

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY

GBVF was the only theme to grow during the fortnight. The Ekurhuleni killings and the President’s 29 September address drove attention, while reactions questioned whether commitments would lead to better protection.

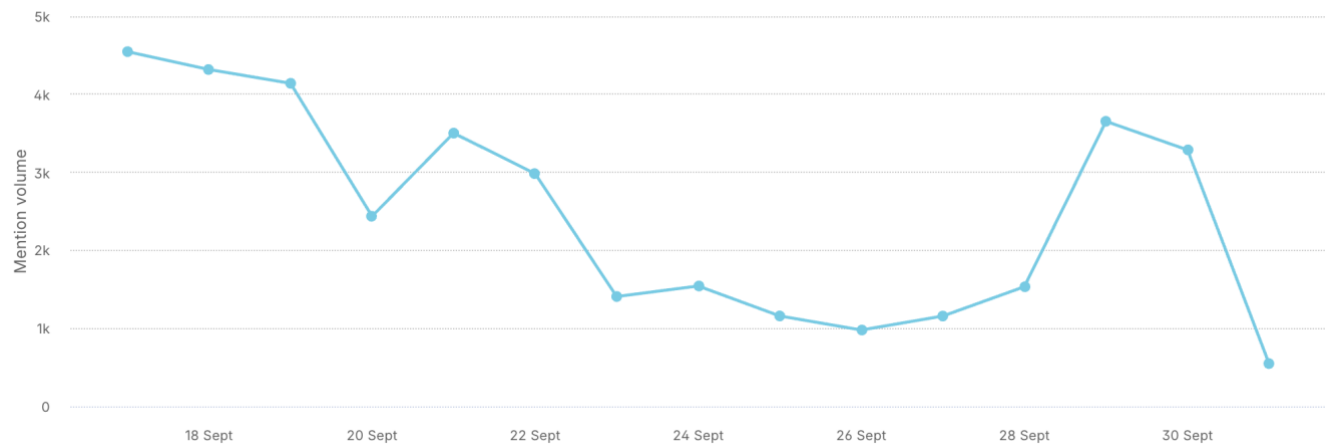
GBVF appears on pages 2–7, xenophobia on pages 8–11, and democracy and local elections on pages 12–15. Brandwatch analysis is complemented by CABC dialogue observations and news reporting. Coverage is concentrated on X and reflects the monitored online conversation, rather than a representative measure of national opinion.

Gender based violence and femicide metrics



Original Brandwatch metrics graphic. Reach is estimated; changes compare with the previous reporting period.

Metric	Current period	Change
Total mentions	37.2K	+31.9%
Unique authors	14.0K	+7.99%
Estimated reach	135.5M	+90.7%



Daily GBVF mention volume across the reporting period.

- 17 September: approximately 4,547 mentions, continuing discussion of the Ekurhuleni killings, community protests and support for women.
- 26 September: volume subsided to about 1,000 mentions before rising to approximately 3,654 on 29 September around the presidential address.

17 September to 01 October 2026

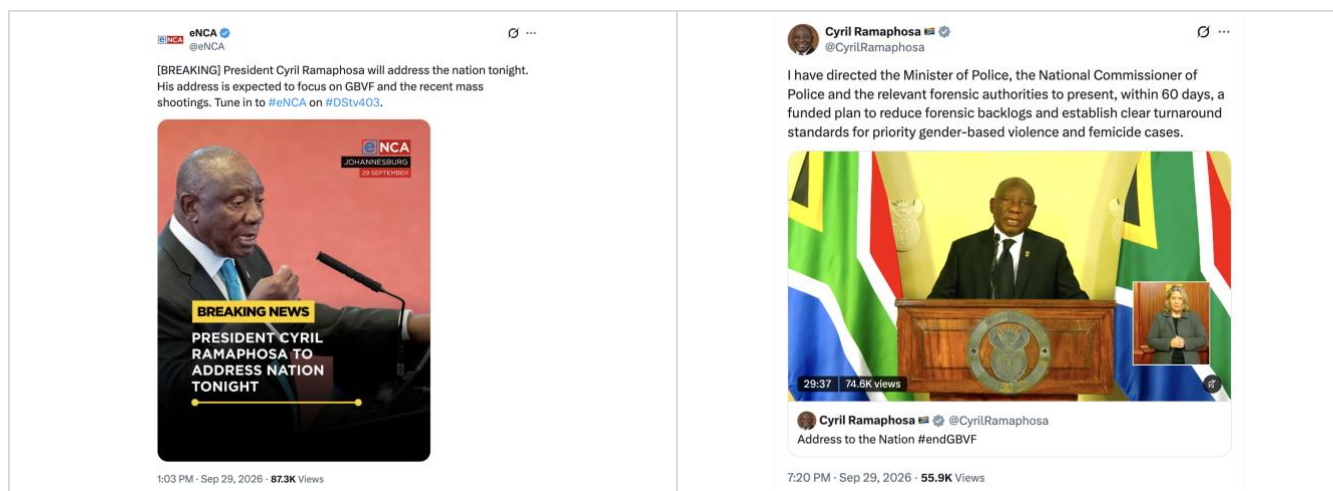


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Presidential response and public trust

