

▲ Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg sharing the cake with AfDB Director General for Southern Africa Leila Mokaddem while being flanked by Minister of Public Works and Transport Ndlaluhlaza Ndwandwe (left) and Minister of Agriculture Mandla Tshawuka (right).

AfDB has invested E15.2 billion in Eswatini

By Lwazi Dlamini

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DATING as far back as 1972, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has been the pillar of strength for Eswatini, having channelled a total of sixty-two loans and grants amounting to E15.2 billion (US\$845.7 million) in the last 52 years. These investments span essential sectors, from agriculture and water to transport, energy, and finance, each one a stepping stone towards a sustainable future.

■ SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

Govt pledges more support to AfDB in driving economic development *Page 3*



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AS AFRICA DEVELOPMENT BANK CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF EXISTENCE:

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These investments span essential sectors, from agriculture and water to transport, energy, and finance, each one a stepping stone towards a sustainable future.

This was revealed by AfDB Southern African Director General Leila Mokaddem during the 60th year Anniversary Celebrations of AfDB held at Hilton Garden Inn on Monday.

“It is an honour and a privilege to be here with you in the beautiful Kingdom of Eswatini, celebrating a magnificent milestone in the African Development Bank’s journey. This evening, we mark our Diamond Jubilee - 60 years of partnership, transformation, and unwavering dedication to Africa’s growth. This anniversary is not just about the Bank’s achievements; it is a tribute to the spirit of Africa and the partnerships that drive our progress,” Mokaddem said.

She added: “As our President, Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina, has said, “Today, we honour the work that touches lives across Africa, forged by resilient partnerships and a shared dedication to uplifting communities.” This celebration is for everyone - the communities we serve, the leaders who share our vision, and every partner who believes in Africa’s potential.”

Highlighting the contribution to Eswatini, Mokaddem names the three major projects and other areas of interest to illustrate the impact AfDB has made in the country.

She named the following projects:

- Agriculture: With a USD 13.18 million investment, the Komati Downstream Development Project has been a catalyst for change among smallholder farmers. By providing essential irrigation infrastructure and credit support, this initiative has enabled the development of over 6,000 hectares, the formation of 27 farmer companies, and the creation of jobs for 1,482 people. In addition, the project has brought clean water and sanitation facilities to thousands of households, enhancing both health and productivity. Altogether, these efforts have not only boosted economic growth but also significantly improved the quality of life for entire communities.
- The Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP) I and II are shining examples of the Bank’s commitment to transforming agriculture. With a combined investment of USD 39.3 million, these initiatives have moved farming from a subsistence level to a commercial scale, strengthening rural economies and providing countless families with a more secure future. Through LUSIP, 60 farmer companies have been established, over 6,000 hectares of land developed, and more than 5,000 jobs created. By ensuring access to water and sanitation, this project has also fostered healthier, more resilient communities.
- The Mkhondvo-Mgwavuma Water Resources Augmentation Programme (MNWAP) stands out as a flagship project. This



▲ AfDB Southern African Director General Leila Mokaddem.

landmark initiative is the largest operation the Bank has ever funded in Eswatini and is the first of its kind for both the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Bank. MNWAP will transform the Shiselweni Region into a thriving centre for commercial agribusiness, providing irrigation for approximately 30,000 hectares of land and creating around 100,000 direct jobs.

- Thousands of families with secure incomes, improved food security, and a new hub of economic activity for the region. This program has the potential to turn Eswatini into a centre of regional agricultural excellence, positioned at the crossroads of South Africa and Mozambique, enhancing trade through the SADC and African Continental Free Trade Area and thereby creating opportunities for countless Swazis.

Infrastructure and Transport Enhancements

In the transport sector, significant strides were made with the Manzini to Mbadlane (MR3) Highway Project. With an investment of USD 45.05 million, this project has reduced travel times and vehicle operating costs by 50%, easing the movement of people and goods across the country.

The 34-kilometre stretch of highway we’ve constructed has made life easier for over 250,000 people, giving them better access to services, schools, and jobs. It has also helped connect communities that were once isolated, including a clinic that’s now accessible by all-weather road.

This project has not only boosted economic activity but also improved road safety by reducing traffic accidents from 105 per 1,000 people in 2018 to just 55 in 2024. Along the way, it has created 500 jobs, 100 of which were specifically for women, showcasing the Bank’s commitment to inclusive growth.

Strengthening Public Financial Management

The Bank’s commitment to enhancing public sector efficiency is exemplified by its

support of the establishment of the Eswatini Revenue Authority in 2011 through the MIC TAF grant.

This initiative has modernised tax administration and boosted tax revenue collections, empowering the government to better serve its people. The Bank also played a key role in developing the Public Financial Management (PFM) Action Plan, leading to the adoption of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and the Public Financial Management Act.

From 2023 to 2024, the Bank collaborated with the Government of Eswatini on the Methodology for Assessing Procurement Systems (MAPS) assessment of Eswatini’s public procurement system, with findings presented just last week. The Bank is excited to continue supporting the upcoming PEFA exercise to further enhance the effectiveness of public finance management in Eswatini.

Responding to Global Challenges

The Bank’s support has also extended to the Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth Programme (SERIG), launched in response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. As the Bank’s first policy-based operation in Eswatini, this programme was designed to bolster the government’s reform efforts and help the country navigate economic recovery.

Furthermore, in 2022, the Bank supported Eswatini in addressing the global food security crisis—exacerbated by Covid-19, climate change, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict—through the Africa Emergency Food Production Facility (AEFPF). Under this initiative, Eswatini received USD 40 million to secure food and nutrition for its people.

Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are top priorities for the Bank, and the Ezulwini Sustainable Water and Sanitation Service Delivery Project exemplifies this commitment. Completed in 2023 with a USD 23 million investment, the

project now provides 24-hour access to clean water for over 21,000 residents.

It included the construction of reservoirs, a gravity main, and water kiosks, ensuring a reliable water supply for communities. The sanitation improvements, including a sewer system and public facilities, have greatly enhanced health outcomes and build resilience against droughts.

In the Manzini Region, a transformative water and sanitation project is underway. With an investment of ZAR 719.7 million, this initiative will provide potable water to over 100,000 people by 2025, with a new water treatment plant, transmission mains, and distribution lines. This project is about more than meeting basic needs; it supports economic growth and improves the quality of life for communities across the region.

Commitment to Gender, Youth, and Climate Resilience

Beyond these sector-specific projects, the African Development Bank is dedicated to several cross-cutting initiatives that amplify its impact. Promoting gender equality is a key priority, ensuring that at least 50% of project beneficiaries are women, fostering inclusivity and empowering women across Eswatini.

Climate resilience is another critical focus. The Bank is investing in climate-smart infrastructure and mobilising additional climate finance to help Eswatini adapt to changing environmental conditions. Let’s not forget our youth. By integrating internships and skills training into all projects in Eswatini, the Bank is nurturing the country’s future leaders and innovators, creating valuable pathways for young people to pursue meaningful and sustainable careers.

“As Dr Adesina often says, our work is not just about numbers; it’s about transforming lives and uplifting communities. The roads we’ve built, the jobs we’ve created, and the resilience we’ve fostered—these are the true stories of our impact. In just the past eight years, the African Development Bank has positively impacted over 400 million people, and we are immensely proud to be part of Eswatini’s journey towards sustainable development. As we celebrate this magnificent milestone, we also look to the future with renewed purpose,” she noted.

She said together with partners in Eswatini, the bank is committed to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and realising Africa’s Agenda 2063.

“The projects we’ve discussed tonight are not just milestones; they are the building blocks of a more prosperous, connected, and resilient Eswatini. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the African Development Bank, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the government, local communities, and every individual who has contributed to these achievements,” Mokaddem added.

In conclusion, she said: “Your trust, collaboration, and shared vision have made all this possible. We have accomplished so much together, and together, we will continue to achieve even more. Thank you, Eswatini, for your partnership. May we have many more years of transformative impact and shared success. Happy 60th Anniversary, African Development Bank, and here’s to the future we’re building together!”

Govt pledges more support to AfDB in driving economic development in Eswatini

By Lwazi Dlamini

THE Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has pledged to provide more support to the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) as it drives the economic development in the country and the continent of Africa at large.

The Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg, delivering his address during the 60th Anniversary Celebrations on Monday night at Hilton Garden Inn, said over the years the bank has shared knowledge and experiences on emerging development principles and other multi-disciplinary themes which has equipped the country with capacity on effective project implementation.

“On behalf of His Majesty, King Mswati the III, The Indlovukazi, His Excellency the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the entire Cabinet Ministers and all Emaswati locally and abroad I would like to congratulate the African Development Bank on its sixty (60) years of establishment. I would like to remind all emaswati and the bank that the partnership between the Kingdom of Eswatini and the African Development Bank (Our Bank) started way back in 1972. This means Eswatini has been a member of the bank for the past 52 years. As we celebrate the Bank Group’s 60th anniversary, we acknowledge that the Bank has continuously provided significant and diversified support to various sectors of the economy of the Kingdom of Eswatini such as agriculture, infrastructure,



▲ Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg delivering his speech during the African Development Bank 60th Anniversary Celebrations held at Hilton Garden Inn on Monday night.

and social sector,” Rijkenberg said.

The Minister said to date, the Bank Group has provided sizeable loans and grants to the Kingdom of Eswatini and the most successful projects supported by the Bank Group include The Komati Downstream Development Project (KDDP), Lower Usuthu Irrigation Project (LUSIP I & II) and the Manzini-Mbadlane Road Project, The Ezulwini and the Manzini water supply and sanitation projects.

“Most recently the bank has been providing the most required support for the



▲ Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg sharing the cake with AfDB Director General for Southern Africa Leila Mokaddem while being flanked by Minister of Public Works and Transport Ndhlulhla Ndwandwe (left) and Minister of Agriculture Mandla Tshawuka.

proposed Mkhondvo-Ngwavuma water Augmentation project and Preparation of the proposed Siphofaneni-Sithobela Maloma-Nsoko (MR14) & Maloma-Siphambanweni (MR21) Roads. Through these projects, we expect to see a significant transformation of the agriculture sector and therefore contribute to enhanced food security and poverty reduction whilst at the same time improving our road infrastructure. Let me mention that the good thing about the nature of our projects with the Bank is the potential they have to uplift the ordinary Emaswati from the poverty

scourge,” he said.

The Minister added: “I would also like to register Eswatini’s appreciation for the bank’s liaison office that has been recently opened in the country as we grow together and as the bank spreads its wings within Africa and the region and also mention that this office is indeed a symbol of our longstanding relationship with the bank, I sincerely thank the great vision by His Majesty, King Mswati III on driving the establishment of this office and President Adesina for being Instrumental in seeing this vision succeed.”

Japan contributes over E22 million to support OVCs

Stories By Lwazi Dlamini

The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development has announced a generous grant of US\$1,300,000 (approximately E22,899,240) from the Government of Japan.

Minister Dr Tambo Gina revealed that these funds were directed towards feeding Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) through the World Food Programme (WFP) in Eswatini.

During the 2nd Quarter Performance Report, Minister Gina highlighted the essential role that this contribution plays in bolstering the nutritional needs of many children in the country.

Out of 1.1 million people, it is estimated that nearly half of the population of Eswatini are vulnerable children. Over 200,000 of these children are orphans.

It should be noted that with the ongoing challenges faced by families due to economic hardships and other adversities, the support from Japan not only addresses immediate hunger but also promotes longer-term health and well-being for these vulnerable communities.

“This grant is a testament to the strong partnership between Eswatini and the Government of Japan. It reflects our commitment to ensuring that no child is

left behind, especially those in the most challenging circumstances,” Minister Gina stated.

The Minister expressed gratitude towards Japan for its continuous support and dedication to improving the lives of children in need across Eswatini.

The funds are utilized by the WFP-Eswatini programme to enhance food security for children enrolled in NCPs, which serve as vital hubs for providing care and support. The targeted feeding initiatives aim to improve nutrition and help alleviate the impact of poverty on the youngest and most vulnerable members of society.

The contribution aligns with Eswatini’s national goals of poverty eradication and social protection, showcasing the collaborative efforts of international partners to support local sustainable development initiatives.

It is worth mentioning that as the WFP gears up to implement this project, local communities and stakeholders are encouraged to actively participate in creating a supportive environment for the ongoing welfare of Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

The assistance from Japan is seen as hope, illustrating the global commitment to address poverty and hunger among children. This support stands as a reminder of the importance of collective efforts in building a brighter future for the younger generation of Eswatini.



SBS NEWS

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Emalunga e-Swaziland Building Society (SBS) atiswa ngenhlangano wemalunga lotawuba ngalesihlanu, mhla tingu 15 Lweti 2024, e-Zakhele FEA (New Auditorium). Utawucala ngensimbi yemfica ekuseni.

Injongo yalomhlangano we-Special General Meeting kutsi kutfolwe invume yemalunga yekugucuka kwe Society kutsi ibe libhange.

Imibuto leyetayelekile...

1. Iqhinqanjani i Building Society kutsi ibe libhange?
Lokushintwa kwe Society ibe libhange ngalokuphelele kuyindlela yokukhula kwayo kute itosimama, kutawuyenta ikhona kuniketa emakhasimende ayo lusito lwetekubhanga loluphelele, iphindze ikhona kucudzelana kahle nalamaye emabhange phindze yente tintfo ngetindlela letiphangisako naletongako.

2. Kutowentekani kuma Permanent Shares ami?
Emalunga tafuna kuchubeka abe banikali balelibhange bangagucula ema Permanent Shares abo bawente ema Ordinary Shares. Labo labangafuni kuba banikali balelibhange bangagucula ema Permanent Shares abo abe yi Term Investment.

3. Ngivumelekile yini kufaka incenye yema Permanent Shares ami kulama Shares lamasha (Ordinary Shares)?
Yebho unafaka incenye yema Permanent Shares akho kuma Ordinary Shares lenye ku Term Investment.

4. Nangabe ngingakhoni kuya emhlanganweni ngayovota, kutowentekani kuma Permanent Shares ami?
Ema Permanent Shares akho atawuguculwa abe ngema Redeemable Shares, bese uvunyelwa tnyanga letintsafu kutsi wente sincumo sekutsi uyawatsenga yini ema Ordinary Shares nome utatsa i Term Investment.

5. Kutowenteka njani nangabe kuphela letinyanga letintsafu ngingaka khetisi kutsi ngentanjani ngema Permanent Shares ami?
Nangabe kuphela letinyanga letintsafu solo ungakasisatsi sincumo ema Permanent Shares akho atawugucuka abe yi Term Investment.

6. Ngitochubeka yini kulama Shares ngitfole intalo yami kabili ngemnyaka?
Ema Permanent Shares akho kutawubukwa ngulomngomo wema Dividends. Imvamisa ema dividends abhadalwa kanye ngemnyaka, futsi kuya ngemkhicito wenkapani kutsi ubengakanani.

7. Ngitokhona yini kukhulisa lama Shares lamasha (Ordinary Shares) ngatendlela bengenta ngayo kuma Permanent Shares?

Ema Ordinary Shares ungewatsenga nangabe kukhona lowatsengisako Wona angeke uwatsenge ebhange kapha kunetindlela takhona lapho atswenga khona.

8. Yini lo Notsa Natsi Account?
Notsa Natsi yi account yekubekela sikhatsi lesidze. Inentalo lencono.

9. Yini umehluko emkhatsini wa Notsa Natsi nema Permanent Shares?
Notsa Natsi akawenti kutsi ube lilunga lenkapani njengoba kwenteka kuma Permanent Shares. Totimbili letinhlobo tivulwa nga E5000 loba sibambabhuku, tiphindze tibhadale iritalo kabili ngemnyaka.

