

‘I will serve
with integrity,
impartiality’ —
Ex-DPM Masuku
Page 2



EWSC undertakes tariff review assessment, 5-year business plan



By Kwanele Dhladhla

THE Eswatini Water Services Corporation has embarked on a strategic initiative to develop a comprehensive five-year business plan to guide its operational and capital investment decisions. Concurrently, a tariff review assessment is required to evaluate the implications of the business plan on existing tariff structures and the new tariff structure to be proposed, with a specific focus on accommodating the utility’s expanded mandate for rural water supply and ensuring the development of a sustainable social tariff.

SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

Eswatini leads digital innovation dialogue at India-Africa Business Forum Page 3



Vulamasango pupils shine with innovative robotic bird at Trade Fair Page 4



A Rubicon Media Group publication



NOW ACCEPTING BANK CARDS!
FAST, EASY, AND SECURE DEPOSITS!



Bet

Born to win!

REGISTER
NOW AT
www.ebet.co.sz



EWSC undertakes tariff review assessment, 5-year business plan

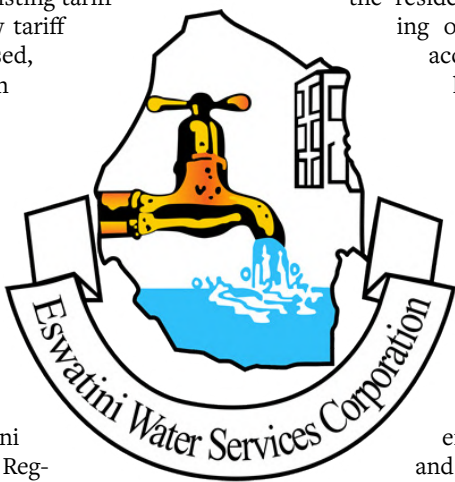
By Kwanele Dhladhla

THE Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) has embarked on a strategic initiative to develop a comprehensive five-year business plan to guide its operational and capital investment decisions.

Concurrently, a tariff review assessment is required to evaluate the implications of the business plan on existing tariff structures and the new tariff structure to be proposed, with a specific focus on accommodating the utility's expanded mandate for rural water supply and ensuring the development of a sustainable social tariff.

In the Expression of Interest (EOI), which has been published by the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA), it was explained that this exercise aims to optimise capex spend, prioritise projects aligned with the corporate strategy, and establish a tariff structure and methodology that supports equitable and sustainable service delivery across urban and rural areas.

It has been mentioned that the corporation led by Jabulile Mashwama as Managing Director (MD) currently maintains a total of 77, 265 active customer accounts.



These customers were segmented into four primary categories: government, corporate, commercial, and residential.

Government accounts, which include ministries and other government-owned entities, are 2,185. Corporate customers, defined as private sector companies with more than 10 accounts across various regions, amount to 3, 557.

Commercial accounts, comprising small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small-scale businesses (4, 029).

It was stated that the largest category is the residential segment, consisting of individual household accounts, which currently stands at 67, 494. The corporation's total revenue was projected at E590 million.

Residential customers contribute approximately 37 percent of this total, while government customers account for 29 percent. Corporate customers contribute 18 percent, and commercial customers make up the remaining 16 percent.

It was stated that monthly, the corporation issues bills totaling approximately E48 million, with revenue distribution broadly aligning with the aforementioned percentages across each customer segment.

As of year ended 31 March 2025, the corporation's total outstanding debt stood at E272 million, representing a decrease of E13 million or five percent when compared to the



▲ Eswatini Water Services Corporation Managing Director Jabulile Mashwama.

figure of E284 million recorded on 31 March 2024.

The collections ratio at the end of March 2025 was 109 percent against a target of 115 percent. This represents a significant improvement when compared to the prior year's collections ratio of 97 percent. However, debtor days remained high at 172 days, although this reflects progress compared to

the 187 days recorded in March 2024.

"The target remains at 70 days. By customer category, the government segment held E75 million in outstanding debt. Corporate debt stood at E18 million, while commercial customers owed E23 million. The residential category remains the largest contributor to outstanding debt, with a balance of E155 million," it was added.

HEAD OF SADC ELECTORAL MISSION TO MALAWI SAYS:

'I will serve with integrity, impartiality' — Ex-DPM Themba Masuku



By Kwanele Dhladhla

FORMER Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku has expressed deep gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III following his appointment as Head of Mission for the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the Republic of Malawi.

Masuku said he was humbled by the honour and pledged to serve with integrity as he leads the regional delegation to observe Malawi's General Elections on September 16, 2025.

"Bayethe Wena Waphakathi! I am absolutely humbled and feel deeply honoured by this appointment by the King and Ingwenyama. I pledge to carry out this assignment with the requisite integrity, impartiality, and a deep sense of duty that such an appointment demands," Masuku said.

He added that his role would be grounded in principles of transparency and respect for Malawi's sovereignty.

"I also give the assurance that whatever I will do will reflect the values of peace, transparency, and deep respect for the sovereign

will of the peoples of Malawi," he said.

The appointment was officially announced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Pholile Shakantu, who confirmed that it was made by His Majesty King Mswati III in his capacity as the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (TROIKA).

"It has pleased His Majesty King Mswati III to appoint Themba Masuku as the Head of Mission for the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the Republic of Malawi," Shakantu said.

She explained that the SEOM plays a vital role in ensuring that elections across the region are conducted in line with SADC's Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, which safeguard transparency, fairness, and credibility.

"Masuku will lead a delegation tasked with ensuring that Malawi's electoral process adheres to the highest standards of transparency, credibility, and fairness. His extensive experience in governance and diplomacy positions him well to guide the SEOM in fulfilling its mandate during this pivotal electoral process," she added.

Masuku has previously held several senior roles in government, including as Deputy

Prime Minister, and has decades of experience in public administration, diplomacy, and policymaking.

Shakantu further emphasised that Masuku's appointment is a reflection of Eswatini's commitment to democratic governance and peacebuilding in the region.

"This appointment reaffirms His Majesty King Mswati III's dedication to strengthening regional cooperation and advancing Eswatini's leadership in multilateral initiatives that foster unity, democratic values, and sustainable development throughout the Southern African region," she said.

The Malawian General Elections are being closely monitored by the region and the international community.

SADC's observation mission is expected to help build trust in the process and reduce the potential for disputes. The mission, under Masuku's leadership, will oversee the electoral process from pre-election preparations to the post-election phase, before issuing a final report and recommendations in line with SADC protocols.

By leading this critical mission, Eswatini once again steps forward as a regional leader in diplomacy, reinforcing its long-standing commitment to democracy, peace, and stability in Southern Africa.

▲ Former Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku.

Eswatini leads Digital Innovation Dialogue at Premier India–Africa Business Forum

By Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

SAVANNAH Maziya, Eswatini’s Minister of Information, Communications and Technology recently underscored the transformative power of Africa’s youthful population at the 20th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) India-Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi.

Her remarks highlighted the continent’s potential to harness innovation, research, and development as engines for socio-economic growth, emphasising the role of youth as catalysts for change.

The conclave, held from August 27 to 29 under the theme “Co-Creating a Shared Future,” convened government leaders, business executives, policymakers, and innovators from India and Africa to strengthen economic and developmental partnerships. The event focused on trade, investment, and technology cooperation, with a particular spotlight on accelerating Africa’s digital future through innovation and research and development (R&D).

Minister Maziya joined a distinguished panel of experts from both continents to discuss strategies for bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusive digital economies. She highlighted India’s successful digital public infrastructure platforms, such as Aadhaar and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), as models that could be adapted to African contexts to stimulate research, innovation, and skills development.

In her address, the Minister showcased Eswatini’s pioneering National Digitalisation Program, “Government in Your Hand,” which enables citizens to access government services seamlessly via mobile devices, web portals, and digital kiosks. She described the program as a “people-first approach” to digital transformation, designed to bring government closer to its citizens, create opportunities for youth, enhance healthcare delivery, support farmers with data, and empower the population to participate fully in



▲ Minister of Information, Communications and Technology Savannah Maziya posing with other stakeholders at the 20th Confederation of Indian industry (CII) India-Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi.

the digital economy.

“Africa is home to one of the youngest populations in the world, with over 60 per cent under the age of 25,” Minister Maziya noted. “Leveraging innovation, research, and development, our youth can drive Africa’s transformation, turning ideas into enterprises, and challenges into opportunities.”

The Minister called for deeper collaboration between Africa and India, emphasising mutual benefits in expanding trade and investment in digital industries, nurturing innovation ecosystems, and enhancing digital skills through India’s incubators and accelerator programs. She also advocated for advancing joint research initiatives that capitalise on India’s technological expertise and Africa’s vibrant, youthful energy.

“India brings experience, infrastructure, and technological know-how. Africa brings youthful energy, creativity, and untapped markets. Together, we can accelerate a digital future that uplifts millions and drives our economies forward,” she affirmed.

In recognition of her visionary leadership in digital transformation, Minister Maziya received a special recognition award during the conclave, honouring her commitment to advancing Eswatini’s digital agenda and fostering Africa-India cooperation. Concluding her intervention, she stressed Africa’s responsibility to shape its own digital destiny: “Africa must be the architect of her own digital future and success. She must curate the future she wants and not have it written for her. We as Eswatini stand ready to collaborate with all African countries and our partner, India, to realise this future.”

Minister Maziya also participated in a high-level roundtable discussion on digital services, engaging with senior officials from the Government of India, African ministers, and business leaders. The dialogue explored scaling digital services, from financial inclusion to e-governance and innovation ecosystems, through India-Africa collaboration to unlock new avenues for growth and opportunity.



▲ Savannah Maziya, Minister of Information, Communications and Technology making remarks at the 20th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) India-Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi

FNB makes home ownership possible for emaSwati earning between E3 000 and E8 000

By Thokozani Mazibuko

FNB Eswatini is set to shake-up the home ownership market in Eswatini with the introduction of its enhanced Sicalo Home Loan which now caters for emaSwati earning between E3 000 and E8 000 monthly.

This is an enhancement of the bank’s existing Umkhaya Home Loan. The bank unveiled the product on Saturday, during the opening day of the 2025 Eswatini International Trade Fair (EITF) at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre and forms part of its year-long 30th birthday celebration.

Through the facility, emaSwati earning between E3 000 and E8 000 monthly can now borrow up to E90 000 to build on Swazi Nation Land.

According to FNB’s Home Loans Lead Paris Dlamini, the bank is committed to making home building affordable for all emaSwati. “At FNB, we understand that



building a home is about more than bricks; it’s about dignity, stability, and creating something that lasts for your family. For 30 years, FNB has been making banking firsts that matter. Now, A First That Lasts is here for all emaSwati. Now, every liSwati can own a home through FNB,” he said.

According to Dlamini, the bank requires that the loan applicant be permanently employed and be primarily banking with FNB. “This doesn’t just cover your own home but also building at your family home, be it your

lilawu, intsanga, or indlu yakagogo. Whatever it is, we want to help emaSwati achieve their home ownership dreams. For more information, emaSwati can call us on our toll-free number 800 6100,” he added.

Qualifying for the loan is also made more accessible as customers do not need expensive house plans and contractors. Instead, they can apply with a simple plan that demonstrates the structure and materials required and use small-scale builders as long as they are trained and certified.



▲ FNB’s Paris Dlamini explaining the terms and conditions during the launch of the ETIF at Mavuso.

Interviewed at the launch, Sifiso Maziya praised the bank for the product. “This is a product that will be helpful for those of us who earn on the lower side. Sometimes saving towards building can take a long time yet getting the loan means you can build quickly. For me, what is important is having a home and this loan can help me get there,” he said.

This coming Friday, the bank will be hosting two free seminars at the Trade Fair aimed at supporting the country’s Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) navigate through challenges and grow.



Vulamasango pupils shine with innovative robotic bird at Trade Fair



▲ The robotic bird.

Stories by Thokozani Mazibuko

YOUNG innovators from Vulamasango have captured the attention of visitors at the Eswatini International Trade Fair with a groundbreaking creation a robotic bird designed to enhance home security by detecting human intruders. The project, developed under the Junior Achievement Programme, demonstrates how Eswatini's youth are harnessing technology to address real-world challenges. The robotic bird is not only a symbol of creativity but also a practical solution for combating crime in homes and neighbourhood.

According to Majaha Kunene, at the Communication Office at His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS), the invention is equipped with advanced sensors that detect

human movement. "The bird acts as a security device and can sense any intrusion when placed at your house or home," Kunene explained. "Through this robotic bird, you receive a notification on your mobile phone once anyone breaks into your home, and it also produces live footage."

The invention is part of HMCS's exhibition at the Trade Fair currently underway at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre. The exhibition has drawn large crowds eager to see the practical demonstration of the bird in action. Kunene said the pupils' innovation is an example of how creativity, technology, and entrepreneurship can be combined to produce life-changing solutions.

"This robotic bird shows that our youth are thinking beyond the classroom and developing solutions that can improve safety in communities," he noted. The robotic bird has already sparked interest among business leaders and technology enthusiasts at-

tending the fair. Many believe the invention could be commercialized and scaled into a fully-fledged product capable of serving both households and institutions.

The Junior Achievement programme, under which the students developed the bird, is designed to nurture entrepreneurial skills, innovation, and business management among young people. It empowers learners to identify societal problems and create market-ready solutions. The Eswatini International Trade Fair, running until next week, continues to showcase a range of innovations from local and regional exhibitors, reinforcing the platform's role in promoting entrepreneurship and investment opportunities.

It should be noted that with inventions like the robotic bird, Vulamasango pupils are proving that Eswatini's youth have the potential to drive technological advancement and contribute meaningfully to the country's socio-economic development.

Correctional Services introduces live video visits at Trade Fair

HIS Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) is breaking new ground in communication technology, offering members of the public an opportunity to connect with their incarcerated relatives through live video visits at the ongoing Eswatini International Trade Fair.

Speaking to Eswatini Daily News, Mfuyo Dlamini, an IT Officer at HMCS, explained that the innovation is being showcased at the institution's stand at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre, where the fair is currently in progress. "We have a new innovation, a live video visit here at our stand," Dlamini said.

"Members of the public who have relatives or friends currently incarcerated at the Manzini Remand Centre can visit our stand and register, and after that get an opportunity to meet their friends or relatives in a live video visit."

The introduction of this service has already drawn attention from families and curious visitors alike, many of whom have expressed excitement at the possibility of communicating with loved ones without the limitations of physical access.

According to Dlamini, the live video visitation system is designed to provide secure, real-time communication, ensuring that inmates can maintain vital connections with their families and communities.

"This platform is part of our broader

strategy to modernize correctional services, make them more accessible, and ease the burden on families who often have to travel long distances to see their loved ones," he added.

The initiative also reflects HMCS's commitment to embracing technology in correctional management. By integrating digital tools into daily operations, the service aims to improve efficiency, transparency, and rehabilitation outcomes.

Visitors at the trade fair have been invited not only to experience the live video system but also to explore other innovative projects currently being piloted by HMCS, including technology-driven solutions developed in collaboration with students under Junior Achievement programmes.

The Eswatini International Trade Fair continues to serve as a platform where government departments, businesses, and innovators showcase products and services that shape the country's development agenda. HMCS's participation this year highlights the role of correctional institutions in adopting modern methods that balance security with human connection.

