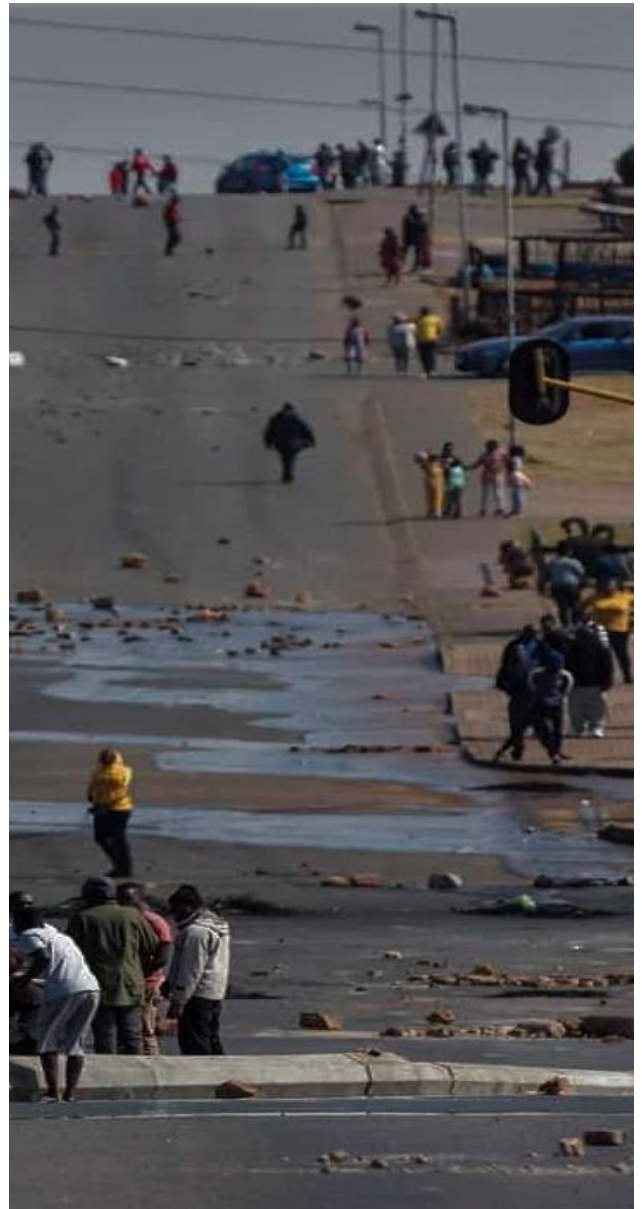


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# MetroMonitor report: July – October 2022

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25 NOVEMBER 2022

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**THE THIRD REPUBLIC**

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# Glossary

ABC	Abantu Batho Congress (party)
ACDP	African Christian Democratic Party (party)
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIC	African Independent Congress (party)
AIM	Abantu Integrity Movement (party)
ANC	African National Congress (party)
CMP	Cape Muslim Party (party)
COGTA	(Department of) Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
COPE	Congress of the People (party)
DA	Democratic Alliance (party)
DM	District Municipality
DOP	Defenders of the People (party)
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EFF	Economic Freedom Fighters (party)
FF+	Freedom Front Plus (party)
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party (party)
IPP	Independent Power Producer
IRASA	Independent Ratepayers Association of South Africa (party)
JRA	Johannesburg Roads Agency
Mayco	Mayoral Committee
ME	Municipal Entity
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MM / CM	Municipal Manager / City Manager
MMC	Member of the Mayoral Committee
MPAC	Municipal Public Accounts Committee
MPL	Member of the Provincial Legislature
NA	Northern Alliance (party)
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
PA	Patriotic Alliance (party)
PAC	Pan Africanist Congress (party)
PR	Proportional Representation
PTT	Provincial Task Team
REC	Regional Executive Committee
RTT	Regional Task Team
SAMWU	South African Municipal Workers' Union
SANS	South African National Standards
SCA	Supreme Court of Appeal
SOE	State-owned Enterprise
UDM	United Democratic Movement (party)

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# Summary

## Risk increases in coalition-run metros

All five metros with coalitions saw an increase in political risk. In Johannesburg opposition parties continued to attack the DA in council, sometimes physically. In Tshwane the ANC and EFF rejected the coalition's choice of city manager and the EFF laid charges of bribery and corruption against mayor Randall Williams. Williams's support for a controversial electricity generation tender also alienated ActionSA.

By late August the ANC and its coalition partners were organising to collapse all three Gauteng metro councils. The ANC threatened a motion of no confidence against Williams supported by the EFF.

Vasco da Gama, the Johannesburg Speaker, was removed in early September by the ANC-led coalition. The DA's coalition partners asked for his replacement to come from another party, specifically the IFP, but this was rejected by the DA.

The DA and its coalition partners laid a charge against the ANC for allegedly bribing councillors in the coalition to vote with the ANC. Coalition parties punished the errant councillors with both the IFP and the ACDP expelling those who voted with the opposition.

The ANC and EFF then turned their sights to Ekurhuleni and voted out mayor Tania Campbell by end-October after earlier tabling a motion of no confidence.

The ANC and EFF did not completely succeed in assuming control of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni. The new Johannesburg speaker, Colleen Makhubele, was forced to postpone a motion of no confidence in mayor Mpho Phalatse as the High Court ruled that the extraordinary meeting called by Makhubele, and hence the motion, was invalid.

Although Phalatse was ultimately voted out a couple of days later at the end of September, she successfully challenged her removal in court and was reinstated by end-October. While she was able to reinstate her mayoral committee the ANC-led coalition had voted out the committee chairs that were aligned with the DA coalition and voted in councillors from parties supporting the ANC.

Tensions also emerged between the ANC and EFF in Ekurhuleni, with both parties wanting to vote for a mayor from their ranks. The EFF also abstained from the motion of no confidence against Campbell.

In Ethekewini the ANC struggled to hold together its coalition with a bloc of 17 smaller parties. The bloc itself threatened to fall apart as its members challenged bloc leader Philani Mavundla, head of the ABC and deputy mayor of the metro.