10. Imcoka ngani lencwadzi yekugucuko (Conversion Statement) letinikisa yona?
Inika emalunga lwati lolomcoka lolutawenta kutsi akhona kutsatsa tincumo letikahle ngekugucuka kwe Society kulomhlangano lomkhulu lotaba mhla 15 Lweti 2024 eZakhele Free Evangelical Church kaManzini kusukela ngensimbi yemfica ekuseni (9 am).

11. Ngingautfolophi wakami umbhukudvu (Conversion Statement)?
Iyafolokala kuma Conversion Desks laflokakala kuwo onikhe emagalaji eSBS, naku Conversion Portal. Emalunga angacala nekutsi atfunyelwe ngeliposi lembane.

12. Imcoka ngani lokuya kwami lomhlanganweni eZakhele ehholeni?
Lokugucuka kwe SBS ibelibhange namba kutawenta likusasa le SBS lichakaze. Emalunga ayakhutsatwa kutsi abekhona kulomhlangano aphindze avotele kukhula kwe SBS.

13. Nangabe ngingeke ngikhona kuphumelela ngingenta njani?
Emalunga angavota ngekuguculisa lifomu lekutsiwa yi Proxy Form letifolokala ku Conversion Statement alitfumelele eSBS ingakashayi insimbi yesine ntsambama, mhla 11 Lweti 2024

14. Kwenteka njani nangivotela kutsi lungachubeki lolushintfo?
Nangabe livoti likudlele, silsanzda kukuciniseka kutsi ema Permanent Shares akho atogucuka abe yi Term Investment, lekuji Investment lebhadale cise kufane nema Permanent Shares. Kuvotela kungagucuki uma likudla livoti akusho kutsi ungete wawatsenga lama Ordinary Shares.

15. Ngutphi tincumo letitotsatfwa kulomhlangano lomkhulu?
Emalunga atawuvotela kuphasisa lokugucuka kwe SBS ibe libhange mabamba. Aphindze aphasise indlela letawugucuka ngayo, bese anika bacandzisi benkapani emanda ekuchubeka nekugucuka le SBS.

16. Nanibuka nje itophela nini lengucuko?
Sibuke kutsi singahle sibe libhange kusukela 1 Mabasa 2025. Kutakuya ngekutsi iCentral Bank usinika nini imvumo yokuba libhange.

18. Kodwa lo Notsa Natsi Ululwa ngamlini?
Kuvula Notsa Natsi kucala ku E5000.

17. Manje lemali yami lobengiyifaka nge stop order seyitsonaphi nyalo?
Timali letibekhulisa ema Permanent Shares njalonjalo titawubekiswa kuNotsa Natsi ngemvumo yeilunga.

18. Ngisevumelekile yini kukhipha lapha kuma Permanent Shares ami?
Yebho, usengayikhona imali yakho kuma Permanent Shares kodwa angeke usakhona kuwakhulisa nome kuvula lamasha.

19. Lama Ordinary Shares atotsengiswa kuyilphi imakethe yesengisema ema shares?
Ema Ordinary Shares kulibhange letisha atawutfolokala ebhange naku Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE)

20. Atoshonaphi ema Ordinary Shares ami nangihamba emhlabeni?
Nalishona lilunga lama Shares abhaliswa kutsi abe yincenye yelifa lemufi kaMaster bese nawo aba yincenye yekwabwa kwelifa. Loko kwabwa kwelifa bese kusetjentwa ngulelithovisi laka Master ngalokwetyelelele. Umangabe lilunga belwafakile lama Ordinary Shares ku Vili yalo lingakashoni lawo maShares avele abe ngekugulandza tifiso temufi.

21. Indlela lesebenta ngayo inkampani itongitsintsa kuphi mine?
Lentsengo yema shares iyakhula nome yehle kuye ngekutsi umkhicito welibhange ukhulile nome wehile.

22. Ngutphi tindlela tukulalisa imali letitoba khona ngaphandle kwalama shares enkampane?
Letinye tinhlobo tukululisa umnoto wakho yi Term Investment kanye noma Notsa Natsi Account.

25. Bobani labavumeleke kuba nalama shares lahengekako (Redeemable Shares)?

Ema Redeemable Shares alabo labatavube basengakhetisi kutsi ema Permanent Shares abo batenga ema Ordinary Shares nome atawungena ku Term Investment.

26. Manje nitakuvikela njani kungena kwomatsabelangoti?
SBS wakumisa kuvulwa kwema Permanent Shares mhla 16 August 2024 kuvikela kutsi kubebete bantfu nome tinkapane letingena ngawo khona batowuba banikali balelibhange.

27. Ngabe lengucuko ngeke yini yente tisebenti tlahlekewle ngumsebenzi?
Cha, lokugucuka loku kugadzeke kutsi kwakhe ematfuba emisebenti lamasha.

28. Ngabe lenzuzo lesitoyitfola kulama shares lamasha iyafana yini nalena besisisito sityitfola kuma Permanent Shares?
Labatavubadlwa ema Ordinary Shares belatwabadlwa inzuzo yabo libhange nge Dividend levamise kubhadalwa kanye ngemnyaka. angeke kufane kumama Permanent Shares lapho khona kubhadalwa kabili ngemnyaka.

29. Ngabe libhange letisha litochubeka lisitise kahle ngatendlela i Society beyisisita ngakhona?
SBS sewakhe tindlela tekubekisa letitawenta kutsi izinga lekubekisa liboncono asagucuka kuba libhange tichubeka nome asagucukile.

30. Ngabe yini lokusha letisiphatselo kona libhange?
Leibhange litawumikela lusito lekwebekisa emathizisini lamancane nalamakhulu, kusengwa kwelimoto nalinye tinhlobo tekwebekisa lokufaka nema credit cards kanye nema overdrafts.

31. Condizisa lama phepha ladinga kugcwaliswa lasekutsi kulencwadzi letingekako?
Leimfiphopho: Lifomu lekukhulisa kutsi lengucuko yehle SBS ichubeka. **Leiluhlata sasibhakabhaka:** Nguleli leligcwaliswa ngemalunga lafisisile kuvota emhlanganweni kodwa angeke akhona kuyakhona. **Leimfufubi:** Labalo labafuna kutsi ema Redeemable Shares abo agucuke abe ngema Ordinary Shares. **Leilivvolintji:** Labalo labafuna kutsengisa ema SBE Shares abo kuletiponsa. **Leitovbo:** Lanasevusho kutsi ema Redeemable Shares akho utawabentisa kutsatsa le Term Investment.

Nowungevisisi kahle chumana neLihhovisi le Conversion Desk ku
ConversionDesk@sbs.co.sz, 2404 2005, 2404 3705 & 2404 1313.



**NOTICE OF POSTAL ADDRESS\KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER
(Issued in terms of Section 37 (4) & (5) of the Rating Act of 1995)**

Property owners are reminded that Section 37 (4) & (5) of the Rating Act of 1995 requires the owner of an immovable property shown in the Valuation Roll to notify the Local Authority of any change of his / her postal address within two weeks of acquiring such property and thereafter within two (2) weeks of any change of his / postal address. This provision is intended to assist the Local Authority to update its records and also facilities for communication between the property owner and the Municipality.

An owner who fails to comply with the above-mentioned section shall be guilty of an offence in terms of Section 37 (5) of the Rating Act, 1995. Below is the list of properties with last known contact details to update. For more information contact 25085025/28/73/00/79163802/79168180/79121169/79038830 or email details to the following email addresses: aord@manzincity.co.sz, busie.zulu@manzincity.co.sz, manzincity.co.sz, dumisa.dlamini@manzincity.co.sz, and oscar.dube@manzincity.co.sz.

**LUNGILE DLAMINI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

ACCOUNT	LOT NUMBER	TOWNSHIP	ACCOUNT NAME	LAST KNOWN POSTAL ADDRESS	STREET ADDR
30907008	1	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	SAKHA FAMILY TRUST	P.O.BOX 1074 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30910008	4	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	LOT 4	P O BOX 3040 MBABANE ESWATINI H100	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30915008	9	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MOTSA SITHEMBILE	P O BOX 336 MALKERNS	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30916008	10	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	EUGENIA ZETHU NTULI	P O BOX 5376 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30917008	11	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	LOT 11	P O BOX C 2646 THE HUB MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30920008	14	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	ANNAH NXUMALO	No. 8 AMETIS ROAD MAYBERY PARK ALBERTON JOHANNESBUR	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30921008	15	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	NOMVUYO MBALI KUNENE DLAMINI	P O BOX C1282 HUB MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30923008	17	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	SIMELANE CYNTHIA THOBILE	P O BOX 1793 MANZINI ESWATINI	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30924008	18	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MUSA E THWALA	P O BOX 271 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30925008	19	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MKHWANAZI MABAMBA MFANASIBILI	P O BOX C1295 HUB MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30926008	20	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	VILAKATI MZWANDILE MAJAHODVWA	P O BOX 575 MBABANE	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30927008	21	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MSIBI THEMBEKILE NOBUSIKA	P O BOX 7321 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30928008	22	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	ZAKHELE MAZIYA	P O BOX 418 MANZINI	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30930008	24	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	KHUMALO LOMAGUGU KAYISE	P O BOX 1057 MANZINI	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30931008	25	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	SIKHULILE MASILELA	P O BOX 5680 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30933008	27	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	BERTHA ADAMS	P O BOX 1419 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30934008	28	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	TEMLANGA DLAMINI	P O BOX 1843 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30935008	29	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	TEMAHLUBI SIKHUMBUZO DLAMINI	P.O.BOX 418 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30938008	32	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MAY DLAMINI	P.O. BOX 2122 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30939008	33	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MBONANE MANGALISO JOSEPH	P.O. BOX 258 MBABANE ESWATINI H100	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30942008	36	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MKHONTO SEBENZILE MAKHOSAZANE	P.O. BOX 4293 MBABANE ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30943008	37	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	CYNTHIA NHLEKO	P.O. BOX 5642 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30944008	38	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	PATIENCE NHLANTI	P.O. BOX 5855 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30945008	39	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	PATRICIA PEARL N MASEKO	P.O. BOX 2548 MBABANE ESWATINI H100	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30947008	41	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	ZWANE BRIAN M.N	P.O BOX 60 MARLKERNS EZSWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30948008	42	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	DLAMINI JABU ANGELA	P.O.BOX 5006 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30949008	43	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	SHONGWE ZANELE MILLICENT	P.O.BOX C253 HUB MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30951008	45	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MHLANGA CALISILE	P.O.BOX 211 MOTSHANE ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30952008	46	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	GELIANG WANG	P.O.BOX 4066 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30953008	47	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MASEKO RAPHAEL SIKHETSE	P.O.BOX 418 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30955008	49	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	ELIZABETH LEVI INVESTMENTS(PTY	P.O.BOX 429 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30956008	50	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	ZONDO VERAH TSIWANI	P.O.BOX 29 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30957008	51	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	BUSIE A DLAMINI	P.O.BOX 3227 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30958008	52	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	DLAMINI XOLISILE	P.O.BOX 646 MATSAPHA ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30959008	53	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	DELISILE PEARL MASEKO	P.O.BOX 418 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30960008	54	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	JANE MKHONTA	P.O.BOX 2242 MBABANE ESWATINI H100	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30961008	55	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	NQOBILE PERTUNIA MDLOVU	P.O.BOX 5476 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30962008	56	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	DELISA M HLAWE	P.O.BOX 418 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30964008	58	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	PHINDA HLAWE	P.O. BOX 418 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30965008	59	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	SANDILE ZWAKELE NHLENGETHWA	P.O. BOX 1 LOBAMBA ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30966008	60	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	KHANYISILE NORAH DLAMINI	P.O. BOX 1280 MATSAPHA ESWATINI M201	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30970008	64	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	TSABEDZE RAYMOND	P.O. BOX C2003 HUB MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30972008	66	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MABUZA NKOSING PHILE	P.O BOX 6855 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30974008	68	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	DLAMINI LUCINDA N	P.O. BOX 418 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30975008	69	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MABUZA BABAZILE	P.O. BOX 768 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30976008	70	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	SIFISO STANLEY DLAMINI	P.P. BOX 5380 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30977008	71	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MAYISELA SIPHO MAPULE ZWANEs	P.O. BOX 7636 MBABANE M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30979008	73	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	NOMVULA NTFOMBİYETIVE	P.O. BOX 5001 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30980008	74	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	CASSANDRA NOKWAZI SHAW	P.O.BOX 156 MBABANE M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30981008	75	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	VILAKATI WANDILE QINISO INNOCE	P.O. BOX 4426 MANZINI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30982008	76	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	VILAKATI NOMPHEMELELO EGNACIA	P.O. BOX 516 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30984008	78	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	LISA FAKUDZE	P.O. BOX 5818 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30986008	80	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MBINGO MPENDULO PROSPEROUS	P.O. BOX 122 BIG BEND	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30989008	83	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	EDDIE HONWIN	P.O. BOX C2611 HUB MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30990008	84	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	LOT 84	P.O. BOX 418 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30992008	86	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	NDLANGAMANDLA XOLANI NDUDUZO	P.O. BOX 5207 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30993008	87	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	MUSA SIMANGALISO NGCAMPHALALA	P.O. BOX A142 BUHLENI ESWATINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30994008	88	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	LOT 88	P.O. BOX 418 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30996008	90	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	NKAMBULE KHANYISILE PRNCESS	P.O. BOX 4030 MANZIINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
30997008	91	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	JELETRACEY ZANDILE	P.O. BOX C 253 HUB MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA
31022008	214	MKHOSI TOWNSHIP	DLAMINI NKHOSINGIPHILE SYDWELL	P.O. BOX 7031 MANZINI M200	SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR/MAGNOLIA

Stories by Thokozani Mazibuko

Exports surge by an impressive 12.1%

... Economic growth shows promising signs amidst positive indicators

THERE is a positive trajectory in the country's economy.

This is reflected in the 2nd Performance report in the quarter under review released by Dr. Tambo Gina, the Minister of Economic Planning.

This optimistic outlook is largely attributed to moderating inflationary pressures that have bolstered global commodity markets, significantly benefiting export-oriented sectors in the domestic economy.

Notably, exports surged by an impressive 12.1 percent, signaling a robust recovery as markets stabilize. The report highlights that the recent adjustments in wages, aimed at mitigating the impact of increased living costs on consumers, have further supported consumption during this period.

"The positive indicators we are witnessing reflect a collective effort to cushion our citizens while stimulating economic activity," Minister Gina stated. "As we look ahead, the medium-term growth prospects for our economy remain bright."

It should be noted that key sectors poised for expansion include manufacturing, mining, and sugarcane production, alongside the rapidly growing Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) industries.

While the government's commitment to enhancing these sectors is evident in ongoing invest-



▲ This optimistic outlook is largely attributed to moderating inflationary pressures that have bolstered global commodity markets, significantly benefiting export-oriented sectors in the domestic economy.

ments and initiatives designed to foster innovation and productivity.

An economist who preferred to remain anonymous, has echoed Minister Gina's sentiments, expressing optimism about upcoming opportunities as the economy stabilizes. "Local manufacturers

particularly stand to benefit from the growth in exports and the stabilization of commodity prices, which could lead to increased production and job creation," the economist pointed out.

It is worth mentioning that as the government continues to im-

plement measures aimed at sustaining this positive momentum, all eyes will be on how these sectors adapt and further elevate the nation's economic landscape in the months to come. Moreover, with the focus now shifting towards long-term sustainability, the com-

combined efforts of the government and private sector will be crucial in realizing the potential outlined in the Performance Report.