It should be mentioned that for many families, the live video visit demonstration has offered a glimpse into the future of corrections — one where technology bridges the gap between incarceration and community ties.

Murder suspects arrested over the weekend

THE Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) has confirmed three major arrests across the country in connection with two separate murder cases and one drug-related offence. The incidents, which occurred in Hluthi, Matsapha, and Siphofaneni, underscore the ongoing efforts of the police to curb violent crime and drug trafficking.

Hluthi murder case

In Lombikwako, Hluthi, a 24-year-old man was arrested following the fatal stabbing of a teenage boy. Police reported that the incident took place in the early hours of August 24, 2024, at around 01:30 a.m.

The 19-year-old victim was stabbed with a sharp object during an altercation and later succumbed to his injuries while at Sitfwetweni area.

The suspect has since been charged with murder and is expected to appear before court soon.

Matsapha murder case

In another case of violent crime, a 20-year-old man from Boyane was arrested for the alleged murder of a 21-year-old man. The incident occurred on August 24, 2025, at about 02:00 a.m. The victim was stabbed once in the chest during what police suspect may have been a confrontation.

He was rushed to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital, where he was certified dead on arrival. Police investigations

into the circumstances surrounding the stabbing are ongoing.

Siphofaneni dagga seizure

Meanwhile, in a separate operation, police at Siphofaneni arrested a 34-year-old man from Mkhuzweni after he was found in possession of a large consignment of dagga. The confiscated dagga weighed 115.945 kilograms and was seized from the suspect who did not possess a license or permit to trade in the substance.

The suspect has since been charged and will face prosecution under the country's drug laws.

Police response

"These arrests are part of the Royal Eswatini Police Service's intensified operations to address violent crime and the illegal drug trade in the Kingdom," read the official police statement.

REPS further urged the public to continue cooperating with law enforcement authorities by reporting suspicious activities in their communities.

"These incidents are a reminder that crime continues to affect society, but with vigilance and the cooperation of the nation, police can work more effectively to protect lives and maintain peace," the statement emphasized.

The arrested suspects are expected to appear in court shortly to answer to their respective charges.

15 years for raping 11-year-old minor

By Thokozani Mazibuko

A 30-year-old man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison without an option of a fine for raping an 11-year-old minor.

Mcoleleni Shongwe of Bhahwini area was sentenced by Principal Magistrate Florence Msibi yesterday at the Manzini Magistrates Court.

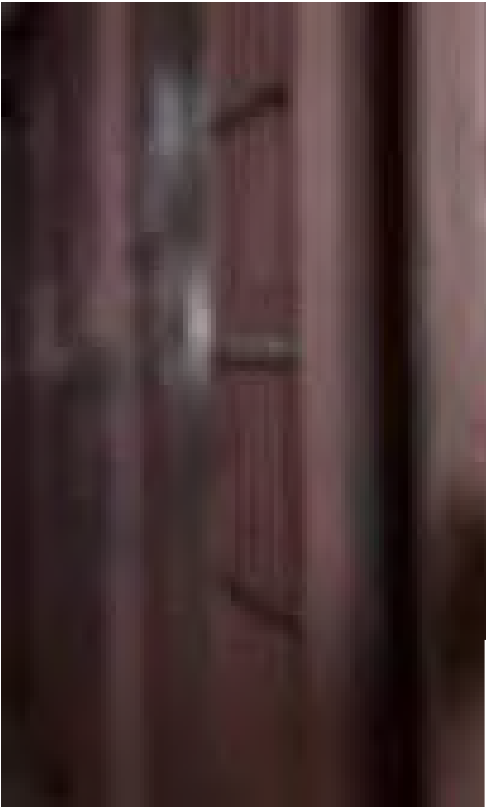
This comes after he was charged with contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, following his inhumane act of forcefully having sexual intercourse with a minor.

He committed this offence on March 22, 2025 at Bhahwini area.

According to the charge sheet, the rape was accompanied by aggravating factors in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, in that he did not use a condom during the commission of the offence, thus exposing the minor to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

When the survivor, who is doing grade VI in one of the primary schools in Manzini, was called into the witness dock to lead evidence in order to prove the commission of the offence, she told the court that on the day the offence was committed, she was washing her grandmother’s blanket when Shongwe approached her and requested that they should go behind one of the houses within the family compound because he wanted to see how her private part looked like.

“I refused to heed to his directive and he



pulled me towards a rondavel house which was fortunately locked. He then pulled me towards the kitchen in one of the houses within the family yard, where he proceeded to rape me,” she said. Even though Shongwe had pleaded not guilty to the charge, after overwhelming evidence implicating him to the offence, he was found guilty as charged and had the sentence meted against him.



Police arrest five men for stock theft in Sidvokodvo

A SHARP-EYED police officer this morning foiled what could have been yet another costly case of stock theft in the country, leading to the arrest of five suspects and the recovery of freshly slaughtered cattle.

According to a statement issued by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), the dramatic breakthrough occurred at around 07:15 hours near the Mkhondvo River, not far from the Tri-Cash area.

The suspects, aged 46, 45, 43, 33 and 29, were caught in the act of washing their White Ford van which had been loaded with two cow carcasses believed to have been stolen from the Masini and Dvumbe areas.

Police revealed that the vigilance of a passing officer was the turning point. The officer spotted suspicious activity at the riverbank and immediately alerted Sidvokodvo Police Station. Officers responded swiftly and apprehended the group before they could dispose of or distribute the stolen meat.

“IMFUYO NGUMNOTFO WETFU, ASI-YIVIKELE (Livestock is our wealth, let us protect it),” read part of the statement, underscoring the importance of protecting the livestock sector, which continues to suffer losses due to stock theft.

One of the suspects, police disclosed, is a repeat offender who had previously been arrested by Lubuluni Police for similar offences. His re-arrest has highlighted ongoing concerns that stock theft syndicates are being run by repeat criminals who exploit rural farming communities.

A growing concern

Stock theft remains one of the most pressing crimes affecting livestock farmers across Eswatini. Cattle, in particular, are not only a source of food and economic value but also hold cultural significance in the country. Their theft has devastating effects on rural livelihoods and farmer confidence.

“This arrest is a major win for the Royal Eswatini Police Service, but also a strong reminder that vigilance and community-police cooperation are essential in curbing this crime,” the statement continued.

Farmers applaud swift action






Local farmers in the Sidvokodvo and surrounding areas have praised the police for their quick response, noting that the syndicates often operate brazenly, targeting homesteads and grazing fields during the night.


A livestock farmer from Dvumbe, who asked not to be named, said: “We are relieved that these suspects were caught before the meat reached the market. We hope justice will take its course and that these repeat offenders are dealt with firmly.”

Police call for public vigilance

The REPS has urged members of the public, especially livestock owners, to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities immediately. The force stressed that livestock theft undermines not only the agricultural sector but also the nation’s cultural and economic stability.

The five suspects are expected to appear in court soon to face charges of stock theft.





“Driven by discipline. Defined by Gold”

“MISSION”
We are dedicated to responsible mining and processing gold using efficient heap leaching techniques, delivering value to our stakeholders and communities, while prioritizing safety, environmental stewardship, and operational excellence.

OUR CORE VALUES

- EXCELLENCE
- DISCIPLINE
- INNOVATION
- INTEGRITY
- UNITY

Mine Manager +268 24317258/ +26878026641 | Email: Maqhawe@lomatimine.gold | Website: lomatimine.gold



Man, 20, in court for alleged rape of minor

Stories by Delisa Magagula

A 20-year-old man from Nkonka has been arrested for allegedly raping a five-year-old girl repeatedly over the past year. The suspect made his first appearance at the Nhlangano Magistrates' Court this week. He

was remanded in custody until September 9. Details of the case remain limited as investigations continue, but police confirmed the charges involve multiple counts of sexual assault. The accused remains in custody while further evidence is being gathered. The case has drawn huge concerns in the community, with authorities urging vigilance and the reporting of suspected abuse. The matter is expected back in court soon.

15 AEC Pastors face arrest over banned conference

FIFTEEN pastors of the Africa Evangelical Church (AEC) risk imprisonment if they defy a High Court order banning a four-day conference at Nyandza High School. The event, planned to run from Thursday until Sunday, was declared unlawful by Judge John Magagula following an urgent application filed by AEC President Reverend Meshack Xolani Dladla. Represented by attorney Mcolisi Dlamini of Dynasty Inc., the president argued that the gathering was unconstitutional. The court interdicted the committee from holding the meeting, directed that all adverts and social media posts be withdrawn, and instructed the first respondent Pastor Terrence Mthethwa to inform the other pastors of the ruling. "The respondent shall report to all the pastors calling for the conference that it has been interdicted by the court. Should the first respondent fail to comply with the order, he risks being apprehended for contempt of court together with anybody who shall proceed with the conference," reads part of the order.

Reverend Dladla stated in his affidavit that the pastors had no authority under the AEC constitution to call a conference, powers which lie solely with the regional executive committee. He accused them of dishonouring the church by using its name and emblem without approval, calling the gathering a personal vendetta. Pastor Mthethwa argued in court that His Majesty King Mswati III had directed AEC disputes be handled by a Nkhanini committee and not the courts. He claimed the planned event was only for worship. The judge dismissed the argument, saying such matters were within the jurisdiction of the courts. He warned that continuing with the gathering would amount to contempt. The respondents include Pastors Andrew Dlamini, Joseph Dlamini, Bheki Nxumalo, Meshack Dlamini, France Dlamini, Tikhona Dlamini, Themba Dlamini, Mduduzi Duba, Dumisani Mabuza, Douglas Sihlonganyane, Dumisani Dlamini, Kenneth Lukhele and William Dladla, as well as elder Mgadiela Henry Stewart.



START YOUR DAY IN THE KNOW WITH CURRENT NEWS!

Keep yourself updated with recent going-ons by subscribing to **Eswatini Financial Times** and **Eswatini Sunday**. They are conveniently delivered to your doorstep.

REQUIRE OUR PRODUCT DELIVERED AT YOUR OFFICE? NO WORRIES, WE CAN ARRANGE THAT!

Reach out to our Subscriptions Team today and begin your subscription journey!

Contact us @ (+268) 7912 8965

You have read the rest, now read the best

Three held for E210,000 theft of Air Conditioners

POLICE in Lobamba have arrested three men, including a security guard, in connection with the theft of five air conditioning units valued at E210,000 from Woodlands Centre Hall. The suspects a 30-year-old security guard from Mdumenzulu, a 48-year-old man from KaNdinda, and a 29-year-old man from Dvudvusi were taken into custody this week.

Two were arrested in Ezulwini on Tuesday, while the third was apprehended on Wednesday. Investigators said some of the stolen components were recovered, but others had already been sold to a scrap yard. The trio is expected to appear before the Magistrates' Court to face theft charges. Police said investigations are ongoing and more arrests have not been ruled out.

Man fined E5 000 for assaulting wife over sugar

A MAN has been convicted under the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act after assaulting and strangling his wife during a dispute over sugar. The incident occurred at the couple's home when an argument escalated, and the husband struck his wife several times before attempting to strangle her. The victim reported the matter to the police, leading to his arrest.

In court, the man pleaded guilty to contravening the SODV Act. The magistrate sentenced him to five years' imprisonment, wholly suspended on condition he pays a fine of E5,000. The court warned that domestic violence would not be tolerated and urged couples to resolve disputes without resorting to abuse. Authorities said the case demonstrates that perpetrators of gender-based violence will face serious consequences under the law.

BUSINESS NEWS

BUSINESS BRIEFS

NDMA launches digital hazard mapping tool at Trade Fair

THE National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has introduced a new digital platform that maps disaster risks across Eswatini in real time. The tool, which was launched during the currently ongoing Eswatini International Trade Fair, allows the public to view hazards such as floods, droughts, fires and storms with unprecedented clarity. According to NDMA Communications Officer, Magman Mahlalela, the initiative is a breakthrough in how the country prepares for disasters.

US jobs data poses hurdle for rate-cut hopes, stocks rally

NEW YORK — A U.S. labor market report late next week will give a crucial read into the economy's health and test investors' confidence that interest rate cuts are coming soon, a view that has helped lift U.S. equities to record-high levels. Last month's release of surprisingly weak U.S. payrolls data raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will start cutting rates again at its next meeting in September, as the central bank moves to support the labor market despite inflation worries.

Gold on track for best month

GOLD prices rose around 1 per cent on Friday and were poised for their best monthly performance since April, as U.S. inflation data reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve could cut interest rates next month. Spot gold was up 0.8 per cent at \$3,443.19 per ounce, its highest level since July 17. Bullion has gained 4.7 per cent in August. Sponse to domestic discontent.



FX RATES

Notes/Cash	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	17.3537	17.8275
G.B. Pound	23.3382	24.0151
EURO	20.2648	20.8800
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	

Central Bank profits decline for three years in a row

By Delisa Magagula

THE Central Bank of Eswatini has reported a decline in profits for the third consecutive year, according to its 2024/25 Annual Integrated Report (AIR) presented last Friday.

Profits stood at E205.7 million for the year ended March 2025, down from E251.5 million recorded in 2024 and E385.8 million in 2023. This marks a steady downward trend in earnings, which has drawn attention despite other milestones achieved during the review period.

Chief Operations Officer, Mfanfikile Dlamini, highlighted seven milestones reached in the past financial year.

These included a stakeholder perception survey, modernisation of the Bank's technology infrastructure, intake of the largest group of graduate trainees and interns, a new culture transformation programme, and strong staff participation in a pulse survey.

While these achievements point to progress in areas such as capacity building and internal culture, the profits reveal the financial headwinds the Bank continues to face.

The E205.7 million reported this year represents a 46 percent drop from the E385.8 million achieved just two years earlier.



▲ CBE Chief Operations Officer Mfanfikile Dlamini.

Financial analysts point out that the decline may reflect a combination of rising operational costs, weaker revenue streams, and economic pressures in the domestic and regional market.

However, the Bank has not yet detailed the specific factors behind the drop.

Despite the fall in profits, the Bank remains focused on strengthening its internal systems and human capital.

The addition of 27 graduate trainees and 20 interns under the Eswatini Youth Empowerment Programme is seen as a long-term investment in skills development.

Similarly, the launch of the Culture Transformation Programme aims to foster behaviours such as excellence, teamwork, intentionality, speed, and big-picture thinking.

Dlamini said the Bank is also aligning its technology upgrades with its governance framework to ensure operational efficiency and modernisation.

A 95 percent staff participation rate in the internal pulse survey, with an average satisfaction score of 77 percent, was cited as evidence of a committed workforce.

"Still, the headline figure from the AIR remains the profit decline. The institution now faces the task of reassuring stakeholders that its long-term strategy will restore earnings growth while maintaining operational resilience," said Dlamini.

The Bank's leadership has expressed confidence that its investments in people, culture, and technology will eventually translate into improved financial performance. For now, the challenge lies in reversing a three-year downward trend in profitability.

CBE spends E0.5 million in community projects

By Delisa Magagula

THE Central Bank of Eswatini has disbursed over E500,000 to six community-based organisations as part of its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives for the 2024/25 financial year.

This was revealed during the presentation of the Annual Integrated Report (AIR), where Deputy Governor Felicia Dlamini-Kunene outlined both the economic outlook and the Bank's commitment to social development.

According to the report, the funds supported projects aimed at improving livelihoods and strengthening resilience in communities across Eswatini.