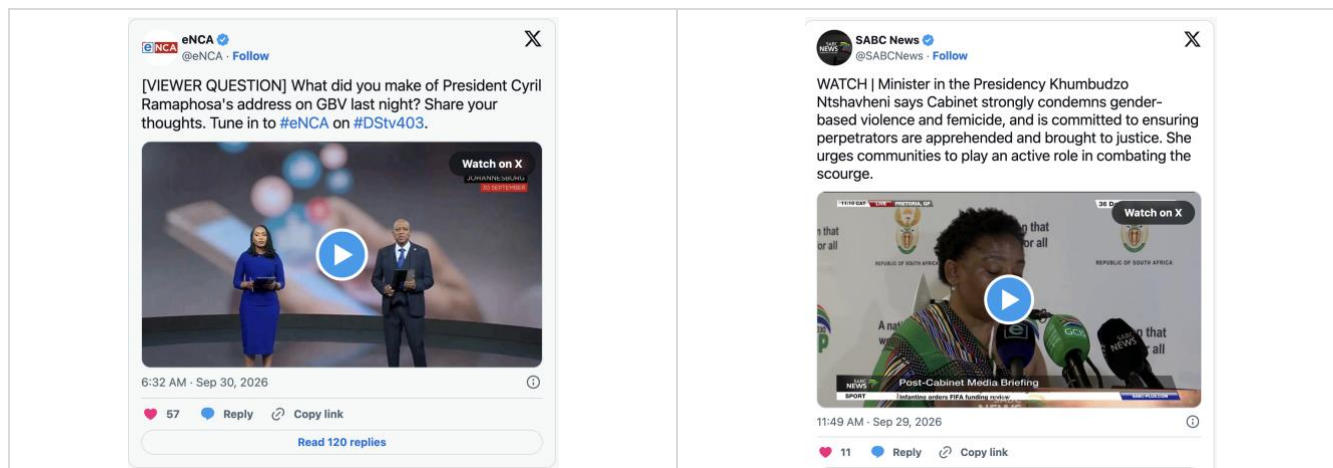
On 29 September, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the killing of 11 women in Ekurhuleni since July. He called GBVF a national crisis and urged men and boys to challenge abuse, coercion and attitudes that normalise violence.

- Prevention: teach consent and respect at home and involve schools, faith communities, workplaces and sport organisations.
- Response: review unresolved GBVF and violent crime cases; audit unsafe public spaces; reduce forensic backlogs; strengthen investigations and the Ekurhuleni response; address alcohol-related violence.



Original X posts announcing the address and setting out the President's forensic backlog directive.

The address expanded visibility, but the report describes much of the online response as sceptical. Users questioned implementation and characterised commitments as repeated promises.



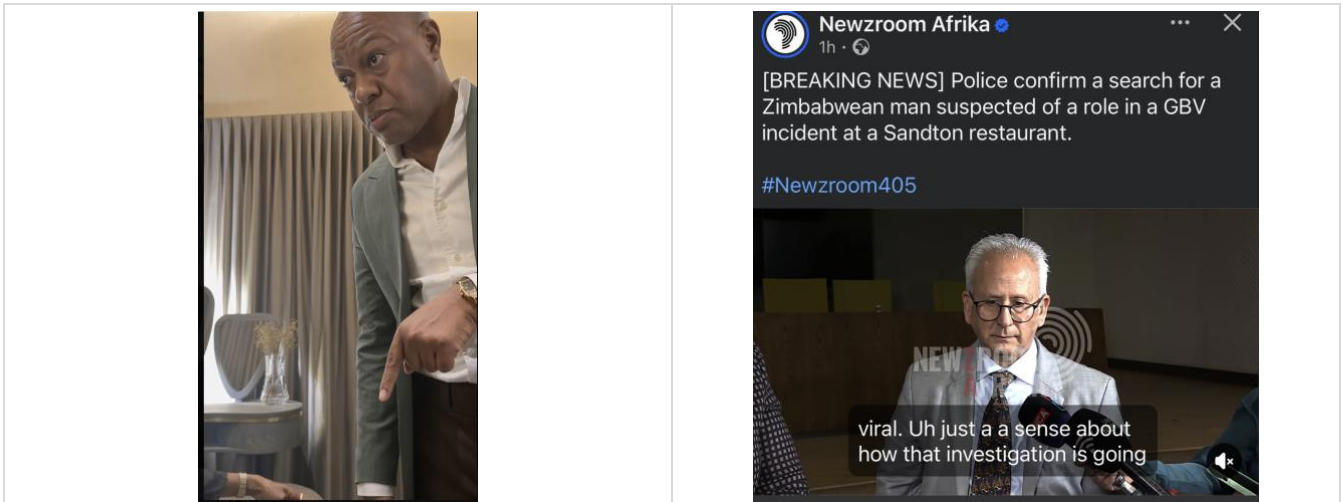
Original eNCA viewer-response post and SABC News coverage of the government briefing.

