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# Bodenstein Park to be transformed

Maintenance has resumed once again at the popular Paul Bodenstein Park opposite the Rustenburg Civic Centre after periods of “neglect” following damaged equipment at the Rustenburg Municipality earlier. The rainy season proved to be a bad time for interruptions in maintenance issues with tall grass and overgrowth to almost gigantic proportions before the Parks division of the Rustenburg Municipality could intervene. Great news for the Rustenburg community is that the RLM currently awaits proposals and suggestions by the Rustenburg business sector on how the Bodenstein Park could be utilized to maximum benefit of the entire community. The public/business sector is invited to send proposals to the RLM’s Manager of Park at [ljele@rustenburg.gov.za](mailto:ljele@rustenburg.gov.za)

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# Presidential Imbizo held in the North West



The President was flanked by a number of his Cabinet Ministers.



Residents who attended the Imbizo.

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**BONUS - RUSTENBURG -** President Cyril Ramaphosa has described his Presidential Imbizo in the North West province as a success after holding a fruitful session with community members.

He arrived at the Mmabatho Stadium in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality on Saturday (12 March), where scores of residents had gathered.

He interacted with people and listened to their experiences of daily life in the province, service delivery challenges as well as their initiatives and solutions to improve socio-economic conditions. The President was flanked by a number of his Cabinet Ministers,

including Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Employment and Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi, Minister in the Presidency Mondli Gungubele, Minister of Tourism Lindiwe Sisulu,

Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu and Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe, among others. The President told the community members that he had heard their cries and that government will be focusing more on service delivery.

## Gender Based Violence Awareness Campaign held in Boitekong



Boitekong Community Policing Forum (CPF) in partnership with various stakeholders held an awareness campaign against "Gender Based Violence" at Boitekong Stadium. (Photo: SAPS).

**BONUS - RUSTENBURG -** On Wednesday (9 March) the Boitekong Community Policing Forum (CPF) in partnership with various stakeholders held an awareness campaign against "Gender Based Violence" at Boitekong Stadium.

The campaign was initiated by the CPF after a high volume of domestic and gender based violence cases were reported from the area. With the help of the Boitekong Community Policing Officer (CPO), event's coordinator Sergeant Lousa Magano, CPF members and social workers, thirty learners from three local primary schools that were found to be affected by domestic or gender based violence circumstances were invited and presented with hampers by Impala Platinum mines.

The main speaker of the day was Ms Setadile Manhen a social worker from Thuthuzela Trauma Centre (National Prosecuting Authority) who further enlightened the attendees about the different levels of abuse and the remedies thereof.

Sergeant Happy Mafora who is the commander of sector 1 and where the event was held, warned the

community about dangers of withdrawing gender based violence cases and urged them to refrain from such behaviour.

The Boitekong SAPS led by the station commander Colonel Ganas, Lieutenant Colonel Miller (Head of Visible Policing), Captain Maitlobo (Head of Crime Prevention) and the Bojanala Sub District 2 CPF chairperson Mr Phatlhaphatla were in attendance as expected giving guidance and support especially during the the questions and answers session. Colonel Ganas thanked the community for honouring the event through their attendance irrespective of the pouring rain. He further assured the community that he will continue striving to improve the level of service delivery by the Boitekong police especially where women and children are being abused.

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# Russian war: South African bread in the firing line

**BONUS - RUSTENBURG - Russia's invasion of Ukraine will make bread in South Africa a lot more expensive, but consumers will only start to feel the pinch three months from now, an economist has warned.**

Between them, Russia and Ukraine control more than a quarter of the world's wheat exports, and Russia's invasion has caused a surge in the price of essential grains.

The ripple effect will start to reflect on retail shelves in South Africa in about three months an economist at Grain SA said.

But is not only local bread that will increase - cereal prices will also see a price hike due to higher wheat prices.

With the cost of bread edging higher, buying in bulk and storing it may become an attractive proposition. If appropriately sealed in a bag, most shop-bought breads freeze well

and can be kept in the fridge for up to six months.

Just where markets will settle – and so how much bread will actually cost – is not yet clear. But between a weaker exchange rate, higher oil prices, and increases in fuel prices, bread prices are set to soar.