While the details of the beneficiary organisations were not listed in the AIR presentation, the Bank emphasised that CSI remains a key enabler of its socio-economic impact agenda.

"The Bank has embedded CSI as a core part of its operations, ensuring that we not only maintain financial stability but also contribute directly to the well-being of our communities," said Dlamini-Kunene.

The E500,000 contribution comes at a time when many households are still recovering from economic shocks brought about by global inflationary pressures and domestic challenges.

Analysts say the Bank's decision to allocate resources to CSI demonstrates a commitment to balancing financial performance with social responsibility.



▲ CBE Deputy Governor Felicia Dlamini-Kunene.

In her report, the Deputy Governor also provided a snapshot of economic developments. She noted that Eswatini's economy remained broadly stable over the past year, supported by easing inflationary pressures and improved global conditions.

As of June 2025, private sector credit grew by 6.5 percent year-on-year, reaching E21.6 billion. Foreign reserves stood at E11.2 billion by mid-August 2025, equivalent to 2.7 months of imports, boosted by SACU revenue inflows in July.

Meanwhile non-performing loans fell slightly to 7.0 percent, down from 7.2 percent in March, indicating stable credit risk management.

Meanwhile, the policy rate dropped to 6.75

percent by August, reflecting efforts to stimulate growth while keeping inflation in check.

Against this backdrop, the Bank reaffirmed that its CSI work is integral to its role in society. By funding projects in sectors such as education, health, and community development, it seeks to create sustainable value beyond the financial sector.

With more than half a million Emalangeni distributed in the past year, the Bank has underlined that its impact extends beyond the boardroom.

The CSI programme not only supports immediate community needs but also aligns with national priorities for inclusive development. For full details of the report, visit Central Bank of

NDMA launches digital hazard mapping tool at Trade Fair

By Delisa Magagula

THE National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has introduced a new digital platform that maps disaster risks across Eswatini in real time.

The tool, which was launched during the currently ongoing Eswatini International Trade Fair, allows the public to view hazards such as floods, droughts, fires and storms with unprecedented clarity.

According to NDMA Communications Officer, Magman Mahlalela, the initiative is a breakthrough in how the country prepares for disasters.

“For the first time, citizens can access hazard information in a way that is both simple and practical. This tool will allow people to make informed choices about where to live, where to farm and where to invest. It takes risk management from the level of government reports and brings it directly into the hands of the nation,” Mahlalela said.

At the Trade Fair, the NDMA stall has drawn hundreds of visitors eager to see the new system in action. Using a Virtual Reality (VR) headset, visitors are transported into simulated environments of floods, wildfires, drought conditions and storms.

The aim, Mahlalela explained, is to create awareness by letting people experience the dangers that disaster-prone communities face every year.

“When people see risk on paper, it does not always connect. But when they stand inside a VR simulation of a raging flood or a spreading fire, they understand what is at stake. They also understand why prevention and resilience are necessary,” he said.

Public reaction has been positive, with many Trade Fair attendees describing the exhibition as both eye-opening and educational. Parents, students, business owners and farmers all appreciated that the NDMA is making risk data more accessible.

The digital map is designed to go beyond exhibitions. Once rolled out nationally, it will be available online for use by individuals, companies and institutions.

The system will allow citizens to type in a location and instantly see the level of hazard exposure in that area.

Farmers will be able to use the data to choose where to plant crops or how to manage irrigation systems.

Builders will be able to check if a potential construction site is exposed to flooding or fire hazards. Investors will have access to environmental risk profiles that can guide development decisions.

“Resilience is no longer just about government agencies responding after a disaster, it is also about giving people the power to prevent disasters by making smarter choices before they occur,” Mahlalela noted.

Worth noting is that Eswatini has faced repeated climate-related shocks in recent decades. Droughts linked to El Niño cycles have threatened food security, while heavy rains and floods have damaged infrastructure. Wildfires are a recurring problem in both rural and urban areas.

According to NDMA, these hazards have placed a heavy financial burden on the state, while also affecting livelihoods and busi-



▲ An officer from NDMA showing some clients how the digital mapping tool works.

nesses. By introducing the digital hazard mapping tool, the agency hopes to shift the country from a reactive posture to a preventive one.

Mahlalela emphasised that prevention is cheaper and more effective than recovery.

“Every year we spend resources on emergency relief after disasters have already happened. With this tool, we are saying let us spend resources on preparedness and risk reduction. If citizens know where the dangers are, then losses can be avoided before they occur,” he said.

Government planners are expected to make extensive use of the system. Urban development authorities can use the hazard maps to decide where to expand residential areas or where not to permit construction. Agricultural planners can align land-use policies with areas that are less exposed to drought.

The NDMA believes this will also support Eswatini’s long-term development goals. The digital hazard mapping tool can be integrated into the country’s climate adaptation plans and national resilience frameworks.

“Disaster risk is no longer an isolated issue, it is linked to the economy, to food production, to housing, and even to insurance. By making this information open and visible, we are helping every sector of society to plan better,” Mahlalela explained.

The hazard mapping system will undergo further testing before being made fully accessible to the public. Once launched, the NDMA plans to run awareness campaigns in communities, schools and business chambers to demonstrate how the platform works.

In addition, the agency is working with regional and international partners to ensure the data remains up to date. This includes partnerships with meteorological services, satellite data providers and research institutions.

Mahlalela said the long-term vision is to integrate the tool with early warning systems. This would mean that when a storm



▲ Clients at the NDMA stall.



▲ The virtual experience at the NDMA stall.

or flood is forecast, citizens could log on and see precisely which areas are most at risk.

The launch of the tool at the Trade Fair represents a major milestone for Eswatini. It is the first time that disaster risk information has been presented in such a public, interactive and practical manner.

Mahlalela concluded that the NDMA is de-

termined to ensure that resilience becomes part of everyday life.

“Disasters do not have to destroy lives and livelihoods. With the right information, with prevention and preparedness, we can save both lives and money. This tool is one step towards a safer and stronger Eswatini,” he said.

US jobs data poses hurdle for rate-cut hopes, stocks rally

By Lewis Krauskopf

NEW YORK — A U.S. labor market report late next week will give a crucial read into the economy's health and test investors' confidence that interest rate cuts are coming soon, a view that has helped lift U.S. equities to record-high levels.

Last month's release of surprisingly weak U.S. payrolls data raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will start cutting rates again at its next meeting in September, as the central bank moves to support the labor market despite inflation worries.

A soft August employment report next Friday could raise concerns about a slowing economy, but it also might lead the market to price in more aggressive cuts, said Jack Janasiewicz, lead portfolio strategist at Natixis Investment Managers Solutions.

"Lower rates probably trump a modestly slowing labor market, and that probably puts a floor underneath the economy and ... the stock market," he said.

U.S. equities have charged higher since hitting their lows for the year in April. Investors have shaken off concerns that U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs would send the economy into a recession, while a wide swath of tech and other stocks have benefited from optimism about the business potential of artificial intelligence.

Stock indexes fell on Friday, as declines in AI-related names added to recent shakiness in tech stocks, with earnings reports from heavyweight chipmaker Broadcom due on Thursday. Still, the benchmark S&P 500 ended the traditionally challenging month of August up 1.9 per cent, pushing its year-to-date gain up to about 10 per cent, near record-high levels.

Markets remain in a historically



▲ Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City, U.S.

treacherous patch on the calendar. Over the past 35 years, September has ranked as the worst-performing month of the year for the S&P 500, with an average decline of 0.8 per cent during that period, according to the Stock Trader's Almanac.

The index has fallen 18 of 35 times in September, the only month to have been down more than up in that period, according to the Almanac.

The jobs report is September's first major economic release. Employment in August is expected to have climbed by 75,000 jobs, according to a Reuters poll. In the prior

month's report, nonfarm payrolls grew by 73,000, a surprisingly weak number compounded by sharp downward revisions to growth in the prior two months.

Alex Grassino, global chief economist and head of macro strategy at Manulife Investment Management, said he expects components of the jobs report, such as the unemployment rate and hourly earnings, "to point to basically the same message, which is the U.S. labor market has cooled."

The weak July report raised market expectations that the Fed would cut rates at its next meeting in September, bets

that firmed after Fed Chair Jerome Powell recently said job market risks were rising.

Fed funds futures as of Friday suggested an 89 per cent chance the central bank will reduce rates by 25 basis points at its September 16-17 meeting, LSEG data showed.

"It would take very broad-based strength in the report in order to get the Fed to rethink the idea of moving rates lower," Drew Matus, chief market strategist at MetLife Investment Management said, adding the odds such a report are "pretty low."

"We could see an OK report, and an OK report isn't going to dissuade the Fed from cutting," Matus said.

While a September cut may be close to locked in, the jobs data also could sway expectations about the amount of easing in the months ahead. Fed funds futures suggest about 55 basis points, or just over two standard cuts, are expected by December.

Other developments at the Fed will also be in focus for the market in the coming week, after Trump moved to fire Fed Governor Lisa Cook as he seeks to reshape the central bank's board. Cook filed a lawsuit on Thursday, claiming Trump has no power to remove her from office.

The controversy has reignited concerns over the Fed's credibility and its ability to conduct monetary policy free of political pressure, after Trump for months railed against the Fed and Powell specifically for not lowering rates to the extent he wants.

While the situation has ramped up speculation in capital markets around Fed independence, those risks are probably appropriately priced in, for now, Grassino said.

"A lot of things that traditional market participants would have taken as a given are being questioned," he said. "So as they are coming up, you are widening out the tail risks that you could potentially see." (Reuters)

By Anmol Choubey and Sarah Qureshi

Gold on track for best month in four as inflation data bolsters rate cut bets

GOLD prices rose around 1 per cent on Friday and were poised for their best monthly performance since April, as U.S. inflation data reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve could cut interest rates next month.

Spot gold was up 0.8 per cent at \$3,443.19 per ounce, its highest level since July 17. Bullion has gained 4.7 per cent in August.

U.S. gold futures for December delivery settled 1.2 per cent higher at \$3,516.1.

The dollar held steady, but was set for a monthly drop of 2.2 per cent. A lower dollar makes gold less expensive for overseas buyers.

U.S. consumer spending increased solidly in July while underlying inflation picked up as tariffs on imports raised prices of some goods. The U.S. Personal Consumption Expenditures Price index rose 0.2 per cent month-on-month, and was up 2.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis, both in line with expectations.

"We have expectations of a Fed rate cut, or potentially two, throughout this year, (which is) generally supportive for commodity prices across the board, including gold and

silver," said David Meger, director of metals trading at High Ridge Futures.

Traders increased their bets on a 25-basis-point rate cut by the U.S. central bank at the September policy meeting to a near 89 per cent probability, up from 85 per cent before the data. FEDWATCH

Non-yielding gold typically performs well in a low-interest-rate environment.

Meanwhile, a federal judge on Friday will consider whether to block President Donald Trump temporarily from firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook while she pursues a lawsuit claiming Trump has no valid reason to remove her.

"Gold is benefiting from this uncertainty (around Fed independence), as shown by inflows into gold ETFs of just under 15 tons in the last two days. Nevertheless, the upside for gold above \$3,400 is looking increasingly limited," Commerzbank said in a note.

Spot silver gained 1.7 per cent to \$39.77 per ounce, platinum added 0.3 per cent to \$1,362.86, and both metals were on track for monthly gains. Palladium was flat at \$1,102.08, heading for a monthly loss. (Reuters)



▲ An employee transports ingots of 99.99 percent pure gold in a workroom during production at Krastsvetmet precious metals plant in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

US makes it harder for SK Hynix, Samsung to make chips in China

THE United States is making it more difficult for chipmakers Samsung (005930.KS), opens new tab and SK Hynix (000660.KS), opens new tab to produce chips in China by revoking authorizations that allowed the companies to receive American semiconductor manufacturing equipment there, according to the Federal Register.

The U.S. Commerce Department had given the companies exemptions to sweeping restrictions created in 2022 on the sale of U.S. semiconductor equipment to China.

The companies will now need to obtain licenses to buy the equipment for China. The federal filing also included Intel (INTC.O), opens new tab among the companies that lost their authorization for China, although Intel sold its Dalian, China, unit in a deal that was finalized this year.

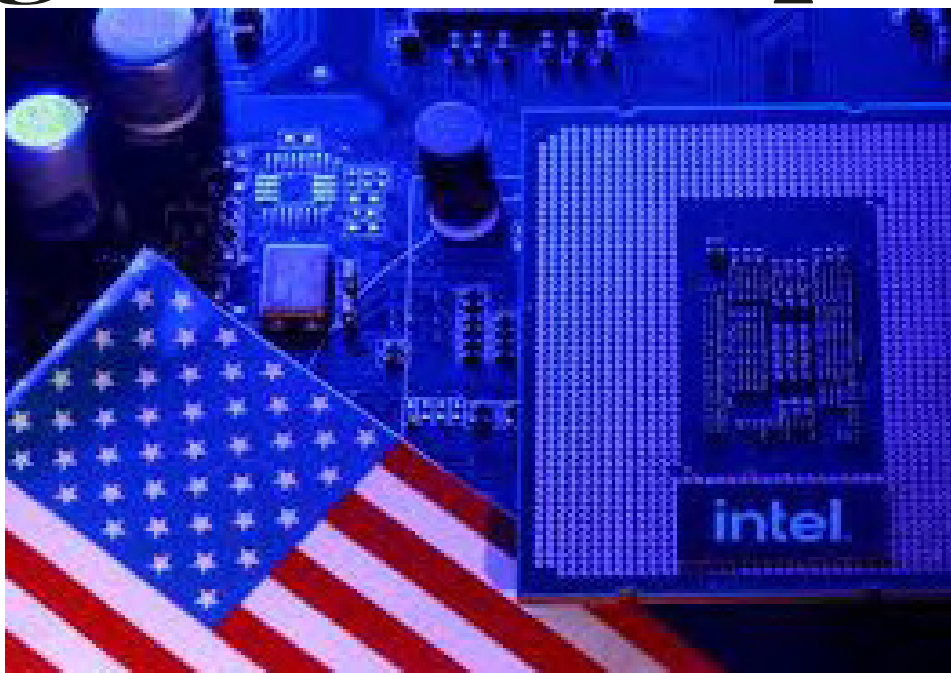
The revocations will take effect in 120 days, according to the posting.

The Commerce Department said in a statement that the United States plans to grant license applications to allow the companies to operate their existing facilities in China, but does not intend to grant licenses to expand capacity or upgrade technology.

SK Hynix said in a statement that it “will maintain close communication with both Korean and the U.S. governments and take necessary measures to minimize the impact on our business.”

Samsung did not respond to a request for comment.

South Korea’s government has explained to the Commerce Department “the impor-



▲ U.S. flag and Intel chip appear in this illustration.

tance of a stable operation of our semiconductor companies in China for the stability of the global semiconductor supply chain,” the industry ministry said.

Seoul will continue discussions with Washington to minimize the impact on South Korean companies, the ministry said.

A spokesperson for China’s commerce ministry said Beijing “opposes the U.S. move” and “will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises.”

The licensing change will likely reduce sales to China by U.S. equipment makers KLA Corp (KLAC.O), opens new tab, Lam

Research (LRCX.O), opens new tab and Applied Materials (AMAT.O), opens new tab. The companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Shares of Lam fell 4.4%, Applied Materials dropped 2.9% and KLA shares were down 2.8%.