Sandton intimidation and accountability

A video shared on 20 September showed businessman Lawrence Chamurwa Mudzinganyama threatening women at a Sandton restaurant. The report records approximately 590,000 views for the initial video and 820,900 for a follow-up post that linked his identity and nationality to public contracts.

- Government responses included scrutiny of SANRAL contracts, construction gradings and immigration status. Moriel Infrastructure Group removed him as executive chairman and director; Steyn City Properties ended his lease.

- He handed himself over on 22 September, was charged and released on warning for a 1 October court appearance. SAPS stressed that intimidation allegations require a formal investigation and evidence.



Original incident image and Newzroom Afrika coverage of the police response.



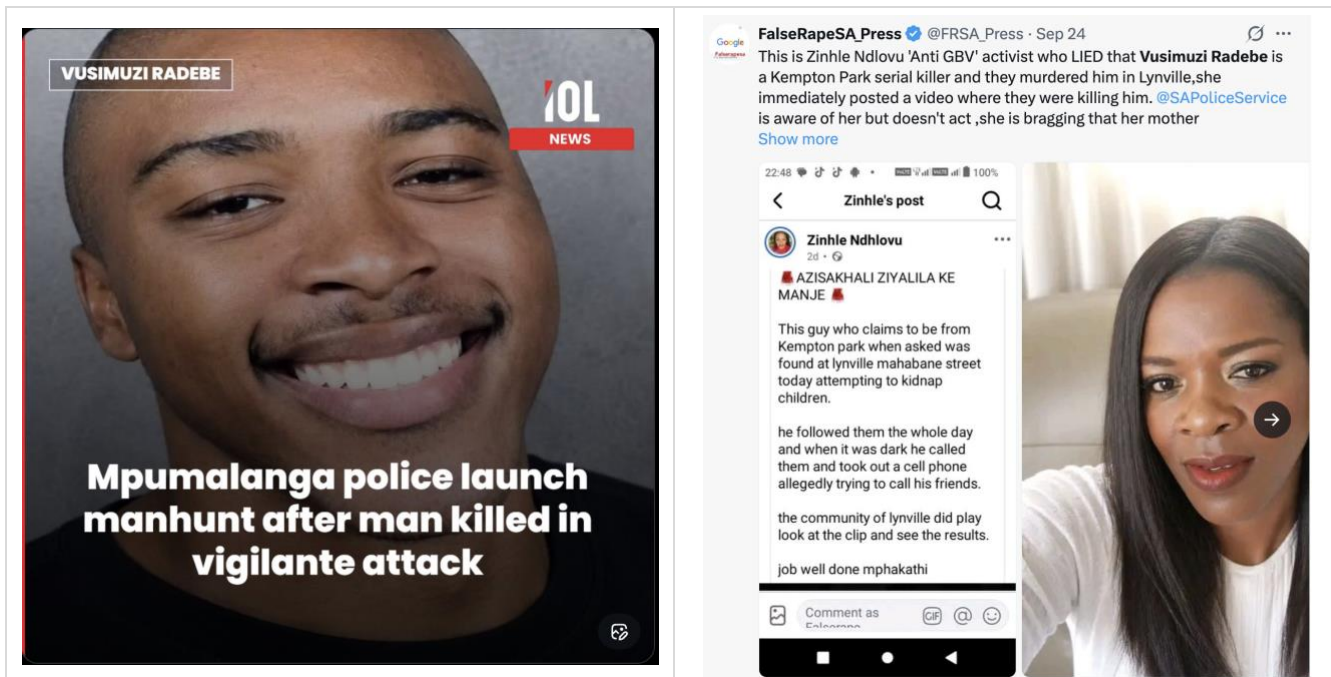
Original Moriel statement and SAPS message on women's dignity, safety and protection.

Key insight: a viral incident rapidly prompted institutional and commercial responses, while discussion shifted from the threats against women to nationality and access to public contracts.

Rumours and the harm of vigilantism

Vusimuzi Radebe was killed in a vigilante attack in Vosman, eMalahleni, on 19 September. His family said he had been wrongly associated with the Kempton Park killings because he had previously lived in the area. No arrests had been publicly reported as of 25 September.

