



MALEMA CLAIMS POLITICAL BIAS IN SENTENCING

Malema calls 5 year sentence political attack as EFF vows to fight 'hidden hand'

MANYANE MANYANE
manyane.manyane@inl.co.za

EFF leader Julius Malema says his prosecution is part of a broader and orchestrated campaign to disrupt his political career and stifle the EFF's influence ahead of the 2026 local government elections.

Malema alleged that a "hidden hand" was influencing the judicial process against him and that his prosecution is politically motivated.

The red berets' leader was addressing his supporters outside the East London Magistrate's Court following his sentencing for the unlawful discharge of a firearm during a 2018 rally.

Malema was sentenced to five years' direct imprisonment yesterday. However, he was released on warning following his immediate appeal against the sentence.

This was after he was found guilty in September last year on five charges under the Firearms Control Act, including discharging a firearm in a built-up or public area without sufficient reason, unlawful possession of a firearm, and unlawful possession of ammunition.

Addressing the crowds, Malema claimed that a "hidden hand" of imperialism and capital is behind legal attempts to silence him. He accused Magistrate Twanet Olivier of being a "racist of note", adding that she was acting under external influence.

"Magistrate Olivier is a racist of note, and she must know that in her sleep," he said.

"She did not read the heads of argument. She entered the court without knowing what was contained in the arguments that the lawyers were putting before the court," Malema said, adding that Olivier speaks politics instead of reading.

"We are dealing with someone who doesn't apply the law. The law, whether you hate someone or not, you have to answer the question: What does the law say on the matter?"

He added that no reasonable judge would agree that a person who shoots one bullet should be sentenced to five years, adding that the sentence was polit-

ically motivated and disproportionate.

He said the case was an attempt by his opponents to defeat him and the EFF through the legal system rather than at the ballot box. Malema added that the party will petition the High Court to appeal the guilty verdict and the sentencing itself.

During the EFF's fifth-anniversary celebrations at Sisa Dukashe Stadium in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape, a video emerged of Malema firing what appeared to be an assault rifle into the air in front of approximately 20 000 supporters. The rifle used belonged to a security company linked to his former bodyguard, Adriaan Snyman. The incident went viral, prompting the Afrikaner lobby group AfriForum to open a criminal case against Malema. He consistently argued that the weapon was a toy or prop, not a real firearm capable of firing live ammunition. Snyman, accused of providing the weapon, was acquitted due to a lack of evidence. The MK Party also supported Malema's remarks, saying the courts are being used as weapons to serve political agendas against those fighting the system, adding that the law is not applied equally in this country.

"We have an even worse situation, where a President is found with monies that he never disclosed in a couch, but he is still walking," said spokesperson Nhlamulo Ndhlela.

He said the current system has been politicised and weaponised against the defiance of the system.

He said this also happened when former President Jacob Zuma was arrested in 2021. This was after he was found guilty of defying a Constitutional Court order compelling him to appear before the commission chaired by Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

"It's unfortunate and rather not surprising that they will come to the conclusion of this outcome and sentence him (Malema), and we know it is politicised," Ndhlela said, questioning why the owner of the firearm is not convicted.

Meanwhile, AfriForum and the DA said the sentence also sends a clear message that in South Africa nobody is above the law.



ECONOMIC Freedom Fighters (EFF) supporters marched outside the Johannesburg High Court to support their leader, Julius Malema, who received a five-year sentence for the unlawful possession of a firearm in the East London Magistrate's Court. | ITUMELENG ENGLISH Independent Newspapers

NATION

Cape Town job seekers injured in stadium 'stampede'

KIM SWARTZ
kim.swartz@inl.co.za

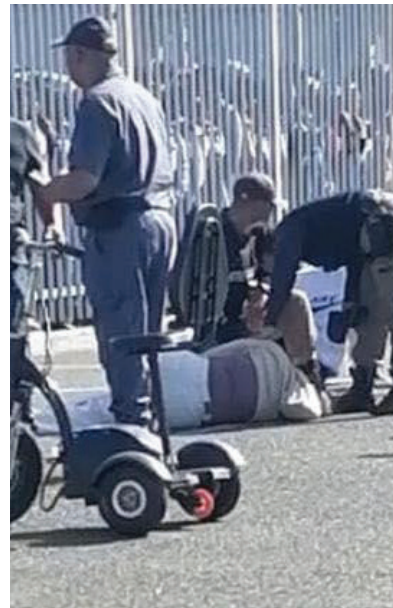
THERE was chaos at Athlone Stadium yesterday when some 25 000 job seekers showed up at the City's 'A Day of 1 000 Opportunities' event, and a number of people were injured in a reported stampede.

SAPS Public Order Policing made use of a stun grenade to maintain crowd control outside the stadium, the City said.

