

'Versatile' is covering all-time favourites

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The 31-year-old Gershwynn Garneth, better known as 'Versatile The Cover Man', is taking song covers to the next level with his unique, sweet and soulful sound.

Garneth, whose love for music started at a tender age

after joining his primary school choir, has called the City of Roses home after moving here with his family at the age of eight. According to him, his stage name, 'Versatile', originated from his versatility and his ability to pull off any music genre.

The ambitious artist's music career kicked off a few years

ago when he co-established the well-known band, Anotha Level. He thereafter decided to move to wedding and party gigs where he landed himself a contract with Sun International Casinos. Garneth's goal for this year is to finish his first single as well as perform abroad.

According to him, one of the main drives behind his passion for music is his musical family who inspires him daily to follow his passion. 'My number one idol is my mother,

Doreen Solomon, the lead singer of the eighties group Syndicate Sisters.'

He added, 'It's my passion, vision and endless love for music that pushes me.'

To check out his work and the variation of genres covered by Garneth, visit his Facebook page @ Versatile The Cover Man. The musician also has a direct messaging system in place where viewers/followers can message him to send song requests.



Gershwynn Garneth, better known as 'Versatile The Cover Man'

MANGAUNG
OPENBARE KENNISGEWING
2018/19 JAARLIKSE PRESTASIEVERSLAG

Kennis geskied hiermee, kragtens Artikel 127 (5) van die Wet op Plaaslike Regering: Munisipale Finansiële Bestuur (Wet nr. 56 van 2003) en Artikel 21A van die Wet op Plaaslike Regering: Munisipale Stelsels (Wet nr. 32 van 2000), dat die 2018/19 Jaarlikse Prestasieverlag vir die Mangaung Metropolitaanse Munisipaliteit op 28 Mei 2020 voor die Raad ter tafel gelê is.

Lede van die publiek en belanghebbende word hiermee genooi om vertoë in verband met die Jaarlikse Verslag in te dien. Die Jaarlikse Verslag is gevolglik op ons munisipale webtuiste, www.mangaung.co.za beskikbaar gestel, en daar is afskrifte by alle Munisipale Geboue en Biblioteke.

Afskrifte van die 2018/19 Jaarlikse Prestasieverlag sal vanaf Dinsdag 9 Junie 2020 by die volgende plekke beskikbaar wees:

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Navrae en geskrewe vertoë kan per hand afgelewer word in die toegewende huise by die bogenoemde kantore, en kan ook gewig word aan die Komitee vir Munisipale Openbare Rekeninge by die Leslie Monnanyane Munisipale Gebou Rocklands, Kamer S108 voor of op 27 Junie 2020 vir aandag. patricia.wes@mangaung.co.za en me. Lulama July by lulama.july@mangaung.co.za of 051 410 9634-9687.

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No writing off of NSFAS debt, insists Nzimande

Higher education, science and innovation minister Blade Nzimande has insisted that NSFAS will write off billions in debt as false, and more students can start returning to campuses.

The allegation from the Democratic Alliance that NSFAS is "writing off the student historic debt of those who were able, but unwilling to pay, is 'factually incorrect and irresponsible'", according to Nzimande.

Nzimande was briefing the country on his department's plans to deal with the sector during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the allegations made by the DA had been exposed as false and NSFAS Administrator, Dr Randall Carolissen, clearly stated that the R1 960b referred to by Prof Bhebe is actually irregular expenditure that arose when the previous board applied unspent historic debt from 2016 and 2017 to fund NSFAS qualifying students in 2018.

Nzimande said the money was flagged as irregular expenditure by the Auditor General, despite being a "legitimate diversion of funds", because due processes were not followed in getting approval for the move from National Treasury.

"This was not a loss to the fiscus but will simply be an adjustment of a book entry with no release of funds or incurrence of any liability. NSFAS is in the process of clearing all irregular expenditure and the AG advised that NSFAS should clear this irregularity as 'writing off historic debt' he said.

Under level 2 a maximum of 33% of students will be allowed to return to campuses, "on condition that they can be safely accommodated and supported in line with the health and safety protocols as directed by the Department", Nzimande said.