CHINESE MAKERS, MICRON MAY BENEFIT

In June, when the U.S. Commerce Department raised the possibility of revoking the authorizations, a White House official said the United States was “just laying the groundwork” in case the truce in trade talks between the two countries fell apart.

In July, the two allies and major trading partners announced a deal on tariffs, but South Korean President Lee Jae Myung came away from a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump this week without finalizing the agreement in writing.

The United States and China are operating under a tariff truce, with levies of 30% on Chinese imports to the U.S. and 10% Chinese duties on U.S. goods locked in until November. The trade war between the world’s two largest economies has affected everything from rare earths needed by U.S. industry to China’s purchase of U.S. soybeans.

The White House did not have an immediate comment.

“This move will make it harder for Korean chipmakers with facilities in China to continue producing more advanced chips,” said Chris Miller, author of “Chip War.”

The move may help domestic Chinese equipment makers, whose tools can fill gaps. It also may help Micron (MU.O), opens new tab, a major U.S. competitor to South Korea’s Samsung and SK Hynix in the memory chip sector.

“If this isn’t accompanied by further steps against (Chinese chipmakers like) YMTC and CXMT, it risks opening market space for Chinese firms at the expense of the Korean firms,” Miller said.

Thousands of license applications by U.S. companies to export goods and technology to China also have been in limbo in recent months, creating a massive backlog, as Reuters reported this month, including for billions of dollars’ worth of semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

Foreign chipmakers like Samsung and

SpaceX’s Starship passes development rut, deploys first mock satellites

SPACEX’S Starship rocket on Tuesday deployed its first batch of mock Starlink satellites in space and tested new heat shield tiles on its plunge through Earth’s atmosphere, clinching development milestones that had been held up by a streak of previous testing failures.

The giant 403-foot-tall (123 m) Starship system in its tenth test flight lifted off around 7:30 p.m. EDT (2330 GMT) from SpaceX’s Starbase facilities in south Texas, followed by its towering Super Heavy booster releasing the Starship upper stage into space three minutes later, dozens of miles above ground.

Cruising in space some 30 minutes into the flight, Starship’s “Pez”-like satellite deployment system dispensed eight dummy Starlink satellites for the first time, a key demonstration for a rocket that represents the future of SpaceX’s dominant launch business.

Much is riding on the rocket’s success. NASA picked Starship to put its first astronauts on the moon’s surface since the Apollo program. And Musk sees Starship, designed to be fully reusable, as core to fulfilling his goal of routinely ferrying humans to Mars.

Starship’s blazing-hot supersonic reentry through Earth’s atmosphere over the Indian Ocean roughly an hour into the mission put a variety of hexagonal heat shield tiles to the test as billionaire Elon Musk’s space company tries to create an exterior shield that requires little to no refurbishment after each use.

Spacecraft that return to Earth have historically required new heat shields or repairs after each mission given the destructive and

brutal erosion that occurs from high-speed atmospheric friction. The heat shield tiles on NASA’s retired Space Shuttle were fit for dozens of missions, though some had to be replaced.

“There are thousands of engineering challenges that remain, for both the ship and the booster, but maybe the single biggest one is the reusable orbital heat shield,” Musk said on Monday on a SpaceX live stream.

The mission concluded with a steady, engine-guided vertical landing on the ocean’s surface west of Australia.

The 171-foot-tall Starship then toppled over before exploding into a giant fireball, an expected demise likely triggered by its flight termination system.

The test flight showed long-sought progress in SpaceX’s test-to-failure development campaign after three previous failures occurred much earlier in flight and on a test stand in Texas.

Acting NASA Administrator Sean Duffy congratulated SpaceX on X and said: “Flight 10’s success paves the way for the Starship Human Landing System that will bring American astronauts back to the Moon on Artemis III.”

Artemis 3, the first crewed moon landing under NASA’s Artemis program that will use Starship, is scheduled to occur in 2027, though space analysts expect that date to slip.

A lengthy development to-do list remains for SpaceX’s next-generation rocket before it can fly humans into deep space, including novel in-space refueling demonstrations and sticking a safe landing on the rugged lunar terrain.

SpaceX, which Musk expects to record



▲ A SpaceX Super Heavy booster carrying the Starship spacecraft lifts off on its 10th test flight at the company’s launch pad in Starbase, Texas, U.S.

around \$15.5 billion in revenue this year, has swiftly churned out new Starship prototypes at Starbase, a sprawling and rapidly growing rocket industrial complex. The area was made a municipality in May by local voters, many of them SpaceX workers.

SpaceX’s Starlink satellite internet business, a major source of company revenue, is tied to Starship’s success. Musk aims to use Starship to launch larger batches of Starlink satellites, which have so far been deployed

by SpaceX’s workhorse Falcon 9 rocket, into space.

On Tuesday’s flight, Starship’s 232-foot-tall Super Heavy booster, which normally returns to land in its launch tower’s giant chopstick-like catch-arms, instead targeted the Gulf of Mexico waters after lofting Starship to space. The water landing was meant to demonstrate an alternate landing engine configuration.

Egypt rounds up teenaged TikTokkers in crackdown on social media

EGYPTIAN authorities have been rounding up teenaged TikTokkers with millions of followers, detaining dozens in recent weeks on accusations ranging from violating family values to laundering money.

Police have announced dozens of arrests and prosecutors say they are investigating at least 10 cases of alleged unlawful financial gains. They have imposed travel bans and asset freezes and confiscated devices.

Critics say the escalation fits into a broader effort by the state to police speech and codify conduct, in a country where social media has long served as one of the few alternatives to traditional media largely controlled by the state.

Many of those who have been detained were only small children when activists used Facebook to mobilise the 2011 protests that toppled long-serving president Hosni Mubarak.

Lawyers say indecency laws are vague. The authorities can go through a TikTokker's entire back catalogue of posts, and if they find even a single post they consider indecent, they can declare influencers' income illegal and charge them with financial crimes over their earnings.

Mariam Ayman, a 19-year-old who has gathered 9.4 million followers posting videos since she was a schoolgirl under the name Suzy El Ordonia, has been jailed since August 2. She faces charges of distributing indecent content and laundering 15 million pounds (\$300,000).

The Interior Ministry said she was arrested after the authorities received complaints about her posts. In her final video, posted the day before her arrest, she seemed aware that she was facing a threat.

"Egyptians don't get arrested just because they appear on TikTok," she said.

She acknowledged that in previous videos she may have "agitated, cursed, or told a bad joke" but said this was meant to vent frustration, and "not meant to teach the younger generation to follow suit".

Her lawyer, Marawan al-Gindy, declined to comment directly on her case, but said that in general indecency laws were being applied arbitrarily.

"There is a law that criminalises indecent acts, but what we need is consistent application and defined rules, not just for TikTok, for all platforms," he said.

PATH TO FAME

The path to TikTok fame in Egypt, as elsewhere, can seem random. Suzy, like millions of other teens, had a habit of posting videos of her daily life and morning makeup routine.

A few years ago, one of her livestreams went viral when she replied to a comment from her father, a bus conductor, with a rhyming Arabic quip that soon swept the country as a catchphrase.

She racked up millions of followers, who tuned in to see her share a meal with friends or dance to street musicians in Turkey. Thirty-one million people watched her have a photo shoot with her boyfriend. Her sister, who has a mental disability, appeared in some videos, helping lift social stigma around disability.

But even such generally upbeat videos with no overt political content can imply criticism of the hardships of daily life.

In an interview with a podcaster recorded before her arrest, Suzy said that if she had 10 million Egyptian pounds, she would spend half of it to move her family to a better home, help her parents start a shop and



▲ Abdulrahman Hisham, 20, an Egyptian social media content creator, looks at his page with several videos, amid a wave of cases prompting Egypt to consider tighter regulations on social media platforms at his residence in n Cairo.

enrol her sister in a private school to receive better care.

Shortly after that appearance, her interviewer, podcaster Mohamed Abdel Aaty, was also arrested.

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) earlier this month urged the Interior Ministry and the public prosecution to halt "an aggressive security campaign" based on what morality provisions it described as vague.

The prosecutions rely on a broadly worded article of a 2018 cybercrime law that criminalises infringing on "any of the principles or family values in Egyptian society", said EIPR lawyer Lobna Darwish.

The broad standard means TikTokkers

have been arrested for content that would not be out of place on mainstream TV, Darwish said.

The rights organisation has tracked at least 151 people charged under the article across more than 109 cases in the past five years, a tally it says is probably an undercount.

As the campaign has escalated, prosecutors have encouraged citizens to report objectionable content. The Interior Ministry itself runs an account on TikTok which has posted comments on hundreds of videos urging creators to abide by morals.

TikTokkers lately have found themselves inundated with comments accusing them of immorality.

(Reuters)

Kenya exhumes 32 bodies as outcry grows over starvation cult deaths



▲ A view shows an open grave where the body of a suspected follower of a religious cult was buried, in Kwa Binzaro village, located on the outskirts of Malindi, in Kilifi County, Kenya

Thirty-two bodies have been exhumed in southeastern Kenya in the past week, in a tragedy that is sparking fresh criticism of authorities who had vowed to crack down on extremist sects after hundreds of members of a doomsday cult died two years ago.

The Kenyan government and local residents have linked the bodies discovered in the

village of Kwa Binzaro to the same Christian sect blamed for the deaths of over 400 people in the nearby Shakahola Forest in 2023.

Seven more bodies were recovered on Thursday, bringing the total since exhumations began last week in the remote, forested area to 32, government pathologist Richard Njoroge told reporters.

Search operations continued on Friday,

with workers in white hazmat suits and blue gloves combing through dense thickets with shovels and hoes.

Kwa Binzaro lies around 30 km (18 miles) from Shakahola, where prosecutors allege that cult leader Paul Mackenzie ordered his followers to starve themselves and their children so that they could go to heaven before the world ended.

Mackenzie, who faces charges of murder

and terrorism, has denied the accusations against him.

Earlier this month, Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen linked the graves discovered in Kwa Binzaro to Mackenzie's cult, saying that survivors rescued from the village had said the self-styled pastor was praying for them from prison.

In the wake of the discoveries in Shakahola, President William Ruto's government pledged to tighten oversight of religious organizations and strengthen community-based surveillance.

Writing in the Star newspaper on Thursday, human rights activist Hussein Khalid said the latest deaths showed the failure of a top-down, security-centric approach that had eschewed engagement with local communities.

"What we are witnessing is a betrayal. A betrayal of the most sacred duty of any state - to protect the lives of its citizens," Khalid said.

Spokespeople for Ruto, the national government and the police service did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The commissioner of Kilifi County, where Kwa Binzaro is located, said this week that 11 suspects had been arrested in the case.

Relatives of people who joined Mackenzie's cult now find themselves waiting again for DNA tests that could tell them whether their loved ones are among the dead.

Eight members of William Ponda Titus' family joined the cult, beginning in 2015. The bodies of four, including his mother and one of his brothers,

(Reuters)

India and China are partners, not rivals, Modi and Xi say

INDIA and China are development partners, not rivals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on Sunday, as they discussed ways to improve trade ties amid global tariff uncertainty.

Modi is in China for the first time in seven years to attend a two-day meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation regional security bloc, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaders from Iran, Pakistan and four Central Asian states in a show of Global South solidarity.

Analysts say Xi and Modi are seeking to align against pressure from the West, days after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a punitive total of 50% tariff on Indian goods, partly in response to New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil.

Trump's moves hurt decades of carefully cultivated U.S. ties with New Delhi, which Washington had hoped would act as a regional counterweight to Beijing.

Modi told Xi his country was committed to improving ties with China and discussed reducing India's burgeoning bilateral trade deficit of nearly \$99.2 billion, while emphasising the need to maintain peace and stability at their disputed border after a clash in 2020 triggered a five-year military standoff.

"We are committed to progressing our relations based on mutual respect, trust and sensitivities," Modi said during the meeting on the sidelines of the summit, according to a video posted on his official X account.

He said an atmosphere of "peace and



▲ India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, China

stability" has been created on their disputed Himalayan border and that cooperation between the two nations was linked to the interests of 2.8 billion people of the world's two most populous countries.

The nuclear-armed Asian neighbours share a 3,800 km (2,400 miles) border that is poorly demarcated and has been disputed since the 1950s.

Xi said that China and India are each other's development opportunities rather than threats, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported.

"We must ... not let the border issue de-

fine the overall China-India relationship," Xinhua reported Xi as saying.

China-India ties could be "stable and far-reaching" if both sides focus on viewing each other as partners instead of rivals, Xi added.

Ties between the nations were ruptured by the 2020 clash, in which 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers died in hand-to-hand combat, following which the Himalayan border was heavily militarised by both sides.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters later in the day in that the border situation had evolved over the course

of last year, following a patrolling agreement in October. "The situation at the border is moving towards normalisation," he said.

To a question on the U.S. tariffs, he said that Modi and Xi discussed the international "economic situation" and the challenges it created.

"They tried to ... see how to leverage that for building greater understanding between themselves and how to ... take forward the economic and commercial relationship between India and China," he said.

The leaders also discussed expanding common ground on bilateral, regional, and global issues, and challenges like terrorism and fair trade in multilateral platforms, a statement from the Indian foreign ministry said.

DIRECT FLIGHTS, TRADE CURBS

Both leaders had a breakthrough meeting in Russia last year after reaching a border patrol agreement, setting off a tentative thaw in ties that has accelerated in recent weeks as New Delhi seeks to hedge against renewed tariff threats from Washington.

Direct flights between both nations, which have been suspended since 2020, are being resumed, Modi added, without providing a timeframe.

China had agreed to lift export curbs on rare earths, fertilisers and tunnel boring machines this month during a key visit to India by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

China opposes Washington's steep tariffs on India and will "firmly stand with India," Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong said this month. (Reuters)

Ukraine vows to retaliate after Russian attacks on power sector

RUSSIAN drone attacks on power facilities in northern and southern Ukraine overnight left nearly 60,000 customers without electricity, with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy vowing to retaliate by ordering more strikes deep inside Russia.

Three and a half years into the war, Russia and Ukraine have both intensified airstrikes in recent weeks. Russia has targeted Ukraine's energy and transport systems, while Ukraine has been attacking Russian oil refineries and pipelines.

"We will continue our active operations in exactly the way needed for Ukraine's defence. The forces and resources are prepared. New deep strikes have also been planned," Zelenskiy said on X after meeting Ukraine's top general, Oleksandr Syrsky, without giving further details of the plans.

Ukraine's largest private energy company, DTEK, said Russian drones had attacked four energy facilities in the Odesa region during the night, and local authorities reported that 29,000 people were left without electricity early on Sunday.

Hardest hit was the port city of Chornomorsk, just outside Odesa, where homes and administrative buildings were also damaged, said Oleh Kiper, the governor of the wider Odesa region.

"Critical infrastructure is operating on generators," Kiper said on the Telegram messaging app. One person was injured in the attack, he said.

In waters close to the strategically important port, a civilian bulk carrier flying the flag of Belize sustained minor damage after hitting an unknown explosive device, two sources told Reuters on condition of ano-

nymity.

POPE'S CEASEFIRE CALL

Russian drones also targeted Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region early on Sunday, damaging energy infrastructure and leaving 30,000 households without electricity, including part of the city of Nizhyn, said local Governor Viacheslav Chaus.

