



An associated publication of Lenasia Times

imes

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SEPTEMBER 2025 VOLUME: 14 NO.09

MONTH-END ISSUE



Call to ban advertising and sponsorship that reaches youth

mid 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

- 22% drank in the past 30 days; 15% were drunk at least once in the past
- 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

• 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, - >>> to Pg 02







Page 02 SOWETO TIMES September, 2025

Massive Palestine Walk for Freedom 2025 in Lenasia



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he 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 Freddom for humanity in general and for Palestine in particular. Do join the effort to send a clear

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

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the commitment of the Palestinian genocide. The levels of murder, starvation, destruction of residential and commercial property, elimination of e s t a b l i s h e d 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, c o m m u n i t y 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 stateorchestrated 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



Last year's Palestine Walk for Freedom in Lenasia

Call to ban advertising and sponsorship that reaches youth

>>> from Pg 01 - 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.

Editors Note: Soweto 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.



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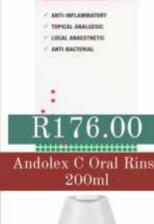
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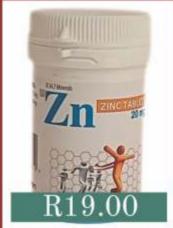
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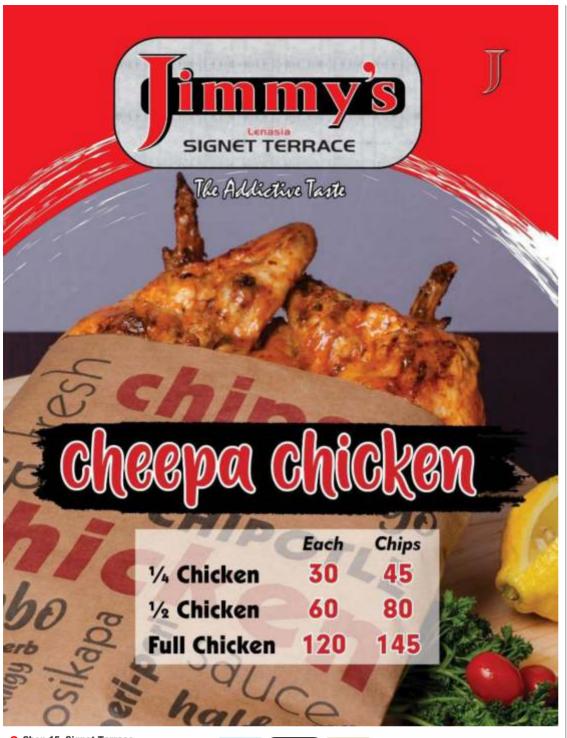
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Seminar on Inclusive **Economy and Growth** in the Townships at Soweto Theatre

he City of Johannesburg's Department of E c o n o m i c Development (DED), together with its partners, successfully hosted Day 2 of the seminar on "Unlocking the Potential of Industrial Parks for an **Inclusive Economy and** Growth in the Townships" at the Soweto Theatre on Thursday, 18 September 2025.

The two-day workshop forms part of the City's efforts to position Johannesburg as a hub for economic growth. Industrial parks are recognised as a critical catalyst for job creation, skills development, and enterprise support within township economies, with a strong focus on empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises.

DED Executive Director Mathopane Masha emphasised the City's commitment to revitalising industrial parks and supporting businesses: "The mayor has set a target of growing Johannesburg's economy by 3%, and much of that growth must



come from SMMEs in the townships. That's why we are finalising township by-laws, creating enabling infrastructure, and exploring incentives such as easing rental or utility costs for businesses that create

Day 2 of the programme focused implementation pathways and partnerships, bringing together government, development finance

institutions, business, and community stakeholders to chart a way forward for revitalising industrial parks.

Small Business Development Deputy Minister Jane Sithole underscored the central role of MSMEs in township industrialisation and job creation. "Collaboration between national, provincial, and local government is key to unlocking the full potential of industrial parks. We must work together to remove blockages so that industrial parks become engines of small business growth, job creation and an inclusive economy."

Thami Klassen from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition said the workshop was designed to deliver tangible results. "Our mandate is to revitalise industrial parks and set them up as catalysts for economic development and industrialisation in the townships."

Khotso Molaba from the Soweto Business Chamber emphasised the importance of accountability and inclusivity: "If there's anything about us, it cannot be without us. We also need to ensure the circulation of the black rand grows before leaving the township."

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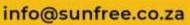














Prominent Taxi Association Chairman Gunned Down in Soweto By Priya Ranchod

hami Moyo, also known as STK (58), the chairman of a local taxi association, was fatally shot in Soweto on Thursday, 18

September 2025, around 9:30am.

