

# Zille to step down as DA federal council chair if elected mayor

By KGOATHATSO MADISA

Helen Zille is ready to relinquish her national position as DA federal council chair should she be nominated and elected to lead the City of Johannesburg as mayor.

Zille told Sowetan sister publication TimesLIVE Premium on Wednesday that she would not be able to do both jobs after the local government elections next year. This as she believes her role as Johannesburg mayor, should she get it, would be a full-time job.

Zille is serving her second term as the DA federal council chair, a position similar to that of a secretary-general in the ANC, and was expected to stand for another term when the party holds its congress next year – or at least another position in the higher echelons of its leadership.

However, she has now decided that she would prioritise mayorship of the Gauteng metropolitan over the national role.

“No, I will definitely not be able to do both. If I get the nomination from the DA [by no means certain] and if I get elected, being mayor of Johannesburg would be a ‘whole time’ job,” Zille said.

Her interest in a position at local government means she would lose her influential role at the party’s national level. With the DA in a government of national unity (GNU) possibly until the next national and provincial elections in 2029, means she would also be left out of the critical meetings of the coalition should she be elected mayor.

Zille has been hogging headlines this week over reports that she has expressed

interest in running for the coveted mayorship of Johannesburg, one of the richest cities in Africa.

Her interest in the position has seemingly raised the ire of many, especially in the ANC, with concerns being raised about what this means about its current mayor Dada Morero.

Morero, however, poured cold water on the DA’s move, questioning whether the DA believed in its current leadership in the city’s ranks, saying this announcement casts doubt on its councillors.

“The DA made that statement knowing they’ve got leadership in Johannesburg. The problem could be with the DA acknowledging and recognising their own people in the city.”

Daily Maverick this week reported Zille decided to make herself available after three high-profile individuals turned down the offer to become the DA’s candidate. It appears the DA believes it needs to field a high-profile candidate with a national footprint to successfully contest the Johannesburg mayoral chain. – TimesLIVE



DA federal council chairperson Helen Zille /Freddy Mavunda



Sicelosetfu Secondary School had its roof blown off during the strong winds in Mpumalanga on Monday evening. /Mandla Khoza

# TEN PUPILS FEARED DROWNED IN E CAPE

● Heavy weather leads to car crashes, torrential rain in SA

By SIVENATHI GOSA, SIKHO NTSHOBANE AND LULAMILE FENI

Ten children are missing and feared to have drowned in the Eastern Cape after their 22-seater scholar transport bus was washed away by floodwaters and gale force winds at Efata near Mthatha. The incident happened as bad weather ravaged several parts of SA yesterday.

Late in the day, emergency response teams were battling the raging currents in a desperate search for the children. The search was called off at 5pm and was set to resume this morning.

Three children were rescued from the torrential river after they managed to climb into a tree. Twelve more people have been confirmed dead in the Eastern Cape as a result of the adverse weather.

Premier Oscar Mabuyane said: “This is a devastating reminder of nature’s force. We urge everyone to exercise extra caution in areas prone to flooding.

“Our disaster response teams are on high alert and committed to ensuring the community’s safety.”

Gift of the Givers activated its disaster response team in the province. Provincial co-ordinator Corene Conradie said the team would deliver humanitarian relief, including food, blankets and supplies.

Provincial transport department spokesperson Unathi Binqose said five people killed in an accident on the N2 outside East London were two men and three women. Many roads across the province were closed.

In Mpumalanga, at least five schools and nearly 20 homes had their roofs blown off by strong winds on Monday evening. The provincial education department said pupils from affected schools, including Sicelosetfu secondary and Mbongeni primary, were accommodated at nearby institutions to ensure that midyear exams continued.

“We will probably have conclusive information [on other areas affected] tomorrow. We are planning to fix the affected schools,” said education department spokesperson Gerald Sambo.

Mpumalanga co-operative governance and traditional affairs spokesperson Lindiwe Msibi said 15 houses were affected in Pienaar and two in Barberton.

Mbombela mayor Sibongile Makushe-Mazibuko visited the affected families and schools yesterday and said the municipality had provided them with blankets, stoves and tents.


In Johannesburg, the emergency services warned residents to exercise caution when trying to keep warm, as five people had lost their lives in house fires in the past two days. EMS spokesperson Nana Radebe said the fires took place in Mayfair, Mapetla and Braamfischerville.

“On Monday around 9pm, EMS responded to a structural fire in Mapetla, Soweto, where an adult male died of smoke inhalation. Tragically, two individuals, a mother and a child, lost their lives in the incident. Four other patients were rushed to a nearby medical facility for treatment of smoke inhalation and minor burn injuries.”

In KwaZulu-Natal, heavy winds caused structural damage in some areas. – Mandla Khoza and Koena Mashale



Several homes were flooded in Nelson Mandela Bay yesterday. /Werner Hills



**MAKHUDUTHAMAGA**  
**LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

### Bid Notice and Invitation to Bid

Bidders are hereby invited to bid for the following projects:

No.	Project Number	Project Description.	Closing Date
01	LIM473/Financial System /24/25/041	Provision of intergrated financial system (mScoa Compliant) with support and maintenance for a period of three (03) years.	17/07/2025 @ 12:00
02	LIM473/Fleet Tracking Device/24/25/042	Supply, delivery and installation of tracking device With Dash Cam on all Municipal vehicles for a period of three (03) years.	17/07/2025 @ 12:00

Bid documents will be obtainable from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipal Offices from **19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (Mon-Fri from 08:00-16:30)** from the cashiers at a non-refundable deposit of **R560.00** payable in cash or bank-guaranteed cheque. Bid documents can also be downloaded from **www.etender.gov.za** at **no cost**.

Completed and signed tender documents must be sealed in an envelope and marked with the relevant project number and project description and be deposited in the tender box at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Offices in Jane Furse before the closing date and time.

The municipality shall adjudicate and award tenders in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act. 5/2000 and the revised procurement regulation with effect 16 January 2023 and on 100 points for functionality and 80/20 points system where 80 points are for the price and 20 points for Municipal specific goals (according to the said legislation). Details of functionality and specific goals are in the bid document. Bids will remain valid for 90 (ninety) days.

The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted and the municipality reserves the right not to consider any tender not fully completed. Tenderers are required to initial each page of the tender document and sign where necessary.

**Enquiries contact:** Supply Chain Unit: Mr Mothapo KJ - 013 265 8607  
Budget and Treasury: Mr Mothapo KT - 013 265 8625

**Mr MOGANEDI RM**  
**MUNICIPAL MANAGER; PRIVATE BAG X 434, Jane Furse, 1085**