The Ukrainian military said Russia had attacked Ukraine with 142 drones overnight and its air defence forces managed to shoot down most of them but the drones struck 10 locations.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had hit Ukrainian port infrastructure that it said was used for military purposes.

Reuters could not independently verify the reports.

The intensified fighting in recent weeks comes as U.S. President Donald Trump leads a push to end the war, which began in February 2022 when Moscow launched a full-scale invasion.

The Ukrainian military said on Sunday that despite Moscow's claims of a successful summer offensive, Russian forces had failed to gain full control of any major Ukrainian city and "grossly exaggerated" figures regarding captured territories.

"Despite Gerasimov's claims, Russian forces have not gained full control over any major city," the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said in a statement on social media.

The Kremlin said on Sunday European powers were hindering Trump's peace efforts and that Russia would continue its operation in Ukraine until Moscow saw real signs that Kyiv was ready for peace.

Moscow has twice launched large-scale at-



▲ Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy stands by a table ahead of his meeting with German Vice-Chancellor Lars Klingbeil, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

tacks in the past week, killing dozens of civilians and destroying their homes and urban infrastructure.

"The only one who wants war is Russia. Therefore, we will continue to exert pressure – it is Russia that needs to be pressured," Zelenskiy said in an evening statement.

"We are counting on a strong position from the United States of America, Europe and the G20 countries. This war only destabilises global processes. Russia must pay for

this. And it will," he added.

The U.S. special envoy to Ukraine said Russian attacks undermined Trump's efforts to end the war, while Pope Leo on Sunday called for a ceasefire and dialogue.

"It is time for those responsible to renounce the logic of arms and to take the path of negotiation and peace with the support of the international community," Leo said in his Sunday prayer with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. (Reuters)

By Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

MOLLY’S House of Grills was transformed into a theatre of joy on Friday night, August 29, 2025, when the third edition of the increasingly popular monthly comedy series Last Friday Gags with Cedric & Friends took over the venue.

What started as a modest attempt to revive Eswatini’s comedy culture is quickly morphing into a cultural anchor, one laugh at a time. The event, which kicked off at exactly 7:01 pm, lived up to its billing as a night of “laughter served hot,” with a packed house of comedy lovers who arrived not just for Molly’s famed ribs and wings but also for the verbal spice that only comedians can plate up. The air was charged, the mood festive, and the smell of grilled delicacies fused effortlessly with the anticipation of punchlines.

Headlining the show was the ever-charismatic Cedric, whose name has become synonymous with sharp wit and contagious stage presence. He was flanked by a dream team of local comedy talent, Bongiswa, Darren, Ntsetselelo, and crowd favourite Mdura. To season the lineup even further, multi-award-winning poet Majaha Nkonyane graced the stage with a performance that proved laughter, and lyricism could sit comfortably at the same table.

What made the lineup special was not just the names, but the diversity of their styles. Bongiswa leaned into observational humour about everyday life in Eswatini, delivering with an ease that made the audience laugh at things they thought they already knew. Darren, on the other hand, mixed storytelling with playful sarcasm, pushing the crowd to that sweet spot between roaring laughter and nodding recognition. Ntsetselelo brought an energetic punch, quick, quirky, and unpredictable. Then came Mdura, who has already carved a reputation for his raw, cheeky delivery that touches on cultural quirks and social dynamics. By the time Cedric closed the show, the laughter was flowing like a Friday night drink special.

In an exclusive interview after the show, Cedric opened about the deeper mission of Last Friday Gags. He emphasised that this was not just about entertainment, but about creating a sustainable stage for comedians in Eswatini. “We want to bring back that magic of stand-up comedy, a place that’s always been the home of comedy from The Riverstone Mall in Manzini,” Cedric explained. “Our goal is to create a consistent platform for local comedians to showcase their best material and grow. It’s about rebuilding a comedy scene that brings people together monthly for a night of laughter.”

His passion for the craft is unmistakable. According to him, every edition of Last Friday Gags is intentionally unique.

“We are committed to providing a fresh and clean lineup every month. No two shows will ever be the same. Every comedian will be bringing their A-game, so you can expect new faces, new jokes, and top-tier performances.”

The partnership with Molly’s House of Grills is no accident. Cedric sees the venue as more than just a stage, it’s a home for comedy and cuisine. With the restaurant already well-loved for its flame-grilled specialties, adding humour was a natural pairing.

“Molly’s is already known for its fantastic food—now we’re adding the best gags to the menu!” Cedric said. “Every last Friday of the month, we’re turning it into the ultimate comedy hotspot. Come for the food, stay for the laughs, and leave with great memories.

Last Friday Gags sauce up Molly’s House Of Grills



▲ Cedric appropriating the audience after the event.



▲ Some of the performers posing for a picture after the event.

Don’t miss out, your seat is waiting.”

Patrons who attended Friday’s show were quick to echo his sentiments. One who chose to remain anonymous said, “It felt like we were at a comedy club in Johannesburg or Durban. The standard was that high. And doing it over a plate of Molly’s famous wings just made it better.” Another guest, quipped, “I laughed so hard I almost dropped my steak. Almost.”

Majaha Nkonyane’s appearance was a curveball that paid off. Known for his piercing words and stage magnetism, the poet reminded the audience that comedy and poetry share the same heartbeat: rhythm, timing, and truth. His set provided a reflective breather before the jokes resumed, proving that Last Friday Gags was about variety, not predictability.



▲ Bongiswa & Darren on stage.



▲ A section of the audience enjoying the comedy show.

By anchoring the show to the “last Friday” of every month, audiences now know where and when to find laughter. More importantly, comedians know they have a stage waiting for them. As Darren put it backstage, “This show is not just about jokes; it’s about giving us comedians a home base. We don’t just perform, we grow.”

Over 50,000 fans celebrate Amapiano’s global rise at Scorpion Kings Live

Stories By Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

THE Scorpion Kings Live with Friends concert at Pretoria’s Loftus Versfeld Stadium on August 29, 2025, was an unprecedented celebration of Amapiano music, culture, and unity.

Drawing over 50,000 fans, the event transformed the iconic rugby stadium into a vibrant festival ground, showcasing the genre’s explosive growth from township roots to a global sensation. Headlined by the legendary Amapiano duo Kabza De Small and DJ Maphorisa, the concert delivered electrifying performances, surprise guest appearances, and cultural tributes, marking a defining moment in South Africa’s music history.

From the early afternoon, the atmosphere at Loftus Versfeld was charged with excitement. Gates opened at 1 pm, welcoming a diverse crowd eager to experience an all-day musical journey. The preshow, running from 2 pm to 4 pm, featured emerging artists and local talents who warmed up the audience with infectious beats and dance routines. By 6 pm, the stadium was packed to near capacity, with 51,762 attendees creating a sea of energy, waving flags, and singing along to every track.

Kabza De Small and DJ Maphorisa, known collectively as the Scorpion Kings, delivered a masterclass in Amapiano production and performance. Their set seamlessly blended house, kwaito, and soulful rhythms, creating an immersive sonic experience. Fan favourites like “Abalele” and “Asibe Happy” ignited the crowd, while new tracks teased the genre’s future directions.

The duo’s stage presence was magnetic, commanding attention with flawless transitions and engaging interactions. Their ability to blend traditional township sounds with contemporary beats showcased Amapiano’s unique evolution and broad appeal.

One of the night’s highlights was the surprise appearance by Nigerian superstar



▲ An ariel view of the attendance.

Davido. His energetic performances of hits like “Fall” and “Unavailable” electrified the audience and underscored Amapiano’s Afrobeat influences. The collaboration between Davido and local artist Dupiano symbolised a cultural fusion that transcended borders, emphasising the genre’s pan-African reach.

Other notable performers included Kamo Mphela, whose dynamic dance moves and infectious tracks like “Dalie” kept the energy high, and Cassper Nyovest, who injected hip-hop flair with his charismatic raps and crowd engagement. The inclusion of rising stars and collaborators broadened the concert’s musical diversity, making it a comprehensive showcase of South African talent.

The concert paid tribute to Amapiano’s roots with cultural elements woven throughout the event. Costumes and choreography incorporated traditional Zulu and Sotho motifs, honouring the genre’s origins in Soweto and Pretoria townships. This cultural grounding added depth to entertainment, connecting modern music with heritage.



▲ DJ Maphorisa looking wavy!

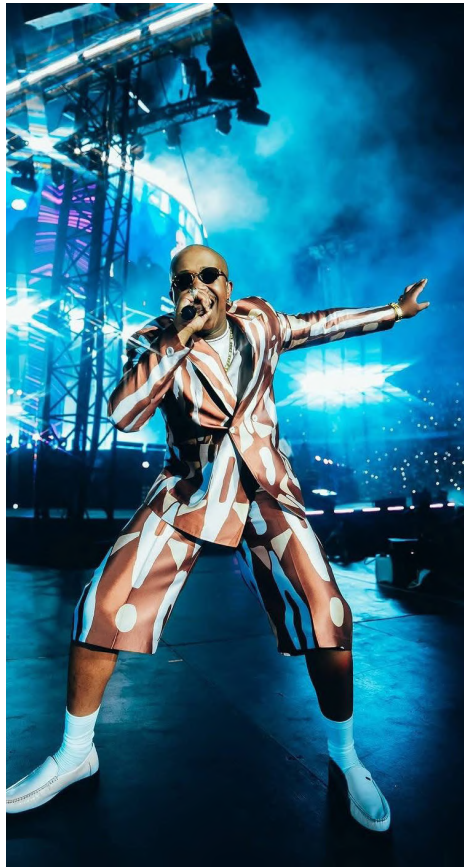
Production values rivalled international festivals, featuring massive LED screens, pyrotechnics, laser light shows, and a state-of-the-art sound system that enveloped the stadium. Drone footage streamed live captured the scale and vibrancy of the event, extending its reach beyond physical attendees.

During the concert, Kabza De Small and DJ Maphorisa surprised fans with announcements of new EP releases. Snippets from upcoming projects were unveiled, generating excitement and anticipation for the genre’s continued innovation. These moments highlighted the synergy between digital music distribution and live performances in today’s music industry.

The duo’s social media posts following the event celebrated the sold-out status and hinted at future stadium shows, possibly expanding to other major cities like Cape Town and Johannesburg. Industry analysts predict that such mega-events will cement South Africa’s role as a global music powerhouse and inspire similar large-scale Amapiano festivals.



▲ Scorpion Kings were great on set.



▲ Young Stunna delivering his set.

ESWACOS launches landmark project to empower Eswatini’s creative industries

THE Eswatini Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Society (ESWACOS) has launched a pioneering initiative aimed at strengthening copyright protections and invigorating the country’s cultural and creative industries.

This ambitious project, titled “Reinforcing Copyrights for Eswatini’s Cultural and Creative Industries,” marks a significant milestone in Eswatini’s efforts to safeguard and promote its rich cultural heritage while fostering sustainable economic growth within the creative sector. Funded by the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) under UNESCO’s 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the project officially begins in August 2025 and is set to run through September 2026.

The IFCD is a specialised funding mechanism designed to assist developing

countries in enhancing their cultural and creative industries, promoting cultural diversity, and supporting sustainable development goals. Eswatini’s participation in this initiative reflects its commitment as a signatory to the 2005 Convention, which seeks to protect the diversity and pluralism of cultural expressions worldwide.

The project is structured around three fundamental pillars that collectively aim to empower creators, improve copyright governance, and increase public awareness about intellectual property rights. One of the primary objectives is to equip over 400 creators and rights holders, including authors, producers, and performers across music, film, literature, and other creative fields, with enhanced skills and knowledge in copyright and neighbouring rights management. This capacity-building effort will be delivered through a series of targeted workshops held across all four regions of Eswatini.

These sessions will also include users of copyright works such as broadcasters, retailers, hotels, restaurants, and organisers of music festivals, providing them with essential training on compliance with copyright laws. Topics covered will range from copyright fundamentals and national legislation to economic value chains, licensing procedures, and compliance mechanisms. This comprehensive approach ensures that both creators and users are well-informed and can operate within a legally sound framework.

ESWACOS will spearhead the development of a comprehensive five-year national strategy focused on the collective management and commercialisation of copyright in Eswatini. This strategy will be developed through extensive consultations involving government agencies, civil society organisations, representatives from the creative industries, and international experts.



▲ ESWACOS Executive Director Mmeli Hlanze.

Taxman shows Moja Love's reality TV star Thato Mokhothu who's the boss

THE taxman has shown Moja Love's Boss Lady reality TV show star Thato Mokhothu who's the boss when it slapped her with a tax bill of more than R1-million.

Sunday World can exclusively reveal that Mokhothu has been locked in a behind-the-scenes dispute with the South African Revenue Service (Sars) over her failure to pay her personal income tax.

Mokhothu's squabble with SARS came to the fore after the latter applied for judgment against her in the Johannesburg High Court about a fortnight ago. In the application, which we have seen, SARS stated that Mokhothu, who is the managing director of RTT Construction & Consulting Engineering, initially owed it more than R850,000, but the amount increased to more than R1.1-million after the debt incurred about R285,000 in interest.

Before applying for the default judgment against Mokhothu, whose company reportedly raked in more than R100-million worth of tenders, SARS wrote her a final letter of demand on March 3, advising her to pay the debt or enter into a payment plan with the receiver of revenue to settle it.

At that time, the debt was just over R20,000 less than what the taxman is demanding in the application for judgment.

"Dear taxpayer, your account for tax reference no is R1120105.82 in arrears. A final demand has been issued. Kindly ignore this message if full payment has been made,"



▲ Moja Love's Boss Lady reality TV show star Thato Mokhothu who's the boss when it slapped her with a tax bill of more than R1-million.

reads the letter. Despite Sars' plea for payment, Mokhothu appears to have ignored the letter.

Meanwhile, Thabo Mphelo Films, which produces, among other shows, SABC 1 show Daily Thetha, has been hit with a tax bill of more than R5-million.

According to the Sars' application for a judgment submitted in the Johannesburg High Court, the production house initially owed it about R4.4-million in unpaid compa-

ny income tax. The debt skyrocketed to just under R6-million after incurring more than R1.4-million in interest. Before applying for the judgment, SARS wrote a final letter of demand to Mphelo's entity on June 26, asking for the payment.

The taxman threatened to auction the entity's assets if it failed to do so.

"According to the records of the South African Revenue Service, you have failed to pay your tax debt for one or more tax years and

tax periods... you are requested to make full payment within 10 days from the date of this letter of demand." In the letter, SARS advised the entity to apply within 10 business days from the date of issuance to arrange to pay the debt in instalments if Mphelo was unable to pay the full amount.

The entity was also advised to apply for suspension of the debt if he intended to submit or had submitted a formal dispute or compromise of a portion of the tax, where this would provide a higher return to the fund than liquidation, sequestration or other collection measures.

SARS informed the entity that if he did not comply with its demands, it would go to court to seek an order to attach and auction off his assets.

"Failure to make full payment or use the above remedies may result in the following actions and possibly others: SARS may appoint any third party who presently or in the future will owe you money or hold money for you to settle your tax debt with this money.

"A civil judgment is being entered against you, in which case a warrant of execution may be issued for the sheriff of the court to attach and sell your assets.

