

Elderly man killed in Actonville, police launch manhunt for gunman

A 74-year-old man was fatally shot in Actonville on Tuesday morning 23rd September, prompting an active murder investigation by the South African Police Service (SAPS).

According to Captain Neldah Sekgobela, spokesperson for the Ekurhuleni SAPS District, members of the

By Priya Ranchod

Actonville SAPS responded to a report of a shooting at approximately 10:00 on Singh Street, near a local business known as Paris Shop. Upon arrival, officers found the shop closed and learned that the victim had already been transported to Glynwood Hospital in Benoni. Police proceeded to the hospital, where they arrived at around 10:20. It was confirmed that the 74-year-old male victim had sustained gunshot wounds and was declared dead on arrival. “At this stage, the motive behind the shooting is unknown, and we cannot speculate on the circumstances,” said Captain Sekgobela, adding: “A case of murder has been opened at Actonville SAPS. Investigations are ongoing, and no arrests have been made at this time. “The SAPS urges anyone with information related to the incident to come forward.”



Captain Neldah Sekgobela, spokesperson for the Ekurhuleni SAPS District.

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Historic first-ever-in-SA Vishesha 1008 Sangu Pooja & Abishegam at Sri Devi Karumariamman Thirukoil

Article submitted

The Sri Devi Karumariamman Thirukoil in Lenasia South will be hosting a momentous spiritual event this October – the first-ever 1008 Sangu (Conch) Pooja and Abishegam on South African shores. It will be on Sunday, 12th October 2025 at 7:30am. The grand prayer will be led by the distinguished Chief Priest of the world-renowned Batu Malai Murugan Temple in Malaysia, Siva Sri S. Ravinatha Sivachaariya, marking his return to South Africa after 40 years. His presence and blessing are set to make this a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience for the community. The highlight of the day will be the Sri Lakshmi Sahasranama Kungamam Archana, a sacred and powerful prayer invoking the divine energy of Sri Mahalakshmi, Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. It is believed that when a sangu, blessed during this pooja, is placed in one's home, Sri Mahalakshmi herself will be seated within the household, bringing wealth, abundance and divine protection. **The Significance of the Sangu** In Hindu tradition, the Sangu (conch shell) is considered a sacred object of immense spiritual power. The sound of the conch is said to invite peace, prosperity, and divine blessings into the home. According to Vastu Shastra, placing the sangu on the right side of the pooja room helps to uplift the energy and Vaasthu of the household, and attract good fortune. Right-handed conches, in particular, are regarded as highly auspicious. Devotees believe that keeping a sanctified sangu at home not only invites the grace of Sri Mahalakshmi but also enhances family happiness, supports business growth, and fulfills genuine wishes. **Spiritual & Material blessings** The 1008 Sangu Pooja is believed to bless participants with: Upliftment of Vaasthu and energy within the home; Relief from obstacles and difficulties; Improvement in health conditions; Progress in education and career opportunities; Resolution of unemployment challenges; Abundance, wealth, and peace in family life. Devotees will also have the opportunity to acquire their own blessed sangu after the pooja, to be placed in their prayer room as a permanent source of divine blessings. This auspicious event promises blessings in abundance for all who participate. Devotees wishing to be part of this historic prayer are encouraged to make their bookings directly at the temple. For further details, please contact Guru Sivaraman - 072 281 9503 or Smt Nerina - 083 588 5450.

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Call to ban alcohol advertising & sponsorship that reaches youth

Amid startling findings about alcohol abuse among youth in South Africa, the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance in South Africa (SAAPA SA) has called for a ban advertising and sponsorship that reaches youth.

The Alliance has issued a critical new warning: alcohol advertising is not just selling brands — it is shaping children's behaviour, fuelling underage drinking, and driving lifelong harm.