As Dr. Gina affirmed, "The path forward is promising, and together, we can build a resilient economy that benefits all citizens."

Motorists urged to use alternative routes

CHIEF Police Information and Communication Officer, Senior Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, has advised motorists to avoid the Mndobandoba Bridge in Big Bend due to overflowing waters.

The warning comes as heavy summer rains continue to batter the Lubombo Region, raising concerns about road safety and accessibility.

The overflowing of the Mndobandoba Bridge poses a risk to motorists and pedestrians alike.

The Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), urge those traveling in the area to seek alternative routes until the situation stabilizes, emphasizing that safety must remain the top priority during this rainy season.

It should be noted that given the seasonal challenges brought on by torrential rains, residents and motorists across Eswatini are reminded of essential precautions to ensure their safety.

According to a general notice at the Eswatini Meteorological Services, motorists are advised to continuously monitor weather forecasts and local news updates for information on road conditions and safety advisories. It is worth mentioning that National Meteorologi-



▲ Chief Police Information and Communication Officer, Senior Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

cal Services provide timely alerts; staying informed can help with making necessary travel plans.

Further, drivers are advised to familiarize themselves with roads that are known to be prone to flooding. It's best to avoid these routes entirely during heavy rainfall. If you encounter flooded roads, turn around and find a safer alternative.

It should be noted that Eswatini is home to several rivers that may swell dangerously during rainy periods. Residents living near

riverbanks are urged to be vigilant and evacuated if necessary to avoid potential flash floods.

Residents are encouraged to communicate and support one another, particularly in identifying and assisting vulnerable community members who may be at greater risk during the rainy season.

Residents are encouraged to heed the warnings issued by the REPS and to prioritize their well-being during this rainy season.



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THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF AT UBOMBO SUGAR LIMITED WISHES TO CONGRATULATE MR DENNIS MBINGO ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS THE NEW CEO AT FNB MOZAMBIQUE. YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN BUILDING THE FNB ESWATINI BRAND AND YOUR SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED. WE WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR NEW ROLE IN THE FOREIGN LAND.



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Police officers warn: Do not swim or cross full river/dams

Stories by Delisa Thwala

AS the country continues to receive rains, the nation is urged to be cautious when crossing rivers as water levels have increased, with some rivers overflowing.

This was said by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, during a live News segment on Eswatini Tv.

Vilakati mentioned that motorists are advised to be extra vigilant when crossing bridges which may not be visible due to the increased water levels.

The Police Mouthpiece also warned members of the public to be careful when crossing rivers and



Mndobandoba Bridge

▲ The Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) has already issued a warning on Mndobandoba River in Big Bend which had been overflowing since Monday.

streams.

The Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) has already issued a warning on Mndobandoba River in Big Bend which had been overflowing since Monday.

Vilakati members of the

public should be vigilant and not dare attempt to cross flooded rivers as it could be dangerous and infested with crocodiles as well. In the past, the REPS usually issue hot warning on a number of dangerous

places around the country.

These are Mtimphofu at Siphofaneni, Tsambokhulu Bridge at Lomahasha, Mtindzekwa River, Dvokodweni/Sidzakeni Bridge, Mbuluzi River at Luve/Mbelebeleni.



Lost something? Visit the police

POLICE from Manzini Lukhozi arrested three suspects following the theft of a motor vehicle, a Maroon Ford Fiesta which was stolen while parked at St Pauls Primary School.

The three suspects were also found in possession of several cell phones believed to have been forcefully taken from hitchhikers between November 3-4, 2024.

The cell phone robberies are suspected to have occurred along Mtimane- Ezulwini corridor.

Anyone who may have fallen a victim to this robbery please visit Manzini Police Station or contact Manzini Regional Crime Branch Officer Senior Superintendent Thabo Hlophe on 7606 8570 or Manzini.

The in-charge Serious Crime Unit (Lukhozi) Inspector Sibusiso Vilane on 7611 5941 or the investigating officer Sergeant Ayanda Dlamini at 7603 3449.

Meanwhile Police from the Mbabane Crime Investigation Department (CID) recovered various household goods/property suspected to have been stolen during break-ins committed around Mbabane and Buhleni.

They advised all those that have been a victim of a break-in or have lost any of the following items please visit Mbabane Police Station or contact Hhohho Regional Crime Branch Officer Derrick Makhanya on 7608 9712 or Mbabane desk officer Inspector Akhona Dladu on 7626 0105 or the investigating officer Constable TeeVee Nkambule on 7643 5858.

THERE is an apparent decline in DD cases as only five DD suspects appeared in court today.

They were fined monies ranging from E1 500 to E 2000. This is a huge decline from last week's numbers as 15 suspects appeared.

Meanwhile the overall number for the number of people arrested countrywide was 101 a slight decline from last week as there were 116 people who appeared before the courts across the country.

Worth mentioning is that on Tuesday, last week the government raked in E63 300 from 15 DD accused persons. In Manzini a whopping E 283 600 was collected from 60 suspects. Meanwhile in E11 500 was collected from Nhlanguano, E36 000 was collected from Pigg's Peak from the 11 suspects that appeared in the Magistrate Court. Siteki recorded the least, collecting E 9 500 from 5 suspects.

This takes the total number of revenues collected by the Government on DD fines to E 403 900.

This is a huge increase of E183 900 from last week's fines which stood at a staggering E 220 000. In September, the Government grossed nearly E25 000 in Drunk Driving cases in Mbabane alone.

This was a huge decline from the over E100 000 grossed in April, June, and July. August saw a slight change that went back and forth between E20 000 and less. This was due to the decline in suspects apprehended by police officers.

One motorist was fined E 8,000 for being found driving while under the influence of alcohol. He also had three other counts where he resisted arrest and failed to produce a driver's license.

Another was fined E 5 000 for driving with a minor while under the influence of alcohol.

In May it was reported that the Manzini and Mbabane Magistrates Courts collected over E122 200 in fines from drink-driving of

Sobering decline on DD cases in Mbabane



▲ Officers manning a road block.

fenders in one weekend only.

In Manzini, the court collected about E107 200 from fines imposed on drink-driving offenders who were sentenced to fines ranging from E5 000 to E8 000, depending on the number of counts they faced.

They appeared before Principal Magistrate Florence Msibi. She noted that the fines were imposed to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the roads and the resulting accidents.

Stressed male rams into a parked car

A 35-year-old man, who cited being stressed and depressed has been charged with the offence of contravening section 89 (1) as read with section 127 (1) and (7) of the Road Traffic Act 6 of 2007.

On November 10, 2024, at about 11:15 hours at or near Sidwashini in the region of Hhohho, Mbabane the said accused being the driver

of a motor vehicle Mazda 3 sedan, did wrongfully, unlawfully and negligently drive.

He drove the above-mentioned motor vehicle along MR 3 Public Road and knocked against a stationary motor vehicle driven by Lufuto Madlazi of Nkoyoyo.

Particulars of negligent driving include unreasonable speed, the accused failure to drive

with attention and due care, failure to apply brakes timeously, and the failure to avoid an accident that a reasonable driver would have avoided.

He was fined E2000 or face 2 years imprisonment during mitigation he apologised for his mistake and mentioned that during the time of the incident he was stressed and depressed due to financial stress.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls as China stimulus fails to boost sentiment

OIL prices fell about 2 per cent on Monday after China's stimulus plan disappointed investors seeking fuel demand growth in the world's second-biggest oil consumer and as the U.S. dollar edged higher. Brent crude futures were down \$1.83, or 2.48 per cent, to \$72.04 a barrel by 1444 GMT while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures were at \$68.47 a barrel, down \$1.91, or 2.71 per cent.

Gold drops over 2% as dollar strengthens

GOLD prices slipped more than 2 per cent on Monday, weighed down by the greenback's continued rise and the broader implications of Donald Trump's victory on fiscal policy and interest rate cuts. Spot gold fell 2.3 per cent to \$2,666.48 per ounce, as of 10:12 a.m. ET (1511 GMT). U.S. gold futures fell 2.42 per cent to \$2,629.40. With the dollar index rising 0.5 per cent to its highest level since early July, gold became less attractive to non-dollar buyers.

Rand falls, buffeted by global headwinds

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's rand slumped on Monday, buffeted by global headwinds including a softer gold price, the sputtering Chinese economy and uncertainty over future U.S. policy after Donald Trump's election victory. At 1514 GMT, the rand traded at 17.9375 against the dollar, down about 2 per cent on Friday's closing level. The U.S. dollar last traded about 0.6 per cent firmer against a basket of currencies.

Eswatini aims to integrate critical minerals into national development



▲ Minister of Natural Resource and Energy Prince Lonkhokhela deliberating with other panelists.

Stories by Delisa Thwala

ESWATINI's strategic approach to critical Minerals were showcased at a high-level ministerial panel.

Minister of Natural Resource and Energy Prince Lonkhokhela mentioned that Eswatini's strategic approach to critical minerals as part of its national economic growth strategy, emphasizing the importance of diversifying beyond traditional exports.

Prince Lonkhokhela's valuable and impactful contributions was to the recent Ministerial Panel at the Critical Minerals Africa Summit.

Bringing together Ministers from Malawi, Argentina, Eswatini, and Tanzania, the high-

level panel explored policies and partnerships that can fuel the advancement of Africa's critical minerals sector.

The Minister highlighted the role of critical minerals and how Eswatini aims to integrate critical minerals into national development, reducing its reliance on agriculture.

The session explored Eswatini's vision for partnerships in infrastructure, technology, and workforce development to build a resilient minerals industry.

Worth mentioning is that, the Minister shared Eswatini's commitment to responsible mining, prioritizing environmental and community benefits.

Eswatini's mineral industry is administered by the Mining Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy.

The country is working to attract foreign

investment in its critical minerals industry.

Taking place in Africa's leading event destination, Cape Town, and concurrently with the continent's largest energy event African Energy Week, the second Critical Minerals Africa (CMA) event united governments from all corners of the African continent; international presidential and ministerial delegations; provincial governments, global finance, and mining, manufacturing and technology firms.

CMA stands as the premier gathering in Africa's minerals calendar and is fully supported by the African Energy Chamber.

This is the African critical minerals dealmaking space, standing at the intersection of energy and mining, linking global consumers and producers, and bringing global capital to African projects.

Government to advance energy security

THE Honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Prince Lonkhokhela made a powerful impact at the African Energy Week, that is ongoing in Cape town, where he spoke at the prestigious Powering Africa Summit.

Representing the nation's commitment to advancing energy security, he shared his vision for harnessing the potential of regional power markets as a driving force for sustainable growth and energy access across the continent.

"By collaborating on regional solutions, we can tap into shared resources and innovative strategies, ensuring a future where energy is accessible, reliable, and sustainable for all," said the Minister.

The Minister's participation reaffirmed Eswatini's role as an active partner in shaping a brighter energy future for Africa.

His visit to the summit, comes shortly after the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy held a workshop to develop a National Bioenergy Policy, a move aimed at addressing the country's growing domestic demand for electricity and reducing dependence on imported energy.

The Director of Energy highlighted the

need for energy security and the challenges faced by the country.

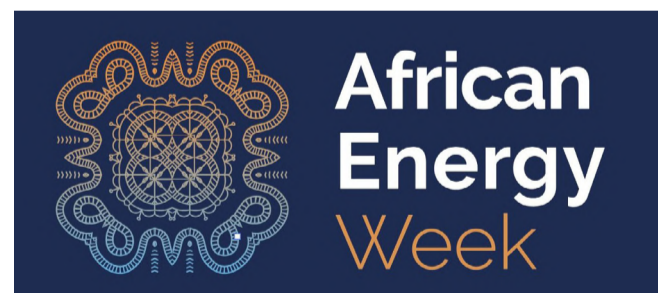
The proposed policy aims to procure an additional 80 MW of electricity using Biomass and other alternative sources of power, building on the 40 MW already procured through the Short-Term Generation Expansion Plan.

The funding for the development of the National Bioenergy Policy has been made possible through a grant from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) to the Centre for Sustainable Energy Research (CSER) at the University of Eswatini.

The grant was secured with the assistance of the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, which has played a vital role in coordinating climate change issues in the country.

This funding will enable the Ministry to develop a comprehensive policy that will help to address the country's energy needs and reduce dependence on imported electricity.

In order to develop the National Bioenergy Policy, the Ministry established a Bioenergy Task Force (BTF) with the overall mandate to guide and oversee the development process.



The Centre for Sustainable Energy Research provided support to the BTF in the form of research and document development, while the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute provided technical support.

The National Bioenergy Policy is designed to address the challenges facing the bioenergy subsector in the Kingdom of Eswatini, a number of objectives.

The objectives include improving energy security through the exploitation of bioenergy resources for electricity generation and biofuels production.

Promoting access to affordable and sustainable sources of energy, accelerating the adoption of efficient biomass cook stoves and clean cooking technologies.

EswatiniBank

FX RATES

Notes/Cash	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	17.3361	17.8009
G.B. Pound	22.3159	22.9846
EURO	18.4950	19.1020
Bank Rate (July 2023)	7.50%	
Prime Rate (July 2023)	11%	
Inflation (July 2023)	4.5%	
Petrol	E21.60/Litre	
Diesel	E22.90/Litre	
Paraffin	E17.25/Litre	

By Delisa Thwala

Ban on single-use plastic moved to January 2025

ESWATINI announced a ban on single-use plastic carrier bags, effective December 1, 2024, however the changed has been changed.

Executive Director of Eswatini Environment Authority Gcina Dladla announced that, the ban on single-use plastic carrier bags, will be effective from January 2025.

Dladla said, as the world grapples with the urgent need to combat plastic pollution, Eswatini has joined the list of countries that have banned single-use plastic bags.

Worth mentioning is that, this landmark decision was announced by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Jane Mkhonta-Simelane.

The timing at the times was crucial; coinciding with the conclusion of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) dedicated to crafting a global legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, particularly in marine environments (INC-4).

Meanwhile Dladla said the negotiation process for a Global Plastic Treaty began with high hopes, but at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4), it became evident that a true battle lay ahead, and an outcome was far from guaranteed.

With one more scheduled INC meeting to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, the urgency to reach an agreement is palpable.

“Nevertheless, numerous nations are making significant strides, both large and small, in combatting plastic pollution, exemplified by Eswatini’s recent prohibition of single-use plastic bags. At the regional level, these global negotiations follow some strides that many African countries have made to solve the plastic pollution challenge,” he said.

Meanwhile in November 2019 the 17th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Durban Declaration incorporated the first collective statement of support from all African Environment Ministers for global action to address plastic pollution including the call for a new global agreement.

Some African countries are calling on the AU to lead on a regional protocol banning single-use plastic.

The step taken by Eswatini underlies the seriousness with which it regards the need to protect the environment and the livelihoods of its people.



▲ Executive Director of Eswatini Environment Authority Gcina Dladla.

Worth mentioning is that, UNDP Eswatini, was especially enthusiastic about this development because of the significant contribution they have undertaken towards the elimination of single-use plastic waste through their Accelerator Lab.

According to UNDP communique their, Our efforts have not merely focused on raising awareness; but actively co-created alternative solutions to combat single-use plastic bags.

“The ‘Phatsa Sakho Nawe’ Campaign, executed in collaboration with the Eswatini Environment Authority, the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, and the five major supermarkets, piloted a partial ban and assessed a scenario where single-use plastic bags were unavailable in stores,” read the communique from UNDP.

