



E350k cash burnt to ashes at Bishop Courts flats

By Delisa Magagula

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■ SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 2



NATCOM HONOURED WITH TAIWAN'S MEDAL OF FRIENDSHIP



▲ The Government of Taiwan has awarded National Commissioner of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), Manoma Vusie Masango, with the prestigious Medal of Friendship in recognition of his outstanding role in deepening security and law enforcement cooperation between Eswatini and Taiwan.

New road brings hope at Kukhanyeni Inkhundla — Residents

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By Delisa Magagula

A FIRE erupted late Saturday evening in the third-floor block of the Bishop Courts flats in Manzini, claiming three apartments and rendering sixteen residents homeless including a baby.

Among the losses a family residing in one of the flats reportedly lost E350,000 in cash, which they had been saving and was kept in the unit.

Reliable source shared that, the money was sourced from their day-to-day revenue since they run multiple Celltronics shops around Manzini, even outside of Manzini.

The money in cash estimated to be E350,000 was inside the burning apartments stored in bags and money bags.

According to the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), the blaze started around 8:15 p.m. in one flat where a compressor of an air-conditioning unit failed, sparking a fire that rapidly spread to the adjacent units.

Speaking on the scene, after responding promptly Eswatini National Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services (ENFRES) Communications Officer Mandla Dlamini said, the fire had too much power and a risk of spreading further.

“We believe the compressor overheated, igniting nearby furniture and bedding. Sixteen people were affected in total. Thankfully, nobody was injured,” said Dlamini.

The shop-owner, a Pakistani national whose name was withheld by neighbours, had chosen to take home his weekly cash takings to bank them the next morning.

That stack of banknotes was charred and reduced to ash stood as a grim symbol of both the fire’s speed and the scale of his loss.

Neighbours said he sat outside the building in shock, periodically glancing at the scorched doorway of his former home.

Resident Thandeka Dlamini, who lives two doors down from the burnt unit, recalled they heard a noise like a crack and then huge smoke pouring from the balcony.

“I ran, grabbed my baby, our neighbours grabbed their little girl everyone was shouting to get out. Within minutes we were all outside, watching the unit burn,” said Dlamini speaking to this publication.

Another tenant, Musa Vilakati, echoed

E350 000 cash burnt to ashes at Bishop Courts flats

... overall damage estimated to be over E650k



▲ The fire damaged property at Bishop Flats.

Thandeka’s sentiments and said survival was the only thing on their minds.

“You don’t think about money when you’re running for your life. But when the fire died down, and we saw what was destroyed beds, wardrobes, stoves, TVs and heard about the E350,000, life can change so fast,” he said.

Building management estimated damage to furniture and appliances in the three impacted flats at around E300,000.

The destruction of the apartments meant walls, carpets, wiring, fixtures and household contents were a total loss.

“We contained the fire to the three units. All the affected persons were evacuated safely. Still, we will examine the air-conditioner unit, wiring, and whether any negligence or maintenance lapse contributed to the blaze,” said Dlamini.

Meanwhile, the building’s landlord has since arranged temporary accommodation for the 16 displaced residents, coordinating with church and community groups for

emergency meals, clothing, and medical support.

This fire incident echoes earlier major fires in Manzini. In July 2024 a blaze destroyed part of Bhunu Mall, affecting multiple businesses and causing losses in the millions.

Investigators then flagged ageing wiring and overloaded appliances in high-density structures as key risk factors. While the exact cause of the current fire is under investigation, the compressor-failure claim and rapid spread raise similar alarms.

Meanwhile among those affected was the baby from one of the apartments, who together with the other tenants women, men, and children spent the night at different places of abode.

Dlamini further noted that no one slept well. Many were crying, some lost passports, phones, savings everything.

He said, they were torn and heartbroken for everyone involved especially for the man who lost E350,000, as it wasn’t just money but his entire business buffer.



▲ A view of one of the burnt rooms.

A building management representative said they would conduct a full electrical audit of all units in the block, focusing on air-conditioning compressors, wiring and power surge protection.

“We are inspecting every unit. This cannot happen again,” said the representative.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Police Communications Information Officer Inspector Nosipho Mnguni advised residents of similar buildings to ensure appliances are properly maintained, wiring is certified, and smoke alarms are functioning.

“No lives were lost. The material loss is significant. We will establish the root cause and work with all parties to prevent this in future,” she said.

New road brings hope at Kukhanyeni — Residents

By Thokozani Mazibuko

FOR years, residents and entrepreneurs in the Kukhanyeni Inkhundla have battled with deteriorating road infrastructure that crippled local commerce and investment.

Now, with the long-awaited construction of the Lugaganeni–Luve Road officially commissioned by His Majesty King Mswati III, communities under the Inkhundla are filled with renewed hope for growth and prosperity.

The Bucopho for Nkiliji, Simo Magagula, has expressed deep gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III for answering what he described as a “longstanding cry” of the people. He said the poor state of roads in the area had not only isolated communities but had also forced many small and medium enterprises to shut down due to the high cost of transportation and logistical challenges.

“Many small businesses struggled and subsequently closed due to the bad state



▲ The road at Kukhanyeni at the moment. The King has commissioned the construction of the Lugaganeni-Luve road at the value of E400 million.

of the roads,” Magagula lamented. “Public transport operators often refused to service the area because vehicles would get damaged easily, and as a result, goods could not move freely.”

The Bucopho noted that the new road, which will stretch from Lugaganeni to Luve at a cost of just under E400 million, represents more than a physical link it is a

lifeline for economic revival.

“We are looking forward to having textile firms and shoe-making businesses in this constituency,” he said.

“Our people are hardworking, and this development gives us hope that investors will finally look our way.”

The new road is expected to ease access to markets, schools, and health facilities,

significantly improving the quality of life for rural residents who have long been cut off from major economic centres.

The improved road network will also attract more investors seeking affordable land and labour in the growing Kukhanyeni region.

The construction company contracted for the project, has already begun groundwork. Company officials have assured that local employment will be prioritised throughout the construction phase, a commitment warmly welcomed by area leaders.

“This project is a sign that development is truly reaching the grassroots,” said Magagula. “We thank His Majesty for his leadership and for ensuring that rural areas like ours are not left behind.”

The Bucopho’s remarks capture the optimism sweeping through the area an optimism grounded in the belief that good infrastructure is the foundation upon which sustainable development is built.

As construction equipment rumbles through the once impassable roads of Nkiliji, the dust of neglect is slowly being replaced by the promise of progress.

By **Lwazi Dlamini**
lwazid@rubiconmedia.group

EWSC expanding portable water access across Eswatini

THE Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) continues to make significant progress in expanding access to clean and safe drinking water across the country, reaffirming its commitment to providing reliable water and sanitation services in Eswatini.

According to the 2024 Global Environmental Performance Index (EPI), 96 percent of urban households in Eswatini now have access to potable water, with 95 percent having piped water directly on their premises.

The index ranks Eswatini's water quality and access levels as having a medium-high status of water management implementation, despite disparities that still exist between urban and rural areas.

EWSC Public Relations and Communications Specialist, Hlobile Jele, said this achievement reflects the Corporation's continued investment in infrastructure and its dedication to ensuring access to safe and reliable drinking water.

"Through sustained investment in infrastructure and strategic partnerships, EWSC continues to work towards ensuring that EWSC customers have access to safe and reliable water," Jele said.

She noted that while the Corporation's mandate under the Water Services Corporation Act primarily focuses on providing water and sanitation services in urban areas, EWSC — guided by government — has extended its operations to rural Eswatini through targeted water expansion projects.

"These initiatives are part of our broader effort to support equitable water access across the country," Jele explained. "Working closely with government and development partners, we are implementing several projects aimed at improving the quality of life in underserved communities."

Jele said EWSC maintains strict water quality controls to ensure that all treated water meets both national and international standards.



"The water treatment process begins at EWSC's treatment plants, where raw water from rivers, dams, and streams goes through several carefully monitored stages before being distributed to customers," she said. "Our laboratories continuously test samples to ensure that the water remains clean, safe, and fit for human consumption."

She added that EWSC's commitment to quality extends beyond treatment, with continuous monitoring of the distribution network to prevent contamination, maintain infrastructure, and swiftly respond to reported issues.

"While EWSC maintains strict water quality controls, occasional issues such as pipe bursts or maintenance works may cause temporary discolouration or ingress of sediment. Customers are encouraged to support the quest of high quality water by promptly reporting such incidents through EWSC's available platforms — including the EWSC Mobile App, WhatsApp chatbot Temanti 7806 5000, or Customer Contact Centre 800 5000," Jele said.

Among EWSC's major infrastructure mile-

stones is the Ezulwini Sanitation Project, which saw the construction of a 115-megalitre reservoir and the installation of 12 community water kiosks in areas such as Emashibhini, Lobamba, Ezulwini, and Egelekeeni. The project has greatly improved access to potable water and sanitation services in the region.

Currently underway is the Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project (EWSSAP) — a large-scale initiative between Nhlanguano and Siphambanweni that will benefit over 11,000 emaSwati through improved access to clean water. The project includes the construction of three reservoirs, a pump station, and new transmission pipelines, as well as additional water kiosks in Zombodze, Hosea, and Shiselweni.

In the Manzini Region, EWSC is also implementing the Manzini Water Supply and Sanitation Project, launched in February 2024, to enhance the city's water infrastructure and meet growing demand. The project features the construction of pump stations, treatment facilities, reservoirs, and 25 community water kiosks to improve accessibili-



▲ EWSC Managing Director Jabulile Mashwama. Under her leadership, the Corporation has expanded portable water access across Eswatini.

ty and distribution efficiency going beyond the city centre to communities in the region such as Mfutseni, Mtfongwaneni, Manzini North, Manzini South and Nhlambeni area.

"These projects underscore our commitment to ensuring that emaSwati whether in urban centres or rural communities have access to clean, safe, and sustainable water," Jele concluded.

