Business

Like us on Facebook
Daily Dispatch

Follow us on X
@Dispatch_DD

July producer inflation slows sharply, as expected

STELLA MAPENZAUSWA

Annual producer inflation for final manufactured goods decelerated sharply, as expected, to 5.7% in July from 7.5%, due to lower input costs during the month, Statistics South Africa data showed on Thursday.

Economists had predicted a similar slowdown in prices at the factory gate after consumer inflation eased in July, reflecting lower fuel prices.

The main positive contributors to the headline producer inflation rate were coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products, which recorded 15.7% and contributed 3.4 percentage points.

Food products, beverages and tobacco products registered 1.9% and accounted for 0.6 percentage points, while metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment recorded 3.8%, adding 0.6 percentage points.

Month-on-month, the producer price index (PPI) decreased by 1% in July after retreating by 0.1% in June. The main negative contributor to the July rate were coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products.

The PPI measures annual as well as month-on-month changes in the prices of locally produced commodities, using a sample of producers to compile the indices for final manufactured goods — the headline number — as well as:

- intermediate manufactured goods;
- electricity and water;
- mining and
- agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Annual producer inflation for intermediate manufactured goods was 9.8% in July compared with 12.4% in June, while the index decreased by 1.8% month on month.

In agriculture, forestry and fishing, the PPI decreased by 4.5% year on year in July after falling by 7.9% in June. Month on month, however, the index increased by 2.4%. – *Business Day*

Daphne Mashile-Nkosi's Kalagadi Mine owes the IDC a staggering R6bn, despite being the richest source of manganese in the world. The SCA was unimpressed with her arguments this week. Picture: [illegible]

Kalagadi faces business rescue as R6-billion debt catches up

SCA throws out world top manganese miner's plea for interdict after six-year court battle

KABELO KHUMALO

The future of Kalagadi Manganese is in further jeopardy after the Supreme Court of Appeal threw out the mining house's bid to challenge the Industrial Development Corporation's authority to institute business rescue proceedings against it.

The ruling is the latest twist in the IDC's six-year battle to place the company in business rescue.

Kalagadi's mineral base is a world-class asset.

However, the company, founded and chaired by Daphne Mashile-Nkosi, owes the IDC a staggering R6bn — with the parties engaged in a lengthy legal battle since 2020.

The SCA on Tuesday noted that Kalagadi operates the world's largest sinter plant and has mining rights that contain about 960-million tonnes of manganese ore deposits.

Despite its apparent riches and capacity to produce 3-million tonnes of run-of-mine manganese ore per annum from its operations in the Kalahari Basin, Northern Cape, the country's second-highest court noted the company's assets have not translated into financial stability.

"On the contrary, despite having access to considerable mineral resources, Kalagadi has been floundering financially and, for at least the past six years, has not been able to service its debts.

"The contrast between the abundance of its underlying assets and its persistent inability to meet its debt obligations lies at the heart of the present dispute," the court said.

The SCA judgment flagged that the IDC's sustained and deliberate decision-making process culminated in a decision to institute the business rescue proceedings — which Kalagadi opposes — opting rather to restructure its debt.

Kalagadi argued before the SCA that the IDC's business rescue application has become "stale" as too much water has gone under the bridge since the IDC launched proceedings in 2020.

However, the SCA found that delay alone does not extinguish such an application or render it incompetent.

"First, the delay is largely self-induced.

"The history of the proceedings shows the business rescue application was delayed by interlocutory challenges and procedural skirmishes initiated by the applicants, including repeated challenges to the IDC's authority and related applications for leave to appeal," the court ruled.

"A litigant who materially contributed to the delay cannot readily rely on it as a separate ground to nonsuit its opponent. To allow that would turn the consequences of a litigant's own forensic choices into a substantive defence.

"Despite the passage of nearly six years, Kalagadi has not shown that it can service the debt or put forward a concrete and workable restructuring proposal.

"In that context, the negotiations are best viewed as exploratory discussions conducted alongside, rather than in place of, the IDC's decision to protect and enforce its rights through business rescue." — *Business Day*

MBHASHE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

BID ADVERTISEMENT: BID NO: MBH/INFR/0001/2026-27, MBH/INFR/0002/2026-27 & MBH/INFR/0003/2026-27

Mbhashe Local Municipality hereby invites service providers to bid for the CHAPHAZA LINKLINE ELECTRIFICATION, KRESHINI HOUSEHOLDS ELECTRIFICATION & LANGENI HOUSEHOLDS ELECTRIFICATION.