A statement issued by the Alliance brings together local and global evidence, including the 2025 Planet Youth Survey conducted by the University of Cape Town, which achieved an unprecedented 89% response rate across 49,000 Grade 8 and 9 learners in 123 schools. The findings are stark:

- 40% of learners have already tried alcohol.
 - 23% began before age 13.
 - 22% drank in the past 30 days; 15% were drunk at least once in the past month.
 - Alcohol is most often obtained from shops (53%), friends (43%), and family (34%).
 - Drinking peaks during public holidays (72%), after exams (51%), and at friends' homes (54%) — showing how deeply entrenched alcohol has become in social life.
- This local reality is reinforced by international and South African evidence:
- Children exposed to alcohol adverts are significantly more

likely to drink (SABSSM 2017 analysis).

- The International Alcohol Control study shows a direct association between adolescent drinking and liking adverts.
 - Global studies reveal children are exposed to alcohol marketing every 4–8 minutes in daily life — patterns mirrored in South African townships and cities.
 - WHO reviews conclude children repeatedly exposed to alcohol advertising start drinking younger, drink more heavily, and face higher risks of hazardous patterns later in life.
- South Africa already suffers some of the world's highest levels of alcohol-related harm. Statistics indicate that alcohol is linked to over half of violent injuries and 27% of road deaths are alcohol related, with the economic costs running into billions of rands annually.
- “Every billboard, sports sponsorship and social media post is an invitation to our children to drink. This is predatory marketing — and its effects are devastating: violence in our homes, blood on our roads, and illness in our hospitals. South Africa cannot continue to let the industry target our children,” said SAAPA SA Campaign Director Nomcebo Dlamini, who is also Deputy Chair of the Central Drug Authority. Dlamini's work with the

youth is the catalyst to her consistent pursuance of solutions to the challenges they face including substance abuse, which she sees as the cause of the derailment of many young lives especially in South Africa's disadvantaged urban, peri-urban and rural communities. SAAPA SA is calling for immediate government action to ban advertising and sponsorship that reaches youth (billboards near schools, sports sponsorships, online targeting). It also wants to replace industry self-regulation with statutory restrictions aligned with World Health Organisation recommendations and investment in safe, alcohol-free recreational and cultural spaces for youth.

“The science is clear. The harm is measurable. The victims are our children. This is a national public health emergency, and the time for decisive action is now,” the organisation said as it embarks on a national awareness campaign that also aims to involve leaders of all faiths in the exercise.

Editor's Note: Lenasia Times and its sister publications Eldorado Times, Lenasia Times, Benoni Times and Northern Times, have always had a firm policy of not accepting any alcohol-related advertising or indirect alcohol marketing editorial content.



Africa4Palestine commends Spain for boycotting Israel & FIFA, denounces SAFA

Alie Komape
Africa4Palestine

19 September 2025

The human rights organization #Africa4Palestine notes and applauds the announcement by Spanish authorities that they will boycott the 2026 FIFA world cup to be co-hosted in United States of America, Mexico and Canada if Israel is to be allowed to form part. Their statement comes shortly after a United Nations report found Israel guilty of the crime of Genocide in its ongoing onslaught on the People of Gaza.

Spanish authorities argue that FIFA cannot allow Israel to be part of the Sport for what they call an ‘intolerable’ situation in Gaza. The 2010 world champions further call out FIFA's hypocrisy when it comes to applying rules governing the global sport. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez did not mince his words when dealing with the double standards on the part of FIFA and applying its rules. He said ““The sports organizations should consider whether it's ethical for Israel to keep participating in international competitions. Why expel Russia after the invasion of Ukraine and not expel Israel after the invasion of Gaza? Until the barbarity ends, neither Russia nor Israel should be in any international competition.”

It is important to note that it only took FIFA 4 days after Russia's campaign in Ukraine to suspend Russia from all sporting activities and later removed all Russian football teams from UEFA and FIFA tournaments, solely in retaliation and quoting FIFA fair play principles. In South Africa, the courageous Spanish leaders remind us of our own history and those that gave us unconditional solidarity in several ways including through sports boycotts during our darkest days of Apartheid. The brutal and tragic slaughter of school children in Soweto in 1976, which was at the peak of the Apartheid regime proved to be the final straw for the world football governing body and ultimately expelled and banned South Africa as a member and participant. This followed a series of penalties and suspension that were simply not enough.