Eswatini Police Chief honoured with Taiwan's medal of friendship

By **Thokozani Mazibuko**

IN a significant moment that highlighted the deepening bonds between the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) National Commissioner, Vusie Manoma Masango, was this week awarded the prestigious Medal of Friendship by Taiwan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Chia-Lung Lin.

The honour was conferred during a warm and colourful ceremony held in Taipei on the sidelines of the 7th Taiwan-Western Asia & Africa Forum on Regional Security and Transnational Crime, where senior law enforcement leaders from across the world gathered to strengthen cooperation on issues of global security, cybercrime, and transnational criminal networks.

Dr. Lin praised National Commissioner Masango for his "outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication" to advancing Taiwan-Eswatini police cooperation. The medal, one of Taiwan's most distinguished honours for foreign partners, recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to bilateral relations and mutual understanding.



▲ Taiwan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Chia Lung Lin conferred the Medal of Friendship on NatCom Vusie Manoma Masango.

"National Commissioner Masango has been instrumental in promoting collaboration through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), facilitating scholarship opportunities, and supporting capacity-building initiatives between our two nations," said Minister Lin.

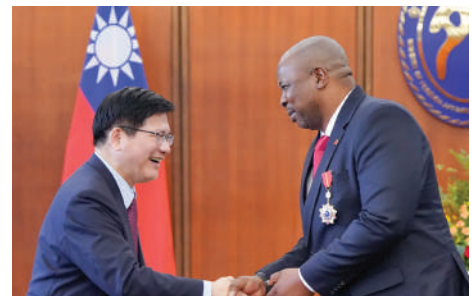
The REPS National Commissioner expressed gratitude to the government and people of Taiwan for the recognition, stating that the award reflected the shared values of friendship, trust, and mutual respect between Eswatini and Taiwan.

"This is not only my honour but also a reflection of the Royal Eswatini Police Service's commitment to international coop-

eration in fighting transnational crime," he said. "Our long-standing partnership with Taiwan continues to empower our officers through training, technology exchange, and joint efforts to promote global peace and security."

Masango has also been an influential voice in international policing circles, having spoken in support of Taiwan's participation in global crime-fighting mechanisms during the 92nd INTERPOL General Assembly in 2024, and pledging to continue advocating for Taiwan's inclusion at the 93rd INTERPOL Assembly in 2025.

Diplomatic observers say his consistent advocacy underscores Eswatini's position



▲ Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Chia Lung Lin shaking hands with NatCom Vusi Masango before conferring the Medal of Friendship on NatCom.

as Taiwan's steadfast ally on the African continent, particularly in the realm of law enforcement and international cooperation.

The Medal of Friendship further strengthens the relationship between the REPS and the Taiwan Police College, which has hosted numerous Eswatini officers under training and exchange programmes over the years.

The forum also explored ways to bolster intelligence sharing, enhance cybercrime response systems, and close "loopholes of criminality" that allow transnational syndicates to exploit gaps between jurisdictions.

As Eswatini continues to modernize its police service, this recognition reaffirms the country's role in fostering global partnerships aimed at a safer and more secure world.

From the cattle post

By WeNkosi Khumalo

AT first glance, Banele Matsenjwa's story could easily be mistaken for that of any young liSwati hustling to make ends meet.

But at just 25, this quiet cattle herder from Ncandweni in the Lubombo region has made a decision that sets him apart; a choice rooted in wisdom, responsibility, and hope.

Banele, the fifth of eight siblings, finished school at Nkhanini High in 2020 and has never had formal employment. He lives on piece jobs, and today earns a modest income guarding a homestead and looking after cattle. Yet, despite these challenges, he made a bold move in 2024; he opened a Voluntary Contribution account with Lidlelantfongeni, determined to secure his future.

"My late father inspired me to save," he recalls with quiet pride. "He used to contribute to Lidlelantfongeni, and I saw how it helped our family, especially when he passed away. We didn't have to struggle because the funeral cover from the Fund took care of everything. That left a deep impression on me."

One afternoon, he asked his father to take him to the Lidlelantfongeni offices in Big Bend, where the staff explained how he could start small, and stay consistent.

From that day, I made it my habit to save something from every job I do, no matter how little," says Banele. "The key is to be consistent. Saving has given me peace of mind. It has changed how I think about money and my future."

"Noma ngabe yincane kwani lemali loyitfolako, ubohlephula incenye uyifake emgodlagodleni. Bese uyimikisa ka Lidlelantfongeni. Loko kuta kusita kusasa – no matter how little the amount you get put something

... The everyday heroes redefining financial wisdom



aside and take it to Lidlelantfongeni. That will help you in the future."

Banele thanked Lidlelantfongeni for holding his hand in his journey of saving.

"I want to thank Lidlelantfongeni for treating even people like me — without a payslip with dignity. They showed me that saving is not about how much you earn, but how committed you are."

Banele now dreams of getting into the agriculture business and owning his livestock and one day building a big business. His advice to other young people is simple but profound, as he urges them to grab early opportunities to save.

"Don't wait to be rich to start saving. Even if you are unemployed, take something from what you get and put it away. It's not about the amount, it is about the habit. It brings discipline, security, and hope for your family."

ily."

He urged young people to go to the Lidlelantfongeni offices to find out more about how they can shape their future, find the various products for saving and building a nest for themselves and their families.

A New Generation of Savers

At the picturesque valley of KaZombodze ePhasemdzimba, outside Matsapha, Temvelo Sibanyoni, aged 24, echoes the same spirit; but with a different twist. A Diploma graduate in ICT, and another in Catering and Decoration, Temvelo turned her frustration with unemployment into action, launching Buhlebetfu Fast Food and Restaurant in 2024.

That same year, she started making Voluntary Contributions to Lidlelantfongeni, inspired by her father's saving habits.

"I saw how my father's savings carried us through difficult times," she says. "When my

mother passed away, he was able to cover all the expenses and still provide for us. That dignity stayed with me."

Temvelo's contributions vary depending on her business takings, but she never skips a month.

"It does not matter how small the amount is. What matters is that you stay consistent and faithful. Saving gives you control over your life. It is safe, it is growing, and it gives me confidence about the future," she says.

She encourages her peers to start early. "When you are young, time is your greatest advantage. Start now, keep something for the rainy day. You'll thank yourself later."

She thanked Lidlelantfongeni for opening opportunities for the youth, and all emaSwati to realise their dreams of financial independence. Meanwhile, the third edition of the Lidlelantfongeni Stakeholder Recognition Awards, CEO Futhi Tembe praised the two young savers for being "symbols of courage, foresight, and financial discipline." The awards which will run up to December 2025 are a weekly celebration of members, employers and tenants of ENPF who go over and above what is statutorily required of them in terms of contributions.

"What sets Banele and Temvelo apart," Tembe said, "is that even without formal employment, they took the initiative to save voluntarily. That is true wisdom and responsibility. They are role models to the youth and to all of us."

She urged them to continue "preaching the gospel of saving" and challenged Lidlelantfongeni staff themselves to lead by example.

"As custodians of this great Fund, we must also walk the talk. Saving with the organisation we serve is a sign of faith in our mission, and a commitment to our own futures."



Walking the talk: staff who lead by example

WHEN 26-year-old Ziyanda Methula walks into the Lidlelantfongeni reception each morning, her warm smile is more than just good customer service; it is a reflection of a deeper optimism about the future.

As one of the youngest employees at the ENPF, Ziyanda is part of a new generation that is rewriting the story of financial empowerment and long-term security.

She joined ENPF in September 2024 and, within just a few weeks, made a decision that would set her apart, she began making

supplementary contributions.

Her story is a testament to the compounding effect of early financial foresight. Just two months having joined the organisation, after an internal drive focused on the Supplementary Contributions product, she did not just understand the message, she immediately acted on it. By November 2024, she was already contributing above the statutory minimum.

This move, financial experts agree, is the defining difference between a merely

adequate retirement and a life of genuine financial independence.

The Self-Love Investment

For Ziyanda, saving is not a chore or a restriction; it is an act of deep self-respect.

"There is no better way to love yourself than to save for your future," she states simply.

"The future is simply an extension of who you are today, and taking care of it means setting something aside, no matter how little. I realised that the 'future me' is depending on the discipline of the 'current

me."

Ziyanda understands the golden rule of wealth creation, that time and consistency are worth more than lump sums. By starting in her mid-twenties, she gives her supplementary funds decades to grow tax-free, benefiting massively from compound interest that workers who start in their forties can never catch up to. Her approach is a blueprint for every young professional navigating their first job: pay your future self-first.

to culture of saving

Leading by example in the office and the community

ZIYANDA’S initiative has not gone unnoticed. She credits the supportive environment at ENPF, where she has received invaluable mentorship.

“I appreciate the warmth, guidance, and support from my colleagues. Many of us are now supplementing our contributions—and it feels good to know we’re leading by example.”

Her vision extends beyond personal gain. She sees her financial stability as a stabilising force for the entire community.

“The greatest myth is that you must be rich to start saving. That is false. The truth is, you must start saving to become rich, and the best time to start is with your very next paycheck.”

“Financial security is not a luxury. It is

a social responsibility. When I secure my future, I reduce my reliance on my family and my community, freeing up resources for those who truly need them.”

Ziyanda’s simple decision to put more away today ensures she is not just building a pension, but a foundation for a life of choices, setting a powerful precedent for her peers across the country.

How Gogo’s Saving Culture Inspired Me to Build my Nest

Siphosethu Matsebula is not just an employee; she is an evangelist for financial foresight. Joining the ENPF in 2020 at the height of global uncertainty, she turned a crisis, she started implementing the powerful lesson she learned from her beloved grandmother.

“When I got here at ENPF, the first thing I did was to go straight to HR and asked to be signed up for supplementary contributions,” Siphosethu shares. This immediate decision, inspired by her dear Gogo’s lifelong advice and example of saving and forward-planning, locked her into the habit of saving from day one. This consistency, she says, is what separates the dreamers from the builders.