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One of the parties in the coalition, ADEC, threatened a [vote of no confidence](#) against ANC mayor. The coalition partners differed with the ANC over the choice of [Mpac](#) head. The election of the EFF's Thamsanqa Xuma to the position seemed to [calm the waters](#) as the EFF and IFP broke with the DA to vote with the ANC-led coalition.

In Nelson Mandela Bay the DA and other parties discussed forming a [new coalition](#) to remove the ANC but stumbled over the [allocation of positions](#) in the new council. The coalition's chances were boosted by the EFF's [promise of support](#) outside a coalition. The DA [signed a coalition agreement](#) with the other parties by end-July.

ANC mayor Eugene Johnson was [voted out](#) in late-September but before a new coalition could settle in the ANC proposed that the metro's governance system be changed to a [ward participation system](#). The proposal was defeated in council but the DA-led coalition feared that the new system would be [imposed](#) by the provincial Cogta department anyway.

The DA's [Retief Odendaal](#) was voted in as mayor and Kusta Jack from AIM was elected as deputy mayor by end-September.

## Service delivery worsens with loadshedding, water crises in Gauteng and Nelson Mandela Bay

Loadshedding was an ever-present problem over the four-month period. [Johannesburg](#), [Cape Town](#), [Nelson Mandela Bay](#), and [Buffalo City](#) all worked on medium-to-long-term solutions to the electricity crisis but [most metros](#) struggled with [revenue collection](#) and paying Eskom on time.

The October heatwave in Gauteng put the water infrastructure of both the metros and Rand Water under tremendous pressure. Rand Water [reduced water supply](#) and eventually [water tankers](#) were dispatched across Johannesburg. Tshwane and Ekurhuleni each [owed Rand Water](#) about R600-million.

Nelson Mandela Bay continued to flirt with water shortages. KwaNobuhle residents complained about discrimination, claiming that all the community was provided with was a [half-filled JoJo tank](#). The council agreed to [water cuts for all households](#) in order to avert Day Zero in the metro. [Water leaks](#) cause the loss of 1.5-million litres of water every month.

Many metros were under scrutiny for above-inflation tariff increases in the 2022/23 budget. Water and sanitation charges in [Johannesburg](#) rose by 9.75% and by 9% in [Tshwane](#). Tembisa residents rioted in response to electricity price increases in [Ekurhuleni](#).

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## ANC factionalism, electoral conferences spill over into the metros

ANC factionalism has affected political appointments in the municipalities and much of the political violence in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape has its roots in factional battles. Provincial elections in the two provinces and in Gauteng has exacerbated existing problems of political patronage, corruption and violence.

The corruption in the Gauteng Department of Health had a direct effect on [political elections in Ekurhuleni](#). Gauteng ANC heavyweight Sello Sekhokho, who won contracts worth R2.3-million to supply Tembisa Hospital, is closely linked to ANC Ekurhuleni leader Mzwandile Masina.

Mxolisi Kaunda's mayorship in Ethekewini was [under threat](#) due to ANC factionalism in the province and metro. In Buffalo City, mayor Xola Pakati's position was threatened by the ANC's [regional executive committee](#) who sought to replace him with his deputy.

In Mangaung, ANC factionalism could trigger by-elections as [eight councillors face expulsion](#) from the party for voting with opposition parties. The vote in question was over the suspension of another councillor implicated in the hiring of ghost workers. More ANC councillors [threatened to quit](#) in protest at their colleagues' potential suspension.

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# Main report

## Johannesburg

### July 2022

Unemployment in Johannesburg increased by more than four percentage points between 2016 and 2021 according to the latest [State of the Cities Report](#) from SA Cities Network.

The [acting city manager Mesuli Mlandu approached Cogta](#) to force the speaker to act against the mayor. According to Mlandu, mayor Phalatse was implicated in a report for refusing to act on evidence of misappropriation by former commissioner of Johannesburg's Group Forensic Investigative Services (GFIS) Shadrack Sibiya.

Johannesburg's [water and sanitation increases](#) were some of the highest of all the metros for the 2022/23 financial year. Average year-on-year increases were 9.75% for both services, compared with 9% in Tshwane and 6.5% in Cape Town.

Opposition parties again [attacked the DA-led administration](#), accusing it of reserving jobs for its friends. The speaker is accused of interfering with the hiring of professional staff.

The metro's large [housing backlog](#), estimated at 460 000 units, led to an increase in scams by a criminal syndicate. Victims were tricked into paying thousands of rands to secure RDP houses.

### August 2022

Property owners accused the metro of levying an [unlawful development fee](#) for new developments. The Development Contributions Policy, in place since October 2021, is allegedly being used to subsidise other infrastructure in Johannesburg.

Johannesburg looked to buy [500 megawatts of power](#) from independent power producers. According to the mayor, the metro will need to spend R26-billion to stabilise its energy supply.

[Violence again broke out](#) in council chambers during the August council meeting, with the DA again [laying charges of assault](#) against the EFF.

By late August there was [open talk](#) of the ANC, EFF and other parties pushing to take control of all three Gauteng metros.



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## September 2022

The [Johannesburg speaker was removed](#) in a vote of no confidence where a number of councillors within the DA-led coalition voted with the ANC and against their parties' mandate. The DA and its coalition partners [opened a criminal case](#) against the ANC for allegedly bribing coalition councillors to vote for the motion of no confidence.

The DA's coalition partners indicated their desire to elect [a new speaker from another party](#) (not the DA). The inability of the DA and its coalition partners to agree on a new speaker led to the PA voting with the ANC and EFF and successfully electing the COPE councillor as the new speaker at the month-end meeting.

The first attempt to pass a motion of no confidence against the mayor failed as the [Gauteng High Court ruled](#) that Colleen Makhubele, the COPE councillor who was ultimately voted in as the new speaker, was not speaker at the time that she scheduled a council sitting for a vote of no confidence against Phalatse.

Coalition partners took action against rogue councillors that voted with the ANC to remove the DA speaker. The IFP [removed its councillor](#) and the [ACDP expelled](#) the two councillors that voted to remove Vasco da Gama. COPE, however, was divided over its treatment of Makhubele with the small party [split into factions](#) over her punishment (or lack thereof).