The attack followed fabricated news items and unverified claims surrounding the investigation. The report links this information environment to distrust in policing and the criminal justice system. It cites annual police figures of 299 vigilante-related murders nationally, including 32 in Mpumalanga; these are not fortnight totals.



Left: IOL coverage of Radebe's death. Right: an original post blaming another individual. The allegations in the right-hand post are unverified; the report records no charges or official confirmation.

A second cycle of accusation

A 24 September post naming and blaming a woman for allegedly identifying Radebe and filming the attack reached approximately 74,000 views. Those allegations were unverified. The renewed naming and blaming illustrates how a false-identification narrative can continue after its consequences become visible.

Most important insight

Online identification claims can expose people to immediate harm. The Radebe case makes verification and clear separation of police findings from social media speculation central to interpreting the GBVF conversation.

Ekurhuleni cases and competing explanations

- Dawn Park: Jabulile Ntimba's body was found on 17 September. Three suspects, one man and two women, were arrested over 19–20 September and appeared in court on 23 September.
- Police cautioned that the cases were not necessarily linked. The Dawn Park killing was subsequently associated with a localised dispute, challenging the dominant online assumption of one male serial offender.
- 26–27 September: discoveries in Tembisa and Springs brought the reported Ekurhuleni count to 11. A suspect in the Mooifontein Cemetery case was arrested in Tzaneen on 26 September. Police had not established a definitive link across all cases.



Original graphics: Dawn Park court coverage; a meme reacting to the women accused in that case; eNCA reporting on the tenth discovery. The meme represents an online argument, not a finding about GBVF generally.

A ChrisExcel meme reacting to the Dawn Park arrests recorded approximately 151,700 views. It used the involvement of women in one case to question the broader GBVF framing. eNCA's reports on the tenth and eleventh discoveries recorded approximately 182,200 and 83,700 views respectively.



Original discussion of the Dawn Park arrests, illustrating competing interpretations of the killings.

THEME 2 - XENOPHOBIA

Conversation metrics and turning points

17 September to 01 October 2026

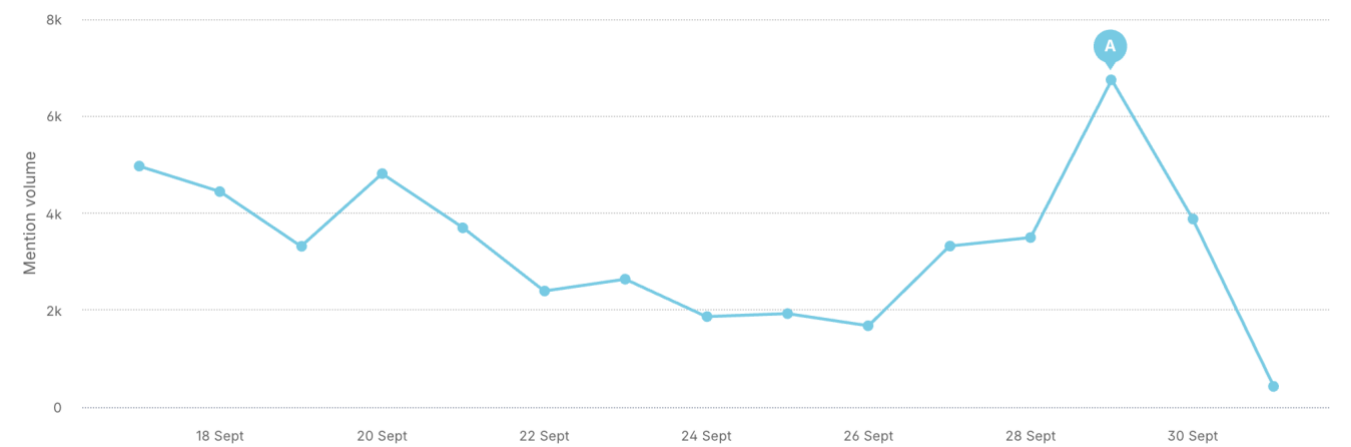
Xenophobia-related conversation declined overall, but crime, illegal mining and immigration remained closely intertwined. The most prominent narratives concerned zama zamas, “illegal foreigners” and territorial conflict.



Original Brandwatch xenophobia metrics graphic. Changes compare with the previous reporting period.

Metric	Current period	Change
Total mentions	49,607	−25.97%
Unique authors	14,918	−5.40%
Estimated reach	113.1M	−27.45%

The preceding period recorded 67,012 mentions, 15,770 authors and estimated reach of 155.9M.



Daily xenophobia mention volume. The marked spike occurred on 29 September.

