



ON HIS WAY OUT: DA leader John Steenhuisen announces his withdrawal from the party's leadership race during a media briefing at Riverside Hotel in Durban last week. This decision comes after internal leadership disputes within the Democratic Alliance. Picture: SANDO INDOU

Steenhuisen insists he wasn't forced to step down

Outgoing DA leader insists no outside influence in his decision to end leadership run

ANDISIWE MAKINANA

DA leader John Steenhuisen insists that no outside influence or external pressure forced him to call an end to his six-year run as party boss.

Amid reports that Steenhuisen had fallen out of favour with the farming community and party donors, he claims they had no bearing on his decision.

Steenhuisen gave the Sunday Times a glimpse into the sequence of events that led to Wednesday's announcement that he will not seek a third term when the party meets to elect new leaders in April.

"It's a personal decision, completely. There's absolutely nothing I say on the record and unequivocally — there's no deal that's been done."

"There's no meeting that's been had to discuss exits. It's a personal decision that I've taken not to seek a third term," he said on Thursday, the day after he declared that his mission as DA leader had been accomplished.

So free from party influence was his decision, he said, that the federal executive and powerful federal council chair and party veteran Helen Zille heard about it with the rest of the country.

However, he informed President Cyril Ramaphosa hours before the announcement "purely to let him know that this is not about the GNU [government of national unity], we are not pulling out of the GNU, and I don't want there to be any political instability as a result of that."

Steenhuisen was elected DA interim leader in November 2019 after Mmusi Maimane's

departure. A year later he was elected to his first full term as party leader.

He won a second term in April 2023 with an overwhelming 83% support of voting delegates.

"I think I've taken the DA to where I can take it. I think it's now time for a new leader to come in and take us on to the next big thing."

"And I want to be able to provide that leader with the space and ability and support to be able to do that."

Steenhuisen said he made the decision in December while on an overseas family holiday with his daughters.

It was his first family holiday in eight years, "and it started to put a few things in perspective."

It had also become "very difficult" to manage his portfolio and lead the party, especially with the growing outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD). "The DA is a big organisation, and managing a ministry and given the fact that I'd led the party into government and we must do well in all our government departments... and so, the foot and mouth outbreak also has been very much of a preoccupation," he said.

Party insiders had said Steenhuisen's handling of the disease was the final straw that pushed his detractors to call for his exit.

The sources said party funders had also raised concerns about his continued stay at the top after allegations of misuse of a party-issued credit card and a public spat with Dion George, who resigned from the DA in January after being sacked as a minister.

For Steenhuisen, who turns 50 in March, ending FMD is his new mission, but it wasn't the final straw; there had been a number of other issues.

"Realising I haven't been able

to go on a family holiday for eight years."

"I missed my two older daughters growing up. My youngest daughter is nine, and I don't want to miss her growing up as well."

"And, you know, being DA leader and being a minister means that I'm on the road six out of seven days, mostly, in a week."

"In January, I slept in my own bed two nights of the whole month."

"I suppose there are only so many horse-tiding competitions and ballet recitals and school concerts that you can miss before it starts to really take its toll on other parts of your life."

While Steenhuisen admits that FMD is a crisis, he rejects accusations of mishandling the outbreak.

There is public pressure on the government over the crisis in the same way there was public pressure over the Day Zero water crisis and the Covid pandemic a few years ago.

"There's been more done about FMD in the last 18 months than there has in the last 30 years."

"For the first time in 14 years, there is public pressure on the government over the crisis in the same way there was public pressure over the Day Zero water crisis and the Covid pandemic a few years ago."

"For the first time ever, in July we brought government, the private sector, industry bodies, private scientists, academics."

"People need to see that the farmers who are relying on us to get on top of this thing... for me to spend the next three to four months, while we're about to do the largest vaccine rollout in our history of agriculture, dividing my time between having to go to every branch and every structure of the party to campaign."

"I don't think it's fair on the farmers who are relying on us to get on top of this thing... for me to spend the next three to four months, while we're about to do the largest vaccine rollout in our history of agriculture, dividing my time between having to go to every branch and every structure of the party to campaign."

"People need to see that the farmers who are relying on us to get on top of this thing... for me to spend the next three to four months, while we're about to do the largest vaccine rollout in our history of agriculture, dividing my time between having to go to every branch and every structure of the party to campaign."

"I'm a loyal activist of the party. I'm not joining another party. I'm not going anywhere." — Sunday Times

Cosatu calls for bold action ahead of Sona

GUGULETHU MASHININI

Cosatu says it has "high expectations" for President Cyril Ramaphosa's state of nation address (Sona), calling on the government to act decisively on unemployment, economic growth, crime and filling public services.

The trade union federation said the Sona, to be delivered in parliament on February 12, must respond to "cries and hopes of the working class and society in general."