The Power of the Periodic Top-Up

Siphosethu’s discipline goes beyond initial enrollment. She uses strategic moments in her career and the calendar year to turbocharge her retirement fund, a move that harnesses the true power of compounding.

“When I was later promoted, I

immediately increased my contribution, and every January, at the start of the year, I add a little more. It is truly amazing how quickly those strategic top-ups multiply,” she explains.

This consistent action ensures that any increase in income does not just inflate her current lifestyle, but is strategically channeled to secure her future self. By topping up with salary increases and at the start of the year, Siphosethu maximises the effect of time and compound interest. This consistent investment provides stability and financial elasticity, giving her the confidence to navigate life’s unexpected expenses without derailing her retirement plan.



SIPHOSETHU is quick to acknowledge the community that supports her journey. She sends endearing thanks to her wise and inspiring grandmother for instilling the foundational value of saving.

She also applauds the visionary leadership of the ENPF for creating accessible voluntary opportunities like the Supplementary Contribution product.

“I’m deeply grateful to the leadership for creating such opportunities and for relentlessly encouraging a culture of saving. They do not just process paperwork; they promote prosperity,” she notes.

She also expresses gratitude for the mentorship from her colleagues and friends who offered advice and encouragement.

Siphosethu has a heartfelt plea for those still on the fence. “My message to colleagues who are not yet a part of the supplementary saving is this: Don’t delay your peace of mind. Saving is key to a secure future.”

We Continue to have Faith, Invest in Own Products

Cabangile Dlamini, Service Centre Manager at ENPF urged her colleagues to take the step of having supplementary contributions, as the ultimate endorsement

A culture of confidence and gratitude

of the financial security products they deliver. She says this further enhances trust on the products, and a demonstration that they all believe in what they are selling to the public.

She commended proactive staff, like the notably young Ziyanda Methula, Siphosethu Matsebula and many others, for taking up the challenge to consistently top up their retirement savings through the supplementary contribution product.

“When we, as employees, save through the very same products we advocate for, it transcends marketing; it becomes a testament of our professional faith,” Cabangile asserts. “It builds intrinsic trust and shows absolute confidence in our brand. We cannot be effective messengers if we are not, ourselves, confident users.”

“We are not just selling a service; we are selling certainty. When clients see our staff actively investing their own hard-earned money in these funds, they know we are serious. We are literally putting our money where our mission is.”





Ntondozi man arrested for brutal murder of elderly woman

Stories by Thokozani Mazibuko

POLICE have arrested and charged a 30-year-old man from Ntondozi in connection with the gruesome murder of a 70-year-old woman from the same area.

The shocking incident, which occurred on October 20, 2024, had initially been mistaken for a fatal road accident.

According to the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), the elderly woman was discovered lifeless in the middle of a rural road early that morning by community members on their way to a funeral. Her body had multiple broken bones, leading investigators at first to suspect that she had been hit by a vehicle.

"The community immediately contact-

ed the police, who responded promptly to attend the scene," confirmed the Malkerns Police Station. "An enquiry file was opened as the incident was initially believed to be a road traffic accident."

However, as investigations progressed, disturbing new evidence emerged. Forensic findings and further inquiry revealed that the woman had not died in a hit-and-run but had been brutally murdered.

Police say information gathered during the investigation indicated that the suspect had allegedly confessed to a relative that he killed the elderly woman, claiming that she had been bewitching him. Shortly after the alleged confession, he fled to South Africa to evade arrest.

After spending months across the border, the suspect reportedly returned to Eswatini and settled in Matsapha, where he kept a low profile. But his attempts to avoid detection came to an end when he was recently arrest-

ed by Matsapha Police in connection with a separate theft case.

"While in custody for theft, it was discovered that the suspect was a person of interest in the 2024 murder case under the Malkerns precinct," police said.

He has since been formally charged with murder and is expected to appear before the Manzini Magistrates Court soon.

Police have commended community members who came forward with information that helped crack the case. They also reminded the public that taking the law into one's own hands or resorting to violence over witchcraft allegations is a serious criminal offense.

The Royal Eswatini Police Service continue to urge members of the public to report all suspicious activities and unresolved disputes to local authorities or community policing forums to prevent such tragic incidents.

129 drunken driving incidents reported over the weekend

THE Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) has raised alarm over the increasing number of drunken driving cases after a total of 129 incidents were reported across the country over the weekend.

Deputy Police Information and Communication Officer, Assistant Superintendent Nosipho Mnguni, confirmed the figures in a statement released on Monday, urging motorists to exercise caution and responsibility when using the road.

"It is concerning that despite ongoing public education campaigns and regular roadblocks, we continue to record high numbers of drivers getting behind the wheel while intoxicated," said Mnguni. "These actions not only endanger the lives of the drivers themselves but also innocent road users."

According to Mnguni, the police conducted several stop-and-search operations and road safety campaigns in major towns and along key highways, including Mbabane-Manzini, Nhlangano, and Siteki routes. Many of the offenders were found to have alcohol levels far exceeding the legal limit, and several were involved in minor accidents.

Assistant Superintendent Mnguni emphasized that law enforcement officers will continue to maintain a strong presence on the roads, especially as the rainy and festive season approaches a period historically marked by increased road accidents.

"We are now entering a busy time of year where traffic volumes are high and social gatherings are frequent. We want to remind all drivers that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence that can lead to arrests, license suspension, and even imprisonment," she cautioned.

The police have appealed to members of the public to play their part by discouraging friends and family from driving after consuming alcohol. Citizens are also encouraged to make use of alternative transport arrangements, such as designated drivers or taxis, after attending social events.

"It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our roads are safe. A single reckless decision to drive drunk can result in loss of life and untold suffering for families,"

The REPS, through its Road Safety Department, continues to collaborate with the Eswatini National Road Safety Council and other stakeholders to raise awareness about



▲Deputy Police Information and Communication Officer, Assistant Superintendent Nosipho Mnguni.

the dangers of drunken driving. Educational campaigns are being rolled out in schools, communities, and workplaces to promote safer road behaviour.

Police have assured the nation that operations will continue throughout the festive season, with random breathalyser tests and mobile patrols set to be intensified across all four regions of the country.

"We urge everyone to celebrate responsibly and to remember that the goal is for all of us to arrive alive," concluded Mnguni.

'Be cautious, safe around water bodies'

As the rainy season sets in across Eswatini, the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) has issued a strong warning to members of the public to exercise caution around rivers, dams, and other water bodies to prevent drowning incidents and other weather-related tragedies.

Deputy Police Information and Communication Officer, Assistant Superintendent Nosipho Mnguni, released a statement urging communities to prioritize safety, particularly when crossing swollen rivers or playing near flooded areas.

"We urge members of the public to be cautious and safe around water bodies. The rains are a blessing, but they also come with risks, especially for children, livestock, and motorists. Everyone must take responsibility for their safety and that of others," said Mnguni.

She noted that in past rainy seasons, the police had recorded several fatal drownings, most of which could have been avoided if people had heeded early warnings. Children are particularly vulnerable, as they tend to play near flooded rivers and ponds without fully understanding the danger.

Mnguni appealed to parents and guardians to keep a close watch on children, especially those living near streams, dams, and rivers. She also cautioned motorists to avoid attempting to cross bridges or low-lying areas submerged in water, as strong currents can easily sweep away vehicles.

"No amount of rushing is worth a life. If a road is flooded, turn back and find an alternative route. It's better to arrive late than not at all," she emphasized.

The police further reminded livestock owners to keep animals away from riverbanks, as muddy conditions and sudden rises in water levels can lead to accidents.

In addition, the REPS Disaster and Emergency Response teams have been placed on high alert to assist in flood-prone areas, particularly in low-lying regions of the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions, which are often the hardest hit during heavy rainfall.

Mnguni concluded by urging the public to stay informed through official weather updates and to report any emergencies or missing persons immediately to the nearest police station.

"Let us all work together to ensure that this rainy season is remembered for its blessings, not its tragedies," she said.

The Eswatini Meteorological Service has forecast more heavy rains and thunderstorms in the coming weeks, raising the importance of continued vigilance and preparedness among communities.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

ICT Ministry wins big at Customer Service Awards

THE Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) has emerged as one of the biggest winners at the 10th Eswatini Customer Service Excellence Awards (ECSxP). The Ministry walked away with two major accolades the Innovation of the Year Award for its 'Government In Your Hand' project, and the Government Ministry of the Year Award.

Resilient stocks rally faces earnings wave after wobbles

NEW YORK — A resilient U.S. stocks rally heads into a busy week of corporate results, with investors concerned about the strength of the artificial intelligence trade and about how aggressively the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates. The S&P 500 on Friday ended October up 2.3 per cent for the month, its sixth straight month of gains, despite wobbling this week after megacap companies posted mixed results.

OPEC+ set to agree another modest oil output increase, sources say

LONDON/MOSCOW — OPEC+ is set to agree on Sunday on another modest increase in oil output targets, three sources familiar with the talks said, as the producers' group moderates plans to regain market share due to rising fears of a supply glut. OPEC+ has raised output targets by more than 2.7 million barrels per day - about 2.5 per cent of global supply - since April, but slowed the pace in October and November.

EswatiniBank

FX RATES

Notes/Cash	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	16.8452	17.3119
G.B. Pound	22.6328	23.3083
EURO	19.7921	20.3994
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	

Eswatini feels ripple effects of Rand manipulation case

By Delisa Magagula

ESWATINI's currency and economy continue to feel indirect pressure from developments in South Africa's ongoing rand-manipulation case, which alleges that 28 local and international banks colluded to fix the dollar-rand exchange rate between 2007 and 2013.

Since the Lilangeni is pegged one-to-one with the South African rand under the Common Monetary Area, any fluctuation or distortion in the rand directly impacts Eswatini's economy affecting import costs, inflation and currency stability.

Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg confirmed that the country is closely watching the outcome of the case, saying Eswatini is going to feel the effect.

"We are highly monitoring this, waiting for conclusions, but the ripple effects are there and could be there since Eswatini is pegged to the rand. We will, or are, feeling the heat, said the Minister.