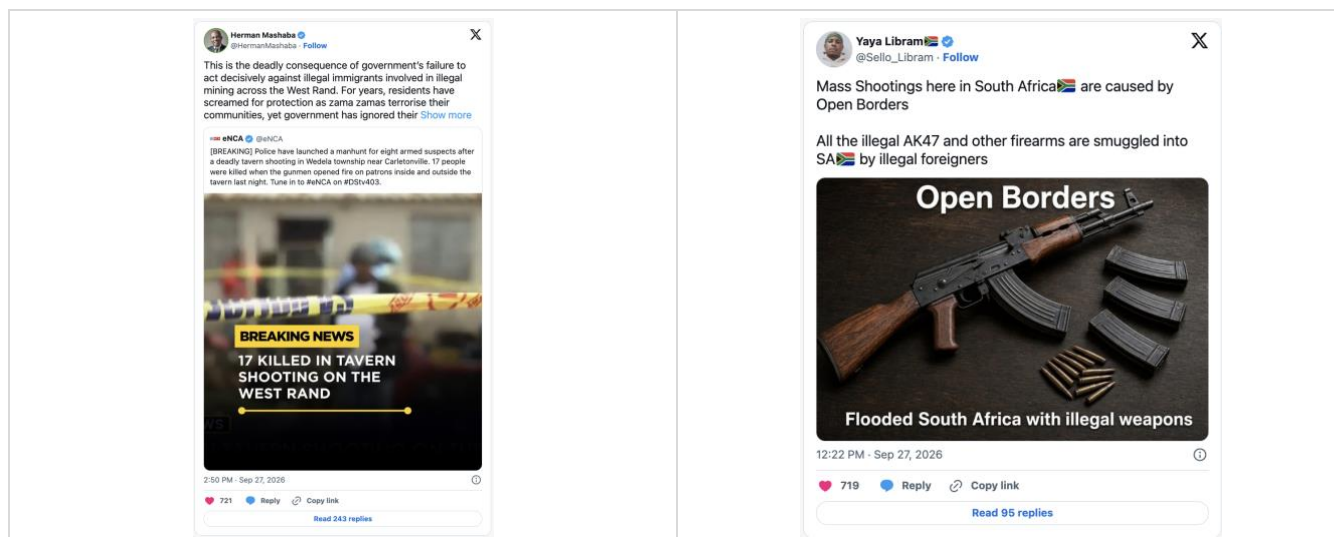
- Conversation generally eased through 26 September, then rose following the Wedela shooting and related discussion of crime and government response.
- The 29 September spike also included posts about missing woman Amanda Khambule and allegations of identity-document sales at Home Affairs.
- Lower volume did not remove the risk of scapegoating: social posts repeatedly attributed violence to foreign nationals without establishing evidence for those links.

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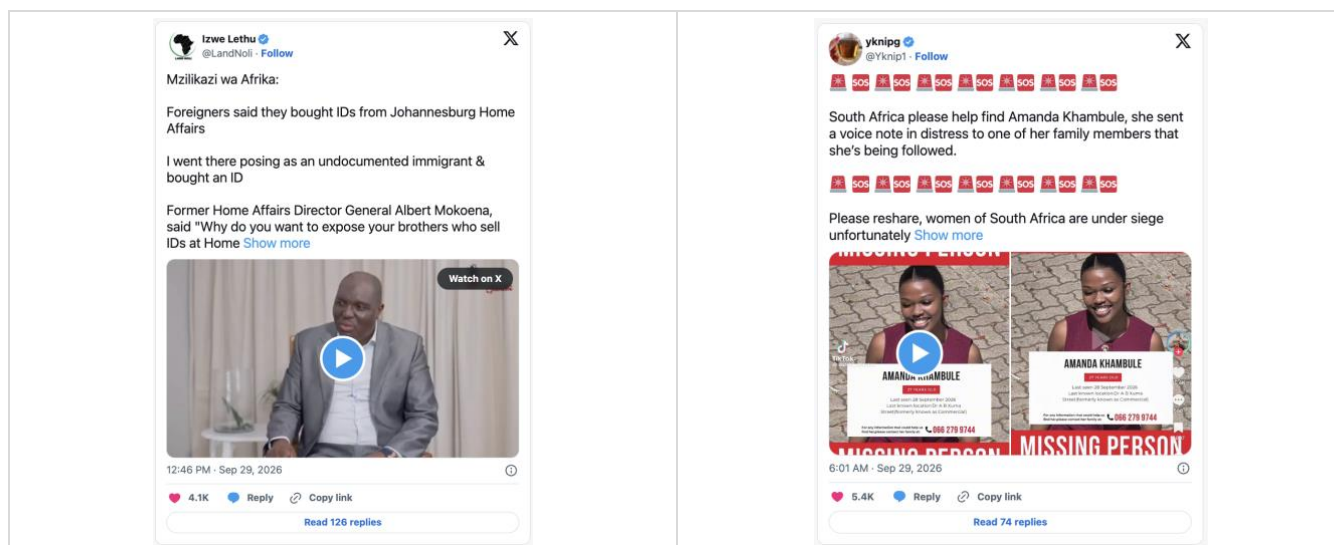
Mass shootings and immigration blame

The Wedela tavern shooting on 26 September killed 17 people at the scene; a later death raised the toll to 18. The report also records 11 deaths in KwaMakhutha and 10 in Lwandle. Its stated combined total of 38 does not reconcile with these incident figures, which add to 39.



