is it any wonder why South Africa is not transforming to be a place that Africans can ever attain citizenship in? There is a possibility that the amended Constitution, and the Apex Court it created to usurp the erstwhile Constitutional Court, is the single biggest obstacle to transformation.

There is another aspect of the Apex Court that warrants scrutiny, namely, that it can be a court of first and last instance. Anyone who dares transact with a person to whom R1 and R10 have equal value, is bound to lose. First and last can only be the same when there is only one. We can only accept this character of the Apex Court if it was the only court. Indisputably, this is not the case but is nevertheless an implied assault on the dignity of all lower courts to the extent that it obviates their existence. Thus, we must either declare Mathematics unconstitutional or deal with this legal sophistry of the same entity being first and last in a series with four unequal elements. Moses prepares us for this by explicitly stating: "You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light. You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God."⁵ If we are to take Moses seriously, we should not expect the return of the land for as long as the Apex Court is a court of first and last authority. President Zuma easily lost his freedom when the Commission brought a complaint as to a court of first instance but the contempt for which he was sentenced was that due to contempt of a court of last instance. He was never going to win because the Commission and the Court would use which ever measure suited their agenda best. But the most disturbing element of this is the assumption of divine prerogatives in exercising first and last authority.

An ancient prophet, Isaiah by name, reports:

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,

And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

'I am the First and I am the Last;

Besides Me there is no God.

And who can proclaim as I do?"⁶

Indeed, who can proclaim to be the first and last, except for our Apex Court?

Ours being a circular state and democracy, the Apex Court is our alpha and omega, the first and the last. And so, the prophets of the Apex Court must warn any who dare challenge its authority for thus says the Apex Court: "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."⁷

1 United Kingdom Judiciary. 2024.

<https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/our-justice-system/the-supreme-court/>

2 Katide, M. (2024-06-16). The African Perspective, Weekly Report, A Big Con, vol.001.

3 Hoover Institution. (2012, October 31). Uncommon Knowledge with Justice Antonin Scalia [Video]. YouTube/@HooverInstitution. <https://youtu.be/DaoLMW5AF4Y>

4 Khampepe, S. (2021). Secretary of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State v Zuma and Others [2021] ZACC 18, pars. [82, 128]

5 Deuteronomy 25:13-16 NKJV

6 Isaiah 44:6,7 NKJV

7 Revelation 22:12-13 NKJV

Entertainment



Davido, Chioma Shut Down the Internet with Dream Wedding!

Nigerian music superstar Davido exchanged vows with his longtime love, Chioma Rowland, in a lavish ceremony.

The wedding was attended by the elite of the entertainment industry and other top dignitaries. #Chivido2024 trended on major social media platforms leading up to the grand event and peaked when Davido and Chioma tied the knot.

Their relationship goes back several years, but their relationship became official in 2018 when the singer confirmed it at a public event in October of that year. Tragically, in November 2022, their child passed away after a home accident just as he turned three. In October 2023, after much speculation, the Grammy nominee and Chioma welcomed a set of twins.

South Africa's National Arts Festival Shines On After 50 Years

The National Arts Festival in Makhanda in the Eastern Cape, formerly known as the Grahamstown Art Festival, is officially underway.

This year's festival is significant as it commemorates 50 extraordinary years of creative freedom and highlights iconic South African masterpieces.

The festival was held from June 20 to 30 and will showcase approximately 300 works across a wide range of art forms. Attendees can look forward to live theatre productions, talks, workshops, visual art exhibitions, master classes, and music concerts, among other exciting offerings.



Africa's A-List Takes on the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards

Tyla leads the charge with a triple nomination for Favorite Viral Song ("Water"), Favorite Breakout Artist, and Favorite Global Music Star (Africa).

Kairo is in the running for Favorite African Kids Influencer, facing off against fellow South Africans Biko's Mana and against Nigeria's Dream Catches Academy, DJ Wysei, and Boluwatife Balogun.

This year's awards will be hosted by Spongebob SquarePants and Patrick Star as the animated show celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Sports

Euro 2024 Results

Switzerland 2:0 Italy
Germany 2:0 Denmark

Cosafa Results

Kenya 0:2 Comoros
Zambia 0:2 Zimbabwe



Euro 2024 Today's Fixtures

England vs Slovakia @18:00 GMT+2
Spain vs Georgia @21:00 GMT+2

Conte Accepts Osimhen's Quit Notice From Napoli



New Napoli Coach, Antonio Conte, has confirmed that he has accepted that Victor Osimhen will quit the Serie A club this summer.

"I'm aware of his situation, I know there's an agreement with the club so it's a different case compared to others", Top Transfer Expert Fabrizio Romano quoted the former Chelsea boss on social media on Wednesday.

"There's a pact between Victor and Napoli on his future and I accepted that".

That may well explain why Conte has been rumoured to now be interested in bringing Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku to Napoli.

Shandre Campbell set for move to Europe



SuperSport United youngster Shandre Campbell is closing in on a potential move abroad, with Belgian outfit Club Brugge.



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