They further mentioned that, the campaign was launched in December 2020 and scheduled to run for three months but was later extended, ultimately lasting for

two years, and being joined by large and small retail outlets because of the significant reduction of plastic pollution in the country.

Throughout the campaign, they witnessed how small businesses, particularly those owned by women, started producing alternative shopping bags, primarily using textile waste from Matsapha Industrial site where at least 105 tonnes of textile waste is generated monthly, presenting yet another environmental challenge that demands attention.

“We saw these small businesses growing producing other products such as undergarments using the textile waste. The initiative also garnered positive feedback from livestock farmers who noticed a decline in the mortality rates from animals ingesting plastic bags littering their rangelands,” further reads the communique.

Furthermore, they observed some plastic producers proactively adjusting their production lines in anticipation of

forthcoming plastic bag regulations.

Additionally, EEA reported a 60 per cent reduction in single-use plastic bag distribution in the country, a significant step toward enhancing the visual appeal of our environment.

According to Digital Environment, Globally, millions of tons of plastic waste end up in oceans, rivers, and landfills.

This waste can take hundreds of years to decompose, and it can have a devastating impact on the environment and people’s health. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, plastic waste produced globally is set to almost triple by 2060, with about half ending up in landfill and under a fifth recycled.

It further mentions that, plastic ingestion is not only a threat to mammals, reptiles, birds and fish, but that micro-plastic has also begun to enter the human food-supply-system.

Pick n Pay gives price range for IPO of up to 40% of Boxer

JOHANNESBURG — South African retailer Pick n Pay gave a price range of 42 rand to 54 rand (\$2.39 to \$3.07) per share for the initial public offering (IPO) of up to 40 per cent of its discount grocery chain Boxer.

The IPO is part of Pick n Pay’s two-step recapitalisation plan to lower its debt and fix its loss-making core Pick n Pay supermarkets business.

Boxer, with 489 stores, is South Africa’s fastest-growing discount grocery chain.

Pick n Pay said in a statement that the offer would open at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) on Monday and close at noon (1000 GMT) on Friday, Nov. 22.

The offer is for up to 202,380,953 shares, or 40.3 per cent, of the issued share capital of Boxer. The shares are expected to be listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Nov. 28. (Reuters)



▲ Pick n Pay store logo at the Trade Route Mall, in Lenasia outside Johannesburg, South Africa.



▲ A pumpjack operates at the Vermilion Energy site in Triguères, France.

Oil falls as China stimulus fails to boost sentiment

By Arunima Kumar

OIL prices fell about 2 per cent on Monday after China's stimulus plan disappointed investors seeking fuel demand growth in the world's second-biggest oil consumer and as the U.S. dollar edged higher.

Brent crude futures were down \$1.83, or 2.48 per cent, to \$72.04 a barrel by 1444 GMT while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures were at \$68.47 a barrel, down \$1.91, or 2.71 per cent.

Both benchmarks fell more than 2 per cent on Friday.

The U.S. dollar index, a measure of its value relative to a basket of foreign currencies, slightly overshot the highs seen right after the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election, with markets still waiting for clarity about future U.S. policy.

A stronger dollar makes commodities denominated in the U.S. currency, such as oil, more expensive for holders of other currencies and tends to weigh on prices.

In China, consumer prices rose at the slowest pace in four months in October while producer price deflation deepened, data showed on Saturday, even as Beijing doubled down on stimulus to support the sputtering economy.

"Chinese inflation figures were again weak, with the market fearing deflation, particularly as the yearly change in the producer price index fell further into negative territory

... Chinese economic momentum remains negative," said Achilleas Georgolopoulos, a market analyst at brokerage XM.

The latest support measures will not revive China's oil demand growth or crude oil imports, said Tamas Varga, an analyst at oil broker PVM.

"After last week's U.S. presidential election, attention is slowly drifting back to the underlying fundamentals," Varga said.

Oil prices also eased after concerns about potential supply disruptions from storm Rafael in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico subsided.

More than a quarter of U.S. Gulf of Mexico oil and 16 per cent of natural gas output remained offline on Sunday, according to the offshore energy regulator.

Looking ahead, there were also concerns that U.S. oil and gas output could rise under President-elect Donald Trump's administration, although analysts say the 2025 production forecast is unlikely to change.

"We think producers may think twice about turbo-charging U.S. supply in an era when OPEC+ has already staked out plans to gradually raise production targets over the course of 2025," Tim Evans of Evans Energy said in a note.

Trump's election promise of hiking import tariffs to boost the U.S. economy has clouded the global economic outlook, although expectations that he could tighten sanctions on OPEC producers Iran and Venezuela and cut oil supply to global markets partly caused oil prices to gain more than 1 per cent last week. (Reuters)

Gold drops over 2% as dollar strengthens; investors await Fed policy cues



▲ A view shows an ingot of 99.99 percent pure gold in a workroom during production at Krastsvetmet precious metals plant in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

By Sherin Elizabeth Varghese

GOLD prices slipped more than 2 per cent on Monday, weighed down by the greenback's continued rise and the broader implications of Donald Trump's victory on fiscal policy and interest rate cuts.

Spot gold fell 2.3 per cent to \$2,666.48 per ounce, as of 10:12 a.m. ET (1511 GMT). U.S. gold futures fell 2.42 per cent to \$2,629.40.

With the dollar index rising 0.5 per cent to its highest level since early July, gold became less attractive to non-dollar buyers. Last week, the index surged more than 1.5 per cent to 105.44 following the announcement of Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election.

"The market's attention has focused to the second-order effect since the red wave," said Daniel Ghali, commodity strategist at TD Securities.

"The likelihood of tariffs being imposed relatively early on into Trump's presidency and the resulting strong demand for dollar that is creating. Stronger dollar is weighing on gold prices for the first time in months because it's also associated with increasing odds that the Federal Reserve might delay its

easing cycle."

Bullion logged its worst week in over five months following Trump's election last Tuesday to a second four-year term. His victory poses new uncertainties for the U.S. central bank as it continues to consider interest rate cuts now that inflation is nearing the Fed's 2 per cent target.

The Fed cut the benchmark rate a quarter of a percentage point last week to a range between 4.5 per cent to 4.75 per cent.

Traders now see a 65 per cent chance of a 25 basis-point Fed rate cut in December, versus around 80 per cent chance before Trump's victory.

Fedwatch

Meanwhile, Fed officials, including Chair Jerome Powell, are scheduled to speak this week, while U.S. consumer and producer price index data, weekly jobless claims and retail sales figures are also due this week.

Spot silver fell 2.3 per cent to \$30.58 per ounce.

Despite efforts to use less silver and replace it with cheaper metals, the rapid increase in installations and the growing use of N-type cells are likely to keep silver demand strong in 2024, Heraeus analysts said in a note.

Platinum rose 0.5 per cent to \$973.15, and palladium dropped 0.1 per cent to \$987.63. (Reuters)

South African rand falls, buffeted by global headwinds

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's rand slumped on Monday, buffeted by global headwinds including a softer gold price, the sputtering Chinese economy and uncertainty over future U.S. policy after Donald Trump's election victory.

At 1514 GMT, the rand traded at 17.9375 against the dollar, down about 2 per cent on Friday's closing level. The U.S. dollar last traded about 0.6 per cent firmer against a basket of currencies.

"At the moment, it (the rand) is in a washing machine, being churned around by a weak euro, gold coming lower and lack of guidance on Chinese stimulus," said Adam Phillips, treasury specialist at Umkhulu Treasury.

The rand has swung wildly since Trump's election

win last week, falling steeply on Wednesday before recovering on Thursday only to sink again on Friday.

Some analysts think that volatility could persist into January when Trump takes over as president.

Potential policy changes from the U.S. president-elect include tariffs and tax cuts.

Those measures could put upward pressure on U.S. inflation, limiting the Federal Reserve's scope to ease monetary policy and supporting the greenback.

Later this week the domestic focus will be on third-quarter unemployment numbers, September manufacturing output and September mining production.

On the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the blue-chip Top-40 index closed 0.4 per cent down.

The benchmark 2030 government bond was also weaker, with the yield up 5.5 basis points to 9.225 per cent. (Reuters)



▲ South African Rand coins are seen in this illustration.

Amazon developing driver eyeglasses to shave seconds off deliveries

AMAZON, opens new tab is developing smart eyeglasses for its delivery drivers to guide them to, around and within buildings, as it tries to smooth the final stretch of an order's journey to a customer's home, five people familiar with the matter said.

If successful, the glasses would provide drivers with turn-by-turn navigation on a small embedded screen, along their routes and at each stop, according to the people, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity because the project is not public.

Such directions could shave valuable seconds off each delivery by providing left or right directions off elevators and around obstacles such as gates or aggressive dogs.

With millions of packages delivered daily, seconds add up. The glasses would also free drivers from using handheld Global Positioning System devices, allowing them to carry more packages.

The project underscores the online seller's efforts to reduce delivery costs per package and support margins as it fights increased competition from Walmart (WMT.N), opens new tab, which has stepped up its e-commerce efforts and cut



prices. Walmart is paying independent delivery drivers new incentives to deliver online orders during the holiday season, the retailer told Reuters.

Amazon's delivery glasses, the people warned, could be shelved or delayed indefinitely if they do not work as envisioned, or for financial or other reasons. The sources said they may take years to perfect.

"We are continuously innovating to create an even safer and better delivery experience for drivers," an Amazon spokesperson said, when

asked about the driver eyeglasses. "We otherwise don't comment on our product roadmap."

Amazon has worked for years to develop an in-house delivery network, including its own airline, long-haul trucking and sprawling suburban warehouses. In doing so, it hopes to speed deliveries and pare expenses by reducing its reliance on couriers UPS (UPS.N), opens new tab and FedEx (FDX.N), opens new tab.

(Reuters)

Bitcoin surge triggers billions in losses for crypto short traders after Trump win

SHORT sellers of cryptocurrency and blockchain-related stocks have suffered heavy losses since Nov. 6, after bitcoin surged to record highs, on optimism U.S. President-elect Donald Trump would implement a more favorable regulatory framework.

Crypto short trades looked set for a further hammering on Monday as most cryptocurrency-related stocks jumped in U.S. premarket trading. Among them, Coinbase was last up close to 16%, tracking the surge in bitcoin prices.

Traders who bet against MicroStrategy (MSTR.O), opens new tab, one of bitcoin's biggest corporate backers, lost more than \$1.2 billion between Nov. 6 and Nov. 8, according to data analytics firm Ortex, and are down more than \$6 billion so far this year.

Combined short-selling losses on crypto-exchange operator Coinbase Global (COIN.O), opens new tab, crypto miners Riot Platforms (RIOT.O), opens new tab and MARA Holdings (MARA.O), opens new tab, and blockchain-farm operator Bitfarms were about \$1.2 billion, as of the Nov. 8 close.

Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, soared to a record high above \$82,000 on Monday, with a nearly 19% jump since Nov. 6, when Republican candidate Trump



reclaimed the presidency after defeating Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Bitcoin speculators are betting on a more clement regulatory environment and have expectations that the authorities may build up a reserve crypto fund, helping lift ongoing demand," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Investors betting against iShares

Bitcoin Trust exchange-traded funds (IBIT.O), opens new tab, the world's largest ETF in terms of assets under management, lost close to \$37 million since Nov. 6.

Trump embraced digital assets during his campaign, promising to accumulate a national stockpile of bitcoin and make the United States the "crypto capital of the planet".

(Reuters)

OpenAI and others seek new path to smarter AI as current methods hit limitations

ARTIFICIAL intelligence companies like OpenAI are seeking to overcome unexpected delays and challenges in the pursuit of ever-bigger large language models by developing training techniques that use more human-like ways for algorithms to "think".

A dozen AI scientists, researchers and investors told Reuters they believe that these techniques, which are behind OpenAI's recently released o1 model, could reshape the AI arms race, and have implications for the types of resources that AI companies have an insatiable demand for, from energy to types of chips.

OpenAI declined to comment for this story. After the release of the viral ChatGPT chatbot two years ago, technology companies, whose valuations have benefited greatly from the AI boom, have publicly maintained that "scaling up" current models through adding more data and computing power will consistently lead to improved AI models.

But now, some of the most prominent AI scientists are speaking out on the limitations of this "bigger is better" philosophy.

Ilya Sutskever, co-founder of AI labs Safe Superintelligence (SSI) and OpenAI, told Reuters recently that results from scaling up pre-training - the phase of training an AI model that uses a vast amount of unlabeled data to understand language patterns and structures - have plateaued.

Sutskever is widely credited as an early advocate of achieving massive leaps in generative AI advancement through the use of more data and computing power in pre-training, which eventually created ChatGPT. Sutskever left OpenAI earlier this year to found SSI.

"The 2010s were the age of scaling, now we're back in the age of wonder and discovery once again. Everyone is look-

ing for the next thing," Sutskever said. "Scaling the right thing matters more now than ever."

Sutskever declined to share more details on how his team is addressing the issue, other than saying SSI is working on an alternative approach to scaling up pre-training.

Behind the scenes, researchers at major AI labs have been running into delays and disappointing outcomes in the race to release a large language model that outperforms OpenAI's GPT-4 model, which is nearly two years old, according to three sources familiar with private matters.

The so-called 'training runs' for large models can cost tens of millions of dollars by simultaneously running hundreds of chips. They are more likely to have hardware-induced failure given how complicated the system is; researchers may not know the eventual performance of the models until the end of the run, which can take months.

Another problem is large language models gobble up huge amounts of data, and AI models have exhausted all the easily accessible data in the world. Power shortages have also hindered the training runs, as the process requires vast amounts of energy.

To overcome these challenges, researchers are exploring "test-time compute," a technique that enhances existing AI models during the so-called "inference" phase, or when the model is being used. For example, instead of immediately choosing a single answer, a model could generate and evaluate multiple possibilities in real-time, ultimately choosing the best path forward.

This method allows models to dedicate more processing power to challenging tasks like math or coding problems or complex operations that demand human-like reasoning and decision-making.

(Reuters)



Main Ghana opposition leader tipped to win presidential vote, poll shows

GHANA'S main opposition leader John Dramani Mahama looks set to win December's presidential election, an opinion poll showed on Monday, placing him ahead of his main challenger, ruling party candidate Muhamudu Bawumia. Former president Mahama, 65, and current Vice President Bawumia, 60, are the two main contenders for the Dec. 7 election to replace President Nana Akufo-Addo, who is stepping down in January after two terms as head of the gold- and cocoa-producing nation. Eleven other candidates are also running.

Global InfoAnalytics, an Accra-based research group, released poll results on Monday that saw Mahama winning 52%, followed by 41.3% for Bawumia. The poll has a 1.9% error margin.

It found that voters were mainly concerned about the economy, jobs, education and infrastructure.

Mahama invested heavily in infrastructure during his 2012-17 presidency, when he faced criticism for power shortages and economic instability. His government was also embroiled in corruption allegations, although Mahama was never directly accused.

He is running again as the candidate of the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Bawumia, an economist and former central banker, is running for the ruling New Patriotic Party



▲ Ghana's main opposition leader John Dramani Mahama.

(NPP), which grappled with Ghana's worst economic crisis in a generation.

Both candidates have presented plans to boost the economy and improve livelihoods.

Ghana, the world's second largest cocoa producer, defaulted on most of its \$30 billion external debt in 2022 after years of overstretched borrowing.

Akufo-Addo's government secured a 3-year, \$3 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund in 2023 and is now on the final lap of a painful process required for the money to be disbursed.

The Economist Intelligence Unit

predicted an NDC win in October due to the NPP's economic record. Fitch Solutions published a similar forecast that month.