Makhubele was formally [voted in as speaker](#) in a marathon council meeting but Phalatse's position was [temporarily safe](#) as the motion of no confidence against her was postponed. The DA mayor survived just two more days and was subsequently [voted out](#) in a special council meeting at the end of September. The ANC's Dada Morero was elected as the new mayor.

## October 2022

[Helen Zille accused ActionSA](#) of misrepresenting the events that led to mayor Mpho Phalatse's ousting. Earlier in the week Bongani Baloyi, ActionSA's Gauteng leader, claimed that Phalatse appealed to national DA leadership to save the coalition.

Phalatse asked the High Court to [reverse her removal](#) as mayor. Phalatse and the DA argued that the meeting in which she was removed was unlawful and violated the Municipal Structures Act. The ANC remained confident that its coalition could [vote Phalatse out again](#) even if she won in court.

Morero announced his [new mayoral committee](#). Five of the ten committee members were from the ANC, two from the PA, and one each from the AIC, Al Jama-ah, and ATM. DA councillors [skipped the council meeting](#) to hold their own press conference. The party updated residents on the work done by the coalition before the ANC-led coalition took over.

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[Phalatse laid corruption charges](#) against the ANC and the Johannesburg Property Company (JPC). She accused the JPC of paying R27-million to a company that was an ANC front, and of using the money to bribe councillors and destabilise the DA-led coalition.

The DA called for [new laws to regulate coalitions](#), saying that citizens could not continue to suffer because of coalition instabilities. The party planned to [introduce Private Members Bills](#) in Parliament.

Phalatse continued to [argue in court](#) against her removal. Meanwhile, DA and FF+ councillors were [voted out of their committee positions](#) in a number of motions of no confidence.

ActionSA firmly ruled out any coalitions with the ANC after it held an [online poll](#) to gauge the public's reaction to coalition partners.

The High Court [found in Phalatse's favour](#) and reinstated her as mayor. Opposition parties, including the ANC, were confident that they could [vote her out again](#) in an upcoming council meeting. Phalatse [reinstated](#) nine of the ten members of her original mayoral council but the ANC-led coalition were able to [vote in new ANC, AIC, and UDM councillors](#) to committee positions.

As the city struggled with a heatwave and water restrictions, new mayor Dada Morero said that there were plans to expand water infrastructure but it would [take time to address backlogs](#). [Joburg Water](#) will have to spend R340-million in the next three years on water infrastructure. The Gauteng province has been struggling with water cuts, leaving residents and critical healthcare services at risk. The municipal entity [reduced the water supply](#) through October but eventually Rand Water [took full control](#) of its Gauteng reservoirs.

[The supply of water continued to deteriorate](#) as the crisis deepened. [Water trucks](#) were dispatched to areas where reservoirs ran dry. Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu said that water supply issues would [only be alleviated by 2027](#). Joburg Water [needs R61-billion](#) for its own infrastructure - over 80% of the entire metro budget.

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## Tshwane

### July 2022

The 2022/23 budget (effective from [1 July 2022](#)) includes tariff increases for water and sanitation of 9%. Households using illegal connections would be liable for a R200 000 fine. Businesses implicated in illegal connections would face criminal charges and a R10-million fine.

[Eskom](#) claimed that the metro did not honour its payment schedule in June to reduce its R878-million debt. Eskom accused Tshwane of being the only metro which made erratic payments. The city said it had experienced liquidity challenges caused by low revenue collection in the previous financial year.

The AG's [municipal audit report](#) for 2020/21 flagged R884-million spent on salaries for 627 workers without any work being completed. The AG flagged Tshwane as [the worst-performing metro in Gauteng](#) with high levels of irregular expenditure and an over-reliance on consultants.

The next phase of [Tshwane's campaign to collect outstanding revenue](#) targeted non-paying customers in township areas. Township customers owed R7.3-billion, with Mamelodi and Nellmapius owing R2.1-billion, and Soshanguve R1.1-billion. The metro also indicated that it was monitoring illegal electricity connections.

### August 2022

The [ANC and EFF](#) rejected the DA-led council's decision to nominate Johan Mettler as city manager. The ANC refused to participate in Mettler's appointment, stating that the DA had a history of appointing candidates who did not complete their 5-year term. The EFF stated that their opposition was based on previous allegations of Mettler's unethical and unprofessional conduct.

The EFF laid charges of [bribery and corruption](#) against the mayor due to his involvement in an unsolicited R26-billion proposal to upgrade the Pretoria West and Rooiwal power stations. Williams submitted a report before the city council which he later withdrew due to criticism from the ANC, EFF and ActionSA. Cogta MEC Lebogang Maile also warned that Williams's actions, if true, were a violation of supply chain management laws.

[ActionSA](#) also indicated its opposition to Williams's involvement in the unsolicited proposal and stated that it would vote against it when tabled in council. The party stated that it would lobby other coalition partners to remove the mayor from office and also lodge a complaint with the Public Protector.

Samwu warned that it would [march to the mayor's office to hand](#) over a memorandum of grievances which included non-payment of a 3.5% salary increase, political interference in supply chain management related to the proposed R26-billion upgrade of Rooiwal and Pretoria West power stations, and other issues.

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The ANC said that it would table [a vote of no confidence](#) against the mayor as a result of his support for the unsolicited R26-billion power station upgrades. The IFP also criticised the mayor and noted its concern regarding his alleged unethical conduct. DA provincial leader, [Solly Msimanga](#), rejected the allegations against the mayor and dismissed the EFF, ANC and ActionSA's criticism as petty politicking.

EFF leader, Julius Malema, stated that [his party would support the ANC's motion of no confidence](#) against Randall Williams. The multiparty coalition oversight group (which includes the DA) supported an independent [investigation](#) into allegations of impropriety related to Williams' involvement in the R26-billion proposal. It also emerged that there was recording in which Williams instructed officials to allow the bid.

## September 2022

After three years without a permanent city manager, [Johan Mettler](#), who previously served as Nelson Mandela Bay city manager before his suspension, was appointed as Tshwane city manager. The ANC, EFF and others opposed Mettler's appointment. Mettler indicated that his first priority was to fix the metro's revenue collection system.