According to SAPS Gauteng spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Mavela Masondo, the victim was driving along Soweto Highway in Diepkloof when he was intercepted by suspects in two vehicles. The assailants opened fire, and Moyo was declared dead at the scene.

While the exact motive remains unconfirmed, authorities suspect the incident may be linked to ongoing taxi violence.

The police urge anyone with relevant information to come forward. Tips can be provided at the nearest station, via Crime Stop at 08600 10111, or anonymously through the MySAPS App, available for download on smartphones.

Breakthrough in Zuma Murder Case: SAPS National Intervention Unit Neutralises Key Suspect in Soweto

n a decisive development on S u n d a y , 7 September 2025, the South African Police Service's National Intervention Unit (NIU) tracked down and fatally wounded a suspect linked to the 2020 murder of Zwelabantu Zuma, a respected school principal from Msinga, KwaZulu-Natal.

The 40-year-old male suspect, also implicated in several other serious crimes including carjacking and unlawful possession of a firearm, had been evading arrest for months.

The suspect was located in a hostel in Mapetla, Soweto, following an intensive investigation that led to the reissuance of a J50 arrest warrant

n a decisive development on S u n d a y, 7 tember 2025, the th African Police vice's National emerged. As NIU officers moved in, the suspect allegedly opened fire, prompting police to return fire, resulting in his death.

Zwelabantu Zuma was shot and killed in his school office in 2020 — a case that shocked the community and prompted a lengthy investigation. Although the suspect had previously been arrested in connection with the murder, the charges were dropped due to insufficient evidence. However, SAPS investigators persisted, ultimately securing new information that

reopened the case.
In addition to his suspected role in Zuma's murder, the man was wanted for other offences in KwaZulu-Natal. The broader investigation

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into the murder has already resulted in two individuals receiving life sentences, while two other suspects died before they could be

brought to trial.

Police confirm that a fifth suspect remains at large.

Authorities have appealed to the public for any information that may assist in concluding the

SAPS national spokesperson Brigadier Athlenda Mathe praised the efforts of the investigative team, affirminglaw enforcement's ongoing commitment: "We will not rest until every individual responsible for this heinous act is held accountable."

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Soweto's Rising Table Tennis Stars Seek Support to Compete in Durban



mong the nine talented junior players from the Lenasia Table Tennis Association (LTTA) selected to represent the upcoming National Table Tennis Championships in Durban are two promising 16-year-olds who hail from Soweto,

Manqoba Nyamate and Awande Zulu, both from Sekano Ntoane Secondary School.

LTTA are appealing to the public and local businesses for support to help fund their trip and participation in this prestigious event which will take place during the first week of October.

The LTTA's nine junior players have earned their

spots through hard work and exceptional performance, with Nyamate and Zule standing out as Soweto's pride.

Nyamate began playing table tennis in 2022 at Isipho Primary School, quickly making his mark by qualifying for District and Provincial School Summer Games in his first year. His impressive journey includes reaching the semi-finals at the Raiders Junior Championships and Ekurhuleni Open, as well as quarter-finals at the Joburg and M.T.T.C Opens. In 2025, Manqoba was selected through Johannesburg Table Tennis Association (JTTA) trials to represent South Africa at nationals. Zulu's journey has mirrored this rapid ascent. Also starting in 2022, he qualified for provincial competitions early and gained

international experience at the India Khelo Tournament, reaching the quarter-finals in the Under-15 category. Awande joined the LTTA to push his limits and sharpen his skills against South Africa's best. His steady progress earned him a place in the JTTA Junior League and, subsequently, the national championships. The LTTA, a non-profit organisation, is appealing for financial assistance to cover the costs of travel, accommodation, food, and other essentials. Supporting all nine junior players requires approximately R42,000, with an individual cost of

transport. Vikas Kasan, Chairperson of LTTA, expressed pride in the players' achievements but emphasised the financial challenge: "We are incredibly proud of the talent within our club. This tournament offers crucial exposure at the

R3,700 per player which

accommodation and

covers

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highest level, but the costs are substantial. We urge the public and businesses to help make this opportunity possible for these hardworking athletes."

Those willing to contribute or learn more

can contact Vikas Kasan on 082 495 9157.

With community support, Nyamate and Zulu, and their teammates will proudly represent LTTA and Johannesburg, inspiring future generations of

table tennis players across South Africa.

Photo of Manqoba Nyamate and Awande Zulu. Photo credit: Lenasia Table Tennis Association



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