

**news**

**all the moves**



‘Schotti’, a humanoid robot which speaks an Austrian dialect, dances in front of the Sonderpreis Baumarkt, a DIY hardware store in Pocking, Germany, yesterday. Picture: ANJA LIEKE WARMUTH/REUTERS

**Morero calls for calm amid R10.3bn wage deal standoff**

**Koena Mashale**

Johannesburg mayor Dada Morero says he has requested a meeting with finance minister Enoch Godongwana, who has cancelled the R10bn salary increase between the city and workers after calling it an illegally signed agreement.

The increases were going to be paid in batches as of March, with the last batch expected to be in July.

However, on Wednesday Godongwana told Morero that Johannesburg did not afford the wage bill, instructing him to ‘cease implementation of this illegally signed agreement’.

‘It has the potential to destroy the sustainability of the city of Johannesburg beyond this term of office, with negative implications for the national economy,’ Godongwana said.

‘You are well aware that the city cannot afford this agreement.’

Morero has since called for

calm among residents, emphasising that there is no cause for concern as he awaits confirmation of a meeting with Godongwana.

He said the city had acknowledged the critical oversight and governance concerns raised by the minister in the letter received last week.

‘Thereafter, the mayor engaged directly with the minister to discuss the contents of the letter and the issues raised. ‘Both parties have since agreed to convene a formal engagement between the city and the ministry of finance to address and clarify the matters outlined,’ he said.

‘I have formally requested a meeting with the minister, and the city is awaiting confirmation of the engagement date.’

The wage agreement is one of several alleged breaches of financial regulations highlighted by the Treasury.

‘In a scathing letter, the minister outlined multiple concerns, including revenue collection falling short of budgeted

targets and persistent weaknesses in cash flow reporting. ‘The city continues to face difficulties with cash flow reporting, with notable discrepancies, particularly relating to opening balances and cash from investing activities,’ the minister said in the letter.

Morero said the city was confident it would provide satisfactory responses to the issues raised. ‘I want to assure residents, stakeholders, investors, and the broader public that there is no cause for concern.’

‘The city is confident it will provide satisfactory responses to the matters raised and remains steadfastly committed to transparency, accountability, and sound financial management in the best interests of the residents of Johannesburg,’ he said.

According to the National Treasury failure to comply with the directive could result in the withholding of the city’s July 2026 equitable share instalment. — *Sowetan*

**• Municipality loses out on R267m funding due to underperformance and non-compliance**

**NO SPEND, NO SEND: Treasury withholds Bay’s grants again**

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The National Treasury has withheld more than R267m in critical grants for the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality, with the department warning that years of support and intervention had done nothing to help.

The decision to withhold the grants was made in February.

The move follows repeated warnings from the Treasury over the metro’s persistent underperformance, non-compliance and failure to curb irregular expenditure, with officials saying years of support and intervention had done nothing.

The letter was revealed by parliament’s co-operative governance and traditional affairs portfolio committee chair Zwelli Mkhize at a meeting with the city’s leadership yesterday.

The city has become notorious for having grant funding withheld.

During the discussion on grant expenditure, Mkhize brought up a February 13 letter from Treasury deputy director-general for intergovernmental relations, Ogaletseeng Gaarokwe, notifying the municipality of their intention to stop funding due to underperformance and non-compliance.

These were for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (R23.7m), the Urban Settlements Development Grant (R129.8m), the Energy Efficiency Demand Side Management Grant (R3.9m), and the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (R11.0m).

The Treasury has also threatened, but not withheld, the Public Transport Network Grant (R119.6m) and the Expanded Public

**These are the lives of the people, people we represent. The municipality is meant to provide them services through these grants**

Works Programme funding (R7,300,000).

Gaarokwe wrote that the letter was a formal notification by the Treasury of its intention to stop the above allocations in terms of section 18 of the 2025 Division of Revenue Act and section 38 of the Municipal Finance Management Act.

Human settlements political head Theminkosi Mafana said as far as he was aware, the city had responded to all the letters from the Treasury on threats to withhold grants.

‘There’s not a single letter we didn’t respond to.’

Mkhize questioned whether the city had received any of the grants.

Mafana said the only matter brought to his attention was a response from human settlements minister Thembi Simelane, who expressed dissatisfaction with the city’s replies and indicated she would withhold certain grants as a result.