PROJECT NAME	BID NUMBER	CLOSING DATE	BRIEFING OR SITE INSPECTION DATE	CIDB GRADING	ENQUIRIES	AVAILABILITY OF TENDER DOCUMENTS
CHAPHAZA LINKLINE ELECTRIFICATION	MBH INFR 0001/2026-27	11 SEPTEMBER 2026 NOT LATER THAN 11H00. All completed bids must be in a sealed envelope marked: The Name, Bid No, Bidder's Name to 454 Streatfield Road in Dutywa During 07h30 to [illegible]	Compulsory Briefing. Wednesday 02 Sept 2026 @ 11:00AM to be held at Mbhashe Town Hall in Dutywa.	3EP or higher	Technical related Queries: [illegible]. SCM related Queries: [illegible]. During 07:30 to 16:30 from Monday to Friday	25 August 2026 at Mbhashe Local Municipality Budget and Treasury Cashier offices, 454 Streatfield Road, Dutywa upon payment of a non-refundable deposit of R[illegible] per document. EFT will be accepted. When paying through EFT please use the name of the company as a reference. The municipality will only be selling the hardcopy documents; the electronic documents will be obtainable on the website [illegible] & [illegible]. ACCOUNT TYPE: PUBLIC SECTOR CHEQUE ACCOUNT. ACCOUNT NUMBER: [illegible]. FIRST NATIONAL BANK. BRANCH CODE: 21[illegible]21. BRANCH NAME: DUTYWA. SWIFT CODE: FIRNZAJJ
KRESHINI HOUSEHOLDS ELECTRIFICATION	MBH INFR 0002/2026-27					
LANGENI HOUSEHOLDS ELECTRIFICATION	MBH INFR 0003/2026-27					

THE ADVERT IS ISSUED IN COMPLIANCE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATION 2022 (PPR)

Stage 1: Assessment of Administrative Compliance

- Only bidders who are responsive in terms of administrative compliance will be evaluated further to stage 2.

Stage 2: This stage will focus on evaluation of specification and bidders ability to execute the projects.

- Bidder must respond in accordance with all the minimum requirements and conditions of the tender as detailed in the terms of reference, failure to comply will result in disqualification.

Stage 3: Evaluation will be done based on the 80/20 preferential point system.

- Where 80 points will be allocated for price and 20 for specific goals. Bidders must submit the required documentation to claim preference plan.
- The 80/20 preferential system will be applied, where points 80 points will be allocated for price and 20 for specific goals.

SPECIFIC GOALS:

The specific goals allocated points in terms of this tender	Number of points allocated (80/20 system) (To be completed by the tenderer)	Required documentation or proof to claim the points
Procurement under the 80/20 preference points system where the enterprise head office or primary place of business is located. Points for enterprises within Mbhashe municipal area; Points for enterprises within Amathole District region; Points for enterprises within the Eastern Cape Province	4; 2; 1	ID copy of directors / owner and CSD report
Business owned by 100% black person; Business owned by more than 50% black person; Business owned by equal or less than 50% black person; Bidder will be entitled to claim in one of the above.	4; 2; 1	ID copy of directors / owner and CSD report
Business owned by 100% black women; Business owned by more than 50% black women; Business owned by equal or less than 50% black women; Bidder will be entitled to claim in one of the above.	4; 2; 1	ID copy of directors / owner and CSD report
Business owned by more than 50% youth	2	ID copy of directors / owner and CSD report
Business owned by more than 50% disabled person	1	Medical report / Certificate
B-BBEE	5	Sworn Affidavit issued by the Commissioner of Oath or a certificate from the Verification Agency as means of verification

