

Treasury withholds cash from municipalities

South Africa's Treasury will not be paying equitable share cash to 69 municipalities across South Africa this month. These include Dhlhlabeng (Bethlehem), Maluti-a-Phofung (Harrismith and QwaQwa), Nketoana (Reitz) and 13 other Free State Municipalities.

In a press release, Treasury said that they are temporarily withholding the money from these municipalities "to instill fiscal discipline and ensure that public money is properly managed; that Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure (UIFWE) is addressed; and that

municipal officials and office-bearers are held accountable where required by law."

In terms of the projected allocations published in the Government Gazette in August 2025, Dhlhlabeng is budgeted to receive R271 million from Treasury, broken up into three payments, and the July payment would have been around R90m.

For Maluti-a-Phofung, the annual Equitable Share amount is R904m (R301m for July), and for Nketoana the annual Equitable Share amount is R149m (R50m for July).

Treasury said that the municipalities

were given sufficient notice in writing and were urged to take measures to "change their financial management positions." They were also given an opportunity to give reasons why the funds should not be withheld.

Treasury also said that they had coached and guided municipalities on how to comply with specific provisions of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). Despite these interventions, Treasury said that municipalities were still not complying with the Act.

Treasury said that transfers of the cash will resume once municipalities submit

proof that they are meeting the required conditions.

Many municipalities rely heavily on this cash from Treasury to remain solvent and keep paying expenses. On the other hand Treasury said that because this withholding of funds is a "short term measure," that they don't foresee any impact on service delivery.

Eastern Free State municipalities that were excluded from this sanction, and will receive their equitable share on time were Senekal (Senekal and Ficksburg) and Thabo Mofatsanyana District Municipality.



Polar Bear Plunge

The Cluny Animal Trust's annual Polar Bear Plunge took place on 4 July at the Arpa Adventure Dam at Fouriesburg. This event is a fundraiser where brave participants show what they are made of, facing the winter cold by swimming in the dam.

This year again people turned up in large numbers to show their support for a good cause. The Polar Bear Plunge may have lasted just a few minutes, but for the amazing individuals and teams who chose to turn their icy dip into a fundraiser, this journey started weeks ago. They asked friends, family, and colleagues to sponsor them. They made a ton of videos, they shared posts, made phone calls, knocked on doors and encouraged people to be part of this event.

Every single rand raised will help the Cluny Animal Trust to build and also kit out their isolation ward, which will have a lasting impact for animals of the Eastern Free State. The Cluny Animal Trust is an independent, non-profit veterinary welfare organisation, based in Fouriesburg. Founded in 2011, the trust dedicates itself to providing vital veterinary care to animals belonging to impoverished residents who cannot otherwise



afford private vet services. They operate as a pro-life organisation, focusing heavily on community outreach, sterilisations, vaccinations, and emergency medical treatments.

They are thankful to their fundraising teams and every individual that made a difference.

In photo top: Dr. Elsa van Biljon, the principal veterinarian at the Cluny Animal Trust, led by example and braved the freezing water.

In photo left: Nico Mahlohi (left) and Madi Behn (right) from the Cluny team with 45kg of donated dog and cat food.

By Okkie C Lotriet

Ok se Blok



Sjokolade

Die wêreld het onlangs, op 7 Julie, Wêreldsjokoladedag gevier. Die nie-amptelike vakansiedag is bedoel om sjokolade in al sy heerlike vorme te geniet - 'n blokkie, 'n staaf, gebak of gesmelt. Dit is die dag van die jaar wat jy nie skuldig hoef te voel wanneer jy daardie happie vat nie.

Mense hou van sjokolade omdat dit spesiale stowwe in die brein vrystel wat jou gelukkig maak, 'n vinnige hupskoot energie gee en jou met 'n goeie gevoel laat. Sjokolade laat mense spesiaal voel en daarom bly dit 'n gewilde keuse as dit by geskenke kom.

Studies wys dat tot 95% van mense in die meeste lande gereeld sjokolade eet. Wêreldwyd eet mense elke jaar ongeveer 2,6 miljoen ton sjokolade! Sjokolade is baie veelsydig en kan gebruik word as 'n bestanddeel in gebak, of

dit kan selfs by sekere disse gevoeg word.

Wanneer sjokolade bloot as 'n lekkertjie gesien word, is die moontlikhede en keuses eindeloos. Ek dink aan 'n sjokolade-melkkoek, sjokolade-roosies en sjokoladekoek. Die gewildste bly egter 'n sjokoladestaf. Ek praat sommer van daardie kafee-sjokolade wat meer as gereeld ook op die torenbark beland wanneer jy brood en melk koop. Ek is een van daardie persone wat sommer in 'n motor klim en 'n sjokolade gaan koop wanneer ek lus is vir een.

My keuse van sjokolade hang af van hoe ek voel, want wanneer dit by sjokolade kom, gaan ek deur fases. Die laaste ruk bederf ek myself met 'n Tex. My groot gunsteling het jare terug van die winkeltakke verduyn, maar die smaak het my bygebly. Othou jy nog die wit Crunchie in sy blink-blou papier? Soos die meeste dinge in die wêreld is daar natuurlik voor- en nadele aan sjokolade.

Die grootste stryd wanneer dit by sjokolade kom is sekerlik met jouself, want vir sekere redes bring die totale oorgawe aan sjokolade soms skuldgevoelens. Matigheid voor oë is dan 'n goeie teenoewer as jy met sulke godagies worstel.

Sowat 'n maand gelede by 'n markdag proe ek aan versmaakte sjokolade wat daar verkoop word. Die genot was heel duidelik op my gesig sigbaar. Dis toe dat die tannie agter die toel met haar voorkoot nader stap en sê: "Kry vir jou nog sjokolade brette, die lewde is reeds bitter genoeg." Jy nooi my nie twee keer nie.

Bederf jouself vandag nog met sjokolade, jy vertien dit.

Duur Okkie C Lotriet

Dancers excel at the South African Championships

Dancers from the RDA Dance Academy in Bethlehem participated in the South African Line Dance tournament in Durban from 3 to 5 July.

They obtained amazing results in the Pro-Am and Partners as well as in the solo division.

Liebné Rossouw obtained a first place in the Novice Open Pro-Am division as well as a fourth place in the couples division, dancing with husband Victor. There were seven couples that competed in this division. The couples competition took place on Friday, while the solo division took place on Saturday.

Liebné has been promoted to the Intermediate Open Division.

Roelene da Plessis received a first place in the Newcomer Gold Pro-Am as well as first place for solo in the Newcomer Gold

Division.

Roelene has been promoted to the Novice Gold Division. Victor Rossouw also took a first place in the Advanced Open Division.

Victor participated in the world championship for the first time in 2005 where he came third overall. In 2015 he participated in the world championship for the second time where he obtained a third and fourth place. In 2023 he again participated in a world championships and he won three titles.

Members of RDA won't participate in the world championship this year. They intend to participate in the next one that will be held in Blackpool, England in 2029.

In the meantime dancers are preparing to start the new dance season in September.

Photo left: Roelene da Plessis.

Photo right: Liebné and Victor Rossouw.

DORP
VAN DIE JAAR
KIES NOU!

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Wêreld