Both Mahama and Bawumia are from northern Ghana, a historic NDC stronghold where the NPP has been making inroads.

Political analyst Alidu Seidu of the University of Ghana said the election would probably be a very close contest between the two.

Results were difficult to predict and a run-off vote was likely, he said.

No party has ever won more than two consecutive terms in Ghana's democratic history.

(Reuters)



▲ Mauritius' incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

Mauritius' PM says his alliance heading for huge election defeat

MAURITIUS' incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said on Monday his political alliance was headed for a major defeat to a rival coalition led by a three-time former premier following Sunday's parliamentary election.

Jugnauth said the Alliance du Changement headed by 77-year-old veteran politician Navin Ramgoolam was poised to win the vote on the Indian Ocean archipelago of about 1.3 million people.

With a cost of living crisis uppermost in voters' minds, Ramgoolam's alliance had said it planned to increase pensions as well as introduce free transport and internet services, and

reduce fuel prices.

Jugnauth had promised to raise minimum wages, increase pensions and reduce value-added tax on some goods. He also negotiated an October agreement for Britain to cede the Chagos Islands while retaining the U.S.-UK Diego Garcia air base.

But his successes and promises did not appear to have swayed voters, with some wanting a new direction.

"L'Alliance Lepep is heading towards a huge defeat. I have tried to do what I can for the country and the population. The population has decided to choose another team. I wish good luck to the country," Jugnauth told reporters.

(Reuters)

climate envoy says work will continue despite Trump's return

U.S. climate envoy John Podesta urged governments to keep faith in the country's promise to combat global warming, saying Donald Trump can slow, not stop, the transition from fossil fuels when he returns to office in January.

The annual U.N. climate summit began on Monday in Baku, Azerbaijan, with many country delegations concerned Trump's victory in U.S. presidential elections on Nov. 5 would hinder progress to limit planetary warming.

Trump has promised to again remove the United States, the world's biggest historic greenhouse gas emitter, from international climate cooperation and maximise the country's already record-high fossil fuel production.

"For those of us dedicated to climate action, last week's outcome in the United States is obviously bitterly disappointing," Podesta said at the summit.

"But what I want to tell you today is that while the United States federal government, under Donald Trump, may put climate action on the back burner, the work to contain climate change is going to continue in the United States."

He said the Inflation Reduction Act, opens new tab (IRA), President Joe Biden's landmark climate legislation providing billions of dollars in subsidies for clean energy, would continue to drive investments in solar, wind and other technologies, and that U.S. state governments would also push emissions cuts through regulation.

"I don't think that any of that is reversible. Can it be slowed down? Maybe. But the direction is clear," he said.

Although Trump has promised to rescind the IRA, to do so would require an act of Congress - and that could be elusive due to support from some Republican lawmakers whose districts benefit from IRA-linked investments.

AGENDA WRANGLING

Apart from the election of Trump as president of the world's biggest economy, the talks in Baku are vying for attention with economic concerns and wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

That complicates the summit's ambition to resolve the priority agenda item - a deal for up to \$1 trillion in annual climate finance for developing countries, replacing a target of \$100 billion.

U.N. climate chief Simon Stiell sought to whip up momentum.

"Let's dispense with the idea that climate finance is charity," he said at the Baku stadium. "An ambitious new climate finance goal is entirely in the self-interest of every nation, including the largest and wealthiest."

This year is on track to be the hottest on record. Rich and poor countries alike have been challenged by extreme weather events, including flooding disasters in Africa, coastal Spain and the U.S. state of North Carolina, drought gripping South America, Mexico and the U.S. West.

But even agreeing one of COP29's first tasks has proved a challenge: setting the agenda for negotiations has been delayed for several hours.

Three sources with knowledge of the closed-door discussions, asking to remain anonymous, said the European Union and small island counties were demanding nations follow up last year's deal - including how to take forward its agreement to transi-



tion away from coal, oil and gas.

The Caspian Sea nation, which is home to the world's first oil wells, faces pressure to make progress on last year's COP28 pledge to transition away from fossil fuels.

But fossil fuel-producing Gulf states want to limit discussions to the elements of last year's COP28 deal related to finance, the sources said.

(Reuters)

THE Kremlin dismissed on Monday reports that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump had spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin in recent days as “pure fiction.”

A source told Reuters on Sunday that Trump, who has criticised the scale of U.S. military and financial support for Kyiv and said he will end the war quickly, had spoken to Putin in recent days.

The source told Reuters they were familiar with the conversation, first reported by The Washington Post, opens new tab, which cited unidentified sources as saying Trump had told Putin that he should not escalate the Ukraine war.

In an unusual move, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday no such call had taken place between Putin and Trump.

“This is completely untrue. This is pure fiction, it’s just false information,” he told reporters. “There was no conversation.”

“This is the most obvious example of the quality of the information that is being published now, sometimes even in fairly reputable publications,” he said.

Asked whether Putin had plans for any contacts with Trump, Peskov said: “There are no concrete plans yet.”

Trump spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy last Wednesday.

Asked about the purported Trump-Putin call, Steven Cheung, Trump’s communications director, said: “We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders.”

Republican Trump will take office on Jan. 20 after winning the Nov. 5 presidential election. Biden has invited Trump to the Oval Office on Wednesday, the White House said.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday Biden’s top message would be his commitment to ensure a peaceful transfer of power, and he will also talk to Trump about what’s happening in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

“President Biden will have the opportunity over the next 70 days to make the case to the Congress and to the incoming administration that the United States should not walk away from Ukraine, that walking away from Ukraine means more instability in Europe,” Sullivan told CBS News’ “Face the Nation” show.



Kremlin dismisses reports Trump and Putin spoke in recent days as ‘pure fiction’

Sullivan was asked whether Biden would ask Congress to pass legislation to authorize more funding for Ukraine.

“I’m not here to put forward a specific legislative proposal. President Biden will make the case that we do need ongoing resources for Ukraine beyond the end of his term,” he

said.

UKRAINE FUNDING

Washington has provided tens of billions of dollars worth of U.S. military and economic aid to Ukraine since it was invaded by Russia in February 2022, funding that Trump has repeatedly criticized and rallied against with other Republican lawmakers.

Trump said last year that if he had been in the White House at the time, Putin would not have invaded Ukraine. He told Reuters Ukraine may have to cede territory to reach a peace agreement, something Kiev rejects and Biden has never suggested.

Zelenskiy said on Thursday he was not aware of any details of Trump’s plan to end the war quickly and that he was convinced a rapid end would entail major concessions by Kyiv.

According to the Government Accountability Office, Congress appropriated over \$174 billion to Ukraine under Biden. The pace of the aid is almost certain to drop under Trump, with Republicans set to take control of the U.S. Senate with a 52-seat majority.

(Reuters)

Church of England leader Welby urged to quit over abuse cover-up

JUSTIN Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and spiritual leader of the global Anglican church, faced mounting calls to resign on Monday over a report that his institution had covered up prolific abuse of boys and young men.

In office since 2013, Welby apologised last week after the report described a barrister who ran summer camps for young Christians, John Smyth, as the most prolific serial abuser associated with the Church of England, as it is also known.

Welby said he had “no idea or suspicion” of the allegations before 2013, but the independent report concluded that it was unlikely he would have had no knowledge of the concerns regarding Smyth in the 1980s.

Helen-Ann Hartley, one of the church’s 108 bishops, became the most senior person in the institution to call for Welby to resign when she said on Monday his position was now untenable.

A petition calling for his departure - started by three members of the Church’s governing body, the General Synod - has received over 2,900 signatures.

“It’s very hard for the church ... to continue to have a moral voice in any way, shape, or form in our nation when we cannot get our own house in order with regard to something that’s critically important,” Hartley said.

Smyth, who died in 2018, was held responsible for the violent Church of England leader Welby urged to quit over abuse cover-up abuse of at least 115 children and young men

in England, Zimbabwe and South Africa, including caning.

WELBY: ‘I AM SO SORRY’

Welby has apologised for “failures and omissions” in not properly investigating the claims, especially after a documentary by Britain’s Channel 4 in 2017 revealed the full extent of the abuse.

“I am so sorry that in places where these young men, and boys, should have felt safe and where they should have experienced God’s love for them, they were subjected to physical, sexual, psychological and spiritual abuse,” he said in a statement last week.

Welby, spiritual leader to 85 million Christians worldwide, has led the church during a period of major upheaval, forced to navigate a schism over homosexual rights and women clerics between liberal churches in North America and Britain, and their conservative counterparts, especially in Africa.

A conservative group of Anglican church leaders declared last year that they no longer had confidence in Welby, saying he had betrayed his ordination, after the church set out plans to allow priests to bless same-sex couples in church, while still not allowing them to marry in church.

The 68-year-old has also been criticised for commenting on government policies including the former Conservative government’s plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda.

Welby told Channel 4 on Thursday he had considered resigning, but reiterated that he had not known about the abuse.

(Reuters)



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MTN Bushfire Online Early Bird tickets sold out in record time

THE excitement surrounding the highly anticipated MTN Bushfire Festival reached new heights last week as online Early Bird tickets sold out in a staggering 10 minutes, prompting organizers to transition immediately to Phase 1 pricing.

This milestone reflects the festival's continued popularity and the eager anticipation of its loyal following. Set to take place from May 30 to June 1, 2025, at the House On Fire in Malkerns, the MTN Bushfire festival remains a beacon of African culture, showcasing a blend of local talents and international acts, and providing an immersive experience for music lovers from all walks of life.

For 12 consecutive years, the festival has managed to captivate audiences, and ticket sales demonstrate that its appeal shows no signs of waning.

Prospective attendees are now encouraged to act quickly, as tickets are expected to sell out rapidly in the upcoming phases. Phase 1 tickets are available exclusively through the festival's website, www.bush-fire.com, and typically offer the best pricing for attendees willing to secure their spots well in advance.



▲ MTN Bushfire online early bird tickets on sold out in 10 minutes.

In a notable effort to support the local community, MTN Eswatini, the festival's

title sponsor, will again provide discounted tickets specifically for emaSwati. These

tickets will be made available through the MoMo Marketplace, reinforcing the festival's commitment to ensuring accessibility for local fans.

Festivalgoers can expect a variety of ticket options tailored to different experiences and preferences. Options include the Full Festival Golden Lounge, which offers an exclusive viewing experience, the Main Arena tickets for general admission, and special pricing for Children's tickets, ensuring that the event is family friendly. The ticketing process has been streamlined to enhance convenience, allowing attendees to pre-load their tickets with Top Up funds for seamless purchases.

For those interested in taking advantage of the discounted tickets available through the MoMo Marketplace, the process is simple: prospective buyers can send a WhatsApp message saying "Hi" to 7808 4000, select Option 1 for MTN Bushfire, and follow the straightforward prompts provided. This user-friendly interface is designed to make the purchasing process as smooth as possible, catering to a tech-savvy crowd.

Poetry In Comfort Talent Search commences

THE much-anticipated 'Poetry In Comfort' event, set to take place on December 7, 2024, at Millennium Park in Manzini, is officially calling on poets from all walks of life to submit their work ahead of the fast-approaching deadline.

Poets are encouraged to send in a 45-second video showcasing their artistry via WhatsApp to the number 79896603 by this Wednesday. Results will be announced the following Thursday. Sibonokuhle Simelane, the visionary director behind the event, shared his enthusiasm for this opportunity, emphasizing how it aims to shine a spotlight on emerging talents.

"We believe that this will change the poetry industry. We are giving amazing undiscovered talent a stage to showcase their work to the world," Simelane stated, highlighting the event's mission to foster and elevate young poets seeking recognition.

The event will be structured into three distinct segments, with the first segment, 'Talent Search/Talent Appreciation,' serving as a vital platform for young and undiscovered poets. Participants will be categorized into two age groups—ages 11-16 and 17 and above—ensuring a diverse range of voices and perspectives.

In addition to the talent search, attendees can look forward to a captivating poetry show headlined by the Festival B, featuring poets including MoCats and Poetess Landa.

The event is curated by Jonokuhle Upholstery, a name synonymous with luxury and exquisite design, ensuring that guests will be treated to beautifully crafted sofas that epitomize elegance and comfort. "We are presenting the art space with a luxurious Poetry In Comfort outdoor concept. It is a self-explanatory idea—we want to provide an exclusive experience for poetry lovers and art



▲ Poetess Landa is slated for a performance at Poetry In Comfort.

enthusiasts, creating lasting memories rather than just an ordinary event," Simelane articulated, reflecting the organizers' commitment to delivering a unique atmosphere.

Under the theme "Let's Meet Over Brunch In Poetry and Style," the event is designed to marry comfort with creativity, inviting attendees to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of performances that celebrate the art of spoken word. The lineup will also feature celebrated South African poetess Landa, alongside Fakazi Samuel and Blessing Dlodlu, ensuring a diverse array of voices gracing the stage.

Tickets for this exceptional event will be available soon at various outlets, priced at E100. Simelane encouraged poetry lovers, art enthusiasts, and young people to support this vital initiative, underscoring the importance of fostering local talent and uplifting the community's art scene.

'We Love Waffles' slated for Namibia

ESWATINI-BORN global superstar Uncle Waffles is set to bring her highly anticipated 'We Love Waffles' tour to Namibia.

Scheduled for November 23, 2024, the event promises to be a spectacular showcase of musical talent and vibrant energy that has become synonymous with Uncle Waffles.

The news comes as Uncle Waffles confirmed that an impressive 80 per cent of tickets are already sold out, a testament to her popularity and the excitement surrounding the event. Uncle Waffles is ready to light up Namibia, and fans can expect nothing less than a spectacular show that celebrates the vibrant pulse of African music and culture.

Having already made her mark across various countries, including a successful stint in the United States of America, Uncle Waffles is poised to take Namibia by storm, bringing her unique blend of amapiano and infectious stage presence to an eager audience.

Uncle Waffles, recognized as the "princess of amapiano" by Billboard, has transformed the music scene with her

innovative sound and exceptional performances. Rising to prominence in recent years, she has captivated not only her native Eswatini but also audiences around the world with her magnetic charisma and groundbreaking artistry.

Her ascent in the music industry has been meteoric, and her latest tour is a celebration of her remarkable journey.

Central to her rise is her debut single, "Tanzania," which has become a cultural phenomenon across Southern Africa. Yet it's not just the song's incredible melody that resonates with fans; it's the vibrant rhythms and captivating beats that have made "Tanzania" a party anthem, achieving an impressive 7x platinum certification in South Africa.

The track's success highlights Uncle Waffles' ability to blend traditional African sounds with contemporary music trends, ensuring that her art transcends borders and cultures.

▲ Eswatini-born global superstar Uncle Waffles.



NACAs reach national level!

Stories By Siphesihle Dlamini
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ILLUSTRATING the resilience and dynamism of Eswatini's cultural scene, the entertainment world came alive at the Sibane Sami Hotel in Ezulwini for the unveiling of the nominees for the Eswatini National Arts and Culture Awards (NACAs) 2024.

The event attracted a host of stakeholders, including artists, industry professionals, and esteemed guests, all eager to celebrate the rich tapestry of talent flourishing within the kingdom. The NACAs have transformed into a prestigious platform that not only showcases the country's artistic talents but also serves to recognize and empower them. This year's nominations reflect a national scale, comprising 700 nominees drawn from regional winners and established artists whose work has resonated in the hearts of many. The ceremony is set to take place on December 14, 2024, at a venue that remains to be announced, and it is anticipated that 50 outstanding artists will be honoured during this glamorous night.

