

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

# NSFAS to relocate from R2m a month CT office

CHRISTOPHER BUDA

MINISTER of Higher Education and Technology, Nobuhle Nkabane, has announced plans to move the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) out of its current Cape Town office, which costs R2 million per month.

This follows scrutiny from Parliament's higher education portfolio committee last month, which questioned the high rental cost amid ongoing financial challenges, including delays in paying student allowances.

NSFAS said it had previously relocated from a R600 000 per month office to the more expensive office in Christiaan Barnard Street along the Foreshore, to be closer to stakeholders and to be more accessible to students.

However, despite being centrally located, the office was not on major bus or taxi routes, making it difficult for students to access.

Portfolio committee chairperson, Tebogo Letsie, welcomed the minister's decision to terminate the rental agreement.

"The planned termination of this insane lease agreement is long overdue and is a positive step towards addressing decades of mismanagement of student affairs by NSFAS.

"NSFAS budget is bigger than many national departments and we have always maintained that the offices of NSFAS must be in Gauteng where we have the highest concentration of the student population," Letsie previously said.

Members of the committee also questioned why the head office was based in Cape Town rather than Gauteng, where the majority of students were located.

Former NSFAS spokesperson, Slumezi Skosana, defended the initial move, stating their previous Wynberg office, despite being close to major transport routes, was less accessible to students compared to the current location.

However, MPs pointed out that the current office's inaccessibility was compounded by its placement in one of Cape Town's prime office blocks, with a view of the harbour.

Addressing the matter before Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) this week, Nkabane confirmed that NSFAS would find more cost-effective office spaces by the next academic year.

She outlined plans to regionalise the scheme's operations, with four provinces set to have regional offices which includes the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal, while mobile offices will be stationed at various institutions in other provinces.

WASTE STRATEGY



CITY staffers remove illegally dumped waste as the public has until today to comment on its Waste Strategy. The City currently manages about 2.1 million tonnes of waste annually, with about 31.53% of this waste currently diverted from landfill. To comment on the strategy visit [www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay](http://www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay)

A CELEBRATION OF RUNNING

# CT hosts 2024 Sanlam Marathon

STAFF REPORTER

THE City will host the 2024 Sanlam Cape Town Marathon taking place this weekend, with 21 000 runners, including some of Africa's top athletes, gathering to explore the metro's diverse suburbs and landmarks on foot.

The 5km and 10km peace runs will take place tomorrow.

Setting off outside the DHL Stadium on Sunday, the marathon race will take athletes on a 42.2 km route to Newlands via Nelson Mandela Boulevard, passing through Woodstock, Salt River and Mowbray before heading back to the city centre, Sea Point and finishing on Vlei Road in Green Point.

The race will also pass some of the Mother City's iconic landmarks, including Rondebosch Common, District Six, the Castle of Good Hope and City Hall, among others.

"We have mobilised our staff to assist in making this a possibility in the planning phase and on race day," said safety and security Mayco member, JP Smith.

"Our Events Coordinating Committee has worked with the marathon's management for months to finalise a route fit for an Abbott World Marathon Majors race, and our Safety and Security personnel are prepared to ensure the race route is protected while also putting measures in place for residents to continue

their Sunday routines without too much inconvenience.

"This is a race for Cape Town and we hope residents and visitors near the route will come out to show support to the runners," Smith said.

The stakes are higher than ever with a prize pool of \$50 000 on offer for the top podium finishers.

Both the men's and women's marathon champions will take home \$25 000, while the second and third-place finishers will receive \$15 000 and \$10 000, respectively.

Race director, Barry van Blerk, expressed his excitement: "This year's Sanlam Cape Town Marathon is set to showcase the best marathon elite field ever assembled on African soil. With a prize pool to match, we expect an extraordinary level of competition, and, weather permitting, the course records will undoubtedly be challenged."

All eyes will be on South African athletes Glenrose Xaba and Cian Oldknow as they both aim to make history.

Xaba, in her marathon debut, has already proven herself by breaking Elana Meyer's 23-year-old 10km record and reigning supreme over multiple distances. Oldknow's marathon personal best of 2:25:08 from the Seville Marathon in February this year, is the second fastest time by a South African.

Oldknow was crowned SA Mara-

thon Champion at the Durban International Marathon in April with a 2:29:46. The 2023 winners of the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon, Tsige Hailse (Ethiopia) and Adane Kebede Gebre (Ethiopia), will return to defend their titles.

"There's no doubt that African runners dominate the sport, and as a proudly Pan-African group, it is only fitting that we ensure the rest of the continent is able to unite in Cape Town to run Africa's only Abbott World Marathon Majors candidacy race," said Karl Socikwa, group executive of market development and sustainability at Sanlam.

"We have extended invitations to athletics bodies across our 27 markets in an attempt to identify promising top marathon runners.

"Our commitment to unlocking Africa's untapped talent will see 25 athletes from countries such as Mali, Namibia, Botswana and more, compete with confidence on a world stage on African soil."

The City advised of road closures and no parking areas for the marathon, which include Portswood Drive, Main Road in Greenpoint, and Three Anchor Bay Road, each closed from 8am today until Sunday.

A comprehensive list of road closures can be found here: [eventsincape.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/SCTM24-Road-Closures-V9.pdf](http://eventsincape.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/SCTM24-Road-Closures-V9.pdf)

OFFENDED

# Crispin Sonn apologises to Bishops for pro-Palestine post

SINENHLANHLA MASILELA

BISHOPS Diocesan College council chairperson, Crispin Sonn, has issued an apology after he made a pro-Palestine post on his Facebook page.