"If you are a natural person, you may apply for a reduction of the amount to be paid to SARS based on your and your dependants' basic living expenses... If you are a non-natural person, you may apply for a reduction of the amount to be paid to SARS based on serious financial hardship," the papers read.



An emotional farewell as e-tv discontinues The Morning Show

BREAKFAST television programme The Morning Show on e-tv has been discontinued after seven years on air.

They broadcast the last episode on Friday, August 29.

Millions of South Africans ritualistically woke up to The Morning Show on the station for seven years while preparing to go about their daily routine, to work or school.

The much-loved 6 am to 9 am show has however been canned due to a decline in viewership.

Stellar cast

Hosted by Lee-Roy Wright, Carla McKenzie, Kgosi Rankhumise, Bolele Polisa, and footballer Brighton Mhlongo, The Morning Show replaced the channel's previous breakfast show, Sunrise, in 2018. Through the years, the show has made several

changes to the presenter line-up with Pabi Moloi, William Lehong, and Phil Mphela.

They eventually settled with the said five.

An insider revealed they also changed the format several times to try and attract new viewers.

"It was tough. There have been several attempts to revive the show. No one is to blame because the TV industry and how people view television have changed," he said.

"The numbers have dropped from the 1 million viewership in 2024 and they just kept declining."

Produced by award-winning South African production company Cheeky Media, e-TV broadcast its last episode on Friday.

The channel has not confirmed a replacement for The Morning Show.

Great memories

Former goalkeeper Brighton Mhlongo, who came when his soccer career hit rock bottom due to an injury, said the show changed his life.

Mhlongo was invited as a guest and ended up securing a job as a presenter. "This was my first TV job," he said.

"You guys took a gamble and gave me a chance when I had lost myself."

He said the show gave him a purpose and a new lease on life, and, sadly, it is coming to an end. "The last show was one of the hardest mornings of my life," Mhlongo said.

"It is still a bittersweet moment. Myself together with the team had to bid farewell to a show that gave me the opportunity to launch my broadcasting career."

NYDA on backing non-youths DJ Maphorisa and Kabza De Small

THE NYDA has clarified their partnership with non-youths DJ Maphorisa and Kabza De Small for the Scorpion Kings Live concert.

Award-winning Ampiano artists Maphorisa and Kabza De Small made history this Friday when they successfully filled up Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Tshwane for their Scorpion Kings Live With Friends concert.

This well-curated, flawless, and meticulously orchestrated event took months to plan, with over 51,762 spectators.

DJ Maphorisa's mother delivered the opening prayer.

Artists Young Stunna, Njelic, Mawhoo and many others performed their biggest hits. The Scorpion Kings duo took fans down memory lane with their hit songs. They shared a warm tribute to late Ampiano stars Mpura and Killer Kau.

The event outsourced the services of over 100 unemployed South African youth.

Youth Empowerment

The Scorpion Kings Live With Friends concert collaborated with several brands, including Betway and Betway Cares, who promised to continue with bursaries for the selected youth, going forward.

DJs Kabelo Motha and Themba Sekowe, employed the youth to assist on the day and prior to the event to gain industry experience. They did so through a program dubbed The 100 Lives Initiative.

This is in addition to the on-the-ground staff complement of about 1 000 people.

This program was supported by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to mainstream youth development by providing financial and non-financial support.

The young participants received an exclusive Masterclass walkabout and an additional 10 aspiring young creatives were awarded direct mentorship from entertainment industry executives and leaders. Maphorisa described the initiative as a movement and not a temporary solution to unemployment.

Backlash

Despite the positive impact the show had for youth employment of youth, the NYDA has since received backlash for backing the show.

They have been accused of sponsoring the event of people who no longer fall under the youth bracket and are well-to-do.

(Sunday World)

A second medical opinion involves seeking out the advice or evaluation of another healthcare professional to get a fresh perspective. It can help you feel empowered and able to take an active role in your care.

A second medical opinion can often help provide another perspective on your symptoms, diagnosis, or treatment options.

It can be particularly beneficial for underserved groups who may be more likely to experience medical dismissal, including:

- people of color
- people with a disability
- LGBTQIA+ communities
- people living in difficult socioeconomic situations

A second medical opinion can help close this gap and support informed decision making.

Learn more about when you may need a second opinion, how you can get one, and the potential benefits and drawbacks.

When might you need a second opinion?

A second opinion can be beneficial if you feel unsure or concerned about a medical decision or evaluation.

Reasons to seek a second opinion can include:

You feel dissatisfied with your diagnosis: You feel unhappy with your diagnosis and disagree with the evaluation of your symptoms.

You feel dismissed: Your health concerns or needs are being dismissed, and you don't feel heard.

Your diagnosis is unclear: A doctor may have been unable to find a cause for your symptoms, resulting in inadequate treatment options.

Your treatment isn't working: Your current treatment options aren't helping treat or manage your symptoms, or you've found that they are worsening or persistent.

You'd like to explore alternative treatment options: You don't feel as though the treatment options offered address your health concerns, or you want to explore less high risk or invasive options.

You feel uncomfortable with your current doctor: You feel uncomfortable with your current doctor's behavior, or you feel they rush you during your medical appointments.

If you feel dismissed by a doctor and have voiced your concerns but still feel as though you are getting nowhere, consider asking them to add your concerns to your medical record. This can prove useful when getting a second opinion and allows other healthcare professionals to clearly see the steps you have already taken.

How to get a second opinion

When seeking a second opinion, you should begin by informing your current doctor that you would like one. Asking for a second opinion isn't uncommon, and most doctors will be understanding and supportive of this. They can refer you to another doctor or recommend a colleague.

If your current doctor is unable or unwilling to make a referral for you, you can still find another doctor by searching through your health insurance network's directory or looking for doctors online on hospital websites.



The importance of second opinions: when and how to get one

Once you've found another doctor, your next step should typically be to obtain a copy of your medical records, such as test results or other relevant information, to take to your appointment.

It's important to make time to prepare for a second opinion appointment and make a list of questions to make the most out of your time.

You should go in with an open mind and actively listen to the doctor's suggestions. Remember, the goal is to be well informed of the options available to you and make a decision that prioritizes your health and well-being.

Keeping your health insurance covered

Benefits of seeking a second opinion
There are several potential benefits to getting a second opinion, including:

- helping you to feel empowered and in control of your own healthcare journey
- helping lead to reduced medical errors
- helping promote informed decision making and ensure you can take an active role in your healthcare
- helping reduce the chance of dismissal or a missed diagnosis and offering an opportunity for a fresh perspective
- helping build more trust between an individual and a healthcare professional

Healthcare should always be seen as collaborative. Increasing informed decision making through options like second opin-



ions can often help improve the overall quality of care.

Are there any drawbacks to second opinions?

While seeking a second opinion can be beneficial, it can also have several potential drawbacks.

This includes:

Cost: Getting a second opinion may not be accessible to everyone, especially if it is not covered by insurance. It can sometimes involve traveling out of state, which can also be expensive and time consuming.

Treatment delays: Waiting for a second appointment or further testing can often de-

lay treatment, which may increase the risk of complications if symptoms are serious.

Confusion: You may receive conflicting advice, which can lead to stress and confusion over which suggestion to move forward with.

Unnecessary treatment: You may seek treatment options that feel more appealing to you, which may be unneeded. This may negatively affect your outcome and can even lead to further complications.

It's important to consider these drawbacks and weigh them alongside the benefits to decide if a second opinion is right for you.

(Healthline)



ALTHOUGH my experience with dream journaling didn't produce the results I was hoping for (improving my memory of both my dreams and in general), it was a fun experience that you can start at any time.

Dream journaling is what it sounds like — you write down the dreams you have each night in a notebook or phone app.

Those who try this (or want to) might do so for a number of reasons, but I did so to see if it would help enhance my ability to remember my dreams and my day-to-day memory.

Results weren't what I had hoped for, but those who try this in the long term might see some improvements. It's hard to say because no scientific evidence suggests that it will.

My dream journaling set up

Between June 22 and July 22, I recorded my dreams in the Notes app on my phone. I usually reach for my phone first thing in the morning (terrible habit, I know), so that's why I chose to use it as my "journal."

You might elect to keep a physical journal, and I'm here to tell you that as long as you have a place where you can consistently write down your dreams, you have all the equipment you need. A recorder is another option if you'd rather speak your dreams aloud.

In each entry, I wrote down the date in addition to the details of my dreams. You can choose to be as thorough or brief with your entries as you want.

Because I wanted to capture as much detail as possible, I wrote mostly in full sentences. But it didn't always work when parts of my dreams were fragmented or I had a hard time recalling them.

In sum, choose a journaling setup that works for you. It might also take you a few entries to decide on your format (which might change daily).

Did dream journaling improve my memory?

I didn't notice any discernible change (for better or worse) in my memory after dream journaling for a month.

In all honesty, I only remembered my dreams about half of the time, and I didn't remember more at the end of the experiment than at the beginning.

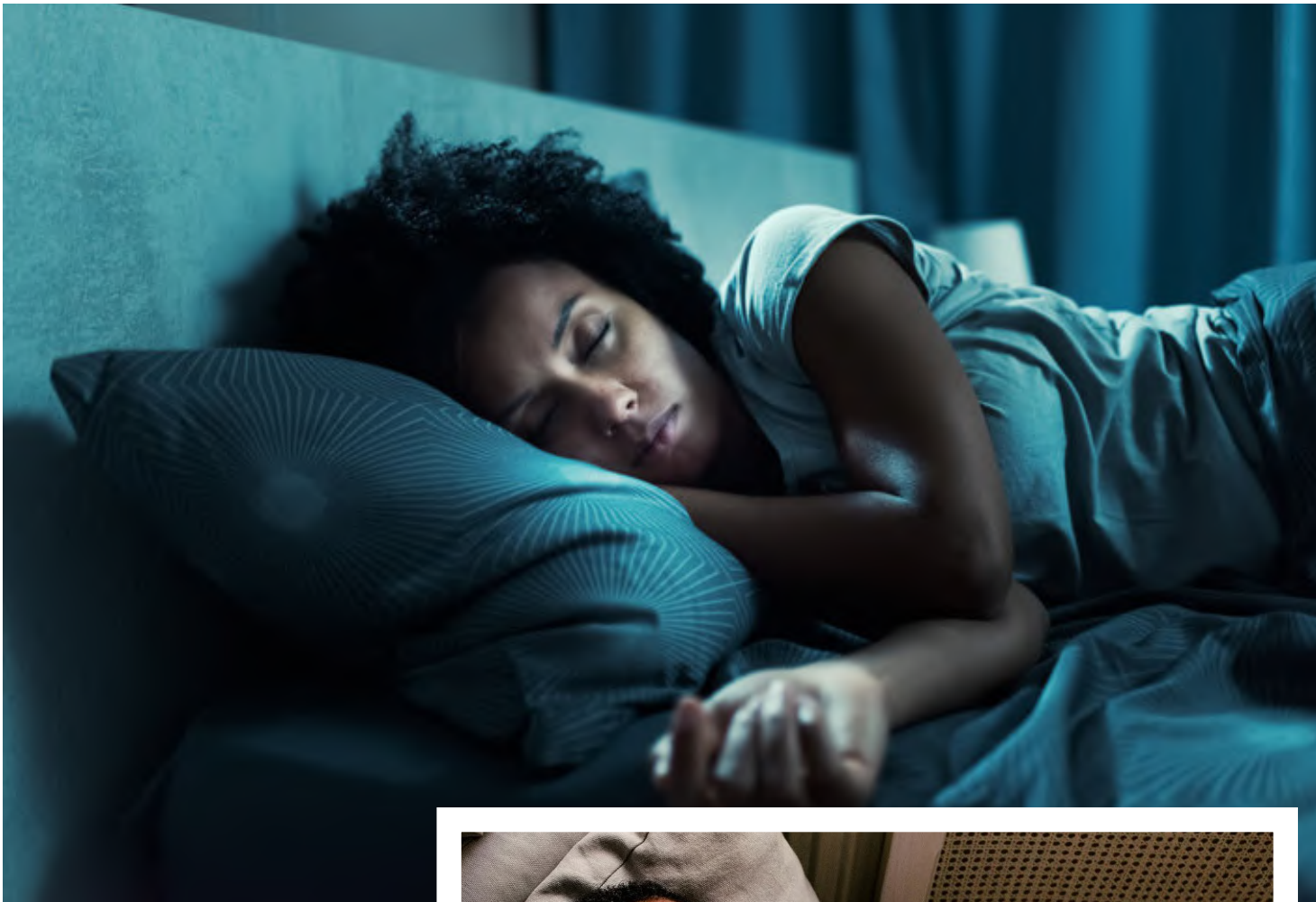
I did, however, sometimes spontaneously remember my dream or parts of it as I was working or doing another task, and I would immediately write it down.

What sparked these sudden memories is unknown, as the tasks I was doing were unrelated to the content of my dream.

Some things that helped me increase the chance of remembering my dream include:

- **Thinking about my dream:** Once I woke up, I lay there for a minute, thinking about what had happened in my dream before writing it down. Doing this helped me get a better picture, so I could write a more detailed entry.
- **Writing down my dream right away:** I sometimes went through my morning routine before journaling, and even if I had remembered it at first or thought about it upon waking up, I ended up forgetting it altogether.
- **Telling myself to remember my dream before falling asleep:** This might sound strange, but thinking "I want to remember my dream" before

Can dream journaling improve your memory?



I fell asleep helped with retention when I woke up.

Does research support dream journaling for memory?

The majority of evidence on dream journaling boosting memory is anecdotal, meaning it comes from personal experience (like mine).

A mental health nonprofit, Takes 2 Minutes, suggests that journaling about dreams can train your brain to better remember them. It also indicates that it can help boost overall memory.

But no scientific studies have examined this claim in depth, so no conclusions can be made between dream journaling and memory.

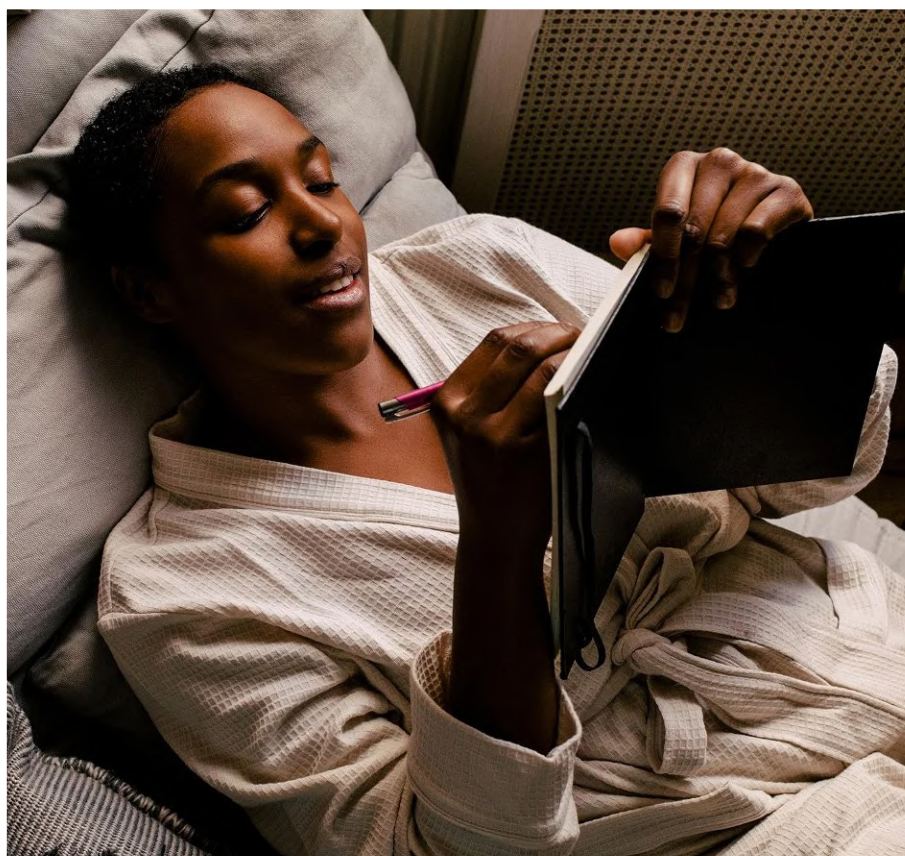
However, a 2024 study of college-age students found that writing in general (at many times of day) may improve working memory.