The war in Europe comes at a time when South African farmers are already battling exorbitant input costs, including double and triple-digit increases in fertiliser costs.

Jannie Strydom of Agri Western Cape told media that lower-income groups would be significantly affected by increases in bread prices and other staple foods such as maize meal.

“The price of maize is determined by global markets, and should there be a shortage, an increase is inevitable and could result in an increase in staple food prices,” Strydom said.

For now, Pick n Pay, one of South Africa's leading grocery retailers, has been able to contain internal food inflation below the official inflation, it says.

It said the coming months would be



challenging as fuel costs continue to climb. To exacerbate these challenges, raw ingredient cost inflation to core commodities, such as oil and wheat, is also rising.

“These will have an impact on local

prices. We will always try to mitigate the impact on customers and fight to keep prices down. These continued efforts have consistently helped us keep our internal selling price inflation well below CPI food inflation,” Pick n Pay said.

## Vandalism of water infrastructure slammed



**BONUS - RUSTENBURG - The African National Congress (ANC) in the North West Provincial Legislature has slammed the recent vandalising of water infrastructure in Kgetleng Rivier and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities. In a member statement tabled during the recent legislature sitting,**

ANC Chief Whip, Paul Sebegoe said that such destructive acts deepen the already existing water crisis affecting many communities.

“Vandalism of Water infrastructure negatively impacts on the financial viability of water and sanitation utilities as well as reduces access to a suitable quantity and quality of water, which may lead to communities using reduced volumes of water,” pointed out Sebegoe.

He called on communities to work together in protecting all infrastructure, including

water infrastructure to avoid damage and service provision disruptions stressing that these acts of vandalism have a negative impact on water reticulation and the standard of water for consumption.

He highlighted that unauthorized water use, including the construction of illegal dams play a pivotal role in the scarcity of water in the province and must be prohibited.

Sebegoe urged communities to continue working close with the South African Police Service and to report all these crimes in order to ultimately hold perpetrators to account.

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## Is State of Disaster at an end?

**BONUS - RUSTENBURG - South Africa's National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) will meet on today (Monday,14 March) to discuss updated lockdown restrictions for South Africa.**

Government ministers have been given until this week to draft new regulations that will replace the state of disaster. Once these have been agreed upon, the regulations will be gazetted and president Cyril Ramaphosa will address the nation.

However, there are concerns over the amount of regulatory authority the health

department would have once the pandemic is no longer subject to the National Disaster Management Act.

Addressing media on Saturday evening, Ramaphosa said the government was still considering whether to extend the state of disaster this week and what regulations it will introduce to replace it.

“It will not be heavy duty, it will be light duty so that we are able to manage this pandemic going forward. People should not stress too much about this, we are finding the best way possible of bringing a logical conclusion to the (end) of the state of disaster,” he said.

South Africa's state of disaster is set to expire on 15 March 2022. This would make it 24 months since it was first declared at the end of March 2020.

While the national state of disaster was initially set to lapse on 15 June 2020, the act provides that it can be extended by the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs minister by notice in the gazette for one month at a time before it lapses.

The government has relied on the regulations to introduce and give effect to lockdown restrictions, which it has used to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ramaphosa has previously indicated that the latest state of disaster extension will be the last, with the government now expected to introduce more permanent long-term regulations to help manage Covid in the country.

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# New Blank Space Art competition launched

**BONUS - RUSTENBURG - The first two winners of our Blank Space Art competition 2022 have been announced and once again it's the start of brand new things.**

New entries for the competition with quarterly winners) and two Pick n Pay prize-money of R1 000 (for two monthly/ shopping vouchers to the value of R10 000

each are currently awaited. Artists are invited to enter free of charge but please remember - it is important to complete the “entry form” at the bottom of each page where we need the full particulars of every artist.

We need the name, age, and cell number of the artist on every entry, otherwise you will be disqualified. Also remember, it is important for Rustenburg Herald/Bonus to be able to reach you (or a designated person on your behalf) during office/school hours otherwise another winner will be chosen. Rustenburg Herald/Bonus invites artists of all ages to enter for this competition - this could be the exposure that you have waiting for. You may enter as many entries as you

wish. Entries submitted could be in just about every style and format imaginable - you could use any type of paint, pen, pencil, clay, ceramic, wood, glass, paper, metal or whatever you prefer provided that you use the Blank Space entry form in Rustenburg Herald/Bonus.