BIDDERS SHALL TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER: • The Validity period of Bids is 90 days from the closing date. • Bidders to submit a Tax Compliance status document with Pin issued by South African Revenue Services (SARS) or CSD number to verify tax status. • Bidders are required to submit proof of registration of CIDB. • Bidders must submit letter of Good standing from the Department of Labour. • Failure to complete, date and sign MBD 4, MBD 6, and MBD 9 will render the bidder non-responsive. • Failure of directors / trustees / shareholders / members to declare companies involved in under MBD 4, item 2.11, will result in disqualification. • Electronic tender documents will also be available on the municipal website [illegible] • Bidders must be registered on CSD if the bidder is not registered the bid will be deemed non-responsive. • Failure to submit JV agreements (where applicable) or Consortium Agreements will lead to a disqualification. • Latest billing clearance certificate OR statement of municipal account not older than three months OR a lease agreement of the bidding company must be attached. [illegible] • All certified documents must not be older than six (06) months. • Late, telegraphic, facsimile, emailed, electronic copy, incomplete or unsigned bids will not be considered. • Non-disclosure by the service providers who are in the service of state and service providers listed on tender defaulters will lead to disqualification. • Completed Bids and supporting documentation, placed in a sealed envelope clearly written on the outside of the envelope with bid details of project must be dropped in the marked tender box placed at the reception of the Mbhashe Local Municipality offices at 454 Streatfield Road in Dutywa During 07h30 to 16h30 from Monday to Friday no later than Friday, 11 September 2026 before 11H00 am on the date as mentioned above. All the received bids will be opened in Public at the same time and date. • Mbhashe Local Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid and reserves the right not to accept the whole or any part of the bid. • The municipality will not be liable for any misplaced or late tender document delivered by Courier Company. • Bidders will be evaluated in accordance with the Municipality's Supply Chain Management Policy and in terms of Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act new regulations of 2022 and will be based on 80/20 points system.

Issued by: [illegible], MUNICIPAL MANAGER
MBHASHE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
454 Streatfield Road, P.O Box 25, Dutywa, South Africa, 5000

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality

Physical Address
51 Winnie Madikizela Mandela Street
Postal Address
P.O Box 12
Bizana

Office of the Municipal Manager
Tel: 039 251 0230
Fax: 039 251 0917
[illegible]@mbizana.gov.za

RE-ADVERT

Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality is a Category 2 Municipality that is committed to affirmative action and provisions of Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998. Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified individuals to fill the vacant positions indicated below:

1. POST: MANAGER: ADMINISTRATION & AUXILIARY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT: CORPORATE SERVICES
CONTRACT: PERMANENT
TASK GRADE: 1[illegible]
REFERENCE: [illegible]
REMUNERATION: R[illegible] BASIC SALARY PER ANNUM

REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 12 or Matric Certificate;
- National Diploma (NQF Level 6) or Bachelors' Degree or BTech (NQF Level 7) in Public Administration & Management/Business Management;
- 4-8 years' experience in related field with 3 years' supervisory experience and knowledge of Local Government;
- Knowledge of MFMA and controlled environment will be an added advantage;
- Knowledge and experience in Fleet [illegible] Management will be an added advantage;
- In-depth knowledge of the municipality's challenges in delivering municipal services;
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills;
- Fluency in at least two official languages;
- Be able to work under pressure; and
- Valid driver's licence.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREA

- Research and develop strategic short and medium-term plans goals for the functionality;
- Oversee the allocation, purchase, and the general use and maintenance of the entire Municipal fleet;
- Manage and oversee processes related the cleanliness and maintenance of Municipal sites and offices;
- Develop Administration and Auxiliary Services section budget based on staffing needs and practices;
- Direct and control the key performance indicators and outcomes of personnel within the auxiliary and administration section;
- Manage processes related to the provision of administrative support to storage and management of Municipal documents/information; and
- Prepare monthly management reports.

LEADING COMPETENCIES

- The ability to create a clear sense of common purpose and vision for others and the ability to motivate and inspire others;
- Management and accountability;
- High level of communication is required;
- Organizing and time management skills;
- Building and maintain effective working relationships;
- Deliberate Teamwork and Team building; and
- Excellent reporting skills.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- The ability to interact with others and influence them to adopt the best alternative from a range of options;
- Mentors by investing adequate time and effort in counselling and coaching subordinates and subordinate leaders;
- Ability to work independently and where necessary take key decision in complex situations;
- High level of Communication skills required to work with people;
- Customer and Service delivery Management (Batho Pele) Ethics;
- Integrity and professionalism;
- Conflict Management;
- Problem solving skills;
- Service delivery oriented; and
- Team Orientation.