Government plans for the year must focus on "addressing high unemployment rates of 42.4% and sluggish 1% economic growth", as well as "entrenched levels of poverty and inequality, and endemic crime and corruption."

It welcomed progress in ending load-shedding but warned that electricity prices remain "increasingly unaffordable."

It called for prepaid billing for all consumers and action on the R100bn municipal debt, corruption and other acts of criminality, wasteful expenditure and enabling Eskom to enter the renewable energy space.

Cosatu also called for faster reforms at Transnet and Metro Rail, saying improvements must be accelerated to protect jobs and commuters.

"Efficient rails and ports are key to thousands of mining, manufacturing and agricultural jobs as well as providing 10-million urban commuters cheap and fast means to get to work," it said.

The trade union federation raised concern about struggling state-owned enterprises, saying turnaround plans were urgently needed for Denel, the SABC, Post Office and Foodstuffs, which it said continue to suffer from "incompetent and weak management."

On public services, Cosatu said the government must "close the chapter of failed liberal austerity policies and budgets" and ensure front-line

services are properly funded and staffed.

It praised the "remarkable turnaround at the South African Revenue Service (Sars) and South African Airways" as proof that public institutions can work.

Cosatu also warned that crime has reached unacceptable levels, saying South Africa can no longer "treat criminals with kid gloves" or allow violent crime to become normal in working-class communities.

It called for an "aggressive" marshal plan led by President Ramaphosa "to strengthen police, prosecutions and the courts."

The federation urged government to introduce a large stimulus package to support industrialisation, small businesses and job creation, saying action was "long overdue."

Cosatu also called for greater relief for the poor and unemployed, including raising the SRD grant to the Food Poverty Line and the expansion of the Presidential Employment Stimulus to "one million young people by April 1 and two million by November 1".

It also urged the government to overhaul the Unemployment Insurance Fund and Compensation Fund, employ 20,000 new labour inspectors and give Sars resources to raise tax compliance to 75% over the next three years, generating "an additional R200bn in revenue owed to the state."

"We cannot afford to rest on our laurels, continue to normalise anaemic 1% economic growth or the ticking time bomb of 42.4% unemployment," said Cosatu.

"Government needs to act decisively and deliver on key issues if we are to reach the 3% plus economic growth necessary to see unemployment fall and hope arise."

"There are no short cuts in this chapter of failed liberal austerity policies and budgets" and ensure front-line

KING SABATA DALINDYENO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 15 OF 2026
TABLING OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25
INVITATION TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 127(5) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 and Section 21A of the Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, which requires Municipalities to publish their Annual Reports and invite the Local Community to submit representations in connection with the Annual Report. In compliance with Section 127(2) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003, King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality hereby its Draft Annual Report for 2024/25 financial year at its Council meeting held on Thursday, 29th January 2026. The Annual Report being a compliance document, seeks to:

- Provide a record of the activities of the Municipality during the financial year to which the report relates.
- Provide a report on performance against the budget of the Municipality.
- Promote accountability to the Local Community for the decisions made throughout the year by the Municipality.

Anyone who wishes to make comments or submit representations on the Draft Annual Report can do so in writing within 30 days upon issue of this notice to the following email address:

Tosak@kds.gov.za
Tosak@kds.gov.za

Alternatively, the comments can be submitted in hard copy, addressed to the Municipal Manager and delivered to the following address:

Office of the Municipal Manager
King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality
Muntata Building, Office 319 Third Floor

A copy of the Draft Annual Report 2024/25 is available on the Municipal website at www.kds.gov.za and can also be viewed from the Municipal Offices both in Mntata and Ngqweni, at the Reception during Office hours (08h30-16h30).

For enquiries, please contact Mr. P. Pallem, Manager Performance Monitoring & Evaluation at 072 594 3380.

Yours in developmental local government,

- N. PAKADE - MUNICIPAL MANAGER -

www.kds.gov.za

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

NOTICE
UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT BUDGET
FOR THE 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

Notice is hereby given in terms of Municipal Systems Act (219) and Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations (reg. 26) that the 2024/2025 Unauthorised Expenditure Adjustment Budget as approved at the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Council Meeting held on 29 January 2026 is available for inspection.

Copies of the documents are available on the Municipal Website www.buffalocitymetro.gov.za and are available in the public at the following venues:

VENUES INVOLVED	
Central Library	Mdantsane Library NU 2 & NU 14
Buffalo Flats Library	West Bank Library
Cambridge Library	Beacon Bay Library
Greenfields Library	Gonubie Library
Kidd's Beach Library	Duncan Village Library
Parkside Library	Chiv Centre - KWT
Vicent Library	King Williams Town Library, Ayfitt Street
BCM Customer Care Centre, Trust Centre	Bredbach & Schomville Libraries
Dimbaza Library	Traditional Great Places
11th Floor, Trust Centre	Berlin Library

ISAZISO

UHLALOH LWABWU MALI LOKUHLENGANGENSWA KWENCITHO MALI
ENGAGUYAZISWANGA LUKA 2024/2025

Kunika, isaziso ngokwenkqubo yethetho weNkqubo zikaMasilapa kandelama-21 (a) kanye nokubala lwabwumali lukaMasilapa kanye nokubala yingqozo (ka-26) yokuba uhlaloh lwabwumali lokuhlengangeni kwencitho engaguyaziswanga luka-2024/2025 njengoko hrambele kwiNtengiso yethengisa iikaMasilapa wase-Buffalo City eyayibavise ngomlali wamashumi amabini anesithoba (29) kweyoMqungu 2026 iyafumaneka ukuba ilolwe.