Entries could be “posted” into the Blank Space entry boxes at both Pick n Pay Stores (Pick n Pay Beyers Naudé Lifestyle Square and Pick n Pay Greystone Crossing Azalea Park). We also have an entry box at reception of Rustenburg Herald’s offices in 13 Coetzer Street, Eastern Industrial area. The closing date of the new competition will be announced shortly.



Christelle Niemandt of Rustenburg Herald congratulating our second winner of R1 000 in our most recent Blank Space Art competition - Rianel Geyer. On the right mom Ronell Kruger is looking on.



# Kulula, British Airways flights suspended indefinitely

**BONUS - RUSTENBURG - South Africa's Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) has suspended Comair's Air Operator Certificate privileges indefinitely, as the regulator still needs to review evidence that it is safe for the airline to resume flights.**

Comair operates Kulula and British Airways in South Africa. Its licence is suspended until it addresses the SACAA's findings, the regulator stated.

According to the SACAA, Comair operations experienced issues ranging from engine failures, engine malfunction, and landing gear malfunctions in the past month.

It describes these as "level 1" and "level 2" findings, with level 1 being the most urgent.

Comair can appeal the suspension.

"The SACAA recognises the efforts of the operator to close the findings as speedily as possible and in this regard the operator started dispatching the evidence to the regulator from the evening of Saturday 12 March 2022," it stated.

"The inspectorate team worked through the night to review the evidence received and as at 06:30am on the morning of 13 March 2022 the regulator accepted the corrective action and evidence submitted in respect of one Level 1 finding. This therefore means this finding is now closed."

SACAA said the review of the rest of the evidence of which the latest was received around 07:30 this morning, will continue to be assessed and reviewed by the inspectorate this morning.

Two level 1 findings, and one level 2 finding remain to be addressed.

SACAA explained that under its oversight philosophy, a level 1 finding which poses an immediate risk must be closed immediately and a level 2 finding must be closed within seven days.

"The SACAA sought to confirm Comair's compliance with applicable Civil Aviation Regulations. The inspection was also aimed at reviewing Comair's quality control management system and safety management systems to establish compliance related to reporting, analysis and follow-up on occurrences, and corrective action plans to prevent recurrence," it stated.

"The commitment to safety in this case supersedes any other need and this is to ensure that South Africa maintains its safety record of having ZERO fatal airline accidents in over thirty years on South African soil."

In a statement issued on Sunday afternoon, Comair said that it continues to engage constructively with the regulator.

"Despite working through the night, Comair will not be able to resume operations today," it said.

"Our priority now is to assist passengers who have been stranded. We have chartered two aircraft to assist vulnerable passengers and those who most urgently need to travel."

# UKRAINE CRISIS: Government must suspend fuel levies to relieve pressure on food prices

**BONUS - RUSTENBURG - Agri SA's research and analysis has revealed that that the Ukraine-Russia crisis will have a serious impact on South Africa's food security and poses very real risks to parts of the agricultural sector.**

With global wheat prices and agricultural input costs skyrocketing, government must take urgent action and suspend the fuel levies to provide relief for farmers, especially the nation's small-scale farmers, and contain food prices for South African consumers.

South Africa's trade with the Ukraine has increased substantially over the last decade. Between 2016 and 2020, South Africa's agricultural exports to Ukraine more than doubled from R76,5 million in 2016 to R155 million in 2020. Agricultural imports have remained relatively stable, sitting at R390 million in 2020.

Ukraine and Russia are both major producers of wheat on the global market, accounting for a quarter of global wheat exports, and the disruption to the supply of this staple food will cause food price shocks globally, particularly in South Africa given that we import 30% of our total wheat from these nations.

Moreover, Russia is the leading supplier of fertiliser globally. Recent data shows that global fertiliser prices had already risen substantially between January 2021 and January 2022. Local fertiliser prices doubled while global prices quadrupled. Farmers were therefore already under pressure prior to the current crisis. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has only worsened this pressure.

Brent crude oil prices have also almost tripled between February and March 2022. With the recent and still expected fuel price increases, the cost of taking food to South African consumers will rise substantially in the coming months unless government acts to contain them.