An application form (available on the municipal website) must be completed to apply for the position and the reference number quoted, accompanied by a comprehensive CV with traceable references, copies of certificates, ID and driver's licence must be submitted as part of the applicant's application. All correspondences should be addressed to: The Senior Manager Corporate Services, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality, P.O Box 12, Bizana, 4800 or be submitted to the Municipal Offices during office hours or emailed to: [illegible]@mbizana.gov.za. For any information please contact: Ms [illegible] on 039-251 0230 during office hours. Closing date: 28 September 2026 @ 12pm.

Notice: This is the re-advert. All those who have applied before need not to apply again.

CANVASSING OF COUNCILLORS AND OR OFFICIALS WILL DISQUALIFY YOUR APPLICATION; THE MUNICIPALITY RESERVES THE RIGHT NOT TO FILL THESE POSTS.

Applicants who have not been contacted within 30 days after the closing date should know that their applications have been unsuccessful.

MR. L. [illegible]
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Toyota and VW gains offset Ford slump for Metair's first half

LINDIWE TSOBO

Vehicle components and aftermarket group Metair reported mixed production trends among its major original equipment manufacturer (OEM) customers in the first half, with lower volumes at Ford offset by higher production at Toyota and Volkswagen.

Volumes associated with Ford were 25% lower at 46,193 vehicles, or 15,366 fewer units than in the corresponding period a year earlier. Toyota's volumes increased to 66,074 vehicles from 64,011, while Volkswagen's rose to 80,401 from 70,244.

Metair CEO Paul O'Flaherty on Wednesday said Toyota's higher volumes came despite the switch to the new Hilux model.

The group expects Toyota volumes in the second half to be at least in line with the first half.

The mixed customer performance came as Metair reported a 1% increase in group revenue to R8.5bn for the six months to end-June, while earnings rose 8%. Once again, no interim dividend was declared.

Metair's two main operations are supplying automotive components to vehicle manufacturers for use in new vehicles and selling replacement parts for vehicles already on the road.

The group operates in SA and Sub-Saharan Africa, with vehicle component manufacturing accounting for 67% of revenue and aftermarket parts and retail for 33%.

Revenue from the OEM segment increased 4.4% to R5.73bn.

The group generated R188.6m in cash from operations, compared with an outflow of R122.1m in the prior-year period. Cash increased to R620m from R143m, while net debt fell to R4.3bn from R5.1bn.

Metair has extended the term of its SA debt by five years and is finalising a refinancing for Hesto, its 74.9%-owned SA business that makes electrical wiring and dashboard components for vehicles.

Metair said the restructuring it started in February 2024 to stabilise the business was substantially complete.

O'Flaherty said the group would continue to review its operations as market conditions change but was now focused on profitable growth.

The aftermarket business recorded a 5% lower revenue at R2.81bn, with Metair citing competition in the market, especially for batteries.

The company said AutoZone's return to profitability is about six months behind expectations.

Metair acquired the vehicle parts retailer in December 2024 while it was emerging from business rescue, and the firm subsequently went through a stabilisation and turnaround process.

It returned to monthly profitability in May.

O'Flaherty said Metair had changed the entire management team at Autozone to bring a new focus and prioritisation to the business.

The company said it is reviewing the footprint of its battery business and has appointed a permanent team to expand its aftermarket operations elsewhere in Africa.

O'Flaherty said the group wanted to balance its OEM and aftermarket businesses while retaining its role as a manufacturer supplying vehicle manufacturers and growing its aftermarket operations. — *Business Day*

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HOW TO PLAY: Every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes. Solutions, tips and a computer programme can be found at www.sudoku.com

Today's Puzzle

	6	9		8		3		
1				2		4	5	
				1	5		4	
	4		7					
		8				5	7	
					2			
5	9	3			1	7		
							1	

Yesterday's Solution

8	1	9	6	2	4	3	5	7
5	4	7	3	1	8	6	2	9
6	2	3	5	7	9	8	1	4
4	7	5	2	6	3	9	8	1
2	9	6	8	5	1	4	7	3
1	3	8	9	4	7	5	6	2
7	5	4	1	9	6	2	3	8
9	8	2	7	3	5	1	4	6
3	6	1	4	8	2	7	9	5