The NACAs' primary aim is to honour the creativity and hard work of artists across various genres and disciplines. In the lead-up to this grand event, the NACAs have been fervently conducting regional awards that highlight and celebrate grassroots talent. Through these regional competitions, many hidden gems have emerged, ready to compete on a national stage with established artists who have carved their niche in the local and international arenas.

KrTC, the acclaimed media personality and hip-hop artist, was the charismatic host of the day. With enthusiasm and a passion for the arts, he expressed the significance of receiving an award from peers and fans alike. "One of the highest honours that any creative can ever receive is an award for their work," KRTC stated. "It ranks alongside the exhilaration of a sold-out concert, the joy of a packed art exhibition, and the thrill of millions of streams and impressions on your work."

He further elaborated, stressing that the National Arts and Culture Awards aim to



▲ Comedians Gogo and S'lwane also graced the awards.

recognize, elevate, and celebrate those who harness the powerful languages of art to tell their unique stories. "Today, we gather to honour our artists, the dreamers, and the storytellers who inspire us all," KrTC proclaimed, setting a tone of reverence and excitement for the upcoming awards ceremony.

The unveiling event also served as a reminder of the diverse artistic expressions that thrive within Eswatini. From music to visual arts, dance, literature, and film, these awards encapsulate the essence of the nation's cultural wealth. The nomination process has seen contributions from various regions of Eswatini, displaying the collective spirit of creativity and collaboration among its artists.

With the countdown to the NACAs 2024 continues, the excitement across the nation is palpable. Artists, fans, and stakeholders eagerly await the announcement of the final winners, who will not only receive accolades but will also inspire the next generation of creators.

In the weeks leading up to the awards ceremony, various promotional activities are expected to unfold, boosting public engagement and excitement. Special features spotlighting nominees and their respective works will be included, ensuring that every artist gets their moment in the spotlight.



▲ KrTC of Hip Hop.



▲ Eswatini Gqom artist M Nation.



▲ Stella Jacobs is also nominated.

SIPHO Makhabane, Chairperson of the National Arts and Culture Awards (NACA), expressed gratitude to the Arts and Culture office for providing a robust platform for both established and emerging artists.

The platform, he highlighted, is instrumental in showcasing the passion, creativity, and talent that the nation has to offer.

Speaking at the recent nomination reveal event, a precursor to the upcoming NACA awards ceremony, Makhabane urged artists to unite, emphasizing the importance of collaboration over competition. "Artists should strive for excellence and put more dedication into their craft. It is essential to avoid conflicts with fellow creatives," he stated, urging the community to foster an environment of support and encouragement. He reinforced the idea that the growth of the local arts industry hinges on unity among its practitioners.

Makhabane expressed excitement over the entries submitted by artists, noting

... NACAs celebrate unity, talent

their impressive efforts and creativity. "We appreciate the dedication shown by the artists who went all out for this awards ceremony. We also encourage media houses to give them a platform, as they seek votes from their fans. We wish them all the best," he said, hinting at the importance of community support in amplifying the artists' voices.

The ceremony was electrified by the opening performance of the award-winning gospel group, Shiba and the Travellers, who set the tone for the evening with their high-energy rendition of the popular song 'Indaba Yesiphambano.' The audience erupted in applause and excitement, captivated by the infectious enthusiasm that the group brought to the stage. In addition to the musical performances, poet Christian Maz left a mark with a moving piece that resonated emotionally with attendees.

Stanley Dlamini, CEO of the Eswatini National Arts and Culture Council took the stage to encourage artists to put forth their best efforts in canvassing for votes. He also called upon established artists to engage actively in the awards, highlighting that their participation solidifies the legitimacy and prestige of the ceremony. "It is time for artists to celebrate themselves and for the nation to define their profession, making it more attractive to their fans," Dlamini asserted, painting a vision of a thriving, supportive arts community.

In an exciting announcement, he revealed that an arts summit is being planned for all nominees, aiming to provide them with additional exposure and opportunities to connect. Furthermore, all winners of the NACA awards will not only receive a coveted trophy but also a cash prize, highlighting the organization's commitment to recognizing

and rewarding artistic excellence.

Adding to the evening's spirit, celebrated musician Mshikishi Mdzebele took to the stage, urging fellow artists and the nation at large to support their local talent to uplift the music industry. His passionate performance punctuated his message, reminding everyone that the strength of the local arts scene lies in the community's willingness to embrace and uplift its own.

The much-anticipated award statuette was unveiled during the event, offering a glimpse of the honours that await the deserving artists. Voting lines were officially opened at the close of the evening, with artists eagerly awaiting their assigned voting numbers. Supporters received a reminder that the voting period will officially close on December 12, 2024, giving fans a limited window to cast their votes for their favourite artists.

Tyla wins big at the 2024 MTV EMAs



▲ Tyla bounced back from a Grammy Awards snub by dominating the MTV EMAs, taking home three awards for Best R&B, Best African Act, and Best Afrobeats.

TYLA bounced back from a Grammy Awards snub by dominating the MTV EMAs, taking home three awards for Best R&B, Best African Act, and Best Afrobeats.

The “Push 2 Start” hitmaker owned the night at the 2024 MTV Europe Music Awards (MTV EMAs) which took place at Co-op Live in Manchester, England.

She wowed in a stunning Roberto Cavalli blue tiger-print slip dress for her red carpet appearance at the MTV EMAs.

Her look was inspired by the late R&B star Aaliyah’s iconic yellow-and-black striped tiger-print dress, also designed by Roberto Cavalli, which Aaliyah wore at the 2000 MTV VMAs.

When called on stage to accept her Best Afrobeats award, Tyla shared the moment with her sister, Sydney Seethal, as they accepted the honour together. “For those who don’t know, this is my sister Sydney,” she introduced her sister to

the audience, thanking her supporters and team for making the award possible.

“Oh my gosh, guys, I can’t believe it. Literally, all the nominees are insane; they have taken Afrobeats so far, and I’m so honoured to be winning this award. I just want to thank my team, my family, and the ‘Tygers’ for voting for me. Thank you so much.”

“Thank you, guys, so much. Thank you to God, obviously, and thank you to Afrobeats. It has opened so many doors for African music,” she added. Her sister also shared that she was proud of Tyla.

In the Best Afrobeats category, Tyla won over a star-studded line-up that included Ayra Starr, Asake, Burna Boy, Rema, and Tems.

In an interview at the MTV EMAs, an emotional Tyla expressed her gratitude upon winning the Best R&B award while holding her trophy and on the verge of tears.

“I’m just as shocked as you guys. Thank you so much to my ‘Tygers,’ my team, and the EMAs.

“I know it’s hard to categorise my music since I mix so many genres into one, but R&B is a huge influence on me — especially Aaliyah; she’s one of my idols. The fact that I’m winning this in her dress is just incredi-

ble. Thank you, guys, so much,” she said.

The 22-year-old songstress was nominated alongside other R&B giants, including SZA, Usher, Kehlani, Victoria Monét, and Tinashe.

This major win comes after Tyla’s self-titled debut album “Tyla” received no nominations for next year’s Grammy Awards.

Her album had been considered for Album of the Year, “Jump” was submitted for Song of the Year, and “Water” (the Marshmello Remix) was submitted for Best Remixed Recording.

The snub came as a surprise and sparked a debate, as many of her supporters expected the star to continue her winning streak after the success of her debut album, which led to her first Grammy win for Best African Music Performance. Rolling Stone also named Tyla as one of the biggest snubs of the 2025 Grammys, noting that Tyla’s “Water” was a distinct fusion of Afrobeats, Amapiano, pop, and R&B.

They highlighted that she sustained momentum with her self-titled debut album, which had been predicted to receive a nod for Album of the Year.

Tyla will return to South Africa in December for a tour organised by Vodacom.

(IOL Entertainment)

I always knew I would make it but not so soon – Usimamane

RAPPER Omuhleumnguni Simamane, popularly known as Usimamane, has shared his sentiments about being one of the biggest hip-hop artists in Mzansi.

Usimamane, who was born and raised in Umlazi, rose to fame through his breakthrough single Cheque in 2024, which was certified 3x Platinum in South Africa. Apple Music announced him as Rap Life Africa in June.

In September, he released his album 20th: Days Before Maud Deluxe, which features Rick Ross, Sjava, K.O., Tshego, and Okmalumkoolkat, just to name a few.

Performing at Friends of Amstel over the weekend, he told Sunday World that he feels honoured to be among the great and biggest names in the genre.

“I always knew I would make it one day, but I did not expect it to happen so soon. I really do not do a lot, but I honestly just try to make sure that I am in my own lane,” said Usimamane.

Always trying to stay away from trouble

When asked if he would respond to the A-Reece’s diss track, the 21-year-old rapper said he would never do it because he is a big fan of the artist.

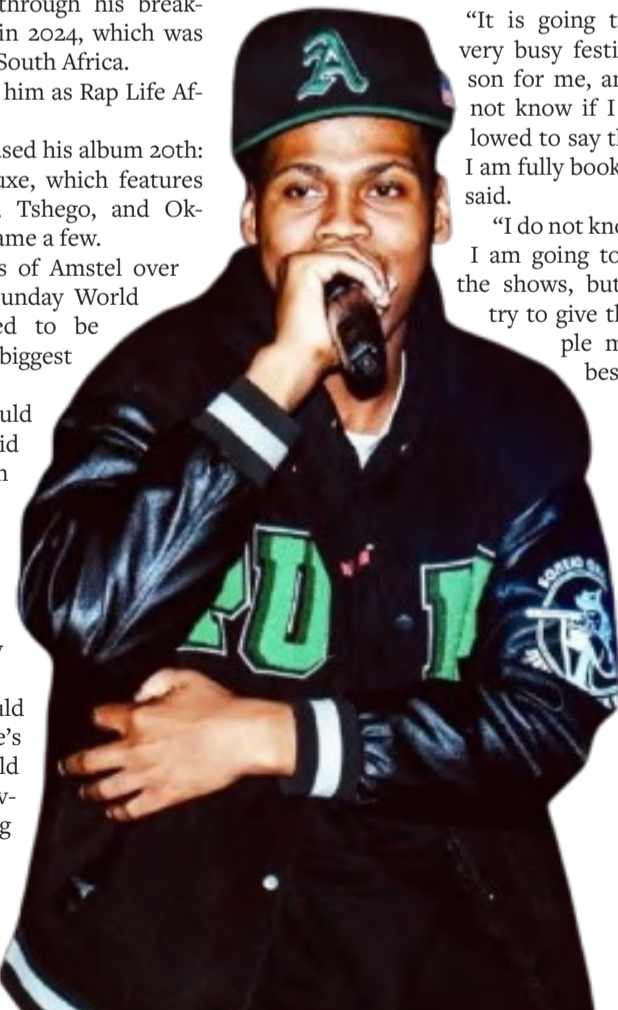
“I am one person who always tries to stay away from trouble. Even though people always try to drag me into beef and stuff I do not want, I bounce back.

“I always try to show people that there is no beef or trouble I have with other people, but I honestly feel honoured to be part of the current hip-hop.”

The Uvalo hitmaker also shared that prayer is what has got him to where he is in his career.

“It is going to be a very busy festive season for me, and I do not know if I am allowed to say this, but I am fully booked,” he said.

“I do not know how I am going to do all the shows, but I will try to give the people my very best.”



▲ Rapper Omuhleumnguni Simamane, popularly known as Usimamane.

Nasty C becomes first SA hip hop artist to surpass 100 mln Spotify streams

NASTY C has officially become the first South African hip-hop solo artist to surpass 100 million streams on Spotify, marking it a groundbreaking moment for Mzansi’s hip-hop scene.

This accomplishment is not only a personal triumph but also speaks volumes about the impact of streaming when it comes to African music.

The accessibility of platforms like Spotify has revolutionised how African artists reach global audiences, and Nasty C’s milestone embodies this shift.

Streaming has dramatically transformed the music industry worldwide but its impact in Africa has been most profound. Previously, African artists faced challenges in accessing international markets due to distribution and visibility barriers.

With the rise of streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music and Audiomack, African musicians now have a direct line to millions of listeners across continents, reshaping the global landscape.

Nasty C’s journey from Durban’s underground scene to the global stage has been full of defining moments, and this achievement is perhaps his most significant yet.

Nasty C, born Nsikayesizwe David Junior Ngcobo, burst into the scene in 2015 with his mix tape of Price City, featuring the hit “Juice Back”. His music, including standout tracks like “SMA”, “There They Go” and “Zulu Man”, has been pivotal in reaching this landmark.

In a 2020 interview with “Forbes Africa”, Nasty C explained his mission: “I want to bring African stories to the world, but I’ll never forget where I come from.”

This commitment to showcasing African experiences has helped him resonate deeply with fans worldwide.

The streaming success of African artists like Nasty C highlights the broader global



▲ Nasty C has officially become the first South African hip-hop solo artist to surpass 100 million streams on Spotify.

demand for African sounds.

Phiona Okumu, Spotify’s Head of Music for Sub-Saharan Africa, commented on this rise, in a 2021 interview with “CNN”: “African music is now a global phenomenon. Platforms like Spotify have opened the doors for artists across the continent, allowing them to reach new audiences without losing their cultural authenticity.”

Nasty C’s success shows that African hip-hop has not only arrived on the world stage but that it is here to stay.

The South African hip-hop scene has come a long way since the pioneering days of artists like HHP and Pro Kid.

Reflecting on this progress, in 2019, DJ Ms Cosmo told “The Citizen”: “Nasty C’s success is a symbol of what South African hip-hop can achieve. It’s no longer about imitating anyone; it’s about our unique stories breaking barriers.”

The streaming era has not only expanded access but has also created a thriving platform for African creativity, and Nasty C’s achievement shines as an inspiring example of what’s possible.



AS you age, you may experience a gradual loss of some thinking abilities. A significant change may indicate another health condition.

Your mind is central to your identity. The sharpness of your thinking, your ability to communicate and connect with others, and the rich trove of memories you've collected over a lifetime all have enormous value.

As you get older, you may notice changes in some of your thinking skills, including cognitive decline.

This article explores how your cognitive abilities can change later in life. It also provides some practical guidance to help you keep your brain healthy as you age.

What is cognitive decline?

Cognitive decline is the gradual loss of thinking abilities such as:

- learning
- remembering
- paying attention
- reasoning

For some people a small amount of cognitive decline occurs with age.

But more significant changes can be a sign of a cognitive disorder. Injury, illness, and health habits can influence how much and how fast your cognitive abilities change over time.

What are the signs of cognitive decline?

Cognitive decline looks different from person to person. That may be because people vary in their health profiles, life circumstances, and capabilities. Still, some patterns have emerged from the research.

People with mild cognitive decline might:

- have trouble finding the right words to express themselves, especially when compared with others of the same age
- lose or misplace things
- forget appointments and scheduled events
- become overwhelmed by complex tasks and projects

Keep in mind that typical forgetfulness is not the same as cognitive decline. It's not helpful to assume that regular forgetfulness is necessarily a sign of cognitive decline. Such worrying can affect your well-being.

How do doctors detect cognitive decline?

A doctor can help you determine whether you're experiencing typical signs of aging or symptoms of cognitive decline. They may assign you a brief self-screening test to check for symptoms of cognitive decline.

Self-Administered Gerocognitive Examination (SAGE) and other screening tests

There are several screen tests that you can use to check for signs of cognitive decline. These tests usually take about 3 to 15 minutes.