We are reminded of the African track and field athletes who refused to participate in the 1968 Olympics because of Apartheid South Africa's presence at the global games. We recall the Rugby boycotts and riots in the streets of London and Auckland that condemned South African Rugby to isolation. Cricket, Boxing, Tennis and other world sporting federations add to the long list of those who refused to be complicit in the oppression of native South Africans by a settler colonial regime. It is this painful and agonizing history that makes South Africans who we are today, a deeply caring society rooted in the spirit of Ubuntu, giving solidarity and empathy without expecting anything in return.

Given our history, it is despicable for the South African Football Association (SAFA) to be silent in the face of gross injustice. It is unfathomable that a country that received overwhelming solidarity in the field of sports, particularly football, will look the other way when the same, if not worse, is happening to others. Palestinians for over a decade have registered complaints to FIFA and on every occasion been ignored or simply dismissed. There's a deliberate ploy by FIFA and its administrators to treat Palestinians as sub-standard members of the global community, a group of people not worthy of equal treatment or fair judgement.

The SAFA leadership must bury their heads in shame for their continued silence on the Palestinian cause in the sporting arena and we should not allow them to use our name in their complicity. #Africa4Palestine joins millions of South Africans and football loving people worldwide in calling for FIFA to expel Israel and for SAFA to put an end to their complicity and support this noble cause.

We commend the exemplary leadership of the Spanish authorities, that in the face of unimaginable atrocities, they refuse to be silenced and choose to be on the right side of history. We are confident that SAFA will join the great people of Spain in saying “no normal sport with an abnormal regime”.

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Massive Palestine Walk for Freedom 2025 in Lenasia



Last year's Palestine Walk for Freedom in Lenasia.

The dawn of 5 October 2025 will be an overwhelming experience for South Africa. All persons of all races, all colours, all classes, all sizes and all shapes will be gathering and walking, to endorse global human rights for accommodation, food, education, justice and other values. This is expected to be the largest Walk for

Freedom for humanity in general and for Palestine in particular. Do join the effort to send a clear message to the colonialists and oppressors of the world. The carnage amidst the genocide being perpetrated by the Israeli and other Western regimes in full view of the global community leaves humanity in awe. No proponent of human rights and human

dignity should be standing by while humanity witnesses a heinous crime being committed against them. It really does appear as though, in the form of the United Nations, every state of the world is complicit in the commitment of the Palestinian genocide. The levels of murder, starvation, destruction of residential and commercial property, elimination of

established infrastructure and depopulation are but unprecedented crimes against humanity. In addition, peace brokers turn out to be biased and in fact facilitate the crime of genocide. While the Palestinian Catastrophe goes on revealing the nature of the horrendous genocide, Lenasia is busy preparing itself for the annual PSA Walk for Freedom. The Walk will

be hosted at Rose Park on Sunday 5 October 2025 at 08:00. It is envisaged that Lenasia will really come alive with most of the local residents and visitors from around South Africa converging on Rose Park. The PSA and PSA Youth League may also be hosting persons from the areas experiencing a bloodbath and genocide. This year Rose Park in Lenasia will be buzzing with a large variety of Pop-up stalls, community organizations, delicious foods and Palestine paraphernalia. Important Guest Speakers and Palestinian visitors are also expected to be engaged in vibrant Community Dialogue. Most certainly the attention of one and all present will be focused on but only one thing, the genocide. Various aspects of this vicious act of humanity against humanity will be talked about, thought about and deliberated on. In the minds of most people will be massacres of mothers, infants and the unborn; the destruction of homes, places of learning and civic infrastructure; starvation as a weapon of war when there is no