In an email exchange seen by *Independent Media*, the Bishops council indicated that it had convened to discuss Sonn's post on Friday, which has since been deleted, after some members were left deeply offended by what he wrote.

"In his submissions to council,

Crispin clarified that it was never his intention to single out one particular grouping, nation or belief system for criticism, and that he could have expressed himself more clearly and sensitively to avoid any such misunderstanding of his message," read the email.

In his reply and subsequent apology, Sonn said after reading many of the comments in response to the post, he realised the message he had intended to share, had been misunderstood by some, hence he immediately withdrew and deleted the post.



CRISPIN Sonn. | DAVID RITCHIE Independent Newspapers

"I want to clarify that my intention was not to single out any particular grouping or belief system, but rather to condemn the harmful practice of dehumanisation in all its forms.

"I regret that I didn't articulate what I intended as a non-partisan message more clearly and with greater sensitivity.

"I'm sorry for the offence my post has caused," he said in his email.

Sonn added that he was opposed to anti-Semitic behaviour as well as racism.

"I believe my public record and conduct over a lifetime stand in testimony of this," he said.

"I trust that any anger around my since-deleted Facebook post can be put to rest, and that we can collectively refocus on building on the excellent foundations laid at Bishops over a period already approaching two centuries," he added in his apology.

*Independent Media* reached out to Sonn for further comment, but his phone was not answered and a WhatsApp text message was not replied to.



PROPERTY MARKET

# West Coast homes in high demand

VERNONPILLAY  
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SMALL towns in the Western Cape are booming when it comes to property sales as more and more people are looking to move to smaller coastal areas.

According to the Seeff Property Group, West Coast towns and villages are no longer just for holidays and retirement.

The areas of Langebaan, Yzerfontein, St Helena Bay and Elands Bay have seen a strong shift in sales activities during the market boom of 2021/22.

Seeff noted that the migration of wealth to the West Coast is seeing prices of up to R8 million being paid for luxury homes in Langebaan.

According to Lightstone data, the Langebaan property market has seen transactions of over R1.3 billion from September 2023 to September 2024.

Seeff found that people who have to work or do business in Saldanha and Vredenburg, as well as those who come to the West Coast for contracts and other company-related matters are choosing to stay in Langebaan.



LANGEBAAN Marina has become a sought after location for people looking to invest in the West Coast property market. | Seeff

The fact that Langebaan is only a two-hour drive from Cape Town is a plus for tourists and therefore is a popular destination for Capetonians who own homes in the area, and may rent it out on platforms like Airbnb.

Research from Lightstone revealed that West Coast property markets experienced a significant boom during 2021/22, leading to substantial growth in median prices over the past five years.

In areas like Yzerfontein and Pateroster, prices have doubled, while locations such as Langebaan, Malmesbury, and St Helena saw a marked increase.

The data found that most towns experienced growth between 60% to high as 196% over the last ten years.

The West Coast is booming, but according to Propstats data, so is Hout Bay.

It seems that Hout Bay's property value is soaring when compared to the rest of the country.

The average home price growth across the country is now below 1%, according to the latest data from the First National Bank House Price Index.

But recent sales in Hout Bay show that the overall average selling price in the area now stands at around R5.1 million.

The location has picked up investors over the last few years due to semi-automation and the rise in remote work, according to data from Revo Property.

Hout Bay's property value has increased by 37% since 2019. This represented an annual growth of around 6.7% per annum, well above the average consumer price index (CPI) rate, now at 4.6%.

**SEA POINT**  
City Improvement District

**Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The Sea Point City Improvement District NPC will be hosting an AGM. All stakeholders are invited to a review of the past financial year's activities and planning for 2025/26.

**Date:** 13 November 2024  
**Time:** 10h30  
**Venue:** Protea Hotel Marriott Arthurs Road Sea Point

Resolutions presented at the meeting can only be voted on by bona fide members of the Sea Point City Improvement District. This membership is available free of charge to all owners of property within the Sea Point City Improvement District footprint who are liable for the additional rate (additional rate payers), but they must be registered before 6 November 2024.

To register as a member or access further information and documentation go to [www.seapointcid.co.za](http://www.seapointcid.co.za) (CID web page) or call 021 434 1234.

ACM38588

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**Please note:**  
The deadline is 5 working days prior to publication

ACM328751

**LITTLE MOWBRAY AND ROSEBANK IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NPC (AGM)**

NPC 2016/311084/08  
2 Raleigh Road, Little Mowbray 7700  
info@lmrid.capetown www.lmrid.capetown

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Little Mowbray and Rosebank Improvement District NPC (LMRID) will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM). All stakeholders are invited to a review of the year's activities and planning for 2025/26.

**Date:** Thursday 14th November, 2024  
**Time:** 19h00 (registration for meeting), 19h30 (meeting commencement)  
**Venue:** Mossop Hall, cnr Cheltenham and Roseberry Roads, Little Mowbray.

Resolutions presented at the AGM may only be voted on by bona fide members of the LMRID. Membership is free of charge to all owners of property within the LMRID footprint who are liable for the additional rate (additional rate payers), but they must be registered before 7th November, 2024.

To register as a member or access further information and documentation go to: [www.lmrid.capetown](http://www.lmrid.capetown), email: [info@lmrid.capetown](mailto:info@lmrid.capetown) or phone 08610 56743

ACM LMRID 1042

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