They include:

- Self-Administered Gerocognitive Examination (SAGE)
- AD8 Dementia Screening Interview
- Quick Dementia Rating System (QDRS)
- Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS) test
- Mini-Cog

SAGE is one of the most common screen-

Understanding cognitive decline



Cognitive Decline

Understanding the Signs, Causes, and Strategies for Prevention

▲ For some people a small amount of cognitive decline occurs with age. But more significant changes can be a sign of a cognitive disorder.

ing tests. You can download the test online and complete it at home. You can also take it to a doctor's office to complete.

SAGE differs from the other tests in that it is slightly more complex.

A 2022 study^{Trusted Source} found that SAGE detected cognitive decline in people with MCI 6 months sooner than MMSE, another common test. According to a 2021 review, SAGE produces a correct result 79% of the time.

Note that these quick tests are not enough to diagnose cognitive decline or dementia on their own.

If your score shows some decline, it may be a sign for a doctor to do a more thorough evaluation.

Neuropsychological tests

In an evaluation, doctors often use neuropsychological tests to see whether your thinking and memory skills are changing. Some of the most common tests are:

- Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)
- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)
- Sahlgrenska Academy Self-Reported Cognitive Impairment Questionnaire (SASCI-Q)
- Subjective Cognitive Decline Questionnaire (SCD-Q)
- Memory Complaint Questionnaire (MCQ)
- Everyday Cognition (ECog)
- Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) Scale
- 6-Item Cognitive Impairment Test (6-CIT)
- Hong Kong Brief Cognitive Test (HKBC)

Some of these tests are relatively new. More research is needed to understand how well they predict or measure cognitive de-

cline.

Other tests

A doctor might order a blood test to see if something else — like hypothyroidism or a B12 deficiency — may be causing a change in your thinking abilities.

Brain imaging, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), may help a doctor determine whether something like a stroke or brain tumor is at the root of your symptoms.

Experimental tests

Researchers are also looking into blood or spinal fluid tests that search for proteins linked to Alzheimer's disease. These proteins are called beta-amyloid and tau.

In studies, brain imaging like MRI and PET scans can show changes in some parts of the brain.

The above tests may be able to detect changes in your brain up to 20 years^{Trusted Source} before symptoms appear. But they're often too costly, invasive, or complex to use for screening purposes. There's ongoing research into simpler and more cost-effective screening tests.

What causes cognitive decline?

There are many reasons you may experience age-related changes in thinking and memory. Sometimes, another health condition may be the cause.

Examples include:

- high blood pressure
- vascular (blood vessel) disease
- depression
- sleep deprivation
- diabetes

Sometimes, a neurological condition such as Alzheimer's Disease or frontotemporal

dementia is the underlying cause.

Your genes and family history also play a role in whether you will experience cognitive decline as you get older.

Genes may be responsible for up to 60% to 70%^{Trusted Source} of the various ways cognition declines due to aging.

At what age does cognitive decline usually start?

Each person is different. Your health behaviors have some influence on your brain function as you age.

A 2020 analysis of the Health and Retirement Study, which involved around 29,000 participants, found that women first experienced cognitive impairment around age 73.

Those women who went on to develop dementia did so at about 83 years old. Men, the study found, experienced cognitive decline near age 70 and dementia at 79 years.

It's important to know that not everyone with cognitive decline will later have dementia.

The study also found that race and education level affect the age of onset.

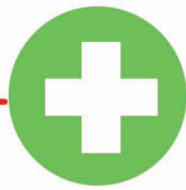
For many Black and Latin@ people in the United States, cognitive decline may begin 3 to 6 years earlier than for white people.

Researchers think this disparity could be related to differences in healthcare access and accumulated stress ("weathering") over a lifetime.

People with higher education levels tend to experience cognitive decline at a later age. This may be because they stay mentally active and have more social connections later in life.

They may also have greater access to healthcare and earlier treatment of medical problems.

(Healthline)



WHEN you think of a runner's body, you probably think of a certain body type: long, lean, and leggy.

However, runners come in as many sizes and shapes as everyone else, and each body will respond in its own way to training.

Even at the elite level, a sprinter's body is going to look different from a marathoner's body, and a sprinter's training will look very different from that of a distance runner.

Add the myriad fitness runners, bucket list marathoners, and people just trying to increase their endurance or burn a few calories, and you've got a wide range of silhouettes — all of which should be considered "runners' bodies."

That said, building a running habit will make an impact on your body, often in unexpected ways. Below, we'll look at the ways running can change your body — inside and out — when you begin to take it seriously.

Here are 9 things running does for (and to) your body:

1. You will build stamina: Running is the OG of cardio — even athletes in other sports use it to help increase endurance.

Whether you run long and slow for staying power or practice sprints to increase your explosive power, running stresses your heart, lungs, and vascular system to increase your cardiorespiratory strength and endurance.

2. You will decrease your risk of disease: Running positively influences your blood pressure and circulation and significantly reduces your risk of dying from cardiovascular disease. But it also decreases your risk of death from any cause by about 27%.

3. You will strengthen your bones: Running is a high impact, weight-bearing activity, which means that the rhythmic pounding of the pavement stresses your bones in a way that can be very healthy. Your bones respond to the stress by getting stronger in order to handle the recurring impact.

This is a profound benefit for your lower body, but if running is the only exercise you do, you may want to add some weightlifting for your upper body for overall balance. Still, running can help improve bone density, which is of great benefit as we age.

4. You will risk injury: The repeated stress on your body has its upside, but there is also a downside.

In a 2018 study, injury incidence among runners was 62.4%, while in a 2020 study it was closer to 30%.

But either way, running can take its toll. An injury may be something acute, such as a rolled ankle, or it may be a chronic injury, such as a stress fracture or shin splints.

Unfortunately, novice runners are injured more often than experienced recreational runners (6Trusted Source).

Knowing how to avoid overdoing it and listen to your body when it needs a break can help reduce the risk of injury, as can stretching and recovering properly between workouts.

5. You will become a calorie-torcher and an eating machine: Running is a high intensity workout and burns a lot of calories, which is great news for anyone trying to lose weight.



▲ *Left-side sleeping has the most expert- and science-backed health benefits.*

Your body burns calories at a higher rate for a period of time after your workout is done — especially after a higher-intensity workout.

When your body is depleted, however, it can be easy to overeat. Taking in a small snack high in protein and whole carbohydrates immediately after your run can help stave off excessive "runner hunger."

6. Your legs will become stronger: Running works your legs — quads, hamstrings, and calves — plus your hips and glutes. Your inner thighs, abs, and shoulders help, but the large muscles of your hips and legs do most of the work.

Try to run on a variety of surfaces (track, trail, and asphalt) to get variety in the stress on these muscles, which can help you not only avoid injury but also build up more balanced strength. Include occasional hills to get even stronger.

7. You'll need to cross-train: Running is one of the most beneficial forms of exercise, but if you're not doing other activities too, you'll risk muscle imbalance and potential injury (8Trusted Source).

Lifting weights is one of the best options because it can strengthen the bones of your upper body and improve your overall posture, balance, and physique.

Strengthening your legs with unstable or single-leg exercises such as lunges or one-legged squats can also help strengthen the stabilizing muscles of your hips and even out any muscle imbalances.

Participating in a low- or no-impact activity such as yoga, indoor cycling, or swimming can help you keep your fitness level high while giving your bones and



joints a break from the impact of running.

8. You will sleep like a baby: Studies suggest that runners experience fewer sleep disturbances and less daytime sleepiness than nonrunners. However, running at a moderate intensity may be better for improving sleep quality than running vigorously.

9. Your mental health and mood will improve: Studies have shown numerous connections between running and improved mental health and mood (11Trusted Source, 12Trusted Source).

And while any running will confer these benefits, running outside might offer even more.

Running outside is a great excuse to get away from your desk or your never-ending to-do list. Fresh air is good for

your lungs, your brain, and your emotional state. Navigating your route stimulates your mind-body connection and adds an element of play.

Plus, the vitamin D boost from the sun can benefit your immune system, eye health, and bone health.

The bottom line

No one form of exercise is the only one you'll ever need, but if you're looking for a strong body and an endorphin boost, running is close to perfect.

If you're new to running, start small, progress thoughtfully, and listen to your body. Cross-train a bit for balance, and eat an overall nutritious diet. Your very best runner's body is possible.

(Healthline)

News in pictures from around the world



▲ U.S. President Joe Biden gestures as he and first lady Jill Biden walk on the seashore in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.



▲ NASCAR Cup Series driver Joey Logano celebrates after winning the 2024 NASCAR Cup Series championship and the NASCAR Cup Series Championship race at Phoenix Raceway in Arizona.



▲ Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales looks on from a balcony on the day of the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony at The Cenotaph on Whitehall, in London.



▲ People commute on a smoggy morning in Peshawar, Pakistan.



▲ A child reacts as Palestinians gather to receive meals cooked by a charity kitchen, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Deir Al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip.

Mngqithi questions timing of Carling Knockout final

MAMELODI Sundowns coach Manqoba Mngqithi has questioned the bizarre scheduling of the Carling Knockout final where they will play giant killers Magesi FC on 23 November.

The decider will be played at the Toyota Stadium, just a couple of days after the FIFA international break.

Sundowns booked their place in the final following a hard-fought 2-0 victory over Marumo Gallants last Sunday at Dr Petrus Molemela Stadium.

Mngqithi will have to prepare for the final without eight of his Bafana Bafana internationals as well as Namibian striker Peter Shalulile and Divine Lunga of Zimbabwe.

"To say eight is an understatement because we're also losing Peter to Namibia and Divine to Zimbabwe. I don't think the area (date) where the final is put is fair to anyone," Mngqithi said.

"Not immediately after a FIFA break but sometimes you must just accept whatever comes because I think when we're playing Sekhukhune United, we could've played the final there and it could've been better. Maybe you could still have a league match on that weekend but not (a final) immediately after a FIFA break when we've got so many players in the national team.

"But what can you do? You have to make do with what you have and accept that burdens and blessings always go together. Sometimes you'll blame the League for putting the final there but what if they did that without the knowledge that we'll be in the final."

The Brazilians will be back in the Free State province in 12 days looking to pick up their first piece of silverware this season.

Although Mngqithi anticipates a good crowd in the City of Roses, the state of the



▲ Mamelodi Sundowns coach Manqoba Mngqithi.

pitch at the traditional rugby stadium concerns him.

"It's always nice to play in Bloemfontein because of the atmosphere that you will get. It's just that I'm not sure of the pitch of the stadium where the final will be played," Mngqithi said about the stadium which is mainly used by rugby franchise the Cheetahs.

"I think the pitch (at Dr Petrus Molemela)

was much better than where the final is going to be played based on the history that I have of the Toyota Stadium but otherwise I like this environment. You're guaranteed supporters no matter who you'll be playing. Celtic supporters will come and I really like the way they have embraced Marumo even in the city."

(The Citizen)

Titus joins Bafana squad as Mayambela pulls out

STELLENBOSCH striker Devin Titus has earned a late call-up to Hugo Broos' Bafana Bafana squad, after Cyprus-based Mhlabeni Mayambela was forced to pull out with an injury.

Mayambela was part of the bronze-medal winning Bafana squad at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals earlier this year.

No luck for Bafana's Mayambela

He was recalled by Broos for the first time in 2025 AFCON qualifying, for this month's Group K matches against Uganda and South Sudan.

Unfortunately for the 28 year-old Mayambela, he had to be substituted at half time in Aris Limassol's 3-0 home win over Anorthosis on Saturday.

The 24 year-old Titus was a key member of Steve Barker's Stellies side last season. They finished third in the Betway Premiership and won the Carling Black Label Knockout.

He has continued his good form into the new campaign, netting three times in 17 matches in all competitions. Titus has also provided two assists.

Titus' international experience is limited up to now - he did play for Bafana in the 2024 Cosafa Cup, but has yet to be part of the final Bafana squad in AFCON or Fifa World Cup qualifying.

Themba Zwane and Lyle Foster are already both out of this month's Bafana squad through injury. And Broos' attacking options do look a little more limited heading into the



▲ Stellenbosch striker Devin Titus has earned a late call-up to Hugo Broos' Bafana Bafana squad.

games in Kampala and Cape Town.

Broos does still have Mamelodi Sundowns' in-form Iqraam Rayners to call on up front. He also has wingers Oswin Appollis and Elias Mokwana. And there is the returning Orlando Pirates striker Evidence Mkgagopa.

Bafana will play Uganda away from home on Friday and will host South Sudan at the Cape Town Stadium four days later.

Victory in either of those games will guarantee Broos' side a place at Morocco 2025.

Uganda are currently top of Group K with 10 points, two ahead of Bafana, with

Congo-Brazzaville four points further back. South Sudan are yet to register a single point from four matches played. The top two sides in each group will make it to Morocco.

"Uganda have grown into the competition," said Broos.

"If you look back at the first game (Bafana drew 2-2 at home to Uganda), we could have scored four goals in the first half.

"We can beat Uganda in Uganda. On the other hand they are full of confidence and playing at home, so the game will be tougher than three months ago." (The Citizen)

Alcaraz given Ruud awakening with defeat in ATP Finals opener

CARLOS Alcaraz suffered a shock 6-1 7-5 defeat against Norway's Casper Ruud in his opening match at the ATP Finals as the Spaniard's hopes of winning the year-end title for the first time suffered a big blow on Monday.

The round-robin format of the eight-man event means he could still crown a standout year in style, but the third seed has left himself with little margin for error in his remaining group matches and will need to find a higher level.

World number seven Ruud, who had lost all four of his previous meetings against Alcaraz, saved break points in the opening game but dominated the first set from then on as surprising errors flowed from the Spaniard's racket.

Alcaraz responded positively to move 5-2 ahead in the second set, breaking serve with a deft volley, and was two points from levelling the match only to capitulate.

He dropped serve at 5-3 and looked forlorn as Norwegian Ruud roared to victory, winning the last five games.

Alcaraz, who won the French Open and Wimbledon titles this year, is hoping to become the first Spaniard to win the prestigious year-ending title since Alex Corretja in 1998.

Ruud failed to convert his first two match points but closed it out at the third attempt to put himself in a strong position in the John Newcombe group which continues later on Monday when Germany's Alexander Zverev takes on Russian Andrey Rublev.

"This is one of the best wins of the season for me," Ruud said in a courtside interview.

"I feel happy of course. I've seen Carlos play better tennis than he played today but I still had to take my chances."

The Ilie Nastase group began on Sunday with world number one Jannik Sinner beating debutant Alex De Minaur and American Taylor Fritz overcoming Russian Daniil Medvedev.

While Alcaraz did claim the Beijing title in September his form since winning Wimbledon has been patchy including a second round exit at the U.S. Open.

The 21-year-old made 34 unforced errors against Ruud with his usually destructive forehand misfiring and most of the drop shots he attempted either finding the net or being dispatched easily by the grateful Norwegian.

Ruud, who reached the final in 2022 when he lost to Novak Djokovic, said Alcaraz had been suffering with a cold in Turin. (Reuters)



▲ Tennis player Carlos Alcaraz.



Pereira named Sporting manager after Amorim leaves for Man United

SPORTING have appointed Joao Pereira as head coach on a deal through to 2027, the Portuguese champions announced on Monday following Ruben Amorim's departure to Manchester United.

Former Portugal defender Pereira had three spells at Sporting as a player, making 154 appearances with his last season under Amorim in 2020-2021 when they won the title.

The 40-year-old, who led Sporting's Under-23 and B teams after ending his playing career, thanked the club's president and board and said he felt privileged to lead the team.

"As a player, Sporting gave me a lot, allowing me to play for the national team, join one of the best leagues in the world and return home twice," Pereira, who also played in Spain, Germany and Turkey, told a news

conference on Monday.