war; bombing of hospitals and the assassination of health workers and journalists; the displacement of an entire population; the deprivation of an entire people of water, electricity and other services. These are but some of the state-orchestrated crimes against humanity in desperation. Abdul Majeed of the PSA has announced an interesting new feature at the Walk for Freedom. This will be 'The Garden of Martyrs'

which will feature the names and photographs of many a martyr of the Gaza - Palestine genocide. Visitors and participants are urged to visit the site on 5 October at Rose Park. Entry tickets to the Walk for Freedom will be available at the entrance to Frontline Hyper every weekend and on Saturday 4 October 2025 at Rose Park. For further information interested patrons may contact 082 513 3750 / 083 258 2786 or communicate via www.palestinesa.co.za





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Honouring Heroes: SAPS Gauteng Commemoration Day remembers fallen officers



On Sunday, 14 September 2025, a solemn assembly was held at Linden SAPS, Boundary Road, to pay tribute to four Gauteng police officers who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty during the 2024/2025 financial year. Warrant Officer Sello Joel Masedi (SAPS Mohlakeng), Warrant Officer Mzukisi November (Katlhong North SAPS), Sergeant Winnie Elizabeth Ntila (SAPS Vosloorus), and Captain Wynand Du Toit (Springs SAPS) were honoured for

their bravery, dedication, and service. This event, part of the annual Provincial SAPS Commemoration Day, featured speeches and tributes from distinguished officials, including General Mathapelo Peters, Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Support Services in Gauteng. In her address, General Peters expressed sincere gratitude to all attendees, including notable dignitaries such as Dr. Bandile Masuko, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee for Community Safety; Johannesburg

Metropolitan Police Department Chief Patrick Jaca; and Lieutenant General Tommy Mtombeni, Provincial Commissioner of SAPS Gauteng. She emphasized the importance of the day, noting that it coincided with the national commemoration held by Deputy President Mashatile at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. General Peters commended the fallen officers, highlighting their embodiment of courage, commitment, and sacrifice—values central to the police service. She extended heartfelt condolences to

By Priya Ranchod

their families, acknowledging their resilience and strength amid grief. Reverend Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Mashiane led a prayer inspired by Romans 8, offering solace and comfort to the bereaved families and all in attendance. Lieutenant General Tommy Mtombeni, SAPS Gauteng Provincial Commissioner, also addressed the gathering, expressing appreciation for community support and reflecting on the risks faced daily by

police officers. He spoke poignantly about the youth of some of the fallen officers, particularly Sergeant Winnie Ntila, who was only 41 years old, underscoring the perilous nature of police work. He paid tribute to their unwavering dedication, stating, “Our fallen officers did not flee when faced with danger. They remained true to their oath.” Major General Nonhlanhla Kubheka, SAPS Johannesburg District Commissioner, echoed these sentiments, honouring the sacrifices of the fallen officers. She also extended gratitude to the Community Policing Forums (CPF), sponsors, and labour unions for their support,

and highlighted the memorial garden as a lasting tribute to these heroes. A poignant moment occurred during the tribute from the families of the fallen officers. Nthabiseng November, widow of Warrant Officer Mzukisi November, shared heartfelt memories of her late husband, recalling the shock of his death on 5 July 2024 and celebrating his sense of humor and devotion to family. Her sister-in-law, Ndiviwe Lufhuno, also paid tribute, describing Mzukisi’s protective and caring nature and expressing gratitude for his service to the community. As the ceremony drew to a close, Major

General Kubheka thanked all participants and urged attendees to uphold the core values exemplified by the fallen officers—courage, justice, and service. The event concluded with a moment of silence and the symbolic release of doves, serving as a lasting tribute to their sacrifices. Their legacy continues to inspire colleagues and the community, reinforcing the ongoing commitment to safety and service. May the souls of these brave officers rest in peace, and may their dedication continue to motivate those committed to protecting our nation.



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What, if any, punitive measures will the world adopt against the Zionist regime?