‘The letter the mayor showed me the day before yesterday contained only one grant.’

Mkhize asked why the grants had been withdrawn. ‘If you were to answer the minister or DG of Treasury, and they say they’re not satisfied with your response, why are they not satisfied?’ Mafana said after receiving

the letter from the Treasury, they had initiated processes and solicited the Housing Development Agency’s (HDAs) help to speed up the building of houses.

‘There was a process undertaken to make use of the Coega Development Corporation and HDA because the one challenge we have as a metro is expiry of contracts, which were supposed to be used to implement service delivery.’

Mkhize asked Bay CFO Jackson Ngeelwane to explain what he did when he saw the grants were being withheld.

‘You’re the CFO, you can’t be shocked. Your monitoring must tell you, you won’t spend this money, and what did you do?’

Ngeelwane confirmed certain grants were withheld. ‘The problem is that business plans are approved in a financial year rather than in the previous one.’

‘What we did in July last year, because there were no approval letters from the minister, we wrote to the minister where we were requesting earlier approval of the business plan, so we can start spending.’

ANC MP Nombiso Sompa-Masuku asked Mafana for a detailed explanation on grants being withheld.

‘Why are you not so certain about the explanations you’re giving us?’ Sompa-Masuku said.

MK Party MP Sanele Mwali said the withholding of grant

funding was a serious matter. ‘When you look at the living conditions of the people of this province, this is equal to spitting in their faces.’

‘If you’re going to be withholding more than R100m when there are people living in shacks as we speak, and this municipality is meant to be building houses for them.’

‘The reason for withholding is not spending, and the reasons for not spending are political issues and then the people who will bear the cost of someone’s decision in the city are the people meant to receive services.’

‘These are the lives of the people, people we represent. The municipality is meant to provide them services through these grants,’ Mwali said.

Mwali said the city, unfortunately, did not have a city manager to account for, accusing Mafana of not performing.

‘Why do you have such an MMC (member of the mayoral committee) who is not performing, and there are no consequences?’

PA MP Santes van Wyk accused Bay mayor Babalwa Lobise of sitting back when funds were being sent back to the Treasury.

‘She’s so relaxed, like there are no problems there, and what is the provincial department of Coega doing on consequence management?’

MK party MP Glen Tlabebo said the money sent back to the Treasury was not a saving.

‘This is underperformance, poor performance, and not doing things meant to be done.’

‘We were in Gqeberha... the roads are bad, sewage is overflowing, and it’s not like the people don’t need this money.’ Mafana said not all the grants tabbed were used by his

department. ‘Once the grants are received through human settlements, they are dispersed to various departments of the metro.’

During the meeting, Treasury MMA implementation unit chief director Wayne McComans spoke on evergreen contracts.

The city has 22 contracts dating back to 2004.

McComans said the issue of evergreen contracts had been a concern for the past decade.

‘We’ve been working with the municipality and, over time, have phased out the contracts that were concluded before the Municipal Finance Management Act phased in.’

‘We’ve been trying to help the municipality with consequence management so that it becomes the norm.’

‘We’ve supported the municipality to the extent that we’ve been able to, which is why we’ve reached a stage where we’ve asked ourselves, do we persist with the current model or open?’

McComans said towards the end of last year, the Treasury had informed the municipality of its intent to invoke section 38 of the MFMA, read with sections 2 and 6 of the constitution.

‘We are of the view that supporting the city is not bearing fruit.’

‘We were there about two weeks ago and told them, despite the letter that was written in December, that there’s been no reaction on any issues, be it a reduction in irregular expenditure, or consequence management.’

‘Despite going the route we’ve been on, we are not closed the door on the municipality. But support has a start and an end date,’ McComans said.

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**The Herald**

**WINTER WARMER DRIVE**

Let’s help make this winter warmer and spread some love by donating clothes, blankets, beanies and canned food.