Worth noting is that, the South African Competition Commission has accused 28 banks of manipulating the rand-dollar exchange rate between 2007 and 2013.

The Commission claims that traders coordinated bids, offers and spreads in private cha-rooms to influence the rate, effectively making the dollar more expensive.

The case, which began in 2017, has been through several legal rounds. Early this year, the Competition Appeal Court dismissed parts of the Commission's case, ruling that the regulator had not proven jurisdiction over some foreign banks.

However, the Commission has now taken the matter to the Constitutional Court, arguing that South Africa's financial system was affected and that the case must be heard in full.

The accused banks, which include several global institutions, have consistently denied wrongdoing. The Constitutional Court's decision will determine whether the case proceeds to a full trial.

Economists say that because Eswatini's lilangeni moves in lockstep with the rand, any manipulation that weakened the South African currency during that period would have spilt over to Eswatini.

Currency analyst Mxolisi Dlamini said that during the alleged period of manipulation, the rand's volatility led to costlier imports and contributed to inflationary pressure in Eswatini.

"When the rand weakens against the dollar, Eswatini feels it almost immediately. Fuel, machinery, and food imports are priced in foreign currency. So if the dollar was artificially inflated, local prices went up too, even if temporarily," he said.

The peg arrangement means Eswatini cannot adjust its exchange rate to cushion itself. Instead, any shock to the rand whether market-driven or manipulated is automatically transmitted to the lilangeni.

According to the Central Bank of Eswatini, this dependency makes the country's price levels highly sensitive to developments in South Africa's economy, including inflation, fuel prices and currency movements.

Economist Nkosinathi Khumalo noted that the manipulation period coincided with years of sharp depreciation in the rand, from around R7 to nearly R11 against the dollar.

"When the dollar gets stronger, Eswatini pays more for imported goods and services. The period between 2007 and 2013 saw imported inflation climb, even when domestic production remained stable," he said.

As of this week, the rand is trading at around R17.30 to the US dollar, a rate mirrored by the lilangeni. The current exchange level is seen as stable, but the historical effects of the manipulation if proven could mean the region's currencies were weaker than they should have been for several years.

Economic trends analyst Sindi Nkambule said that while Eswatini has maintained strong fiscal management, it remains vulnerable to South African market shocks.

"We depend heavily on South African imports, and our currency is tied to theirs. So when something disturbs their market even years later we feel the aftershocks through prices, reserves, and consumer costs," she said.

Minister Rijkenberg said Eswatini is taking precautions to protect its economy from external currency shocks by maintaining healthy reserves and fiscal discipline.

The Central Bank continues to monitor developments in South Africa's financial sector and international exchange markets.

"We are aware of the situation and its potential implications. Our focus is on maintaining stability and ensuring Eswatini's economy remains insulated as far as possible," said Rijkenberg.

▼Lilangeni notes.

However, analysts caution that Eswatini's options are limited because the peg to the rand is essential for trade and monetary stability.

Khumalo said that the best protection lies in close coordination with South Africa's Reserve Bank and in building up foreign-currency reserves to manage liquidity in times of stress.

"We can't delink from the rand overnight. The peg gives us stability and regional credibility. But it also ties our hands when distortions happen outside our borders," he said.

Worth noting, the South African Competition Commission's case could set a legal precedent if the Constitutional Court rules in its favour.

The decision would clarify how far regulators can go in prosecuting global financial institutions accused of manipulating emerging-market currencies.

Until then, Eswatini, along with its neighbours Lesotho and Namibia which also peg their currencies to the rand remains watchful of how the case unfolds and what it could mean for the region's financial stability.

▼Central Bank of Eswatini.



By Delisa Magagula

ICT Ministry wins big at Customer Service Awards

THE Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) has emerged as one of the biggest winners at the 10th Eswatini Customer Service Excellence Awards (ECSxP).

The Ministry walked away with two major accolades the Innovation of the Year Award for its 'Government In Your Hand' project, and the Government Ministry of the Year Award.

The event, held in Mbabane, celebrated organisations and leaders driving exceptional service delivery across sectors.

Minister Savannah Maziya was also specially recognised with the Outstanding Record Breaker Award, for her leadership in spearheading Eswatini's digital transformation agenda with excellence and humility.

In her remarks, Maziya described the award as a testament to the ministry's ongoing mission to make government services more accessible, efficient, and citizen centred.

"Customer service is not just a transaction it is an expression of dignity. Every interaction with a citizen must say, You matter, your time matters, your needs matter. Through 'Government In Your Hand,' we are building a future where government services are accessible anywhere, anytime restoring trust, honouring dignity, and empowering every Swati," she said.

The Ministry said the recognition renews its commitment to having citizens at the centre of service delivery by leveraging innovation and advancing Eswatini's digital transformation with dignity and efficiency.

"These honours belong to every citizen who believes in a digital and people-first Eswatini Government. Together we can build an efficient, responsive, and citizen-centric government," said the Minister.



▲ Minister of ICT Savannah Maziya being handed a portrait during the event.

Launched under Eswatini's National Digital Transformation Strategy, Government In Your Hand is a flagship initiative aimed at putting essential government services within reach of every citizen.

The mobile-based platform integrates a range of services, including licence renewals, bill payments, registration, and access to public information, all from a smartphone or computer.

The idea behind the project is to cut queues, reduce paperwork, and modernise the way citizens interact with government.

By using technology as a bridge between the state and the people, the Ministry aims to deliver services faster, more transparently, and more efficiently.

Minister Maziya has often described the platform as part of a broader digital revolution aimed at bringing Eswatini into line

with global governance standards.

She has also emphasised that digitalisation is not only about convenience but also about restoring trust between the government and citizens.

Under her leadership, the Ministry has also introduced capacity-building initiatives to help government employees adapt to the digital shift and ensure citizens can easily navigate online platforms.

IP ownership questions emerge

By Delisa Magagula

WHILE 'Government In Your Hand' has been widely celebrated, it has not been without debate. Earlier this year, this publication reported information suggesting that Minister Savannah Maziya claimed intellectual property (IP) rights over the app.

The remarks, made during a public appearance, sparked public curiosity over whether the app's copyright or IP ownership belonged personally to the Minister or to the Government of Eswatini.

The Ministry did not issue an official clarification at the time, but sources within government circles suggested that the platform was developed under the Ministry's e-Government programme, funded and managed as a national public-service tool rather than a private enterprise.

Although the comments drew attention, they did not stall the rollout of the app, which has since been widely adopted by citizens and government departments alike.

The matter also reignited discussion about how intellectual property is handled in public digital innovations particularly when a political leader plays a direct role in concep-

tualising or launching the project.

Critics argue that government-funded digital products should remain public property to ensure accountability and transparency, while supporters of Minister Maziya's leadership credit her for having the vision and drive to push the project forward when it could have stalled in bureaucracy.

So far, there has been no official confirmation that the Minister holds any personal rights to the app. What is clear, however, is that Government In Your Hand remains a cornerstone of Eswatini's digital reform one that has set a new benchmark for how public services can be delivered in a modern, efficient and inclusive way.

The Ministry of ICT says it remains focused on expanding the app's services and improving citizen experience through ongoing digital innovation.

It is working closely with other government departments to ensure that all major public services are integrated onto the platform.

The awards and recognitions, Maziya says they serve as a reminder of how far the country has come in its digital journey and how much further it intends to go.

Maziya continues to lead the charge, reinforcing that technology is not just about modernisation but about dignity and inclusion.



▲ The Ministry of ICT was recognised in two categories during the awards.

Resilient stocks rally faces earnings wave after wobbles

By Lewis Krauskopf

NEW YORK — A resilient U.S. stocks rally heads into a busy week of corporate results, with investors concerned about the strength of the artificial intelligence trade and about how aggressively the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates.

The S&P 500 on Friday ended October up 2.3 per cent for the month, its sixth straight month of gains, despite wobbling this week after megacap companies posted mixed results. Doubt also grew that more interest rate cuts were imminent after the Fed eased by a quarter point on Wednesday, as expected.

Following the October monetary policy meeting, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said an interest rate cut at the next meeting in December was “not a foregone conclusion.” Investors had expected that move to be almost a done deal.

Corporate earnings have broadly topped expectations. Third-quarter S&P 500 profits are on pace for a 13.8 per cent increase from a year earlier, according to LSEG IBES. More than 130 index companies will report in the coming week.

Making some investors nervous, the rally has lifted the S&P 500’s forward price-to-earnings multiple above 23, putting the market’s valuation around its highest since the dot-com bubble 25 years ago, according to LSEG Datastream.

“If we assume that we’re getting close to the ceiling on valuations as investors may be reluctant to pay multiples closer to what they were in the tech bubble, I think earnings will have to do the heavy lifting to drive returns forward,” said Angelo Kourkafas, senior global investment strategist at Edward Jones.

The first week of November kicks off a traditionally rosy period for stocks.



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

Since 1950, November ranks as the best-performing month and December the third-best for the S&P 500 on average, according to the Stock Trader’s Almanac. November has an average gain of 1.87 per cent in that time, with December averaging an increase of 1.43 per cent, just behind April’s 1.47 per cent. Given the strong performance so far in 2025, some investors question whether some year-end cheer has been pulled forward.

The S&P 500 is up 16 per cent year-to-date, while the Nasdaq Composite has gained about 23 per cent.

But history suggests stocks could push higher into year end. Since 1950, there have been 21 times that the S&P 500 has increased at least 15 per cent through the first 10 months of the year. In all but one instance the index has also posted gains in the final

two months, according to Truist Advisory Services.

With 44 per cent of S&P 500 companies that reported as of Wednesday, 83 per cent exceeded earnings expectations. That beat rate would be the sixth highest on record if it holds, according to strategists at Ned Davis Research.

There have been hiccups. On Thursday, shares of Meta Platforms and Microsoft slid following their quarterly reports. Both announced spending increases to fuel AI expansions.