Trump's compromised weakness has rendered America utterly impotent and subservient to Israel

On the Zionist regime's terrorist attack on Qatar, Max Blumenthal makes absolute sense with his poignant observation that a lawless axis of messianic genocidal gangsterism spans seamlessly from Tel Aviv to Washington. As author of "Goliath - Life and Loathing in Greater Israel", Blumenthal's scathing study was described by Rashid Khalidi as lifting the carefully maintained veil concealing the

reality of Israel. Between then in 2013 when "Goliath" was published and today, the genocidal apartheid regime has itself undermined its own carefully constructed myths of being a "rational, responsible and democratic state". The impunity with which the Zionist colonial entity continues to brazenly flout civilised norms and arrogantly defy international humanitarian laws, has deservedly earned it the humiliating status of a pariah regime. Though the attack on Doha in Qatar has been condemned by most of the world as an illegal, immoral and outrageous violation of Qatar's sovereignty, Israel's war criminals led by Benjamin Netanyahu have vowed to not halt its aggression. Having failed to attain its military goal of wiping out Hamas's top leadership in the military attack made up of ten fighter jets dropping fifteen missiles on the residential apartment where ceasefire mediation talks were scheduled, Israel is adamant to strike again. Despite being indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, Netanyahu remains undeterred and defiant: "They (Hamas) don't gain immunity just because they are in one capital as opposed to another." And to confirm this mockery Danny Danon, Israel's UN envoy is equally belligerent: "There will be no immunity for terrorists - neither in Gaza, nor in Lebanon, nor in Qatar". Making clear that not a single country's territorial integrity or sovereignty will be safe from Israel's military action, Danon's threat cannot be taken lightly especially by South Africa. "Israel will not shy away and will continue to act decisively against the terrorist leaders wherever they are hiding, until the hostages are returned and security is restored to our citizens." Washington Post confirms that since Oct. 7, Israel's campaign to destroy Hamas in Gaza has "sprawled into a web of interconnected conflicts across the region — involving Israeli strikes in the Palestinian territories and five countries, with Tuesday's strike on Qatar expanding the fight to the Persian Gulf". On the question of whether US president Trump had given his approval or not for the

attack on America's Gulf ally, Netanyahu's claim about the bombings being a "wholly independent" operation, has been contradicted. An Israeli official told Israel's Channel 12 that Trump had given the green light for the strike. While widespread global condemnation has erupted following the attack, it is a foregone conclusion that Netanyahu's goal to kill Hamas's senior leadership was tied to his aim to eliminate all prospects of a ceasefire. Al Jazeera reports on the anguished frustration within families of captives who believe that Netanyahu insists on "blowing up every small chance for a deal". It cites the view of Einav Zangauker, mother of Israeli captive Matan Zangauker, who says she's trembling with fear that her son's fate has now been sealed after Israel's attack in Qatar. "Why does the prime minister insist on blowing up every small chance for a deal? Why?" she said in a video sent to journalists. "The people of Israel are tired of this war. End it already and bring everyone back." Al Jazeera also quotes Udi Goren, whose cousin Tal Haimi's body is still in Gaza, as decrying the Israeli strike on Doha. "I'm horrified at the idea that when we finally had an American-led deal that could have led to the release of our hostages, this is the action that took place," Goren said. "The only way that my cousin Tal will be back for burial is by a negotiated deal." While global attention is fixated on Israel's outrageous attack of Qatar, in Gaza another high-rise building has been targeted - the seventh major tower reduced to rubble - as Israel continues its criminal rape of Gaza. Latest stats reveal that Israel's genocide in Gaza has killed at least 64,656 people and wounded 163,503 since October 2023. Thousands more are believed to be under the rubble. Against this background it is encouraging to note that the team at DIRCO led by Minister Ronald Lamola including DG Zane Dangor has reaffirmed South Africa's unwavering commitment to the case of genocide it had filed against Israel at the International Court of Justice. Addressing the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation and the Portfolio Committee on Justice and