Please drop your items off at The Herald Office, The Atrium Centre, 24 Ring Rd, Greenacres by **30 June '26.**

**SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR SRVM STAFF**

**BID INVITATION**  
BID NO: SRVM 012/2026

Sundays River Valley Municipality invites proposals from suitable and experienced service providers for the following service: **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR SRVM STAFF.**

The physical address for collection of tender documents is: **SRVM Cashiers Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Nqweba.** Documents may be collected during working hours from 08h30am till 16h00pm from **11 May 2026.** Tender documents will be available at a **non-refundable deposit of R 300,00 each (no cash accepted)** Banking details are as follows: First National Bank, Account Number 629 254 90568, Branch Number 210817, Reference – **Tender Number.** Proof of payment should be provided upon tender collection.

Completed bid documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope endorsed with **Supply and Delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for SRVM Staff Bid No SRVM-012/2026** and must be deposited in the Bid Box at the offices of the Sundays River Valley Municipality, Supply Chain Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood not later than **28 May 2026 at 12h00pm.**

**TENDERS WILL BE EVALUATED IN TERMS OF THE 80/20 PREFERENTIAL POINT SYSTEM AS PER PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATION, 2022.**

Price and Specific Goals	Points
Evaluation Criteria	
Price	80
Specific Goals – B-BBEE (Original or certified B-BBEE Certificate)	10
LED (Proof of address signed by ward Councillor / Lease Agreement)	10
Total	100

**SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING BID CONDITIONS:**

- Sundays River Valley Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy will apply;
- Sundays River Valley Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest BID or any other BID and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the BID;
- Bids which are late, incomplete, unsigned, or submitted by facsimile or electronically, will not be accepted;
- Prices quoted must be valid for at least ninety (90) days from the date of your offer;
- Prices quoted must be firm and must be inclusive of VAT;
- A firm delivery period must be indicated;
- The following compulsory documents must be submitted with the tender.
  - Valid Tax Clearance Certificate- OP Status Pin;
  - B-BBEE Certificate Original or Certified copy, Sworn Affidavit Original or Certified Copy;
  - Original certified ID Copies of Entity’s Director(s);
  - Certification not older than 3 months before the closing date;
  - Completed MBD forms -1, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9;
  - Company registration Documents;
  - Municipal statement of Rates or Billing Clearance not older than three months or valid Lease Agreement;
  - Proof of Central Supplier Database (CSD) registration- a full report printed;

Failure to submit any of the above requested documents will invalidate your bid and it will not be evaluated further.

Technical enquiries related to this bid can be directed to **siphokazim@srvm.gov.za** or 082 731 2845, SCM enquiries related to this bid can be directed to **syats@srvm.gov.za** or 042 230 7777.

**Mr. T. Maas**  
Municipal Manager

**Fadiel Adams in custody at secret location until bail hearing**

**Mlungisi Mhlophe-Gumede**

National Coloured Congress (NCC) leader and MP Fadiel Adams, who was arrested in the Western Cape on Tuesday, appeared in the Pletown magistrate’s court in KwaZulu-Natal yesterday.

Security was tight as the tactical response team maintained a high-profile presence inside Court 1. The court was packed with members of Adams’ family from Cape Town.

Prosecutors Zwellithu Mata and Nokolungu Ngobobo moved for Adams to remain in custody until a bail hearing on May 15.

They said the state was opposed to bail, citing his ‘defiant behaviour’ to adhere to a court order.

But his attorney, Bruce Hendricks, argued his client had made several unsuccessful attempts to get police to confirm a warrant for his arrest.

Hendricks said it was not in the interest of justice to keep Adams in custody as he had minor children. He also told the court they had proof of address and a title deed confirming Adams’ alternative address.

The magistrate adjourned the matter and noted Adams would be detained at a secret location for his protection.

Adams was arrested on Tuesday on charges of defeating or obstructing the ends of justice and fraud relating to the murder case of former ANC Youth League leader Sibusiso Mgaga.

Adams allegedly interfered with investigations when he met an accused in the murder case — Sibusiso Nengweni — who had been in custody at the Westville Correctional Centre. Police say the alleged interference occurred when he met a convicted hitman at a critical stage of the case.

A media contingent, which had camped outside the Westville police station expecting Adams to be processed there when he arrived in KwaZulu-Natal late on Wednesday evening, was told by national police spokesperson Brigadier Athlenda Mathe that he had been moved to another station for his own security and to protect the integrity of the investigation and case.

Earlier, the SAPS political killings task team had called on Adams to present himself at his nearest police station in connection with the charges. — *TimesLIVE*