Working memory is a mix of attention ability and holding information in the moment while you work with it before it turns into short-term memory.

It's important to note that because this study looked at the physical act of writing, the same findings may not apply if you verbally record or type your dreams. Maybe that was where I went wrong.

Will I continue dream journaling?

While the effect on my memory is questionable (through experience and given limited scientific evidence), it was interesting to reflect on my dreams and read



about them later.

Even still, I probably won't continue this in the long term. I might write down a particularly strange or vivid dream every once in a while, but not every morning.

Perhaps if I continued this in the long term and made it a habit to physically write my dreams down, I would notice a more positive change in my memory retention.

The takeaway

I tried writing down my dreams, an activity known as dream journaling, for 1 month in

hopes of improving my memory, which I heard could occur from anecdotal evidence.

After my trial month, I didn't notice any discernible changes in my memory, but it's interesting to read past dreams. I probably won't make a habit of it, though, in the long term.

If you want to give it a try for yourself, all you need is somewhere to write down or record your dreams.

Have fun looking back on what you've dreamed!

(Healthline)

News in pictures from around the world



▲ Smoke rises from the hills beyond a vineyard in Calistoga as the Pickett Fire burns, in Napa County, California,



▲ A low-flying tanker drops retardant as the Garnet Fire burns in the Sierra National Forest, Fresno County, California.



▲ A group of migrants on an inflatable dinghy leave the coast of northern France in an attempt to cross the English Channel to reach Britain



▲ A worker plants U.S. flags in front of the Department of Labor building, displaying banners depicting President Trump, in Washington,



▲ Revelers take part in the Notting Hill Carnival in London, Britain



▲ A fire ball rises from the site of an Israeli air strike in Sanaa, Yemen,

Guirassy brace blasts Dortmund past Union

A goal in each half from Serhou Guirassy and a late Felix Nmecha rocket lifted Borussia Dortmund to a 3-0 home win over Union Berlin on Sunday.

Guirassy scored either side of half-time to put Dortmund in control and he has now scored in each of their past nine matches.

Nmecha ensured there would be no repeat of last week's late collapse at St Pauli, blasting in on the volley with nine minutes remaining.

After struggling against third-tier Essen in the German Cup and falling to a disappointing draw at St Pauli in their season opener, the match was a welcome return to form for coach Niko Kovac's side.

Kovac extended his deal at the club by a year until 2027 on Monday.

Guirassy wasted a golden chance to put Dortmund in front after 21 minutes, pouncing on a poor back pass but blasting directly at the keeper.

The Guinean eventually gave Dortmund the lead when he poked home a Yan Couto cross with 44 minutes played.

Guirassy doubled Dortmund's lead in the 58th minute, chipping the goalkeeper to finish off a clever team move when sent through on goal by Maximilian Beier.

Dortmund have now scored 21 goals in their past six home fixtures



▲ Serhou Guirassy.

against Union, conceding just five winning each match.

A Dortmund player since Thursday, Chelsea loanee Aaron Anselmino impressed in central defence after he was handed a full debut.

Elsewhere, Mainz scored a last-gasp penalty to snatch a 1-1 draw at Wolfsburg.

Germany midfielder Nadiem Amiri equalised from the spot with 90 minutes played to cancel out Aaron Zehnter's ninth-minute strike.

Wolfsburg were reduced to 10 men in stoppage time when Mattias Svanberg picked up two yellow cards in the space of 60 seconds.

Later on Sunday, promoted Cologne take on Freiburg at home.

(Supersport)



▲ Spanish coach Jose Riveiro.

Al-Ahly terminate coach Riveiro's contract after seven matches

EGYPTIAN Premier League champions Al-Ahly announced on Sunday that they had terminated Spanish coach Jose Riveiro's contract after just seven matches in charge.

The decision follows a 2-0 defeat to rivals Pyramids in the league on Saturday.

"The club would like to thank Mr Jose Riveiro, the first team coach, and his assistant staff for their efforts during the past period. The contractual relationship has been terminated by mutual consent," Al-Ahly, the most decorated club in African Champions League history, said in a statement on their official

website.

Riveiro, 49, was appointed in May on a two-year contract ahead of the Fifa Club World Cup, held in the United States. However, his tenure failed to deliver the expected results.

Under his leadership, Al-Ahly drew two matches and lost to Brazil's Palmeiras, resulting in an early exit from the tournament.

In domestic competition, Al-Ahly have played four league matches this season, registering one win and two draws, losing to current African champions Pyramids. The team currently sits in 12th place with five points.

(Supersport)

Norris vows full-on response to Dutch setback

FORMULA One title contender Lando Norris vowed a full-on response for the rest of the season after a Dutch Grand Prix retirement dealt a significant blow to his championship hopes on Sunday.

Norris will have his work cut out. He is 34 points behind McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri with nine rounds, plus three sprint races, remaining and the Australian a model of consistency and exuding quiet confidence.

Piastri has won seven times this campaign, to Norris' five, and been off the podium only twice in 15 races. Apart from ninth in his home season-opener, he has not finished lower than fourth.

"The only thing I can do is try to win every race. That's going to be difficult but I'll make sure I give it everything I can," Norris told reporters after retiring from second place with seven laps to go at Zandvoort.

"The pace was very strong today. There are so many positives, it's just close. I have a good teammate, he's strong, he's quick in every situation, every scenario.

"It's hard to get things back on someone who's just good in pretty much every situation."

Norris missed out on pole position to Piastri by milliseconds on Saturday, small margins making a huge difference at a track where overtaking – particularly a rival with the same car and engine – is difficult.

The Briton had been accused of getting lucky in some previous wins but he could not be accused of that on Sunday.

Norris had not suffered a retirement due to reliability, rather than a crash or collision, since a gearbox failure in Brazil in 2022.

Modern F1 engines and cars are so reliable that the sight of a driver pulling over is now



▲ Lando Norris.

rare compared to the not so distant past.

"It's just unlucky, it's not my fault and sometimes that's just racing," Norris said.

"It certainly hasn't helped (the championship battle), it's only made it harder for me and put me under more pressure.

"But it's almost a big enough gap now that I can just chill out about it and just go for it."

McLaren have refrained from imposing any team orders on their drivers, other than telling them not to collide and show mutual respect under so-called 'Papaya rules'.

With the team so far ahead in the constructors' standings – their lead over Ferrari now stretched to 324 points – that the title will soon be retained and any brake on the drivers' duel released.

That individual battle remains a two-horse race with Piastri now 104 points clear of Red

Bull's Max Verstappen, his closest rival outside McLaren.

FIRST PODIUM COULD BE A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE FOR HADJAR

Isack Hadjar provided a likely glimpse of the future as the French rookie stepped up to the Formula One podium for the first time alongside Red Bull's four-time world champion Max Verstappen.

Third place in Sunday's Dutch Grand Prix, with Verstappen second in front of his home fans, was a dream come true for the 20-year-old who became the fifth youngest driver to finish in the top three.

Hadjar is already on a fast track to promotion to the Red Bull senior team and his podium was in stark contrast to the result of Verstappen's current teammate Yuki Tsuno-

da, who finished ninth.

"It feels great. Max is someone I've been looking up to since my junior days," said Hadjar, who is of Algerian descent.

"The last five years have been outstanding. To share the track, spend most of the race behind him, being within two or three seconds the whole time, and share my first podium with him on his home soil as well, I think it's pretty cool."

The podium was an even greater contrast to his debut in Australia in March which ended before it had even started after he crashed his car backwards into the wall on the formation lap.

"After what happened in Australia, in the car, obviously, I thought my life was over, but then you realise it can happen and you bounce back very quickly from that," he said.

"Then to have a podium without too much miracles and not much going on ahead – no, I didn't expect it, especially that fast in the season.

"Already finishing fourth on pure pace would have been a mighty result. But finishing third, I'm just over the moon."

The rookie, who has now scored 37 of his team's 60 point haul from 15 races, started fourth – with Verstappen third – and inherited the podium after McLaren's title contender Lando Norris retired from second place with seven laps to go.

"It feels a bit unreal. What was most surprising to me is keeping that fourth place for the whole race," he said.

"But we did no mistake. The car was on rails the whole weekend and I'm really happy about myself because I really maximised what I had. Made no mistakes and brought home the podium.

(Supersport)

Pegula swats Li to reach US Open quarter-finals

JESSICA Pegula routed compatriot Ann Li in straight sets to march into the quarter-finals of the US Open on Sunday. American fourth seed Pegula -- chasing her first Grand Slam singles title after losing in the final in New York last year -- cruised into the last eight with a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

The 31-year-old right-hander exploited Li's problems on serve to coast to a win that sets up a quarter-final meeting against either Barbora Krejčíková or Taylor Townsend, who play later Sunday.

Li, ranked 58th in the world, was on the defensive from the first game, being broken immediately to hand Pegula an early advantage.

Pegula went on to break Li three more times to wrap up the first set in just 25 minutes.

Li was soon in trouble in the second set, being broken in the fourth game to go 3-1 down as Pegula closed in on victory.

Pegula clinched victory in the eighth game blasting a backhand service return down the line to break Li to love.

Pegula said she had opted to attack Li after sensing her opponent's nerves early on.

"I played her at Roland Garros this year and we had a tough two sets," Pegula said.

"When she's serving well she's really dangerous. But I felt she came



▲ Jessica Pegula.

out slow and nervous and I wanted to jump on top of that. That was my motivation the entire match.

"To make the second week wasn't a goal as I haven't been playing well," added Pegula, referencing a poor run of recent form that saw her make early exits at hardcourt events in Washington, Montreal and Cincinnati.

LEHECKA DOWNS MANNARINO TO MAKE US OPEN LAST EIGHT

Czech 21st Jiri Lehecka qualified for the US Open quarterfinals on Sunday with a four-set win over

French veteran Adrian Mannarino.

The 23-year-old moved into the last eight of a Grand Slam for the second time after completing a 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 win over the experienced Mannarino.

Mannarino, 37, was bidding to reach his first quarterfinal in his 61st major. He took the third set and went up a break in the fourth but Lehecka won the final six games to seal victory.

"I'm a bit speechless because it's been a hell of a match,"

(Supersport)

A proud day for the Springbok Women – De Bruin

SPRINGBOK Women head coach Swys de Bruin and team captain Nolusindiso Booï were delighted with their first win over Italy in York on Sunday, with the pool victory also ensuring that South Africa progress to the Women's Rugby World Cup play-offs for the first time in history.

Furthermore, the 29-24 victory -- their first in four attempts against the Italians -- means South Africa will also move into the top ten on the World Rugby rankings for the first time.

De Bruin said his team's refusal to back down when Italy came with a determined fight back to twice draw level in the game, as well as the tactical acumen of his coaching staff were highlights in this exceptional win.

"I am so proud of everyone, this was really a team effort, not only from all here in England, but also our support structures back home, and this performance justifies the belief SA Rugby had in us," said De Bruin, adding that Italy showed their Six Nations experience to come back from being 17-5 down, but his team wanted the victory more.

"We had a plan on how to beat Italy and credit to my coaches, as it worked to a tee. Our first phase helped us to score some tries, while



▲ Springbok Women head coach Swys de Bruin and team captain Nolusindiso Booï.

we also outplayed them in the backs with some delightful tries.

"We improved on every positive statistic out there and we are only two rounds into this tournament. It is such a relief and one can only thank God that it worked as planned."

Booï said the victory cemented the team's improvement and self-belief.

"The performance was magic, we never stopped fighting, knowing what was at stake," she said.

"This win was for all who came before us, those who paved the way.

Look at where we started and look where we are now -- in the top ten of the world game. This is just so rewarding for everyone, especially the coaches who prepared us for this moment."

Booï -- who is playing in her fourth RWC tournament -- said the victory was equally special on a personal level: "I will not play rugby again at this level after this tournament and to now have won two pool games in a row and qualify for the quarterfinals is just such a humble feeling of gratitude. (Supersport)

Nabi praises Da Silva and Petersen after Chiefs win

KAIZER Chiefs head coach Nasreddine Nabi was delighted with the performances of Flavio Da Silva and Brandon Petersen, after the pair were decisive in Amakhosi's 1-0 Betway Premiership win at Golden Arrows on Saturday.

New signing Da Silva had to put up with a lot of criticism from Amakhosi supporters during pre-season. But the Portuguese striker answered that in the best way with the winning goal on debut against Arrows.

Chiefs' triple-whammy

Da Silva came on as part of a triple substitution in the second half, along with Mfundo Vilakazi and Gaston Sirino. And all three combined in the 69th minute for Silva to slot home, giving Chiefs their fourth win in five league matches this season.

Silva had to wait for his official Chiefs debut as his paperwork was not through in time for him to play in Chiefs' first three games of the season.

It was ready for the midweek goalless draw with Sundowns, but Nabi did not feel that was the right time to play him.

"At first, it was a problem with the paperwork, and then ... it was about waiting for the right moment to introduce him to make it easier," Nabi told reporters after the Arrows game.

"Today, we are so happy for him. I think he helped the team in this game."

Petersen, meanwhile, has been part of a Chiefs team that has not conceded a goal in their opening five league matches.

On Saturday, the Chiefs goalkeeper made a brilliant save to deny Sabelo Sithole in the first half.

"I think it's very positive for the team now that we've played five games and still we have not conceded any goals," added Nabi.

I have to say congratulations to all the team and specifically to Petersen for his performance, and also to the goalkeeper coach (Ilyes Mzoughi) for the work he did with Petersen."

Time for a break

Chiefs will now have a two week break for international matches and the MTN8 final.

Their next match is on September 16 at home to Sekhukhune United. The game will be an unlikely top-of-the-table showdown.

Babina Noko, like Chiefs, have 13 points out of a possible 15 thus far this season. Eric Tinkler's side won 2-0 at home to Durban City on Saturday, with Bradley Grobler and Thabang Monare getting the goals.

Grobler is proving an excellent signing already for Tinkler. The veteran 37 year-old striker has four goals in eight matches in all competitions this season.

(Supersport)



▲ Kaizer Chiefs head coach Nasreddine Nabi.

8BET TRADE FAIR CUP PREVIEWS

Make or break for ‘Birds’, Leopard

By Chris Dlamini

TODAY is the day for embattled Mbabane Swallows and star-studded Royal Leopard to take to the field in the E2.5 million powered 8Bet Trade Fair Cup. Swallows must overcome its off-field troubles and beat a tricky Manzini Sea Birds for a spot in the quarter-finals.