[Eskom threatened to disconnect the metro's](#) electricity supply as a result of Tshwane's alleged failure to settle an outstanding R1.6-billion arrears. The parastatal indicated that despite meeting municipal officials regarding non-payment, the dispute had not been resolved. Eskom stated that the metro's "erratic payments" compromised its ability to supply the city and disconnection was necessary for securing payment.

Tshwane ANC chair, [Kgosi Maepa](#), claimed that many municipal staff were not paid their salaries and stated that the metro was bankrupt. He also accused the DA of collapsing the metro but the mayor's spokesperson, Siphon Stuurman argued that the failure to pay salaries was a result of a banking glitch and offered reassurance that salaries would be paid.

## October 2022

Political parties rejected the long-awaited forensic report on upgrades to the controversial [Rooiwal](#) water treatment works. Parties including the EFF and ActionSA stated that they did not consider the report to be comprehensive after only receiving a summary. Councillors stated that the report's recommendation that implicated officials face criminal charges must be implemented. It was reported that R292-million was lost to irregular expenditure.

The DA later blamed the delay in publishing the report on [the ANC and EFF](#), stating that the mayor attempted to table the report on many occasions however the ANC and EFF disrupted those meetings.

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The governing [coalition seemed shaky](#) as ActionSA councillors did not join the mayor and other partners at a media briefing on the functioning of the multiparty government. Representatives from the DA, EFF, FF+ and others joined the mayor. Earlier that week, Gauteng Cogta MEC Lebogang Maile also sought clarity on Tshwane's finances after municipal staff were paid late and buses did not run. ActionSA's national chair, Michael Beaumont, issued a statement noting that the coalition's health depended on the DA's investigation on Randall Williams' role in a controversial unsolicited bid proposal.

[Eskom and Tshwane](#) were at odds after the power utility said that the metro paid only R432-million of its August bill. In September, Eskom rejected the metro's proposed payment plan and requested that the outstanding amount of R1.1-billion was paid by 30 September. The utility said that it had attempted to engage the municipality on many occasions but erratic payments led it to request National Treasury's assistance in resolving the dispute. The municipality said that it was committed to paying Eskom and would relaunch its aggressive #TshwaneYaTima campaign to target defaulting customers.

It was expected that the forensic report, into allegations of tender irregularities in the first phase of a R2-billion contract to improve the local Rooiwal water treatment plant, would be [delayed for the third time by the ANC and EFF](#).

Despite tensions between his party and the DA, ActionSA leader [Herman Mashaba](#) insisted that his party would not enter a coalition with the ANC. Mashaba indicated his party's unhappiness with mayor Randall Williams's management and blamed this for tension in the coalition. ActionSA also announced that it would ask the public to decide who the party should partner with. After unseating the DA government in Johannesburg, the ANC approached ActionSA hoping that the latter would assist in unseating the DA in Tshwane.

The ANC leadership in Tshwane indicated its plans to table [a motion of no confidence](#) to remove Randall Williams, arguing that he had failed in his mayoral duties and blaming him responsible for the poor state of municipal finances. The ANC also claimed that minority parties also expressed their dissatisfaction with the mayor's performance.

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## Ekurhuleni

### July 2022

Ekurhuleni was one of the only metros where unemployment decreased between 2016 and 2021 according to the latest [State of the SA Cities Report](#) published by the South African Cities Network.

ANC Gauteng chairperson [Panyaza Lesufi expressed concerns](#) over the state of the ANC in Ekurhuleni. The region's elective conference in May was marred by quarantined votes and Mzwandile Masina remained a provisional leader. Lesufi warned that the party would be unable to take over the metro if the DA-led minority government should fail.

[Ekurhuleni was the only metro in Gauteng](#) to get a clean audit for the 2020/21 financial year. This was the second consecutive year that the metro achieved a clean audit.

[Tembisa residents protested against poor service delivery](#) and steep electricity tariffs. Protesters delivered a memorandum to the mayor who received it and undertook to respond. The ANC criticised the DA-led government, accusing it of approving 'unjust' tariffs in the 2022/23 Budget.

The [corruption in the Gauteng Department of Health](#) had a direct link to Ekurhuleni. Gauteng ANC heavyweight Sello Sekhokho, who won contracts worth R2.3-million to supply Tembisa Hospital, is closely linked to ANC Ekurhuleni leader Mzwandile Masina. Sekhokho campaigned on Masina's slate in May and won a contract from the metro in 2019 when Masina was mayor.

### August 2022

The [death toll from the Tembisa protests](#) rose to four people. Protesters burned a Customer Care Centre as well as a number of vehicles. Violence erupted after a July meeting between the mayor and protesters [broke down](#). Damage from the protests ran into millions of rands and more than 100 EMPD officers were deployed to the township

The MEC visited the township while [community leaders called on the mayor](#) to lower electricity tariffs and reinstate the indigent policy. In reply to the ANC, the community safety MMC claimed that the city was [instructed by Treasury](#) to remove the free electricity package as it was unsustainable.

The [mayor acceded](#) to the community's demands, saying that electricity billing would be separated from other charges so that residents would not be cut off, and the indigent policy would be revisited. The community, however, [was not entirely satisfied](#) claiming that the coalition government had halved the allocation of free electricity and that there was corruption in the municipal offices.

The ANC and EFF in Gauteng [were in negotiations](#) to take over the running of the three Gauteng metros. Ekurhuleni is particularly vulnerable as Malema and Masina are good friends.

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Security guards in Ekurhuleni and Tshwane [threatened to strike](#) over the non-payment of their salaries. The DA-led councils and security companies laid the blame at each other's feet: the companies claiming that the councils were paying them later than the previous, ANC-led, councils while MMCs and metro officials claimed that payment terms were in line with MFMA regulations and it was the companies' responsibility to manage their cash flow.

## September 2022

Eskom confirmed that the metro paid its electricity bill late. The metro's [collection rate was below 87%](#) compared with National Treasury's benchmark of 95%. Ekurhuleni's liquidity ratio (the measure of its ability to pay short-term debts) was just 0.9 compared with a best-practise ratio of 1.5. Cape Town was the only metro with an adequate collection rate and liquidity ratio.