Ilopi zokubawhu kungentla apha ziyafumaneka kwiwebhusayithi kaMasilapa www.buffalocitymetro.gov.za, noma kwiNtengiso engaguyaziswanga zingentla (6073)

M. Yawa - iNtengiso

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We cannot afford to rest on our laurels or continue to normalise anaemic 1% economic growth or the ticking time bomb of 42.4% unemployment

No.	Project Name	COB	Grading	Evaluation Criteria	Compulsory Bidding	Sealing	Sealing Date	Closing Date	Enquiries
1.	Call for proposals for the development of Mpenda 500 units - medium income housing township for a period of 36 months.	N/A	90/10	N/A	N/A	SCM	02/01/2026/2025	Date: 13/03/2025 Time: 12h00	Technical Enquiries may be directed to: Mr. Z. Dlamini (Executive and Council) Email: zdlamini@kds.gov.za

Place of Tender box: 1st Floor, Muntata Building, Next to Room 148. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked with SCM Number and Project Name and be placed in a tender box. Tender documents can be downloaded free of charge from the National Tender's tender portal (tenders.kds.gov.za) or from the King Sabata Dalindyebo website (www.kds.gov.za). All bids must be submitted by the closing date and time. NO HARD COPIES OF THE TENDER DOCUMENT ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. ONLY THE ELECTRONIC VERSION WHICH IS TO BE DOWNLOADED AS PER THE ABOVE WEBSITE IS TO BE USED. BIDDERS MUST TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Failure to submit comprehensive JV agreement (where applicable), failure to do so will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Individual partners of JV are to comply and submit all relevant documents, failure to do so will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Failure to complete properly and/or in full tender forms, MBO 1 to MBO 9 and Annexures A to F will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Failure to declare in MBO 4 companies involved in, will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Bidders must sign MBO 5 for any offer amounting to or exceeding R10 million.
- The bidder to submit Audited financial statements for the past three financial years for any offer amounting to or exceeding R10 million inclusive of VAT.
- Failure to submit or complete supplementary information will result in the tender being null and void and non-responsive.
- Bidders must submit latest municipal rates statement (not older than three months) showing that municipal rates are not in arrears for periods in excess of three months, bidder who operates on leased properties are to submit a valid lease agreement and bid tendering on leasehold property is not to be submitted to municipal rates, bidders must provide municipal rates statement of the director's properties, failure to do so will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- The KSD Municipality reserves the right to disqualify any service provider whose members and/or shareholders own municipal rates 5 times.
- All KSD Municipality does not intend to accept the lowest or any bid and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the bid or to withdraw the bid.
- All certified copies submitted with a tender document must be no older than six months, failure to do so will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- All alterations in proposals must be signed for and failure to sign will result in a tender deemed non-responsive.
- Use of type is prohibited and the bidder will be deemed non-responsive.
- Bid documents must be filled in black pen and are not to be typed in.
- Bids submitted will hold good for a period of 90 days.
- Failure to be registered on Central Supplier Database registration will result in a tender being disqualified.
- Bids that are late, incomplete, unsigned, or submitted by fax, mail or electronically including copy of a tender document, will not be accepted.
- All bids must be sealed and clearly marked with SCM Number and Project Name and be placed in a tender box; failure to do so the document will not be considered.
- In terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 2022 (PPFPA) Points will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Stage 1: Compliance.
 - Stage 2: Functionality (with a minimum threshold of 70 points out of 100 points to be attained by bidder in order to be evaluated further on the next stage).
 - Stage 3: Price and Specific Goals.
- All queries must be in a form of an e-mail, and there will be no queries that will be entertained 5 working days before the closing date.
- The total cost based on rates calculated in the pricing schedule must match the amount reflected on the final page of the bid (Priced). Failure to provide a match will result in the bid being deemed non-responsive.
- The tender will be evaluated and adjudicated on the basis of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, and the regulations pertaining thereto (2022 Regulations), as well as the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality's Supply Chain Management policy. The preference point system to be used is specified for each project as per the KSDM SCM policy.

SCM related enquiries may be directed to the SCM Unit at scm@kds.gov.za

- N. PAKADE - MUNICIPAL MANAGER