The same goes for Leopard who have six players in the national team Sihlangu Semnikati camp. They face debutants Amawele, you can call them Skom Boyz if you like. Amawele hail from Skom in the Msunduzi Location in the capital city. Who will go through? Let’s weigh in on the two fixtures.

‘Birds’ in tough Sea Birds clash
Mbabane Swallows vs. Manzini Sea Birds
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025
Venue: Mavuso Sports Centre, Manzini
Kick-off: 7.30pm

It is no ‘birds’ of the same feather, so they will all be pulling different directions. The Beautiful Birds of Mbabane will be hoping to get victory and fly higher after the final whistle. However, Sea Birds, also want to win and fight for a chance to earn the E630 000 champions prize. As things stand, Sea Birds should be the underdogs but given off-field events at Swallows, the latter find themselves wearing that tag.

Already, a former elite star has predicted their early exit, giving the match to Sea Birds who have a squad that has been together for the longest time. Players like Muzi Tsabedze will be expected to lead the Sea Birds fight, while Swallows can look up to Sizolwethu ‘Nunu’ Shabalala among others. Meetings between these two sides have always been very exciting and never easy.

The last one was a 1-all draw in the league, back in February, this year. However, Swallows won the first round fixture 2-0 last year. Tonight is a knockout and there will be one winner to advance to the quarter-finals.

HEAD-TO-HEAD:
Season 2024/25
(02/02/25)
Swallows 1-1 Sea Birds
(28/09/24)
Sea Birds 0-2 M. Swallows



▲ Leopard players celebrating their 5-0 win over Moneni Pirates.



▲ Royal Leopards talisman Felix Badenhurst.



▲ Swallows striker Njongo Mazibuko..

Amawele take on Leopard
Royal Leopard vs. Amawele
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025
Venue: Mavuso Sports Centre, Manzini
Kick-off: 5pm
If you follow the now annual Kasi2Kasi Soccer

Tournament by domestic players, then you will understand why Msunduzi folk cannot wait to cheer their newly promoted outfit, Amawele, the kasi team. Amawele are the team with the kasi flavour hailing from the busy Msunduzi Location in Mbabane. This is what Amawele bring to the topflight, the fans from Ekasi and the kasi football flair as well.

They will be expected to represent Msunduzi well, emulate Umbelebele who was once a force to be reckoned with in the country’s elite football, but relegation struck them to even beyond the second-tier league. It’s going to be a tough match against a solid and star-studded Royal Leopard who should not struggle amid six starters being with the senior national team Sihlangu Semnikati.

However, for a side looking to win the tournament, not having your regulars for the duration of the knockout is a factor that threatens such ambition. Leopard is in a country over club situation like Nsingizini Hotspurs who have five in the national team while they have six. Will Leopard play without all six and win? Can Amawele cause an upset and announce their arrival in style? You’ve got to be there to see for yourself.

HEAD-TO-HEAD:
- Amawele will be making their top-flight football debut, making this their first-ever fixture against Leopard.



Imbube marathon registration sold out



▲Imbube marathon defending champion Mancoba Nhlabatsi.

By Sibusiso Masilela
sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

THE 2025 Imbube Marathon has recorded a full house registration with a month to go before the prestigious road race.

This is according to a statement released by Athletics Eswatini ahead of the main day on October 18, 2025, at Somhlolo National Stadium. The race will have three categories 42.2km, 21km, and 10km.

“The Imbube Marathon’s ultimate challenge is officially at full capacity! Thank

you to every runner who signed up to conquer the King of Races. Your dedication is unmatched,” the association said.

Umbutfo Eswatini runner Mancoba Nhlabatsi is the defending champion after winning last year’s edition.

Nhlabatsi joined Sifiso Sibandze on the list of homegrown runners who have won the race.

The champion is set to take home E35 000 while the best Liswati will also earn the same amount.

The race will be attended by international runners from Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and other countries.



▲MPRA giants Manzini Pool Club.

MRPA to launch new league

By Chris Dlamini

OUT with the old, in with the new.

The Manzini Regional Pool Association (MRPA) is striding forward, with a new league expected to be launched on September 6, this year. This development signals the official end to MRPA and Dixie’s International who had been their league sponsor for five consecutive years.

Amid unclear circumstances surrounding the end of Dixie’s International sponsorship

which saw the league only play the first round and teams knockout in the sixth edition, MRPA will launch under a new sponsor. Teams will be registered on the same weekend it is launched at Mlandvo Restaurant and Bar, also known as Mlu&Lee in Luyengo.

The latter has already sponsored a ladies singles competition which Ncobile Dlamini won. They have also sponsored an open singles knockout scheduled for September 6 and 7. Champions will take home E2 000.

New and old teams will be expected to register for the league.



▲Swimming national team during a recent international assignment in Angola.

Siwakhile boost for swimming national team

By Sibusiso Masilela
sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

IT’s a major boost for the swimming national team!

This follows the arrival of Australia-based swimmer Siwakhile Dlamini in the country ahead of the 2025 Africa Aquatics Championship, which will take place from September 3-7, 2025.

Dlamini is part of the national team, under the guidance of seasoned local coach Welcome Nhlabatsi.

She was recently elected to the World Aquatics Commission during the recent world championships held in Singapore.

Dlamini competed in the global showpiece together with Chadd Ning.

She is part of Team Eswatini internationals, which includes Chadd Ning, Hayley Hoy, and Luca Fraser, who are expected to join the team on Monday.

Eswatini Swimming Association (ESA) Secretary Nozipho Mahlalela confirmed the latest news.

“Siwakhile is already in the country, and we are still expecting the other internationals to arrive anytime soon. We are confident that the team will perform well during the assignment,” she said.

The swimming mother body recently received E10 million insurance sponsorship from Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation (ESRIC).

The cover will cover Swimmers during the international assignment.

The package includes accident and life cover worth E250 000.

The games will feature 10 countries such as Eswatini, Angola, Seychelles, Comoros, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe, among others.

Other sponsors include MTN Eswatini, Jenny Internet, Extreme Trade, Eswatini Air, and Coca-Cola, among others.

The full squad

Head Coach: Welome Nhlabatsi
Assistant Coach: Baphelele Masilela
Team Manager: Illana George



▲Local swimmer Siwakhile Dlamini.

Team A	Tristan Way
Kai Du Pont	Siwakhile Dlamini
Ivile Myeni	Jordan Ryan
Joao Nunes	Tiano Fraser
Harper Payne	Damien De Sousa
Tsailin Barbosa	Chadd Ning
Portia Mabila	Simphiwe Dlamini
Sivikelwe Shongwe	Simanga Dlamini
Leah Dlamini	Team B
Sekukahle Mtsetfwa	Bayanda Dlamini
Rachel Dlamini	Mukelwe Zwane
Josea Potgieter	Fezubunye
Kendra Mo Namara	Mayabane
Gabriel Paiva-Jarvis	Esther Mlambo
Danika Wilsoh	Tumelo
Sinovuyo Dlamini	Sihlongonyane
Daniella Nunes	Joy Maphalala
Milani Ndzinisa	Vuyo Kunene
Sihlelelwe Shongwe	Hlelolwenkhosi
Emmanuel Dlamini	Dlamini
Bahle Simelane	Mukelwe Maziya
Luca Fraser	Wakhile Maseko
Hayley Hoy	Wakhile Sambo

Shocks, thrills in 8Bet Trade Fair Cup and ...

The Bigger they come, the harder they fall!

By Sibusiso Masilela
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

Young Buffaloes.....(o) 1,
Mpendulo Dlamini 65th
Malanti Chiefs.....(1) 1,
Isaac Yeboah 22nd
(Malanti Chiefs won 4-3 on penalties)

SHOCKER!
8Bet Trade Cup defending champions Young Buffaloes have bitten the dust in the historic knockout tournament.
The title holders were sent packing by a stubborn Malanti Chiefs by 4-3 on the lottery shootouts on Sunday at the Mavuso Sports Centre.
The army side were given a run for their money by the elite league rookies in front of over 2 000 fans, ending their dream of defending the E630 000 worth title.
Malanti Chiefs showed no respect for the experienced ‘Amathole Ezinyathi’ by taking

Rude Welcome for ‘MaMkhize’

Mbabane Highlanders AM FC.....(o) o,
Ezulwini United..... (o) 2,
(Kwenzokuhle Khumalo 56th , Delisa Thwala 78th)

EZULWINI United handed Mbabane Highlanders AM President Shauwn Mkhize a rude to local football.
The ‘Stingers’ stunned the capital city giants with a 2-0 defeat in what was Mkhize’s official match in charge of the capital city giants on Sunday.
This was during the 8Bet Trade Fair Cup last 16 encounter played at Mavuso Sports Centre.
The defeat dampened the spirit of the capital city giants, spiced up by their off the field standards, which include the classy mega coach bus.
Not even the presence of Mkhize and newly adopted Royal AM Super fan Joy ‘Mama Joy’ Chauke could inspire the crowd pullers inside the field of play.

The ongoing court ownership wrangle between the Patrons and local businessman Bheki ‘Rubber’ Simelane was glaring as a motley group of Highlanders fans backed Ezulwini United on the day, sat at the Etjeni grandstand wearing last season’s merchandise, which was used by the club last season during Simelane’s stint.
Coming to the pitch, the team gave a subdued performance despite retaining most players from last season squad.
Mavuso started with youngster Mengas Mashwama ahead of Majehesibili Ndlovu.
Mashwama didn’t post any threat to the opposition defence.
The match went to the breather on a barren stalemate.
United silenced the packed Highlanders grandstand 11 minutes into the resumption of play with a Kwenzokuhle Khumalo strike from a goalmouth scramble which went past the Highlanders goalkeeper Sifiso Maseko.
Mavuso then introduced Majehesibili Ndlovu and Kenneth Moloto for Mashwama and Siyabonga Mkhonto in a bid to add more fire-power upfront.
The substitutes didnt have much impact as United sealed their quarterfinals in the 78th minute through Delisa Tfwala, who slotted home a Kwenzokuhle Khumalo pass.
The Musa Manyatsi led side will face Ubombo Sugar in the quarterfinals.

the lead in the 22nd minute through their Ghanaian import Isaac Yeboah with a sublime finish.
Yeboah’s strike handed Malanti Chiefs a slender lead heading to the break.
Buffaloes came back recharged in the second half and put more pressure on the opposition defence.
The Dominic Kunene-led charges levelled matters five minutes into the hour mark through playmaker Mpendulo ‘Mpetha’ Dlamini.
The former Mbabane Swallows playmaker benefited from a howler from the opposition goalkeeper, Bongiswa Dlamini, who spilled on the path of Dlamini, who made no mistake and buried the ball home.
The match went straight to lottery shootouts where the Buffaloes’ seasoned players, such as Sibonelo Sibandze, Phiwa Dlamini, and penalty specialist goalkeeper Sicelo Mkhwanazi, missed their spot kicks.
Malanti Chiefs will face cup CAF Champions League bound Nsingizini Hotspurs in the quarterfinals.



▲ Young Buffaloes players during the penalty shootout.

Green Mamba’s venomous bite sends ‘Weslians’ out of 8Bet Trade Fair Cup

By Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

Green Mamba.....(o)(2)
Manzini Wanderers.....(o)(o)

MANZINI Wanderers’ return to competitive football ended in disappointment as Green Mamba handed them a 2-0 defeat in the 8Bet Trade Fair Cup.
The match, played at a vibrant Mavuso Trade Centre, after a season-long hiatus for Wanderers due to legal battles, saw two decisive second-half goals from Sabelo ‘Sikhali’ Ndzinisa and Bhekani Mthembu seal the victory for Green Mamba, who now advance to the last 8, awaiting the winner of the Royal Leopard vs Amawele clash which will be played on Monday.
From the outset, Manzini Wanderers, fielding a youthful and energetic lineup, demonstrated confidence and attacking flair, refusing to be intimidated by the seasoned Green Mamba squad. The youthful ‘Weslians’ showed good promise, combining slick passing and creative play, signalling a bright future despite the result.
Green Mamba’s gaffer Bongani Mhlongo made a notable decision by handing a debut to fan-favourite Lindani ‘Rio’ Matsenjwa. The former Moneni Pirates and Mbabane Highlanders attacking midfielder impressed with his tenacity and ability to win possession in midfield, adding dynamism to the Correctional Services side’s engine room.
The first significant moment came in the 14th minute when Mphumuzo Sangweni received a perfectly timed through ball from Mbuso Dlamini, only to be flagged offside by the assistant referee, denying Green Mamba an early breakthrough. Manzini Wanderers responded quickly, with Mozambican midfielder Manuel Jacundo showing his skill before being fouled just outside the box. The resulting free kick, expertly taken by skipper Mlamuli ‘Mlaba’ Nkambule, forced a spectacular save from Green Mamba’s



▲ Green Mamba players celebrating their 2-0 win over Manzini Wanderers.

goalkeeper Xolani Gama, who kept his side in the game.
Green Mamba’s attacking intent was clear when Khethokuhle Mkhontfo’s shot beat the Wanderers’ goalkeeper Colani Dlamini but was heroically cleared off the line. Moments later, Sangweni missed a golden opportunity after a slick pass from ‘Sikhali’ Ndzinisa, allowing the Wanderers keeper to gather comfortably.
The first half was a tightly contested battle, with both sides exchanging creative attacks and testing each other’s defences. Wanderers’ Phiwakwakhe Dlamini came close to scoring with a stunning half-volley that narrowly missed the target, while Green Mamba’s goalkeeper Gama made a jaw-dropping save to deny striker Siyabonga Xaba’s powerful header just before halftime.
The second half saw Wanderers pushing for a breakthrough, with Xaba’s skilful dribbling creating chances, though his crosses failed to find teammates in dangerous positions. The deadlock was finally broken in the 60th minute when Green Mamba’s captain and

reliable striker, Sabelo ‘Sikhali’ Ndzinisa, capitalised on a rebound after a strong save by Colani Dlamini. The quick interplay involving the pacey Siyabonga Zwane who set up ‘Sikhali’ for an easy tap-in from six yards out, sending the Correctional Services side fans into jubilation.
Following the goal, Green Mamba took control of the game, dictating tempo and applying relentless pressure. Their dominance culminated in the 89th minute when a penalty was awarded after a foul in the box. Bhekani Mthembu confidently converted the spot-kick, sending the goalkeeper the wrong way and sealing the 2-0 victory.
This win propels Green Mamba into the Quarterfinal round of the 8Bet Trade Fair Cup, where they will face the winner of the Royal Leopard versus Amawele match. For Manzini Wanderers, the defeat marks a tough reintroduction to competitive football, but the youthful squad showed flashes of potential that could be built upon in the coming season.

Al-Ahly terminate Riveiro's contract after seven matches

Rude Welcome for 'MaMkhize'
Page 23



Eswatini *Monday 1 September, 2025*
Daily News
Sport

SHOCKS, THRILLS IN 8BET TRADE FAIR CUP AND

The Bigger they come, the harder they fall!

● **Defending champions, Young Buffaloes, Mbabane Highlanders and Manzini Wanderers all eliminated in Last 16 stage of annual tournament as 8Bet Trade Fair Cup lives up to its razzmatazz. *Page 23***