Alphabet also boosted its projected capital spending, but its shares rose as investors were more accepting of the Google parent’s ability to fund its plans from its cash flow. Amazon shares also surged on Friday after strong growth at its cloud unit, while easing fears it was falling behind in the AI race.

Enthusiasm over AI has helped drive the S&P 500 up 90 per cent since the bull market began just over three years ago. But investors are wary of potential overexuberance tied to the theme and eager for evidence that AI investments are paying off.

“Investors want to know not only what the growth prospects look like, which has been the focus as these stocks have skyrocketed ... but also how much are they spending and what sort of return does that imply,” said Eric Kuby, chief investment officer at North Star Investment Management.

Tech companies reporting next week include semiconductor firms Advanced Micro Devices and Qualcomm and data analytics company Palantir Technologies. Palantir and AMD shares both have more than doubled this year, while Qualcomm shares are up about 18 per cent. Other companies set to report next week include McDonald’s and Uber.

Investors concerned about a weakening labor market are particularly on guard for corporate staffing announcements because the government shutdown has halted release of most official economic reports. Amazon said this week it will reduce its global corporate workforce by about 14,000 people, with more cuts expected next year.

“With a lack of data from the United States government on anything really, and then these signs that companies are laying people off, that makes me a bit nervous,” said Robert Pavlik, senior portfolio manager at Dakota Wealth Management.

The U.S. shutdown, which started on October 1, is now the second-longest ever behind the 2018-2019 shutdown that lasted 35 days. Monthly jobs data scheduled for release on November 7 is set to be delayed, so investors gauging the economy’s health will rely more on alternative data, including the ADP employment report and University of Michigan consumer sentiment reading.

That data takes on added significance after Powell’s comments left prospects for future cuts more in doubt.

“We are in a data vacuum, so these alternative sources are gaining more importance as the Fed is trying to calibrate its path for interest rates,” Kourkafas said. (Reuters)

OPEC+ set to agree another modest oil output increase, sources say

By Olesya Astakhova, Ahmad Ghaddar and Alex Lawler

LONDON/MOSCOW — OPEC+ is set to agree on Sunday on another modest increase in oil output targets, three sources familiar with the talks said, as the producers’ group moderates plans to regain market share due to rising fears of a supply glut.

OPEC+ has raised output targets by more than 2.7 million barrels per day - about 2.5 per cent of global supply - since April, but slowed the pace in October and November from larger increases amid predictions of a looming oversupply.

New Western sanctions on OPEC+ member Russia are adding to challenges in the discussions, as Moscow may struggle to further raise output after the U.S. and Britain imposed new measures on top producers Rosneft and Lukoil.

Eight OPEC+ members - Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Kazakhstan and Algeria - have agreed in principle to increase December output targets by 137,000 barrels per day, the

three sources said.

They declined to be named because they are not allowed to speak to the media. The agreement in principle means the Sunday meeting will likely quickly approve the deal when it meets virtually at 1600 GMT, the three sources said.

Oil prices fell to a five-month low of about \$60 a barrel on October 20 on concerns that a glut was building, but have since recovered to about \$65 a barrel on Russian sanctions and optimism over U.S. talks with trade partners.

Analysts including RBC, Rystad, Commerzbank and SEB have said this week they expect OPEC+ to raise targets by 137,000 bpd for December.

OPEC+ had been reducing output for several years until April and cuts had peaked in March, amounting to 5.85 million bpd in total.

The cuts were made up of three elements: voluntary cuts of 2.2 million bpd, 1.65 million bpd by eight members and a further 2 million bpd by the whole group.

The group has been unwinding voluntary cuts, while the last element of the cuts for the whole group is meant to stay in place until the end of 2026. (Reuters)



▲ A view shows oil pump jacks outside Almet'yevsk in the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia.

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping took centrestage at a meeting of APEC leaders on Saturday to push a proposal for a global body to govern artificial intelligence and position China as an alternative to the United States on trade cooperation.

The comments were the first by the Chinese leader on an initiative Beijing unveiled this year, while the United States has rejected efforts to regulate AI in international bodies. Xi said a World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization could set governance rules and boost cooperation, making AI a “public good for the international community”.

Remarks

In remarks published by the official news agency Xinhua, Xi added, “Artificial intelligence is of great significance for future development and should be made for the benefit of people in all countries and regions.”

Chinese officials have said the organisation could be based in the commercial hub of Shanghai.

U.S. President Donald Trump did not attend the APEC leaders’ summit in the South Korean city of Gyeongju, flying back to Washington directly after a meeting with Xi. The two leaders’ talks yielded a one-year deal to partially roll back trade and technology controls that had spiked tension between the world’s two biggest economies.

In Trump’s absence, analysts had expected

China’s Xi pushes for global AI body at APEC in counter to US

Xi to use the APEC meeting to promote China as champion for its own brand of multilateral cooperation on trade and economic development.

While advanced chips made by California-based Nvidia (NVDA.O), opens new tab are central to the AI boom, China-based developer DeepSeek has rolled out lower-cost models taken up by Beijing in a push for what it calls “algorithmic sovereignty”.

Xi also urged APEC to promote the “free circulation” of green technologies, a cluster of industries from batteries to solar panels that China dominates.

APEC members approved a joint declaration and pacts on AI and the challenge of ageing populations at the meeting. China will host the 2026 APEC summit in Shenzhen, a major hub for manufacturing, from robotics to electric car production.

Xi said the city of nearly 18 million had been a fishing village until it boomed as one of China’s first special economic zones in the 1980s.

APEC is a consultative forum of 21 nations representing half of global trade.

(Reuters)



▲ Chinese President Xi Jinping took centrestage at a meeting of APEC leaders on Saturday

Rising identity crime losses take a growing emotional toll

CRIMINALS are monetizing stolen identities at higher rates and stealing larger sums, while more victims report severe emotional distress, including self-harm.

Those are the findings of the 2025 Consumer Impact Report, prepared by the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC), a nonprofit organization founded to provide identity theft victim assistance and consumer education, and sponsored by Experian, a global information services and fraud prevention company.

The report is based on a survey that sampled 4,122 individuals who sought assistance from the ITRC from August 2024 to July 2025 and identified themselves as victims of identity crime (ITRC victims), and a second, similar survey of 1,033 general consumers, which included 401 individuals who reported being a victim of identity crime but did not seek assistance from the

ITRC (Consumer victims).

The report noted that more than 20% of ITRC victims lost more than US\$100,000 in an identity crime, and more than 10% lost more than \$1 million in a single incident. “Losses reported to the ITRC increased in every band, a trend that indicates the financial stakes for the most severe cases of identity crime are rising across the board.” “When we look at these million-dollar losses, it speaks to the sophistication level of these bad actors, their ability to leverage tools like AI to more efficiently convince people to move their money,” ITRC President and CEO Eva Velasquez told TechNewsWorld.

“I also think that there’s just a level of uncertainty in the world right now that is creating more opportunities for confusion that criminals can exploit,” she added. “There are a lot of impostor scams. They’re proliferating everywhere.” Thoughts of Suicide

What is changing now is how easily

attackers can operationalize personal information data, observed Henrique Teixeira, a senior vice president for strategy at Saviynt, an identity governance and access management company in El Segundo, Calif.

“In a recent attack I personally experienced, a criminal logged into one of my accounts using stolen credentials and then launched a subscription bombing campaign, flooding my inbox with hundreds of fake mailing list signups to bury legitimate fraud alerts,” he told TechNewsWorld.

Attackers are also taking advantage of fast digital onboarding, he added. “Financial institutions want to reduce friction for legitimate customers,” he explained. “Fraudsters exploit that same speed to open high-value accounts, make purchases, or intercept payments before anyone notices. AI now amplifies this by automating credential stuffing, impersonation, and synthetic identity creation.”

(Linux Insider)

The great AI buildout shows no sign of slowing

A MOMENTOUS week in the technology sector made it clear there is no sign the boom in building artificial intelligence infrastructure is slowing — despite the bubble talk.

Nvidia, opens new tab, whose processors are the AI revolution’s backbone, became the first company to surpass \$5 trillion in market value. Microsoft (MSFT.O), opens new tab and OpenAI inked a deal enhancing the ChatGPT maker’s fundraising ability and OpenAI promptly started laying groundwork for an initial public offering that could value the company at \$1 trillion. Amazon , opens new tab said it would cut 14,000 corporate jobs, just days before its cloud unit posted its strongest growth in nearly three years.

These developments, along with numerous earnings calls and interviews with executives, make clear that AI has cemented itself as the single biggest catalyst for global corporate investment and the engine of the market rally, even as some question the sustainability of both.

Soaring revenue at Microsoft, Alphabet (GOOGL.O), opens new tab and other technology giants was expected. But more than 100 non-tech global companies noted data centers on quarterly calls this week, including Honeywell , turbine maker GE Vernova, opens new tab, and heavy equipment maker Caterpillar, opens new tab. Sales in Caterpillar’s division that supplies data centers jumped 31% in its most recent quarter. “We’re definitely really excited about

the prime power opportunity with data centers,” CEO Joseph Creed said this week.

“The AI supply chain now spans power, industrials and cooling technology, and investors are looking at the entire ecosystem rather than just core tech,” said Ayako Yoshioka, portfolio manager at Wealth Enhancement Group.

Goldman Sachs estimates global AI-related infrastructure spending could reach \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion by 2030. Microsoft, Amazon, Meta and Alphabet are expected to spend roughly \$350 billion combined this year.

AI investment is propping up global trade, with about 60% of U.S. data-center capex spent on imported IT equipment, according to Oxford Economics, much of it semiconductors from Taiwan, South Korea and Vietnam.

At least two dozen companies representing more than \$21 trillion in combined market value reported quarterly earnings or spoke with Reuters about AI in recent days. Many, including Procter & Gamble, opens new tab and Boliden , opens new tab, noted that the hoped-for productivity gains, though uneven, are beginning to show.