This will include the following cohorts:

1. All groups that have already returned during alert level 4.
2. Students in the final year of their programmes, who are on-path to graduating in 2020 may return.
3. Final year students who require access to laboratories, technical equipment, data, connectivity and access to residence and private accommodation should return.
4. Students in all years of study that require

clinical training in their programmes (provided that the clinical training platforms have sufficient space and can accommodate them while adhering to the safety protocols).

3. Post Graduate students who require laboratory equipment and other technical equipment to undertake their studies.

Special provision may be made for selected return of students "who may face extreme difficulties in their home learning environments provided that the above categories are prioritised, and all safety and logistical requirements are met."

He said all other students will be supported through remote teaching and assessment methods until it is safe to return to campus.

"I would like to emphasise that we recognise that some institutions may identify other groups of students in line with their particular contexts for their return to campus. However, any deviation from this criterion must be approved by any Department and must fall within the maximum of 33% of the student population."

All institutions must follow the national guidelines regarding the numbers that can be accommodated in residences, "to enable physical distancing, the handling of communal spaces, hygiene requirements and dining hall arrangements."

A maximum of 33% of students are allowed to return to residences, and those living in private accommodation may also return if the proper physical distancing arrangements are in place.

Nzimande announced that after negotiations with Treasury, the procurement of electronic devices such as laptops, will commence through an open tender system by the end of this week.

"We have agreed with National Treasury that given the huge amounts involved in the central acquisition of outstanding tablets, it is better to follow proper procedures than take short cuts, even if there is some delay, so as to properly account for spending of taxpayers' money. We are also finalising the process of verifying which NSFAS students already have acquired devices, in order to avoid mistakenly issuing some students with more than one device per student," he added. **Citizen**



Allegations irresponsible... Minister Blade Nzimande



Deeply concerned... Minister Bheke Cele

Police minister Bheke Cele on Wednesday said he was concerned about the murder rate, which had spiked during level three of the lockdown.

On the first day of this month, government released some of the regulations, allowing people to buy alcohol and scrapping the night-time curfew.

Cele said the sale of alcohol was largely to blame for the upward trend in crime.

"When 1 June happened and the alcohol was resold, we reached 59 murders in the Republic of

South Africa, something that has not happened since the start of the lockdown period," he noted.

On Sunday night, six people were gunned down in Soweto.

It was understood three men opened fire on the group with handguns and rifles in a shack near the Ibulani Hostel.

Cele also said around 300 police officers have so far been arrested for stealing alcohol and cigarettes that were confiscated from the public under lockdown.

The Fair-Trade Independent Tobacco Association was in the High Court in Pretoria again on Wednesday morning to argue that cigarette sales to open under level three lockdown.

Cele said officers were supposed to take the confiscated items to the police's storehouses but some of the contraband never made it there.

"Sometimes, there was some over-enthusiasm in terms of dealing with the communities where they thought it would be easier, but it got harder as if they were dealing with criminals," he added. **-EWN**

Hospital accused of mixing Covid-19 patients with others

A patient who was admitted at Milpark Netcare hospital in Johannesburg is demanding answers after discovering that the patient she had been sharing a ward with tested positive for Covid-19.

Lizzy Magosi was admitted at the private hospital on May 13, and found out two weeks later that the woman who was in the same ward with her was positive for Covid-19.

"I found her crying as I was walking out of the bathroom and asked her what was wrong, and she told me that she just received her results and they were positive," Magosi said.

She confronted the nurses and was told that arrangements to move the patient were underway.

"We shared the bathroom and everything together and they failed to let me know I have four-year-old daughter and 70-year-old elder back at home."

Magosi added that the 79-year-old woman she shared the ward with was moved to another ward and when she asked she was told the elderly woman had tested positive for Covid-19.

Sandile Mbhebe, director of Netcare for its south-west region, said: "The three patients who were in the ward were all negative upon admission but one of the patients subsequently tested positive and was immediately moved to a Covid-19 zone. The other two patients were informed and private rooms were prepared for them so that they could be moved. They are being closely monitored and both patients will be tested for Covid-19 within the incubation period."

Mbhebe noted that if a patient is tested negative

during incubation period, the results are highly likely to show as negative. It is highly likely that this may have been the case in the patient who was admitted negative and later tested positive, he said.

"Two of the greatest challenges associated with Covid-19 infection are that those who are infected do not always show any symptoms. Even in the presence of extensive and effective infection prevention measures such as such as those within Netcare facilities. Any workplace with a gathering of people poses a risk for infection."