The event was hosted by CapeBPO and the City's special purpose vehicle (SPV), in a partnership to create a direct path for job-hunting youth into the flourishing contact centre industry.

Ahead of the event, Mayco member for Economic Growth, James Vos, said: "This isn't just any other job fair. CapeBPO's team, together with 12 of the biggest contact centre operators in Cape Town, will be at Athlone Stadium offering practical career guidance, interviews, and an offer to receive training for those who might not get signed up on the day."

But the turnout exceeded capacity. At the stadium, Metro Police and SAPS were called in for crowd control, with a number of injuries reported.



A STAMPEDE injures job seekers at Athlone Stadium recruitment event.

In a statement yesterday evening, the City said attendees began queuing at the stadium in the early hours of the morning to be screened for possible job opportunities with the City's contact centre partners.

"Claims that shots were fired on the crowd are false and unfounded. SAPS Public Order Policing made

use of a stun grenade to maintain crowd control outside the stadium.

Emergency services have been on site all day. It is regrettable that a few people sustained injuries during the day due to overcrowding, but were all immediately assisted with medical care."

Officials from the City, CapeBPO and the various companies processed applications inside the stadium in an orderly fashion, the City added.

"The City's Law Enforcement, SAPS and other safety and security personnel remained on site to ensure the safety of all residents and officials in attendance."

"The City is committed to ensuring the calm and safety at the stadium and thanks residents for showing up in their numbers. This shows the need for this kind of initiative in our city to bolster economic growth and create job opportunities."

"The City regrets the incident and the inconvenience, and thanks attendees for their patience."

Ward councillor Rashid Adams explained: "No shots were fired, there was a bit of a stampede, and a few people got injured. Police were there to secure crowd control."

The City said those who were not able to get into the stadium can still apply online.

URGENT PROPERTY AUCTION
HOUSE IN FRANSKRAAL
CLOSE TO GANSBAAI
A HIDDEN GEM ON THE WHALE COAST

DATE: Saturday 25 April 2026
TIME: 12:00
VENUE: 5 Dyer Street, Franskraal

Property description:

Well maintained house in very popular coastal town. Lounge / Dining room, 3 bedrooms, entertainment room, extra large wendy house, garage.
Erf size: 694m²

A LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT WORTH MAKING
FISHING, HIKING, SWIMMING, BIRDWATCHING
Only 160 km from Cape Town, 37 km from Hermanus.

NO RESERVE PRICE [Subject to confirmation]

Conditions of sale:

5% deposit as well as the auctioneer's fee on day of Auction. Guarantees within 30 days after confirmation. ID and Fica documents for registration. No registration fee.

Viewing and registration:
From 11:00 on day of Auction.
For more info and photos:
Dan van Zyl. 082-458 3867.
danvanzyl49@gmail.com

NATION

From Nyanga to Hollywood: CPUT graduate is making her mark

YAEESH COLLINS

ANANDE Kuse is making her dreams a reality, balancing academic success with sporting excellence and a breakthrough role in a major Hollywood production. Kuse was among more than 9 000 students who graduated during the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's (CPUT) autumn ceremonies this week, earning her

Advanced Diploma in Film Production.

Raised in Nyanga, she discovered table tennis through an after-school programme in primary school. The sport quickly became central to her life, opening doors to national and international competition.

In her first year at CPUT, she represented South Africa at the International Table Tennis Federa-

tion African Youth, Junior and Cadet Championships in Tunisia.

She continued to build her path forward, winning two bronze medals at the USSA Table Tennis Championships in Kimberley in December, in the women's doubles and mixed doubles events.

Alongside her achievements in sport, Kuse has been developing her career in film. She worked as a stunt

performer in Cape Town last March for the production of the Hollywood film "Children of Blood and Bone". With a planned release in 2027, the production showcases a global cast such as Damson Idris, Regina King, Viola Davis, and Idris Elba.

"They were looking for people who were playing sports. The experience was fun, and as a film student, I learned a lot," she said. Kuse is now



Anande Kuse

completing her Honours in Media Leadership and Innovation and is already considering her next steps.

She hopes to become a table tennis coach while continuing to pursue opportunities in film and content creation.



9 771016 394001 0 7726

R20.00

Annual Subscriber R13.81
0800 220 770

CAPE TOWN 16/26° | P5
Partly cloudy.
DBN 23/33° | JHB 13/21°



@CAPETIMESSA CAPETIMES @CAPETIMESRSA CAPE TIMES

OPINION | P6
WORLD | P7
CROSSWORDS | P5 & P8

A DREAM YOU DREAM ALONE IS ONLY A DREAM. A DREAM YOU DREAM TOGETHER IS REALITY. | JOHN LENNON