Original posts attributing the shootings to government failure and open borders. These attributions are social media claims; the graphics do not establish the perpetrators' identities or motives.

Posts linked the West Rand violence to zama zama territorial conflict and foreign nationals. Other high-attention stories alleged identity-document fraud at Home Affairs or framed the search for Amanda Khambule as evidence that citizens were not being protected.



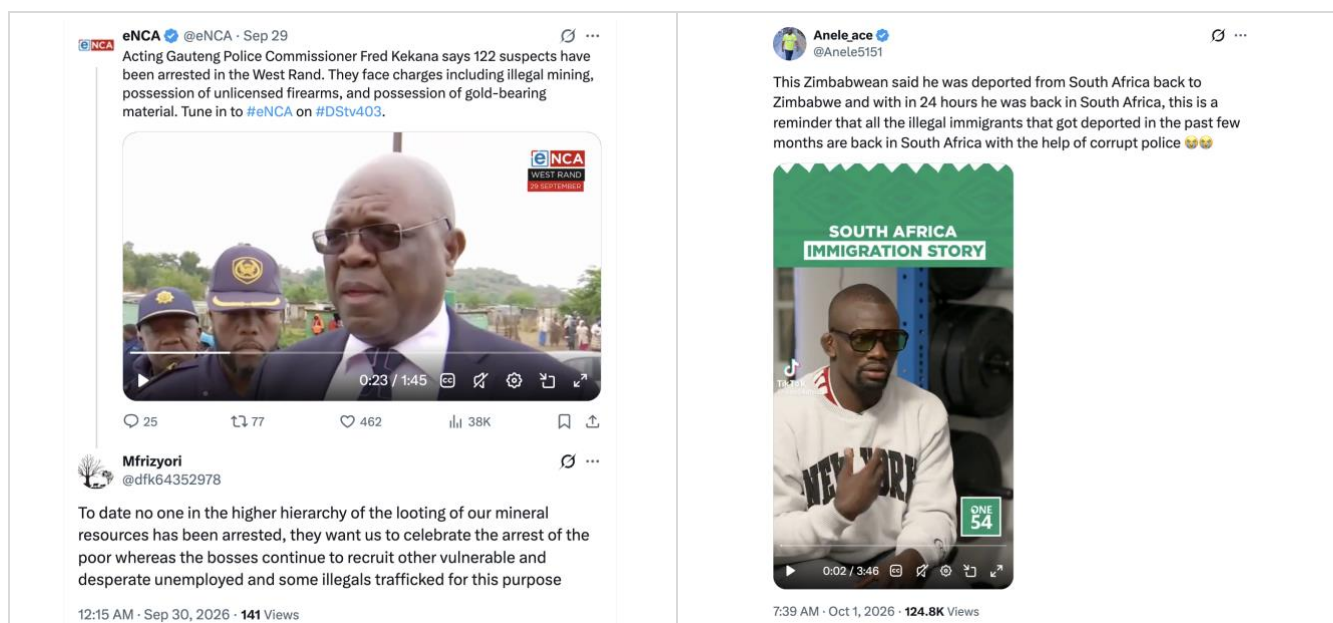
Original Home Affairs allegation and Amanda Khambule missing-person post, both associated with the late-period rise in conversation.

Key insight: distinct crime and safety stories were repeatedly interpreted through immigration and state-failure narratives. Causal claims about nationality require evidence.

Enforcement and claims about GBVF

West Rand arrests

A joint Operation Prosper deployment involving SAPS, the Hawks, Home Affairs and Sibanye-Stillwater security arrested 122 suspected illegal miners. Authorities reported recovering firearms, ammunition and mining equipment. The report records approximately 38,800 views for related coverage.



Original posts: West Rand arrests and a man's account of returning after deportation. The return and police-corruption allegations are unverified. The deportation view count is inconsistent between the source narrative and screenshot.

Deportation and unlawful re entry

A man claimed that he returned to South Africa within about a day of deportation to Zimbabwe. The accompanying post alleged police assistance, prompting debate about border enforcement and corruption; the account does not establish how re-entry occurred.

Linking immigration to violence against women

Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma argued that the presence of foreign nationals placed pressure on policing and worsened GBV. The report describes predominantly critical responses and stresses that this causal claim requires evidence.



Original Ngobese-Zuma interview post. The narrative cites approximately 1.5M viewers, while this embedded snapshot displays 3,502 views; the figures are not reconciled.