More details emerged of ANC Ekurhuleni boss [Sello Sekhokho's tenders with Tembisa Hospital](#). Sekhokho's companies received at least R14.5-million going back to 2019. Some of the goods his companies sold to the hospital were marked up by over 530%. Sekhokho is the [treasurer-general of the ANC's Ekurhuleni region](#)

Newly-elected ANC provincial leaders in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal [met openly with their EFF counterparts](#) as the two parties negotiated over the running of municipalities in the two provinces. There was a growing risk of instability in the three Gauteng metro councils.

Bonginkosi Khanyile, who was convicted and jailed for his role in the Fees Must Fall protests, was [hired as the strategic advisor](#) for Ekurhuleni MMC for community services, Bakang Lethoko. Both Khanyile and Lethoko are members of the Patriotic Alliance.

## October 2022

The South African Property Owners' Association published a report outlining the [failure of metros and large municipalities to supply bulk infrastructure](#). Ekurhuleni was the third-worst municipality in terms of the respondents' opinions of service delivery - 85% of respondents felt that infrastructure had deteriorated in the metro.

Following the collapse of the DA-led coalition in Johannesburg, [ActionSA was preparing for a similar outcome in Ekurhuleni](#). The party's Gauteng leader, Bongani Baloyi, expressed his concerns about Ekurhuleni where the DA-led coalition was a minority government without the formal support of the EFF.

All three Gauteng metros were affected by the [heatwave and water restrictions](#) from Rand Water. The bulk-water supplier implemented Stage 2 water restrictions due to a decline in its reservoir storage capacity. Public hospitals in Gauteng, including Pholosong Hospital in Tsakane, Ekurhuleni, struggled with the restrictions.



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The ANC continued with its plans to [take back the Gauteng municipalities](#) it lost in the 2021 election, including Ekurhuleni. Following on the election of Dada Morero as Johannesburg mayor the party set its sights on Mogale City and Ekurhuleni. ActionSA and the DA [discussed strategies](#) to retain control of Ekurhuleni and [ActionSA's senate reviewed](#) all Gauteng coalitions in a bid to improve stability in the metros.

Tsakane residents [threatened violence](#) if the seven EMPD officers accused of murdering a man in Langaville in September were granted bail.

The ANC announced its plan to [table a motion of no confidence](#) against mayor Tania Campbell. Talks between the party and the EFF were at an advanced stage. Newly appointed Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Mzikayifani Khumalo called for [new regulations to govern coalitions](#), which some parties criticised as an ANC attempt to 'take control through the back door'.

The ANC [submitted a motion of no confidence](#) against Campbell, which would be tabled at the end of the month at the October council meeting.

[Rand Water assumed control](#) of the water flow to Gauteng municipalities as the heatwave and loadshedding placed further pressure on its reservoirs. Rand Water reduced the water flow to all Gauteng metros - including Ekurhuleni - by 30%. The metro [owed Rand Water almost R600-million](#). It was the third-largest municipal debtor after Emfuleni and Tshwane.

As the DA prepared to defend its mayor against the vote of no confidence, [cracks appeared in the relationship](#) between the ANC's Ekurhuleni caucus and its Gauteng counterpart. The Gauteng ANC allegedly asked the Ekurhuleni leadership to withdraw the vote of no confidence.

The [motion of no confidence](#) against Tania Campbell succeeded, by 100 votes to 93. The EFF abstained from the vote, with EFF Gauteng chairperson Nkululeko Dunga critical of both the ANC and the DA. Dunga claimed that his party's abstention was a '[warning shot](#)' to the DA whom he accused of insulting the EFF.

The removal of Campbell inspired ANC Gauteng leader Panyaza Lesufi to claim that this would [automatically lead to success](#) in other municipalities but the [EFF reiterated](#) that it had not yet decided to vote for an ANC mayor in the November council meeting. [Mzwandile Masina weighed in](#) and accused the DA of piggybacking on programmes developed by the previous ANC administration.

The DA confirmed that it would [nominate Campbell again](#) for mayor at the November meeting while neither the ANC nor the EFF had chosen candidates for the mayoral vote.



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## Cape Town

### July 2022

Housing activists [denounced the City](#) for delays in the development of affordable housing in the inner city. Activist groups complained that although 5 years had elapsed since the municipality released 11 inner city land parcels, apartheid spatial planning had not been overcome. Ndifuna Ukwazi argued that the city had a constitutional obligation to address spatial apartheid by furthering access to affordable housing in centrally-located areas. Malusi Booi, MMC for housing, responded that more than 6500 units were in development and this included 2000 housing units in the inner city. Affordable housing and spatial apartheid have been contentious issues in Cape Town and opposition parties have also lamented the lack of [affordable housing](#) in the municipality.

The City's [feasibility study](#) on taking over passenger rail services continued however there were concerns that railway infrastructure has been irreparably damaged. Rob Quintas, Mayco member for urban mobility, stated that the city hopes to create an integrated public transport system (which includes passenger rail) but the municipality needed to assess the risks and other implications of this initiative. The mayor also added that the initiative would require Prasa's and the national Department of Transport's cooperation.

### August 2022

The City announced its plan to [pay customers](#) who feed electricity into the grid. The initiative will begin with commercial and industrial customers and this would be expanded to include all energy-generating customers including residents. The initiative forms part of the municipality's plan to reduce reliance on Eskom after ongoing loadshedding in 2022.

### September 2022

Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis defended council's decision to pay nearly R500 000 in legal fees for councillor [Nora Grose](#). Grose is defending charges related to misappropriation of funds and the mayor stated that the city would recover monies spent on legal fees if Grose is found guilty. The ANC, ACDP and Good were vociferous in their opposition to the City footing Grose's legal bill.

After Eskom introduced Stage 6 loadshedding due to unforeseen breakdowns, the City attempted to [mitigate the effects of loadshedding](#) using the Steenbras Hydro Pumped Storage Scheme. Spokesperson, Luthando Tyhaliboni, stated that the city would also use gas turbines to protect critical infrastructure and load curtailment of the commercial sector where necessary. The municipality announced it would use [wheeling](#), renewable energy projects and other measures (including remotely turning off resident's geysers to manage electricity usage at peak times) to reduce its reliance on Eskom.

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The mayor expressed the City's [opposition](#) to Eskom's proposed 32% tariff increase in 2023. Eskom has asked Nersa to approve the increase which would be implemented on 1 April 2023. Hill-Lewis addressed Nersa's public hearing and stated that many Capetonian households were already experiencing financial strain and would be unable to absorb the stiff increase in the electricity tariff.