Constitutional Development, Lamola warned Gaza and Palestinians "are being wiped off the map". "Should we stand back and remain silent when innocent civilians are killed or starved right before our eyes? "A different question could be Where does impunity end? "Who should ensure that there is no exceptionalism? "Should we accept a world where it is acceptable for over 60 000 people are indiscriminately killed? "What would our silence imply? "Do we find the daily killing of journalists, health care workers and children as well as the violations of international law acceptable? "Do we not believe that preventing a genocide is a shared duty. "As the South Africa government, we have chosen to act in accordance with our constitutional values and international law obligations. "We have chosen to be on the side of the global majority that has rejected these horrific actions". Lamola reminded the committees about Archbishop Makgoba's recent observation in a Timeslive opinion piece dated 4 September 2025, "In April 2024, Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng — the South African medical doctor serving as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health — warned the Human Rights Council that the health system in Gaza had been "completely obliterated" and that the right to health had been "decimated at every level". Earlier in a separate statement, South Africa unequivocally condemned the illegal and unprovoked attack carried out by the Israeli Defence Force in Doha, Qatar, which targeted a civilian building in a residential area, which purportedly housed members of the Political Bureau of Hamas. "This attack on Qatari territory constitutes a blatant violation of international law, breaching the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, while also compromising the safeguarding of civilians as outlined in the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law". While the world awaits punitive measures against Israel, it is clear that no such action will be forthcoming from a weak, and heavily compromised Trump.

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Formula K racing comes to Benoni

With the curtain closed on the national championship season, attention now turns to the regional stage as the Northern Regions Rotax Kart Championship enters its decisive phase.

Round 5 returns to Formula-K Raceway in Benoni on the weekend of 26th September, the same circuit that staged the season opener back in March. For the Toyota Gazoo Racing Junior Academy (TGRJA), the regional campaign remains

crucial, with several drivers still firmly in contention for silverware. **Senior MAX: Swartz Leads the Charge** Former national and regional champion Kent Swartz heads into the weekend as the clear title contender, holding

the championship lead thanks to his consistency across the season. Swartz will be looking to repeat his strong early-season form at Formula-K, where he took victory during the opening round. Teammate Georgia Lenaerts, currently seventh in the standings, is eager to convert her pace into results after a season of mixed fortunes. Lenaerts recorded her best heat finish of the season at Formula-K during the opening round, a runner-up finish. **Junior MAX: Dowling and Shisinwana on the Hunt** In Junior MAX, the academy boasts two drivers in the thick of the battle. Tshepang

Shisinwana lies second in the standings, just 15 points adrift of the leader. His pace has been evident throughout the year, and he will be determined to close the gap this weekend. Emma-Rose Dowling, who missed the opening round, is not far behind in fourth, having shown her ability to win races at both national and regional levels. With two rounds left, both drivers remain genuine championship threats. **Mini MAX: Kaiyamo Twins Continue Their Growth** Namibian twins Nande and Mandume Kaiyamo have made huge strides since joining the academy at the start of the season. Competing against Gauteng's best, Nande currently sits seventh in the points, while Mandume is 12th. Their determination, despite balancing extensive travel and schooling commitments, continues to highlight the academy's focus on

long-term driver development. Team Principal Leeroy Poulter is optimistic about the weekend's prospects: "Formula-K has always been a circuit that demands precision and bravery. Our drivers showed great pace here earlier in the season, and with some championships still open, we're expecting

another strong showing across the classes." Round 5 promises another intense day of Rotax competition, with qualifying and three heats deciding the overall winners. Entry for spectators is free, and fans are encouraged to come and support the next generation of South African motorsport stars.

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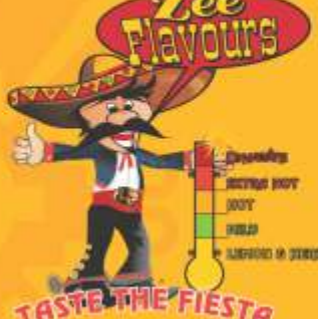


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