Conversation metrics and campaign promises

Election and democracy conversation contracted across all headline measures. Discussion centred on mayoral candidates, service delivery, voter information and the credibility of political promises.

Total mentions 14.27_k ▼ 40% Previous period: 23.66k	Unique authors 4954 ▼ 23% Previous period: 6452	Trending topics 1. 2026 local elections 2. Nelson Mandela Bay 3. apartheid-era police officer	Total estimated reach 66.93_m ▼ 33% Previous period: 99.86m
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Original Brandwatch democracy and local elections metrics graphic.

Metric	Current period	Change
Total mentions	14.3K	-39.7%
Unique authors	4.9K	-23.2%
Estimated reach	66.9M	-33.0%



Daily democracy and local elections mention volume for the reporting period.

17 September recorded 1,543 mentions, or 10.8% of the total, amid campaigning on safety and service delivery. A further peak on 21 September concerned mayoral candidates and metropolitan manifestos.

Social grants and affordability

Debate over an EFF pledge to double social grants combined support for recipients with questions about funding and sustainability. The sampled pledge dates from 5 September and is background to the reporting period, rather than a new announcement during the fortnight.

"They [ANC] cannot take away your SASSA support grants. You paid taxes when you were working, that is your money. We [EFF] will not take away your grants, instead, we will double them. In fact, we want it to start from R4,500," EFF leader Julius Malema tells supporters at the party's provincial manifesto launch in the North West.

Politicians should be held criminally accountable for making promises that are impossible!

5:50 PM · Sep 5, 2026 · 3,337 Views

Original extracts of the EFF grant pledge and a reaction questioning political promises. The source example predates the fortnight.

THEME 3 - DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Keywords and campaign focus



● Hashtags ● Locations ● Organizations ● People ● Phrases ● Keywords

Top 60 democracy and local elections keywords, phrases, locations and people.



Fading  Trending

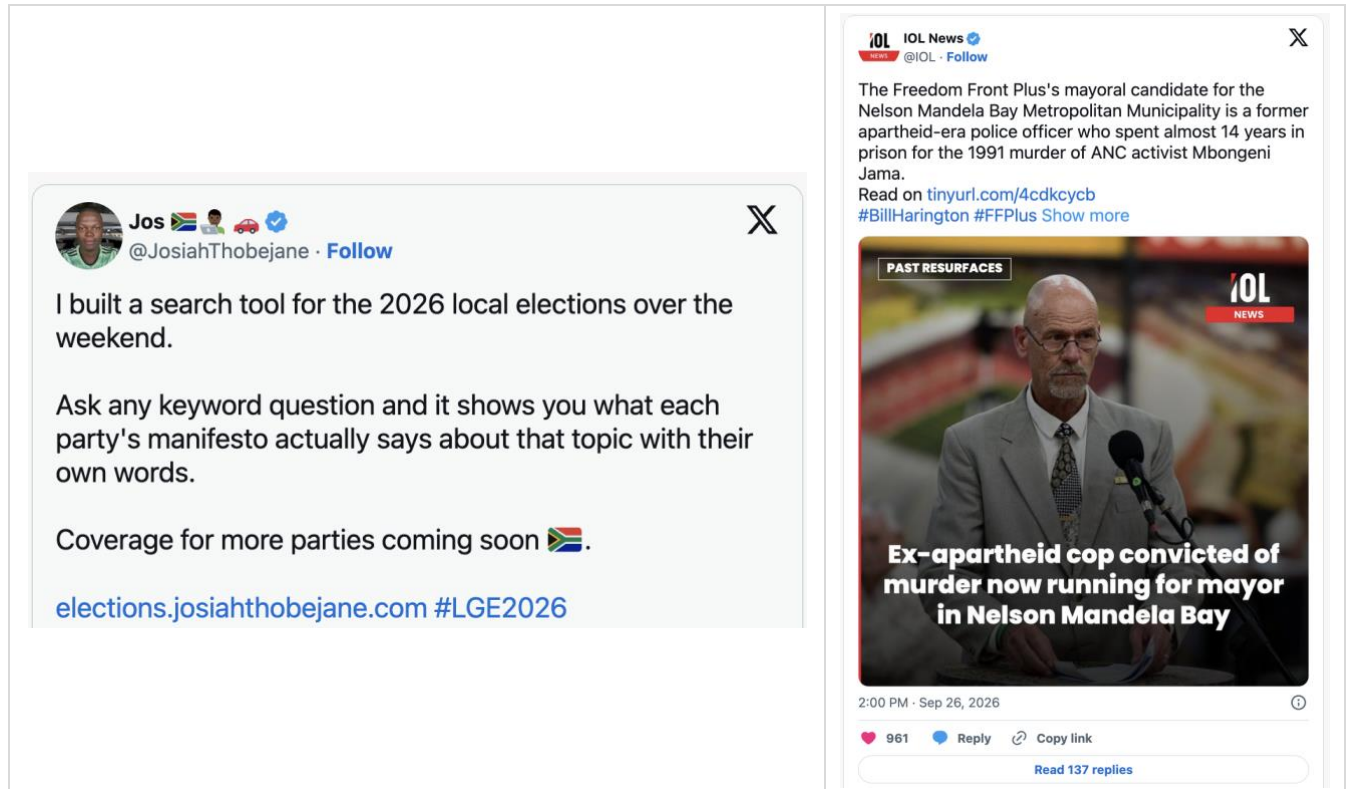
Democracy and local elections topics from fading to trending.