## **October 2022**

Eskom declined council's request to exempt [water and waste treatment plants from](#) loadshedding. The utility indicated that the plants did not qualify for exemption but the mayor said that the City would re-motivate its application for exemptions. The MMC for water and sanitation stated that loadshedding had a negative impact on water treatment plants and also had cost implications where the metro relied on diesel to maintain operations.

The mayor attended the handover of the [Zandvliet Wastewater Treatment facility](#). The mayor explained that the metro had prioritised the provision of sanitation services and a large part of the capital budget would be allocated to upgrades and maintenance in the coming years. The Zandvliet upgrade will boost wastewater treatment capacity to 90 million litres a day and the project should be completed by September 2023.

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## Ethekwini

### July 2022

The DA caucus leader position was vacant after Nicole Graham's resignation and [Thabani Mthethwa](#) was elected. He contested against councillors Mzamo Billy, Shontel de Boer and Sakhile Mngadi.

By late July more than half of the 110 [PR councillors still did not have offices](#). Many councillors had not requested office space and some worked from home, a situation which remained unresolved since the November 2021 election.

The Audit Committee said that the recruitment process for a [city manager](#) should be restarted and finalised within three months. The position had been vacant for more than a year. After opposition parties claimed that the ANC had rigged the selection process at the provincial level, attempts to fill the position were unsuccessful.

The [ANC's relationship with coalition partners from smaller parties](#) deteriorated and the party faced the risk of losing power in the metro. Small parties were unhappy with ANC's refusal to grant them the MPAC chairperson position, as previously agreed in coalition negotiations.

ActionSA's [Musa Kubheka](#) went into hiding after the party was informed of a plot to murder him. The information came to light while Kubheka faced a disciplinary hearing. The party was compelled to adjourn the hearing for Kubheka's safety.

### August 2022

Deputy mayor [Philani Mavundla](#) challenged small parties to bring a motion of no confidence against him. The 17-party coalition he led openly expressed its displeasure and accused him of abusing their votes for his own benefit.

There were rumours that the [mayor would be unseated](#) as a result of ANC factionalism. A source with extensive knowledge of internal ANC affairs stated that Sihle Zikalala's removal as KZN premier might lead to Mxolisi Kaunda's removal as mayor.

[The ANC](#) faced losing its small council majority when the African Democratic Change (ADEC) party announced it would table a vote of no confidence to remove the ANC. ADEC leader, Visvin Reddy, said that small parties were unhappy with the city's leadership and he expected their support.

The mayor stated that finding a new [city manager](#) was an urgent priority and undertook that an appointment would be made shortly. The office of city manager was vacant since the arrest and dismissal of Siphon Nzuza in 2021 in connection with a multimillion-rand DSW tender. [Musa Mbhele](#) was appointed as the new city manager after having served in an acting capacity.

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The coalition faced collapse after a dispute regarding the vacant [MPAC](#) chair position. The position was vacant since March after ActionSA expelled Makhosi Khoza.

Small parties welcomed the [EFF's Thamsanqa Xuma](#) election as the new MPAC chairperson. Xuma defeated the DA's Andre Beegte, who was nominated solely by his party. The election also marked the end of the DA-led bloc in which the IFP and EFF voted for each other.

## September 2022

South African [metros](#), with the exception of the DA-run Cape Town, faced financial difficulties, and three cities struggled to pay their Eskom accounts. Although eThekweni had enjoyed a 95% collection rate in previous months, the metro's liquidity declined sharply by the end of June and current cash reserves were barely over one month of the operating budget.

Councillor for Ward 99, [Mngobi Molefe](#) was killed while visiting his fiancé. Cogta MEC Sihle Zikalala said that the killing of councillors should be considered a crime against the state.

The [ANC's KwaZulu-Natal leadership](#) will attempt to retake control of the province's 15 hung rural municipalities. It wants to accomplish this by using no-confidence votes to bring down IFP-led coalition governments.

Embattled ActionSA councillor [Musa Kubheka's](#) political career appears to be on track after the party dismissed allegations against him. Kubheka was found not guilty of pointing a firearm at another party member.

The ANC's deputy branch chairperson in Ward 14, [Cassim Phiri](#) was killed by two individuals after an ANC branch meeting.

## October 2022

[The ABC](#) has requested increased security after the president's bodyguard was assassinated.

The AG's report indicated that the municipality wrote [off R151 million in irregular and wasteful expenditure](#). The report also detailed wrongdoing including using and paying service providers with expired and other instances of mismanagement. The municipality also failed to pay service providers promptly and incurred at least R2 million in irregular expenditure in penalties.

Former ward 90 councillor, [Sunil Brijmohan](#), was killed on 24 October.

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## Nelson Mandela Bay

### July 2022

The DA, FF+, ACDP, UDM, PAC, AIC, AIM and NA held discussions on [forming a new coalition](#) government in the metro with the intention to oust the ANC. The parties held several meetings in late June and also met at the beginning of July to discuss the allocation of positions.

NA president Gary Van Niekerk and party members Bevan Brown and Stag Mitchell won a ruling which found that their expulsion was invalid. A faction in the party appealed against the ruling however the [High Court dismissed the application](#).

After weeks of discussions, the newly formed DA-led coalition struggled to reach an [agreement regarding allocation of positions](#). There were allegations that the DA wanted the main service delivery directorates, plus the positions of mayor and speaker and other opposition parties were unhappy with the DA's position.

KwaNobuhle township residents complained about discrimination as the water crisis worsened. Residents claimed that the metro did not provide them with anything except a [half-filled jojo tank for water to service 1 500 households](#). The residents claimed that the tank was not refilled for long periods of time with no explanation. Water tankers were supposed to arrive daily but residents complained about a lack of proper communication and many residents struggled to access water tankers.

In a surprise announcement, the EFF vowed that they would [support the DA](#) in ousting the ANC-led council. The EFF stated that it would not join the DA-led coalition government however but would use its eight council seats to support the ANC's removal.

Some [residents complained](#) that the middle-class suburbs had not faced interruptions in water supply while townships residents endured extended water shutoffs without any communication from the municipality.