“We strongly believe the future contribution of artificial intelligence within R&D, within developing innovation, will steadily increase,” Schindler (SCHPS), opens new tab CEO Paolo Compagna told Reuters, though he said AI’s impact is yet to be seen. The Swiss lift and escalator maker raised its annual margin forecast last week.

(Reuters)



WASHINGTON/ABUJA - U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday said he has asked the Defense Department to prepare for possible “fast” military action in Nigeria if the West African nation fails to crack down on the killing of Christians.

The U.S. government will also immediately stop all aid and assistance to Nigeria, Africa’s most populous nation and top oil producer, Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

If the United States sends in military forces, it would go in “guns-a-blazing,” to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities,” Trump wrote, without providing any evidence of specifics about the treatment of Christians in Nigeria. Trump called Nigeria a “disgraced country” and warned its government must move quickly. “If we attack, it will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!” he wrote.

Abuja had no immediate reaction to Trump’s threat of military action. The White House also had no immediate comment on the potential timing of any U.S. military action.

Although the U.S. Department of Defense referred Reuters to the White House for comment on Trump’s threat, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth released a social media post of his own.

“The Department of War is preparing for action,” Hegseth wrote on X. “Either the Nigerian Government protects Christians, or we will kill the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities.” Trump’s post on Nigeria came a day after his administration added Nigeria back to a “Countries of Particular Concern” list of nations that the U.S. says have violated religious freedom. Other nations on the list include China, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia and Pakistan.

Before Trump posted his attack threat, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu earlier on Saturday pushed back against claims of religious intolerance and defended his coun-

Trump threatens US military action in Nigeria over treatment of Christians



▲ U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday said he has asked the Defense Department to prepare for possible “fast” military action in Nigeria if the West African nation fails to crack down on the killing of Christians.

try’s efforts to protect religious freedom.

“The characterization of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality, nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians,” Tinubu said in a statement, citing “constitutional guarantees to protect citizens of all faiths.” Nigeria’s Foreign Ministry, in a separate statement, vowed to keep fighting violent extremism and said it hoped Washington would remain a close ally, saying it “will continue to defend all citizens, irrespective of race, creed, or religion. Like America, Nigeria has no option but to celebrate the diversity that is our greatest strength.”

The U.S. military footprint in West Africa was significantly diminished when about 1,000 troops withdrew from Niger last year.

While the U.S. sometimes has small groups of troops in the region to take part in drills, the largest U.S. military base on the continent is in East Africa in Djibouti, which hosts over 5,000 troops and is used for operations in the region.

TRUMP PUT NIGERIA ON ‘CONCERN LIST’ DURING FIRST TERM

Trump had designated Nigeria a country of concern during his first term in the White House. His Democratic successor Joe Biden removed it from the U.S. State Department list in 2021. On Friday, Trump said “thousands of Christians” were being killed in Nigeria by radical Islamists, but offered no details.

Nigeria, which has 200 ethnic groups practicing Christianity, Islam and traditional religions, has a long history of peaceful co-existence, but it has also seen flare-ups of

violence among groups, often exacerbated by ethnic divisions or conflict over scarce resources.

The extremist Islamist armed group Boko Haram has also terrorized northeast Nigeria, an insurgency that has killed tens of thousands of people over the past 15 years. Human rights experts have said most Boko Haram victims have been Muslims.

U.S. lawmakers such as Representative Tom Cole, a Republican who chairs the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, hailed Trump’s move on Friday, citing what they called “the alarming and ongoing persecution of Christians across the country.”

The committee’s fiscal 2026 national security appropriations bill included increased funding for international religious freedom programs and support for programs supporting communities in Nigeria targeted by extremist violence. Trump’s re-designation of Nigeria as a country of concern opens the door to a range of policy responses such as sanctions or waivers, but they are not automatic.

Some religious groups pressed Trump for the re-designation in a letter last month, according to a copy on the Hudson Institute think tank’s website.

“Christianity is facing an existential threat in Nigeria. Thousands of Christians are being killed. Radical Islamists are responsible for this mass slaughter,” Trump wrote without offering any specifics. He also called on the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee to investigate.

(Reuters)



Kenya landslide death toll rises to 26

THE death toll from a landslide in western Kenya’s Rift Valley has risen to 26, a government spokesperson said on Sunday, following heavy rains on Saturday.

Twenty-five people were still missing and 26 others had been rescued after devastating floods in Elgeyo-Marakwet County, government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said in a statement. Most of the rescued people were receiving treatment.

The government has deployed military planes and disaster response specialists to conduct

a search and rescue operation, Mwaura added. Hundreds of people have been killed in recent years in landslides and flooding in Kenya, with scientists saying climate change is causing more intense and frequent extreme weather events.

In the worst incident last year, 61 people were killed in a mudslide and flash floods in central Kenya.

Landslides in the east of neighbouring Uganda have also killed at least 13 people in the last week, according to the Uganda Red Cross.

(Reuters)

Chief Albert Luthuli family says his murder cover-up is sad cost of freedom

THE historic high court ruling that officially recognised anti-apartheid icon Chief Albert Luthuli was murdered has been described by his family as a “bitter-sweet” victory, with their focus now shifting to a deeper quest: uncovering the political deal they believe protected his killers.

On Thursday, Judge Nompumelelo Hadebe of the Pietermaritzburg High Court overturned the 1967 inquest finding that falsely concluded Luthuli was struck and killed by a goods train near his Groutville home.

After months of reviewing extensive oral and written evidence, Judge Hadebe ruled that the former ANC president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate was, in fact, assassinated.

While the Luthuli family feels vindicated by the ruling, their triumph is dampened by the fact that no one will ever face justice.

The National Prosecuting Authority in KwaZulu-Natal confirmed that the last apartheid police officer responsible for the murder died seven years ago. “As a family, we feel vin-



▲ The late anti-apartheid icon Chief Albert Luthuli.

dicated,” said Luthuli’s grandson, Mthunzi Luthuli. “We have been saying that Chief Luthuli was murdered by the apartheid government. For many, many years... the truth has been suppressed all this time.”

Mthunzi described the moment as “bitter-sweet”, explaining that while the legal victory is significant, the decades-long delay has ensured the perpetrators escaped accountability.

“We believe that this was the plan all along... just to protect the white people who are guilty of this murder. It’s a very, very unfortunate situation.” The family’s grief is compounded by a profound sense of

betrayal. Mthunzi asserted that the killers “literally got away with murder under the watch of the ANC”.

He expressed deep sadness that the liberation movement his grandfather dedicated his life to allowed this to happen.

This accusation forms the core of the family’s new hope. They believe the next stage of reckoning must lay bare the nature of the political settlement that ushered in South Africa’s freedom, arguing that it involved burying the truth of past atrocities.

“My hope is that all truths will be revealed soon, truths not only behind the apartheid political killings but also the truth behind the political settlement in this country,” Mthunzi said.

“South Africa is living a lie, is living a lie, and the truth has not been told yet.”

The family is hopeful that the continued scrutiny of the Luthuli case will force a national conversation about the compromises made during the transition from apartheid, revealing the players who allowed known assassins to go free in the name of political stability.

(Sunday World)



▲ Pope Leo on Sunday appealed for an immediate ceasefire and the opening of humanitarian corridors in Sudan,

Pope Leo decries Sudan violence, urges dialogue and relief effort

POPE Leo on Sunday appealed for an immediate ceasefire and the opening of humanitarian corridors in Sudan, saying he was following with “great sorrow” reports of terrible brutality in the city of Al-Fashir in Darfur.

“Indiscriminate violence against women and children, attacks on defenceless civilians and serious obstacles to humanitarian action are

causing unacceptable suffering,” the pope said during his weekly Angelus address to crowds in St. Peter’s Square.

He called on the international community to act “decisively and generously” to support relief efforts.

The U.N. human rights office said on Friday that hundreds of civilians and unarmed fighters may have been killed late last month when the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces

captured Al-Fashir, the Sudanese army’s last major holdout in Darfur.

The city fell a week ago after an 18-month siege, prompting tens of thousands to flee.

Pope Leo also addressed the situation in Tanzania on Sunday, saying there had been clashes with numerous casualties after recent national elections. He urged all sides to avoid violence and “walk the path of dialogue”. (Reuters)

Jamaican farms reel from Hurricane Melissa, fueling fears of food shortages

Designed to withstand 150-mph winds, the egg farm Osbourne Brumley built with his life savings in western Jamaica’s St. Elizabeth parish proved no match for Category 5 Hurricane Melissa.

On Tuesday, Melissa’s 185-mph (298-kph) winds tore across the western side of the island, damaging Brumley’s facility and killing thousands of chickens.

St. Elizabeth, considered Jamaica’s breadbasket, was left reeling after the storm, which flattened fields of yams, pumpkins, potatoes, and cassava in western Jamaica and caused losses among livestock.

The damage has stirred fears the country of 2.8 million people, where at least 28 people died because of the storm, could face shortages of food staples as farmers struggle to recover and replant.

Brumley, 69, who expects losses on his uninsured J\$540-million (\$3.37-million) investment, warns Melissa’s blow could trigger a “massive” egg shortage on the island.

The storm ripped the roofs from two birdhouses, collapsing the heavy metal feed silo and other equipment.

With no electricity for automated feeders and staff shortages caused by the storm, Brumley fears the remaining birds will soon perish.

Brumley’s other farm in Springfield,



10 miles (16 km) away, was also destroyed. His facilities combined produced 75,000 eggs daily, supplying over 200 supermarkets across six parishes and 14 hotels.

“They’re gonna be in trouble,” he said. “There’s no other egg farm in Jamaica the size of mine.”

Before Melissa, eggs were already scarce following Hurricane Beryl, which grazed Jamaica’s southern coast in July 2024 as a Category 4 storm, damaging crops and livestock across farming parishes Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth and producing temporary shortages of vegetables and produce.

“We are going to be short on food,” said Ricardo Williams, 33, who helps his father farm cassava, corn,

potatoes and pumpkins in Mitcham, St. Elizabeth.