Mbhebe private hospital in the Eastern Cape is also among the facilities that are alleged to have had incidents of positive Covid-19 patients being in the same ward as those awaiting results.

Health workers who asked to remain anonymous said Covid-19 patients were placed in a maternity ward.

"The patients are placed in a maternity ward and death rate is abnormally high as some nurses refuse to attend to Covid-19 patients," said one of the health workers.

Another worker added that they use plastic aprons to cover themselves.

Another claim was that student nurses at the Mbhebe facility are forced to attend Covid-19 patients as the senior nurses refuse to go to the maternity ward.

The staff members added that the hospital management forces them to keep the numbers about the Covid-19 cases a secret, as well as threatening to sack them if they spoke out. The staff at Mbhebe private hospital also claimed

they are forced to work even after testing positive or are awaiting results.

Hospital manager Adhikar Naggaur dropped the call as soon as Sowetan was asked about the allegations.

Eastern Cape premier Oscar Mabuyane has announced that the MEC for health, Sindiya Gomba, has been tasked to submit a report on the allegations against private hospitals in the province. Apart from Mbhebe, other private facilities to be investigated include St Mary's and Life Beacon Bay.

Meanwhile, Netcare regional spokesperson Zinadze Gyama said about the Mbhebe private hospital: "The situation in that hospital can be described as a reign of terror which predates the current pandemic. Workers are treated no better than mere tools to maximise profits for the super greedy shareholders. A role by fear where workers are threatened with dismissal [is prevalent]."

Gyama added that Netcare will leave no stone unturned in pursuit of justice for its members. "When we met, the management made commitments to provide personal protective equipment, organise ventilation and quarantine all the workers that had been exposed to the Covid-19 patients. All of this was not done. They have even demonstrated their arrogance by denying the health portfolio committee and MEC access to the premises. It is directly linked to the despotic, arrogant and intransigent style of leadership which advances narrow business interests ahead of people's lives," Sowetanive

MANGAUNG PUBLIC NOTICE

2018/19 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

According to section 127 (5) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, (Act No 56 of 2003) and section 21A of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, (Act No 32 of 2000), notice is hereby given that the 2018/19 Annual Performance Report for the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality was tabled before Council on 28 May 2020.

Members of the public and stakeholders are hereby invited to submit representations in connection with the Annual Report. For this purpose, the Annual Report has been made available on our municipal website www.mangaung.co.za and there are copies at all Municipal buildings and Libraries.

Copies of the 2018/19 Annual Performance Reports will be available from Tuesday, 09 June 2020 at the following places:

- Bloemfontein: Bram Fischer Building, 2nd Floor – Room 213B and Leslie Minkanyane Building Rocklands Room 5108.
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Enquiries and written representations can be hand delivered at the above offices in the allocated boxes and can also be forwarded to the Municipal Public Accounts Committee at Leslie Minkanyane Municipal Building Rockland Room 5108, on or before the 18th June 2020 to attention: public_acc@mangaung.co.za and Ms Lutame July at lutame.july@mangaung.co.za or 051 410 6634/6987.

ADV TANKISO MEA - CITY MANAGER



Contract expiring... AG Elmi Mahweto

Parliament seeks new AG

Parliament is looking for a new auditor-general to take over from Elmi Mahweto, whose term ends on November 30.

The National Assembly adopted a resolution

on Tuesday, tabled by ANC chief whip Penny Majodina, to establish an ad hoc committee to appoint the country's new auditor-general.

The special committee will be made up of 11 members of the assembly – six from the ANC, two from the DA, one from the EFF and two representing the smaller parties.

The committee has until August 31 to find a suitable candidate and report back to the house. The president is the appointing authority.

The constitution provides that the National Assembly must recommend, for appointment by the president, persons nominated by a committee of the assembly, proportionally composed of members of all parties represented in the assembly. The Public Audit Act also provides for the speaker of the National Assembly to initiate the recruitment process whenever it becomes necessary to appoint a person as auditor-general.

Mahweto was appointed by then president Jacob Zuma in December 2013 after a similar parliamentary process. Before his appointment, he had been the deputy auditor-general for six years.

His appointment was supported by all the political parties represented in parliament at the time, but despite not having an objection to the appointment, a vote had to be taken on the appointment as rules require that at least 60% or 24% of the assembly's 400 MPs support the appointment of an auditor-general.