This is why Agri SA is calling on government to suspend fuel levies while the Ukraine-Russia crisis persists in order to contain food prices. Failure to act can only exacerbate the pricing pressure on consumers, compromising food security in South Africa, especially for the most vulnerable in society.

In addition to consumers, the suspension of the fuel levies will also buttress vulnerable small-scale farmers from the increases in input costs, and from the expected hit to agricultural revenue from Ukraine and Russia.

Agricultural commodities make up more than half of all South African exports to Ukraine, the biggest of these being fruits and nuts. Parts of the sector are therefore likely to see a significant impact on their performance in the first quarter of 2022. Citrus in particular forms the majority

of exports to Ukraine valued at an estimated R133,7 million in 2020.

Blockages of exports to Russia will also knock South Africa's significant trade in agricultural commodities with that country. South Africa's agricultural exports to Russia are more than double agricultural imports. Agricultural imports remained stable around R2 billion from 2016 to 2020 while exports grew from R2,1 billion in 2016 to R4 billion in 2020.

The Ukraine-Russia conflict will therefore have substantial consequences for South Africa's agricultural sector performance, and government must take action to mitigate the devastating impact of this lost revenue on the nation's farmers by assisting with measures such as opening up market access so that products destined for Ukraine can be redirected. Every day this action is delayed puts much needed jobs in the sector at risk.

Agri SA will make every effort to engage government and industry stakeholders throughout the value chain to ensure that, together, we can keep South Africans adequately supplied with food in these uncertain and difficult economic times.

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Believe it or not ... Rustenburg Herald is still selling like hotcakes even though the death of the printed newspaper was predicted years ago. The demand for your only local community newspaper is growing, therefore we are inviting more local retailers to become part of our newspaper's distribution network. If you want to be a newsagent for Rustenburg Herald's newspapers, drop us an email at [circulation@rustenburgherald.co.za](mailto:circulation@rustenburgherald.co.za) or visit our office building at 13 Coetzer Str, Rustenburg to complete an application form.

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Lizette du Plessis of Run Walk for Life (left) completed the Cape Gate Vaal Half Marathon.



Charles Nkale of Run Walk for Life completed the 42.2km Johnson Crane Road Race.



Tjaart van der Walt of Run Walk for Life completed the Red Hub Ultra.

# Run Walk for Life



Gys de Beer, Christelle de Beer and Izelna Pienaar of Run Walk for Life completed the Cape Gate Vaal Half Marathon.

“Let nature give you a run for your money”

**BONUS - RUSTENBURG** - A strong field of SA's Elite trail runners will be seen in action at the 12th annual Thirsti AfricanX Trailrun Three-Day Stage Race that will take place at the picturesque Houw Hoek Hotel (Western Cape) from Saturday 19 to Monday 21 March 2022.

Top teams to look out for will include: Landie Greyling (Stellenbosch) and Danette Walley (Somerset West), AJ Calitz (Melkbosstrand) and Kerry-Ann Marshall (Newlands), Siviwe Nkombi (Mfuleni Township, Cape Flats) and Retsepile Khotle (Alberton Tokoza, East Joburg) and Kane Reilly (Newlands) and Daniel Claassen (Greenpoint) to mention just a few.

Launched in 2009, the Thirsti AfricanX Trailrun is synonymous with magnificent trails, spectacular views, mouth-watering food, a relaxed atmosphere, great vibe and most importantly, teamwork! Teams of two trail running enthusiasts (male/female/mixed) will be seen battling it out on a route varying in distances each day. Each stage will feature a different route that is guaranteed to keep things challenging, yet exciting while leaving runners in awe.

For additional information on the Thirsti AfricanX Trailrun 3-Day, 2-Day and/or 1-Day events please visit [www.stillwatersports.com](http://www.stillwatersports.com), contact Stillwater Sports on 082 991 0045 or email [entries@stillwatersports.com](mailto:entries@stillwatersports.com).



Siviwe Nkombi (Mfuleni Township, Cape Flats) and Retsepile Khotle (Alberton Tokoza, East Joburg) in action during the 2021 Thirsti AfricanX Trailrun Three-Day Stage Race. (Photo Credit: Tobias Ginsberg)

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