Other farmers agreed, saying livestock losses and destroyed fields mean some crops will not return until at least February, and that where produce survives, some prices could double.

Agriculture Minister Floyd Green said Melissa will have “a crippling effect on our agricultural sector” because some of the hardest-hit parishes are also the most productive. A fuller scope of the damage, he added, will not be known until assessments are completed this week.

Once the evaluation is done, Green said, a disaster-recovery task force will devise a plan to boost output

Blaze at Mexico store kills 23, including children

A festive holiday weekend turned tragic for families in northwestern Mexico on Saturday when a deadly blaze engulfed a discount store in the city center of Hermosillo, killing at least 23 people and injuring a dozen.

Mexico is celebrating the Day of the Dead this weekend with colourful festivities in which families honor and remember deceased loved ones.

“I have ordered a thorough and transparent investigation to clarify the causes of the accident,” Alfonso Durazo, governor of the state of Sonora home to the city, said in a video on social media, adding that children were among the victims.

Most of the deaths appeared to have been from inhalation of toxic gases, said Gustavo Salas,

the state’s attorney general, citing its forensic medical service.

“My heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives,” President Claudia Sheinbaum said in a post on X, adding that she had directed support teams to be sent to help victims’ families and the injured.

Sonora’s Red Cross said its 40 staff and 10 ambulances joined in the effort, making six trips to the hospital.

The cause of the fire, now doused, was still unclear, though some media blamed an electrical failure. City officials said the store, part of popular discount chain Waldo’s, was not the target of an attack. The chief of the city’s firefighters said it was still being investigated whether there was an explosion.

(Reuters)



▲ Forensic technicians work in the area where a fire inside a store killed multiple people, in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Pentagon chief urges closer ties with Vietnam

The United States wants deeper military ties with Vietnam, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Sunday at the start of a visit to Hanoi, amid prolonged talks for the potential supply of military equipment to Washington’s former foe.

The Southeast Asian nation, which relies heavily on Russian weapons, has been looking to diversify its arsenal for years. Talks with the United States, which lifted an arms embargo in 2016, gained momentum during the Biden administration but have not yet yielded any formal announcement on major items.

“Deeper (military) cooperation will benefit both of our countries,” Hegseth, who arrived in the Vietnamese capital after meetings in Malaysia with Asian counterparts, said prior to meeting Defence Minister Phan Van Giang.

The United States had already delivered three cutters to the Vietnamese coastguard and three T-6 trainer aircraft, from

an order of 12, and intended to do more, he added.

In a statement, Vietnam’s defence ministry said both governments agreed to continue promoting security cooperation, including in areas such as defence.

It also praised the signing of an agreement on Friday to deepen cooperation on war legacy remediation, including for dioxin decontamination.

Talks on U.S. arms supplies are expected to dominate the agenda, according to two Vietnamese sources briefed on the matter.

Both mentioned Lockheed Martin (LMT.N), opens new tab C-130 Hercules military transport planes among the items to be discussed. A U.S. official also confirmed C-130s would come up in the talks.

One of the Vietnamese sources said the supply of U.S. helicopters could also be discussed, specifically Lockheed Martin S-92s and Boeing (BA.N), opens new tab Chinooks.

(Reuters)

Gifted Kosie makes waves in Uganda

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

ESWATINI'S celebrated DJ and dancer, Gifted Kosie, has recently made a significant impact on the East African music scene with her dynamic performances and cultural exchange in Uganda.

Kosie described the experience as deeply enriching, emphasising the power of music and dance to unite diverse audiences. "It was a truly special one. To travel all the way from Eswatini to Uganda and feel such a deep, unified energy on the dance floor is what I enjoy the most," she reflected. The warm reception she received in Uganda exceeded her expectations. The organisers meticulously prepared for her arrival, demonstrating a respect and understanding of her artistry.

"The love they showed me in Uganda was unreal. They showed me that my arrival was well prepared. They understood that I'm a dancer and they prepared other dancers for me to vibe with on stage," Kosie explained. This thoughtful coordination, according to her, not only enhanced her performances but also fostered meaningful collaboration with local artists, enriching the cultural exchange.

Beyond live shows, Kosie's visit opened new professional avenues. She was invited to appear on one of Uganda's most prominent podcasts and featured on NRG 106.5 FM, where DJ VX Faisal conducted an in-depth interview. This media exposure significantly broadened her audience, positioning her brand prominently within



▲ Gifted Kosie.

the East African entertainment landscape. "This was an amazing experience and good exposure for me," Kosie noted. "After the interview, I started receiving new bookings from other clubs for my next trip to Uganda."

Looking ahead, Kosie teased exciting plans for her fans. She intends to return to Uganda later this year, bringing along

another DJ from Eswatini to expand their presence in the region. "More great opportunities should be expected from me this coming festive season," she revealed. "Just to hint, I might be going back to Uganda in December, and I'll tag along one DJ from Eswatini to go with. So, this was just the beginning, sit back and enjoy the show."

Tribal Natives postpone Native Xperience

THE much-anticipated return of Tribal Natives to Malandela's Lifestyle, originally scheduled for November 1, 2025, has been postponed due to expected unfavourable weather conditions.

The announcement was made by the duo on their social media platforms, where they expressed gratitude to fans, fellow artists, partners, and sponsors for their understanding and support. "Hi Natives, we've made the call to postpone this weekend's event due to the strong possibility of unfavourable weather conditions. Big love to all our fans for the support, and deep thanks to our fellow artists, partners and sponsors for their input and flexibility. New date loading, stay tuned and stay safe!" the post read. The event, known as the Native Xperience, has garnered significant excitement as a cultural celebration designed to ignite the spirit of African identity through a powerful fusion of music, dance, and storytelling. This upcoming edition was set to be the second, promising even greater depth and innovation than its predecessor. For DJ Ash, one-half of the iconic Eswatini duo Tribal Natives, the Native Xperience represents more than just a concert, it is a homecoming and a renewal of purpose. "Honestly, it feels amazing to be coming back with the Native Xperience," she shared. "This event has always been close to our hearts

because it's not just about performing, it's about reconnecting with our roots and our people." The Native Xperience is crafted as an immersive cultural journey that transcends traditional music performances. DJ Ash explained that every detail, from the live percussion to the traditional attire, is carefully curated to embody African identity and heritage.

Energy

"When we say 'Natives,' we're talking about connecting to the spirit of Africa, the rhythm, the ancestral energy, the communal vibe," she emphasised. This ethos resonates deeply with audiences who seek more than

entertainment, yearning for a connection to their cultural roots. Since their debut, Tribal Natives have stood out by blending Afrohouse beats with traditional Swati sounds, creating a unique musical style that bridges the ancient and the contemporary.

Their performances often feature traditional Eswatini instruments such as the emahlokhloko, a wooden percussion instrument, alongside vocal chants inspired by local ceremonies. These fusion crafts a deeply spiritual and transcendent experience that elevates their shows beyond mere entertainment into the realm of ritual and cultural expression. Looking forward to the rescheduled Native Xperience, DJ Ash promises an evolution in the group's artistry. "This edition will introduce new layers of live instrumentation and collaborations with vocalists and dancers," she revealed. "The energy is deeper, and our set is bolder." Beyond the spectacle, Tribal Natives see the Native Xperience as a catalyst for a broader cultural movement. DJ Ash articulated a mission that extends well beyond entertainment. "Our vision goes beyond music; it's about cultural preservation and global representation."



◀ Tribal Native.



▲ Lady Sphesh.

Zikomo Awards 2025:

Lady Sphesh gets double nomination

LADY Sphesh, Eswatini's emerging musical sensation, has achieved a significant milestone by securing two nominations at the highly esteemed Zikomo Awards 2025.

This dual recognition not only underscores her rapid ascent within Africa's dynamic music landscape but also signals the increasing visibility of Eswatini's creative talents on the continental and global stages. Lady Sphesh's nominations for Best Zikomo Artist of the Year and Best Zikomo Rising Star place her among the top contenders, highlighting her versatility and growing influence.

The Zikomo Awards, formally known as the Zikomo Africa and Caribbean Awards, are a prestigious platform that honours excellence across diverse fields, including music, film, fashion, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. The 2025 edition, scheduled for November 26, 2025, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is eagerly anticipated by industry insiders and fans alike.

Authentic

Born Siphesihle Shongwe, Lady Sphesh has steadily built a reputation as a powerful voice from Eswatini, blending authentic storytelling with contemporary sounds that resonate across Africa's diverse audiences. Her journey from local stages to international platforms exemplifies the potential of artists from smaller nations to impact the broader African music scene.

Expressing her gratitude and excitement on social media, Lady Sphesh wrote on her official Facebook page, "Honoured to be nominated again! This time, for Best Zikomo Artist of the Year 2025 and Best Zikomo Rising Star. Grateful for the continuous love and support, let's do it again, fam!"

Earlier in 2025, Lady Sphesh garnered significant attention when she won the Best Young Achiever Award at the Music Video Africa Awards held in Lagos, Nigeria. This accolade affirmed her status as a rising star and validated her commitment to artistic excellence. She described the award as a testament to how passion and consistency can transform aspirations into tangible success.

Beyond her musical accomplishments, Lady Sphesh has expanded her reach through media appearances, most notably on South Africa's eTV program, The Morning Show. There, she shared insights into her career trajectory, ambitions, and the importance of gaining international exposure. "Being featured on eTV's The Morning Show represents growth and progress in my journey," she remarked, emphasising the significance of expanding her audience beyond Eswatini's borders.

Sgitha for Eswatini Lifestyle Awards After Party

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

ESWATINI DJ Sgitha is set to take centre stage as one of the headliners for the newly rebranded Eswatini Lifestyle Awards After Party.

Scheduled for November 29, 2025, at the prestigious Mavuso Trade Centre, the Eswatini Lifestyle Awards will unfold over several exciting hours. The festivities begin with a red-carpet event from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, offering attendees a chance to witness the arrival of Eswatini's most influential figures in style.