"I only repaid them with a Super Cup and a national championship, which felt more like their gift to me. That's something I regret, so as a coach I'd like to repay them with more titles because Sporting deserve it.

"If I had doubts and thought things might go wrong, I wouldn't be here. It hasn't even crossed my mind that it could go poorly. I know we'll face challenges, but I believe it will go well."

Pereira had kind words for his predecessor, who brought him back to the club in 2021. Amorim will take charge at United after the November international break.

The 39-year-old Amorim enjoyed a successful four-year tenure at the Lisbon club, guiding Sporting to their first league title in 19 years in 2021 and reclaiming the trophy last season.

"Ruben leaves behind a legacy, and that legacy isn't only in titles, victories, and records but also in the unity he built among the Sporting family," Pereira added.

"I know this brings great responsibility but that responsibility comes hand-in-hand with a strong ambition and motivation to continue making Sporting a winning club with a bright future."

Sporting lead the Primeira Liga with a perfect 33 points from 11 games, six ahead of Porto and eight clear of Benfica.

They are second in the Champions League standings with 10 points from four games, two behind Liverpool, having defeated Manchester City 4-1 in Amorim's last home game. Sporting beat Braga 4-2 away on Sunday in his final match in charge.

(Reuters)

Rassie can call on Bok 'old guard' at any time

THE next Rugby World Cup is three years away, in 2027, and much of the talk after the last event and currently has been about a number of the older guys in the Springbok squad and how long they will continue playing for the world champions.

Duane Vermeulen retired after helping the Boks win the 2023 title in France, but none of the other "veterans" have called it quits. And none seem to have any intention of hanging up their boots any time soon.

And why should they, to be honest?

Though some of them are well into their 30s, they are still delivering the goods, and at the next World Cup they have a chance to go three in a row.

Yes, a number of younger players are always emerging with huge potential and talent, most recently the likes of Apehele Fassi, Quan Horn, Edwill van der Merwe, Henco van Wyk, Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, Morne van den Berg, Francke Horne, Elrigh Louw, Evan Roos, Salmaan Moerat, Ruan Nortje, Gerhard

Steenekamp, Andre-Hugo Venter, Jan-Hendrik Wessels, Johan Grobbelaar, and several others, but there's still a place for hardened, experienced campaigners who've been there and done that.

Several of the men mentioned above will be at the World Cup in 2027, but for now there's no reason to not pick the likes of Willie le Roux, Makazole Mapimpi, Eben Etzebeth and many other double World Cup winners.

Le Roux, 35, is now just two Tests away from reaching the 100-Test cap mark and he'll get there, but there's no reason why he shouldn't still be part of the Boks thereafter, especially if he's still playing well, as he is.

And Mapimpi, 34, is still as deadly a finisher as ever out on the wing. He continues to surprise the nay-sayers and long may he continue to run out for the Boks.

(Reuters)



▲ Bok wing Makazole Mapimpi.

F2 series leader Bortoleto replacing Zhou at Sauber in 2025



▲ Brazilian rookie Gabriel Bortoleto.

BRAZILIAN rookie Gabriel Bortoleto will race for Sauber in Formula One next year alongside veteran Nico Hulkenberg as the replacements for current drivers Valtteri Bottas and Zhou Guanyu.

"This is one of the exciting projects in motorsport, if not in all sports," Sauber, which will become the Audi entry in 2026, quoted him as saying.

"Joining a team that combines the rich motorsport history of Sauber and Audi is a true honour."

Championship

Bottas and Zhou are set to depart at the end of the season after neither registered a point in the driver's championship this campaign so far.

"After open and constructive discussions with Valtteri Bottas and Zhou Guanyu, we mutually concluded that conditions to continue together could not be met so we agreed that it is time to part ways," Sauber said.

Embodiment

"We would like to thank both for the

contribution they have made to the team in the last three years.

"They have been the embodiment of professionalism, using their experience and enthusiasm to support our growth."

Unclear futures

It is unclear what the future holds for Finn Bottas, a former Williams and Mercedes driver, and Zhou.

Retained

Last month, Bottas said he would consider returning to Mercedes as a reserve driver next year if he was not retained by Sauber.

Sauber had made Zhou China's first Formula One driver.

"Sadly the last two seasons have been challenging for all, but I want to look forward," Zhou said in a statement Wednesday.

He added: "I am now discussing a number of options to stay in the Formula One paddock."

(Reuters)

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE WEEKEND REVIEW

By Chris Dlamini

WHAT a colourful and once again, violent-free Mbabane Derby at Mavuso Sports Centre, Manzini! Outside of the derby, other games got underway on the previous day, Saturday, and Royal Leopard were the highlight of those matches.

Here's a full review of the Y'ello MTN Premier League weekend games, matchday seven. Don't forget, the title will only be won in May 2025, but teams still have the E100 000 first round incentive to fight for. At least the top five teams are safely in that race with just six more games to go before the round ends.

'Big Derby' Highlights:

- Mbabane Highlanders came in a new Puma kit, had people talking, with social media abuzz as fans suspected the warmup, and playing kits marked the return of club legend and former director Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane. Is he back? That question is yet to be answered as questions are being asked now. The Facebook response was a yes and a no.

- Infighting at Mbabane Highlanders shows its ugly face as all Highlanders foreign stars conspicuously missing amid being part of the preparations for the match.

- Late Highlanders legend Innocent 'Ten Ten' Gaddaffi Ginindza was well honoured with his portrait carried by the players as they took to the field from the tunnel. Only spoiler was PLE and match officials not recognising Ginindza with a moment of silence as seen with other late local football greats before.

- In what was an emotional moment, fans of both teams got to see and greet their unfortunate stars Melusi 'Mega' Magagula (Highlanders) and Given Lukhele of Swallows. Mega mysteriously lost his sight after a collision with Royal Leopard forward Sibonelo 'Jekwa' Simelane in the early games of the league while Lukhele was in a fatal car accident and had his arm amputated.

- Great football match from both teams, but clearly, the foreign players' absence affected Highlanders' plans.

FIRST ROUND 'CARROT':

- Mbabane Swallows lead the race to win the E100 000 incentive. It's a deserved lead as this team only lost and conceded for the first time on matchday five. Moneni Pirates remain only team to beat them, and they deservedly have a point lead at the summit.

- Royal Leopard are coming in strongly this season, a complete contrast to last season where, for once in

'Bull' relive 'Rubber' days, 'Birds' derby kings

... While Leopard overnight leaders ahead of Mbabane Swallows 'Big Derby' success



▲ Sabelo 'Skhali' Ndzinisa.



▲ Mbabane Highlanders supporters in full spirit.

over a decade, they finished outside of the top four. They have suffered two defeats in seven matches.

- Green Mamba, Nsingizini Hotspurs, and Young Buffaloes are all in with a good chance, especially with some interesting head-to-head ties still to come among the top five teams.

Points to Note:**Leopard have summit feel**

- For the first time this season, the log standings read Royal Leopard at number one. This was on Saturday until Sunday after the Mbabane Derby match. The derby changed things as Mbabane Swallows returned to their position with a 2-0 win over traditional rivals Mbabane Highlanders.

- Fans bought E50 resale derby tickets for E30. This caused some confusion and anger for fans who were then required to pay an extra E20 at the gate.

- Mbabane Highlanders looked super cool in their latest Puma warmup and playing kit, just reminding their fans of their glory days where they won every trophy on offer and of course, of the time their legend and former director Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane's tenure as their boss.

- No moment of silence for late national team Sihlangu Sem-nika-ti and Mbabane High-



▲ Swallows players celebrating their derby win.

landers legend Innocent 'Ten Ten' Gaddaffi Ginindza.

Lastly, there is still no ray of hope for Madlenya and newcomers Sidvwashini United to get off their positions. Madlenya have one point and occupy the basement of the standings while it's two for Sidvwashini in seven games.

The Goalbangers:

'Sikhali' keeps getting sharper

- The Green Mamba forward is scoring a goal or more per game. He was the hero once again on Saturday, scoring the only goal of the match to sink Madlenya. He is the leading top goal scorer currently.



By Chris Dlamini

THE Mbabane Derby is the biggest football fixture in the land that most people treat as an event.

That essentially means it is generally the most watched fixture in the kingdom. As it got underway on Sunday in the MTN Premier League first round, the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) restricted by the non-availability of Somhlolo National Stadium, only provided 5 000 tickets at E50 each for the tiny and unsafe Mavuso Sports Centre.

However, fans were met with confusion as the selling tickets at the MTN Eswatini and Futi's outlets for the big match indicated E30.

"I bought mine yesterday at an MTN outlet and it was E30," reacted one Facebooker on Sunday ahead of the 3pm kick-off after others had raised concerns, they were now required to add an extra E20 at the gate.

"It's true that we had issues with our presale tickets. We had stated from the onset that this match would go for E50 per ticket, but then when we uploaded to our system, that's when the mistake happened with our ticketing partners. Nonetheless, it was amicably resolved and one must thank the fans for their patience and understanding," PLE Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pat Vilakati admitted on national radio, Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services' (EBIS) Monday Sport Show.

Vilakati said the challenge was amicably resolved, and all fans got into the arena to watch a beautiful game.

In the end, it was E50 per fan. However, the overall gate collection was yet to be reconciled. There was no immediate comment from Kgomongwe.

Confusion over E50 'Big Derby' tickets

...PLE concedes it was uploading mistake on their part alongside ticketing company



▲ PLE Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pat Vilakati.

Local swimmer Siwakhile off to Australia



▲ Australia-bound local swimmer Siwakhile Dlamini.

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela
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LOCAL Swimmer Siwakhile Dlamini is off to Australia for a one-year training at Bond University.

The course will help the Malaysia-based Swimmer prepare herself for the 2024 World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

Dlamini will represent the country in the global showpiece with Damien de Sousa in December.

Eswatini Swimming Association (ESA)

President Pedro Nunes confirmed the latest updates when reached for comment.

"We wish the swimmer the best of luck during her one-year training program in Australia. We are confident the course will improve her career," he said.

Other Swimmers who recently benefitted from the scholarship program include Hayley Hoy and Simanga Dlamini, who were based at the Tshwane High-Performance Centre.

Hayley and Simanga were among the beneficiaries of the Eswatini Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (EOCGA) scholarship.



Nsingizini part ways with Zindoga

NSINGIZINI Hotspurs have parted ways with Zimbabwean striker Junior Zindoga.

The ex-Maritzburg United striker joined the back-to-back Momo Cup champions at the beginning of the season.

He was part of the squad that represented the country in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round against Stellenbosch FC.

The green and white ensemble announced the latest news on their website on Monday.

The club cited personal reasons as the main reason behind the termination of the

contract.

Zindoga was part of the foreign contingent for the club which included Reagen Kangumbi (DR Congo), Alvin Shabashi, Pius Baffour (both Ghana) and Tehen Mikoli from Cameroon.

Nsingizini recently loaned two Zimbabwean Strikers Nyasha Chintuli and Nomore Tsabore to Green Mamba and Illovo.

Zindoga leaves the club at position four in the current MTN Premier League log standings with 15 points under the guidance of Zimbabwean mentor Alexis Sergion.

'Rubber' rescues Highlanders

By Sibusiso Masilela
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THE cat is finally out of the bag. Former Mbabane Highlanders Managing Director Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane assisted the club during the two recent MTN Premier League Matches against Young Buffaloes and Mbabane Swallows.

Simelane brought two new kits branded Nike and Puma.

The latest Puma kit caught the attention of football lovers during the 'Black Bull' 2-0 derby loss to Swallows on Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

He further purchased soccer balls and contributed towards other welfare issues.

Simelane was approached by a group of supporters following the rift between the National Supporters Committee and team Boss Ally Kgomongwe.

Simelane's young brother and former Highlanders Chief Scout Mandla Simelane affirmed the news on behalf of the former midfield maestro now based in South Africa.

"We were approached by the supporters and touched by the situation the club found itself in. My Brother decided to assist the team as a legend in respect of the Highlanders brand and supporters. The image of the team and football if Highlanders didn't honour the two fixtures. My Brother was once taken care of by some of the Highlanders Patrons during his playing days and he felt he should rescue the team," Simelane said.

Simelane also urged the Highlanders fam-

... Former Highlanders Managing Director Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane assisted the club during the recent games against Buffaloes and Swallows as internal power struggles rages on at the 'Black Bull' kraal.



▲ Mbabane Highlanders supporters singing during their previous match against Swallows.

ily to iron out their differences.

"We believe that the team can reconcile and continue work towards the betterment of the team, he said. NSC Chairman Mfanuzile Dlamini appreciated Simelane's support.

"We are humbled by the support of Sime-

lane who our legend for his assistance is together with other supporters," he said.

Simelane oversaw Highlanders between 2013 and 2017 and helped the crowd pullers regain promotion to the elite league from the National First Division.



▲ Former Mbabane Highlanders Managing Director Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane.

By Chris Dlamini

Resolve team challenges – PLE to 'Bull'

HAS South African Managing Director (MD) Chief Ally Kgomongwe surrendered to the supporters' takeover of Mbabane Highlanders?

That is a question yet to be answered, even for the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE). As it is, it appears the team is without him and his assets like the Mercedes Benz Sprinter bus, playing, and training equipment.

Furthermore, all the foreign players he had signed in forwards Thabiso Mokenkoane, Kenneth 'Mashaba' Moloto, and Fabrice Mopina missed the derby after he allegedly withdrew them from the team at the eleventh hour.

PLE Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pat Vilakati minced no words when the question about this prevailing situation at Highlanders was posed.

"It was good to see the effort being done by those



▲ Bull players Ndamiso Dlamini and Sanele Ngcamphalala displaying their new kit.

helping, but it is very important that they resolve the issues as a team. They must go sit down and work around the problems they have quickly so they can play without distractions," Vilakati said.

He would not delve into what or who should do what but encouraged

the Highlanders family to find common ground quickly for the club to prosper. Efforts to get Highlanders' interim National Supporters Committee (NSC) Chairman Mfanuzile 'Fash' Dlamini hit a snag as his cellphone rang unanswered. Worth noting is that Highlanders underfire Public Relations Officer (PRO) Kenneth Dlamini was not along the officials who went to the radio Spory Show on Monday when on Friday he did amid a verbal Facebook attack.

Meanwhile, Highlanders have now gone two games without Kgomongwe, who some supporters have taken it upon themselves to challenge into putting some things into perspective for the club's status. However, Kgomongwe has so far returned fire with fire, which obviously seems not to be the best



▲ PLE acting CEO Pat Vilakati

solution for him after investing millions into the team since 2019. All the supporters wanted was for him to travel to Eswatini and converge a supporters' meeting where he could open up about challenges he had if any at all. The supporters had also expected he would be able to forge a way forward to turn things around with their help. The supporters had decried the lack of new playing kits and merchandise like replicas in the past three seasons plus the welfare of the players

living in the clubhouse.

It remains to be seen if Kgomongwe and the concerned patrons as well as supporters will be able to find a way to either continue or separate. However, current signs show one party pulling away gradually amidst the patrons and supporters admission they only wanted Kgomongwe to come here and clear his name, give them his plan of action on the issues at hand and carry on as the team leader.

▲ South African Managing Director (MD) Chief Ally Kgomongwe.

Page 20 **Pereira replaces Amorim at Sporting**



Local **swimmer Siwakhile off to Australia** Page 22



Eswatini *Tuesday 12*
Daily News *November, 2024*

Sport

‘Rubber’ rescues Highlanders

● Former Highlanders Managing Director Bheki ‘Rubber’ Simelane assisted the club during the recent games against Buffaloes and Swallows as internal power struggles rages on at the ‘Black Bull’ kraal. **Page 23**