An overwhelming 298 MPs voted in favour of Mahweto's appointment. It was never made clear how many were in the house for the vote. **-Timeslive**

EFF vows to sue state over Khosa death

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) announced that it would sue the state on behalf of the family of Calixtus Khosa.

Khosa died at his home in Alexandria after allegedly being brutally assaulted by soldiers who were enforcing lockdown regulations.

EFF leader Julius Malema said that his party has helped the family secure funding for the funeral but now those responsible must pay for his death.

Calixtus Khosa's widow, Nontobeko Mafema, was 71 when he died on Monday. "I was around when he was 10 years old. I was his everything. I know what happened," she said.

An Internet SANEF profile stated that the officers were not responsible for Khosa's death but Malema said that they had a case to answer.

"Now we're on the second phase where we are suing the state through the family and we are aware that the state will not pay for the funeral. It was a tragedy, it was a crime, it was a crime, it was a crime. These soldiers are not here to protect the people. They are here to oppress the people and they should be held accountable for what they have done. The EFF has got the mandate to hold the state accountable for the death of Khosa."

Five schools in Free State under investigation for possible COVID-19 infections

By The Mail Reporter

Bloemfontein - Five schools in the Free State are being investigated for possible COVID-19 infections.

Teachers at four of the schools have been tested after they exhibited symptoms and 15 learners from Heatherdale Secondary School in Bloemfontein, are still awaiting their results.

Meanwhile, Congress of South African Students (Cosas) continues their push for the shutdown of schools across the province.

This, to force the Education Department to test all learners and teachers before they return to school. It is still not clear how the 2020 academic year will be completed. The coronavirus outbreak has made the future of completing the year look dim.

Although safety comes first, many have expressed that it is equally important to secure the future of learners. Matriculants from Ntlediseng Secondary School in Botshabelo have expressed mixed reactions.

One learner says: "I think that's a great idea since we do not know whether we are positive or not. I am worried but I am worried about my life too."

Another learner expresses frustration: "I feel pain because during this time we have dreams and we want to achieve more so when Cosas closes

schools it is very painful because when you have a dream you want to succeed in life. I'm worried about my health but I'm very worried about my academic year."

A third learner says: "I'm happy because Cosas have helped us, because we don't know if we have corona or not and we are not tested." Member of Free State Cosas PEC, Kananelo Monyaki says they are not backing down.

"On Thursday we will be having a meeting with the MEC of Education Tseke Makgoe until then we will continue shutting down schools until we find a way to control the pandemic in schools," says Monyaki.

To date, two positive cases from schools in the Free State are learners from Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal provinces.

Both learners had gone home to their respective provinces for the duration of the lockdown when schools were closed.

Meanwhile, Gauteng Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi says no teacher or learner has been infected with COVID-19 in all public schools in the province since they reopened.

Lesufi was responding to the continuing criticism of the government's decision to reopen schools as the numbers of COVID-19 infections keep rising.

At least 56 Gauteng schools were closed during the week after positive cases of COVID-19 were detected. SABC



Learners sanitizing before entering the school premises.

Bribe lends 2 in jail

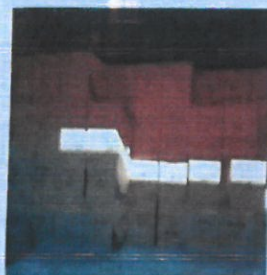
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suspected rented units were searched. Only one unit was found loaded with a substantial number boxes containing cigarettes. The two units were locked to eliminate tampering," the SAPS said.

"As the members were about to leave, the owner of the units allegedly approached the Hawks investigating officer to assist him to release the cigarette consignment.

"It was also established that the same suspect approached the manager of the storage facility to make the rental contract disappear.

"On Thursday, the Hawks officers met with the suspect and an accomplice and



was paid a R70 00 gratification in order to release the cigarettes. The two, Vahora and Farukhai, were arrested on the spot."

Meanwhile, judgment has been reserved over the ban on the sale of cigarettes. The North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria heard that Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma had failed to provide empirical evidence supporting her claims that smokers were more prone to contracting the deadly virus.

Instead, it heard that the ban on cigarettes sales presented an opportunity for the illicit trade of cigarettes as well as underworld activities and that it had also severely affected the collection of tax in the country. IOM



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