The DA signed a coalition agreement with the Freedom Front Plus, ACDP, AIC, AIM, PAC and UDM to oust the ANC and take over metro. The [DA officially announced its mayoral candidate](#), Retief Odendaal. Odendaal served as the DA's Shadow MEC in the portfolios of Finance and Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in the Eastern Cape Legislature.

### August 2022

The MEC for cooperative governance and traditional affairs, Xolile Nqatha, wrote a letter to the municipality indicating his intent to [move the municipality from an executive mayor system](#) to a system that will have a ceremonial mayor, and for the city to be run by an executive committee. The MEC's letter did not provide any timelines on when the changes can be expected.

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The ACDP and FF+ [filed a motion against mayor Eugene Johnson](#), the deputy mayor, Buyelwa Mafaya and council chief whip Wandisile Jikeka. The motion was not included in the agenda for a special council meeting because it was not filed with the speaker in time.

Luvuyo Magalela, Executive Director: Infrastructure and Engineering, said that metro planned to issue a request for information and start the procurement process in order to [contract and assign Power Purchase Agreements](#) with real time pricing. Magalela claimed that a delay was due to uncertainty over when the Energy Minister's go-ahead would be received.

In its attempt to postpone Day Zero, the metro council agreed to [restrict water usage per household](#). This decision came after the Department of Water and Sanitation brought in experts to develop plans to possibly push back Day Zero.

## September 2022

The city's proposed budget for 2022/23 included a [R720-million ward-based budget](#). A majority of councillors were unhappy with the allocations. The DA in particular rejected the ward-based budget because it felt that wards in the northern areas did not get a fair share.

The metro has experienced poor rainfall since 2016 and the [drought might continue for another six years](#) until 2028. This conclusion was deduced from patterns of the previous floods and droughts, which are virtually consistent.

Shack dwellers from Westville [blocked roads in Gqeberha in protest](#) against the council for delays in providing housing and other infrastructure. Residents accused Ward 36 councillor Khanyisa Mani (ANC) of neglect, claiming that Mani distanced himself from the community and failed to give them progress reports about developments in the area.

Despite a coordinated and collective effort by the metro which resulted in over 5 000 fixed leaks, residents continued to [complain about major leaks across the metro](#). The DA conducted an oversight inspection at water leaks in the northern areas. The inspection concluded that the massive leak which ran since November 2021, had resulted in an estimated loss of 1.5-million litres of water due to it per month.

The opposition parties succeeded in [removing the mayor Eugene Johnson](#), on 21 September 2022. Deputy mayor Buyelwa Mafaya and chief whip Wandile Jikeka, were also voted out. The ACDP, AIC, AIM, DA, FF+, PAC and UDM were expected to form the new coalition government.

The former co-operative governance and traditional affairs MEC in the province, Xolile Nqatha, introduced a plan to change the current mayoral committee governance system in the metro to a [ward participatory system](#). A majority of councillors (64 out of 120) voted against the proposal, saying that the proposed system was an attempt to keep the ANC in power.

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A ward participatory system would force the ANC and the DA to work together to control the municipality. The new coalition government was concerned that the provincial Department of Cooperative Governance would implement the [proposal](#) in the metro despite the vote results.

The DA's Retief Odendaal, was elected mayor, Khusta Jack (AIM) was elected the deputy mayor and Gary van Niekerk (NA) retained his position as Speaker. During a [press conference](#) Odendaal stated that he would sue the MEC, Zolile Williams, if they continued to enforce the municipal system change. Odendaal also stated that his priority was to restore political and administrative stability to the metro.

The budget and treasury portfolio committee discussed writing off debt accumulated due to [punitive water tariffs](#) approved by the council in 2021. The metro believed that the increased water tariffs led to a drop in the revenue collection rate because residents were discouraged from paying a higher bill, instead of leading to reduced water usage.

## **October 2022**

While some of the governing coalition partners gathered at South End Fire Station's joint operations centre on 18 October 2022, EFF, ANC and PA gathered outside and demanded to be let in. Due to alleged security threats, the [NMB council meeting collapsed](#) and moved to a virtual sitting.

Although the council took a resolution to establish ward committees in June, residents went to the [polls to elect ward committees](#) only on 26 October 2022. Ten people were elected in each of the 60 wards for a total of 600 ward committee members.

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## Buffalo City

### July 2022

The ANC's regional executive committee's halted its plan to oust [mayor Xola Pakati and replace him with his deputy](#). The provincial ANC stated that the mayor would only be replaced if the current mayor failed to perform.

### August 2022

The ANC's provincial leadership instructed Ward 9 councillor, Mendi Wetsetse, to step aside. This decision came after the ANC members in the ward informed the party that Wetsetse [faces a case of assault](#) with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The complaint was brought against her in 2021.

Mayor Xola Pakati's [state of the city address speech](#) drew a mixed response from political parties in attendance as some considered it balanced while others said that it was a repeat of last year's speech.

Acting CFO, Andile Xoseka, announced that the metro was [putting all its projects on hold](#) due to a lack of funds. This announcement came just two months into the 2022/23 financial year. Metro spokesperson, Samkelo Ngwenya, indicated that the metro was unable to meet its collection targets due to non-payment by government departments, businesses and individual households.

The mayor admitted that the metro faced a cash-flow problem and was [owed more than R4-billion in outstanding debt](#). Households and businesses owed the lion's share (R3.1-billion and R1.3-billion respectively) while government departments owed just R65.3-million. Pakati announced a council resolution which offered consumers up to 50% discount to settle their accounts.

Acting city manager, [Nceba Ncunyana](#), was shot and wounded in another attack in East London on 26 August 2022. The police confirmed they were investigating a case of attempted murder.

### September 2022

Mayor Xola Pakat expressed the metro's firm opposition to Eskom's proposed [32% electricity tariff hike](#). By the end of the month, municipalities had made written submissions to Nersa. Pakati also stated that the metro submitted applications to procure energy from independent power producers and would continue to explore alternative energy sources.

At a meeting between the metro and curtailment customers, council communicated its decision to stop the [exemption from load-shedding](#) for the metro's curtailment customers. These included the industrial, automotive, manufacturing and hi-tech sectors which are the metro's biggest employers. Fearing potential job losses as a result of production losses and delays, Eastern Cape premier, Oscar



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Mabuyane, instructed the metro to find alternative ways to ensure the provision of electricity to important industries to prevent production halts.