EFF recorded 4,039 mentions. “People” and “Government” were also volume outliers, while #LGE2026 was a prominent trending topic. The wider conversation focused on infrastructure, service delivery, party manifestos and mayoral campaigning. Nelson Mandela Bay and the controversy around a former apartheid-era police officer were among the leading topics.

Voter information and candidate scrutiny

Tools to assess party promises

A manifesto search tool allowed voters to query party positions directly. Africa Check promoted questions about whether promises were deliverable, measurable and funded, and offered misinformation workshops for Gqeberha journalists. These initiatives supported scrutiny of campaign claims.



Original posts: the manifesto search tool and reporting on the Freedom Front Plus mayoral candidate in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Nelson Mandela Bay priorities

- EFF: restore basic services and rehabilitate infrastructure. DA: open bid adjudication committees to the public to strengthen oversight.
- ANC: focus on unemployment, water and sanitation, safety and infrastructure. ACDP: emphasise leadership and competent appointments.

The Freedom Front Plus candidate's apartheid-era police service and murder conviction triggered debate about accountability and suitability for office. Candidate history sat alongside service delivery as a central test of credibility.

Transparency and institutional trust

Candidate disclosure

Users argued that voters should know who is standing, be able to raise objections and understand how changes to party lists could affect representation. These exchanges linked disclosure and access to information to confidence in electoral fairness.

Can an election be declared free and fair if parties are deliberately concealing and hiding candidates?

Imagine if the ANC and DA didn't list the thousands of proportional representation candidates they have to the IEC?

Then suddenly after the election, they produce lists and say "All these people were now elected, please ensure you add them to our count, they will be sworn in, in two weeks."

You see how this works. Folks want you to believe this would be an acceptable way of doing things in a democracy. And will come here and defend this type of nonsense.

Not to mention the IEC makes provision for anyone to complain about a candidate on a party's list or flag them. And so by hiding candidates you undermine this entire process.

There is no reality where deliberately hiding your candidates from citizens is defensible.

Original post questioning the concealment of candidates. It records a user's argument, not a legal finding.

Political trust and participation

Discussion ranged from support for constitutional institutions and civic participation to disillusionment about corruption, political deals and whether voting produces meaningful influence.

Every time elections are around the corner, Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba suddenly becomes vocal about enforcing migration laws. Take a look at this stunt. 🇿🇦 Is this genuine enforcement, or just election season politics?	Though I understand the sentiments here regarding how scary and dangerous the political space is, we must imagine what our lived realities would be had the Madikizelas, Biko, Nkomo and Hani's of our democracy decided to preserve themselves. Where would we be as a nation?  vuyi qotoyi @justvuyi_ · Sep 28 Another thing is that I need you guys to actually get into politics. We need qualified councillors, MMCs, mayors and support staff. We need ministers and leaders who care about this country. We actually need ordinary people to be invested in politics.
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Original posts questioning election-season positioning and encouraging political participation.

Policing and organised crime

The Madlanga Commission was a reference point for allegations of criminal networks, corruption and political interference in policing. Users connected these concerns to difficulty obtaining help and called for institutional reform; allegations should remain distinct from established findings.

The one thing the Madlanga Commission is validating for us South Africans is that the police cannot be trusted. They'll hold press conferences about crime and tell communities to report crimes at their nearest police stations, while the same police officers you're reporting crimes to are allegedly begging crime bosses for work and money. Crime bosses are allegedly getting dockets and intelligence reports while the ink is still wet! We have a serious policing crisis. The system needs a full overhaul.	The unwelcoming attitude nje when you get to the police station as a normal citizen tells a deep story. You need to have a police official's number to get attention. That alone tells you a lot about their boss in that particular station.	We need Law enforcement & Police services that work We are tired of the same old issues of Extortion & Protection Fees Zamas Zamas & Drug Cartels must end Close borders for control over criminals It's clear that ANC can't do it. Step down and hand over to a party that can
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Original posts expressing distrust of law enforcement and demands for reform.

Key insight: credibility depended on more than campaign promises. Voters' access to candidate information and confidence in accountable, effective institutions remained central to the conversation.