Pakati confirmed that the metro was urgently trying to accelerate purchasing [electricity from independent power producers](#). Since the government lowered restrictions for municipalities to purchase electricity, according to Pakati, the metro submitted applications to both the National Treasury and the department of minerals & energy for independent power producers and was still waiting for their response.

### October 2022

The high court nullified and [set aside the Dr WB Rubusana region's](#) participation in regional and provincial gatherings. Ondela Sokomani, who led the group that approached the court, wrote to acting ANC secretary-general Paul Mashatile in June and asked that the outcomes of the provincial conference be nullified, citing irregularities. The litigation resulted from the alleged manipulation of branch general meetings earlier in 2022.

The metro [froze R50-million from its ward allocations](#) for programmes and projects because of financial difficulties. The deputy mayor, Princess Faku, blamed low revenue collection patterns for the decision. DA councillor Geoff Walton, who sits on the finance portfolio committee, said that staff trips were a poor choice of priorities under the circumstances and should have been cut first. Walton responded after the metro came under fire for approving frivolous trips.

Mayor Xola Pakati presented the metro's financial status to the council, which showed its [cash reserves were under serious threat](#). The mayor and the MMC for finance, Sakhumzi Caga, also confirmed the metro's poor revenue collection rates. Pakati said that the metro would meet its immediate obligations although the stagnant revenue base and higher rate of operating costs were causes for concern.

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## Mangaung

### July 2022

Cogta minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma responded to a [parliamentary question](#) on revenue collection and management since Mangaung was placed under administration and an intervention team was deployed.

The minister set out a number of corrective measures that would be implemented, including disconnecting [defaulters](#). The team would also address the high cost of bulk water, reducing the city's excessive salary bill, and filling critical vacancies. She indicated that [road infrastructure](#) was a serious delivery failure and the team would also attend to this.

The ANC Interim Provincial Committee asked the metro's electricity utility [Centlec's](#) to dissolve its board. A number of board members resigned in recent months, and with just two remaining members the board was not fit for purpose. The [former CFO](#) approached the courts to declare the current CEO a delinquent director and claimed that he had a criminal record which rendered his appointment invalid.

Finance Minister, Enoch Godongwana, introduced the national [Cabinet representative and technical support team](#) responsible for overseeing Mangaung's financial turnaround. The team would address the city's financial and service delivery challenges which demanded a "severe intervention".

Godongwana noted that the city had experienced an accelerated decline despite being placed under national administration in April. He added that he was aware that political infighting impeded council's ability to make decisions and criticised [council](#) for only passing its budget on the third attempt.

### August 2022

A number of ANC councillors [threatened to resign](#) in support of their colleagues who faced disciplinary action. The ANC found eight councillors guilty of [gross misconduct](#) after they supported opposition parties' motion to suspend a councillor implicated in hiring ghost workers. The disciplinary hearing recommended expulsion for the eight councillors, including speaker Stefani Lockman-Naidoo. Thirteen ANC councillors threatened to resign in protest, endangering the ANC's position potentially triggering by-elections.

Opposition parties (the DA, EFF and others) accused the ANC of undermining service delivery in the metro after the ANC chief whip, Vumile Nikelo, ordered the [suspension of council meetings](#) due to ANC factionalism. Free State Cogta noted that Nikelo's action was illegal. Nikelo retracted his letter and apologised for conflating council and internal party matters. The EFF and DA [criticised Nikelo's actions](#) as unlawful and unconstitutional.

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The metro sought to appoint its [fifth city manager](#) in under a year. The incumbent acting city manager, Tebogo Motlashuping, took office after national government placed the city under administration in April.

[Centlec had not made progress](#) on finding alternatives to Eskom. Other metros have begun exploring procurement from IPPs but Centlec has been plagued by reports of corruption, factionalism and irregular spending. Centlec's 2022/23 business plan merely indicated that it was aware that it could not rely on Eskom and that alternative energy sources had become popular. Centlec's 2021 business plan referred to an unnamed solar plant however no further detail was provided other than that a feasibility study had begun.

## September 2022

ANC councillors supported opposition parties' vote of no confidence against the ANC's council chief whip, [Vumile Nikelo](#). Nikelo attracted criticism in August after he blurred the line between council and political party business by ordering the suspension of council meetings until internal ANC disputes were resolved. Opposition parties accused Nikelo of acting unlawfully and he was removed via a secret ballot.

At a parliamentary Cogta committee, acting city manager Tebogo Motlashuping reported that the municipality had purged [ghost workers](#) who added millions to the city's wage bill. The city spent more than R2.5-million on ghost workers' salaries in January alone. In June [ghost workers](#) allegedly took the city manager hostage in revenge for the clean-up.

Motlashuping added that the city had eliminated fraudulent overtime payments and hoped to eliminate two departments. Mangaung was placed under national administration in April and an intervention team was dispatched to oversee a financial turnaround. Motlashuping also briefed the committee on governance and other failures plaguing the municipality.

Opposition parties including the DA and EFF indicated their intention to bring [a motion of no confidence](#) against mayor Mxolisi Siyonzana. The DA hoped that ANC councillors would support their attempt to remove the mayor via a secret ballot. Siyonzana was reportedly vulnerable to removal and ANC councillors opposed to corruption were likely to support the vote. The DA held the mayor responsible for a number of failures including infrastructure collapse, political and financial instability.

The portfolio committee on Cogta welcomed the progress report on Mangaung's [turnaround](#) and noted that the city faced serious challenges in governance, financial management and institutional capacity. The committee also requested an urgent settlement of government's R1.3-billion debt to the metro.

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## October 2022

The council announced it would dissolve Centlec. The utility was in disarray after years of corruption and mismanagement. In 2020, the high court declared the then deputy chairperson, Dudu Miyeni a delinquent director for life.

Teboho Motlashuping discussed the city's poor and neglected infrastructure and stated that the city's budget would address this. Motlashuping stated that the city's maintenance budget depended on revenue collection and the infrastructure crisis was a result of poor maintenance over many years.