Following this, a lively karaoke session from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm will engage guests in an interactive and entertaining warm-up before the main awards ceremony, which will run until 10:00 pm. Ticket prices are set at E250 for general admission and E350 for VIP access, making the event accessible while offering premium experiences for select guests.

The transformation from the former Jumbo Festival to the Eswatini Lifestyle Awards marks a significant strategic shift. This rebranding effort is designed to broaden the event's scope and enhance its prestige by explicitly highlighting the awards component. The change reflects a deeper commitment to acknowledging the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations that shape Eswatini's vibrant lifestyle sectors, including business, leadership, corporate affairs, culture, fashion, and creativity.

Jumbo Khumalo, the event director, expressed his excitement about this new chapter. "We are thrilled to announce the rebranding of the Jumbo Festival to Eswatini Lifestyle Awards. This exciting new chapter reflects our commitment to celebrating the best of Eswatini's praiseworthy personalities across all fraternal of lifestyle



▲ DJ Sgitha.

like business, leadership, corporate, culture, fashion and creativity."

Inception

Since its inception, the Jumbo Festival has been a vibrant platform showcasing Eswatini's rich talent and innovation. It has provided a stage for both emerging and established figures to be recognised for their contributions to the country's dynamic lifestyle landscape. Over time, the organisers identified the need to place greater emphasis on the awards aspect

to better honour excellence and inspire continued growth and achievement within the community.

"The Jumbo Festival has been a staple of Eswatini's lifestyle scene, showcasing talented individuals across various categories. As we continue to grow and evolve, we have recognised the need to intensify the awards part of the concept henceforth the resolution to have the word 'awards' in the event name," Khumalo explained.

Mzayoni joins Bongekile Nxumalo's live recording

GOSPEL music enthusiasts are gearing up for a remarkable event as celebrated gospel star Mzayoni Tsabedze prepares to feature in the live recording of Bongekile Nxumalo's debut album, 'In Spirit and In Truth.'

Set to take place on December 6, 2025, at the TLC Events Centre, this event, which has also confirmed Lusanda Beja, Tenele Shongwe and Khaya Mthethwa, promises to be a profound celebration of faith, ministry, and heartfelt worship, beginning at 4 pm.



▲ Mzayoni.

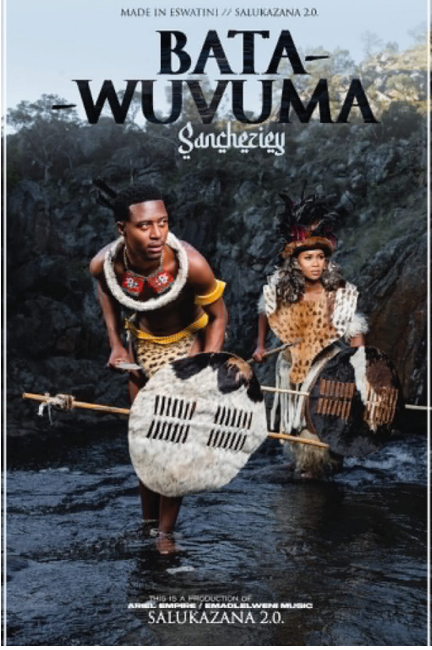
Bongekile Nxumalo, a gospel musician known for her inspiring hit song 'Uthando,' is poised to make a significant mark with this live recording. The event is more than a musical showcase; it is a spiritual milestone that reflects Nxumalo's deep commitment to the calling she believes God has placed on her life.

In a recent interview, she shared the driving force behind the album and event, emphasising the importance of honouring the ministry entrusted to her. "The main aim is appreciating the ministry God has placed in my life," Nxumalo said with conviction. Her inspiration draws heavily from the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), which teaches the value of faithfulness and obedience in serving God. Nxumalo expressed her heartfelt prayer that her efforts will be met with divine approval: "I pray that when Christ comes back, He says, 'Well done, good and faithful servant,' for being obedient to His call." This biblical foundation sets the tone for the album's message and the live recording experience.

The title In Spirit and In Truth is a direct reference to John 4:23, where Jesus speaks about worshipping God authentically and sincerely. Nxumalo explained that the album is a "cry for living purely even when no one sees us," highlighting the challenge of maintaining holiness in the often demanding and competitive music industry. "It's encouraging that we live a holy life even in the music industry where holiness matters more than talent," she noted.

Attendees of the live recording can expect an atmosphere charged with spirit-filled worship and praise, creating a communal space where truth and unity prevail. Nxumalo assured that the songs will uplift hearts and glorify God, urging everyone to come with an expectant heart ready to receive. "I encourage that they come expectant from God," she said, underscoring the transformative power that worship holds.

The event is open to all, regardless of faith background, reflecting Nxumalo's inclusive vision. Tickets are currently on sale, with general tickets set at E200, while VIP tickets sell for E400. Given the anticipated demand, Nxumalo stressed the urgency of securing tickets early. "Everyone is invited, saved or not, and tickets are already available. I must emphasise that they are very limited, so run while you still can get them," she urged.



Sancheziey releases 'Batawuvuma'

ESWATINI artist Sancheziey has released his highly anticipated new single, 'Batawuvuma.'

This cultural Afro Pop track, which has already gained over 1,500 views on YouTube, according to Sancheziey, draws deeply from the Swati traditional sound of 'Batawuvuma Bayekeleni,' blending it seamlessly with modern musical elements to create a unique and powerful anthem. The star revealed that the song is inspired by the Salukazana sound, a style that bridges generations by infusing cultural rhythms with Western hip hop beats and African instrumentation.

Describing the essence of 'Batawuvuma,' Sancheziey explained that the song carries a rich maskandi flavour combined with a hip hop vibe, all rooted firmly in Afro Pop. He emphasised that the track reflects the challenges many face in life's pursuit of success. "It's been quite some time for everyone or a high percentage of people trying in life generally," he said. "With this, they've faced different challenges along the road of their chase. This song comes as a surety of your succession and the disappointment to those who believed not in whatever you were trying to achieve."

Snippet

Written by Sancheziey, 'Batawuvuma' has already begun to capture the hearts of many since a snippet was released at the end of September. The song has sparked conversations among fans, some even suggesting it poses a challenge to the popular artist Siyabonga Gogo. Sancheziey addressed these comparisons, stating, "Many feel like it's threatening Siyabonga Gogo, yet I believe it's going to make a statement that I'm here to stay and the fact that it's made from Siyabonga Gogo as that song plays as the mother of all music to come from me." he intended to create a song that resonates universally, writing it "so everyone can relate" regardless of their personal life struggles.

The production of 'Batawuvuma' was a collaborative effort with Emadelweni Records, who crafted the beat and provided backing vocals. The track features contributions from a host of talented artists including Nkay, Capital Prince, Apex the vocalist, Yaya, Kasikazi, Tus Mvuleni, and Ulaka lebhuhesi, who added unique illulations to the song. During the recording sessions, Sancheziey noted a spontaneous cultural connection. "No one told anyone to do the Swati cultural dance, but everyone did that and that proves the song has direction as far as the target audience."

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Broccoli and Friends

VEGGIES like broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and cabbage are high in vitamins A and C.

These are antioxidants that may help offset the toxins and carcinogens that can trigger breast cancer. Sauté or blanch these veggies to get the max nutrients. And try to get your antioxidants from food instead of supplements. Some research suggests antioxidant supplements may be risky during breast cancer treatment.

Flax Seeds

Flax seeds are known for their omega-3s, but they're good for your breasts because they have more lignans than any other food. These are plant compounds that have fiber and the antioxidant phytoestrogen. Researchers think phytoestrogen targets estrogen receptors so estrogen-stimulated breast cancer can't form. Toss flax seeds (not flaxseed oil) into yogurt, oatmeal, salads, soups, smoothies, and muffins.

Turmeric

People have used turmeric to curb inflammation for centuries. And early research suggests it may have two big breast cancer benefits. Curcumin, the active compound in turmeric, may help stop the spread of breast cancer and lessen the damage of chemotherapy on other parts of your body. But that finding comes from lab studies -- more research is needed to see if this will hold true in humans. Eat turmeric in curry dishes, or add it to your soups, scrambled eggs, or warm milk.

Red and Orange Produce

Carotenoids are natural pigments that give tomatoes, carrots, and sweet potatoes their color. Your body converts them to vitamin A, which is important for your eyes. They also help keep your skin healthy. More research is needed, but some studies suggest there may be a link between carotenoids and a lower risk of some types of breast cancer.

Oily Fish

These benefit your breasts with cancer-fighting vitamin D and omega-3. Some lab research shows that omega-3 can stop blood vessels from growing inside a tumor. But more research is needed to know if eating oily fish can lower cancer risk. Focus on salmon, tuna, sardines, anchovies, and mackerel to avoid mercury exposure and get the most nutrients.

Berries

Blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries are high in immunity-boosting vitamin C. They also contain antioxidants that protect your body from cell damage. Fresh, frozen, or dried, berries are great on their own and easy to add to yogurt, cereal, smoothies, and muffins.

Walnuts

Many studies point to a diet with more plant-based protein than meat to protect your breasts from cancer or lower the risk of it coming back. Try ground walnuts tossed with seasoning to replace ground beef in tacos. One study has shown that eating walnuts helps slow breast tumor growth and may even help lower the risk of

Best foods for healthy breasts



breast cancer.

Grapes

Grapes, especially red and purple, have high levels of resveratrol. That's an antioxidant linked to the prevention of breast, liver, and stomach cancer. Snack on a bunch of grapes right off the vine, freeze them as a cool dessert, or add them to salads. Just keep the skin on: That's where most of the antioxidants live.

Soy Protein

Years ago, rodent-based research linked soy foods with breast cancer. But updated studies explain that rodents and humans process soy differently. Healthy soy foods

like soybeans (edamame), tofu, and tempeh are safe and have phytonutrients -- called isoflavones -- that may help prevent cancer.

Lentils

These are another way to get plant-based protein that eases inflammation and may lower your risk of breast cancer. They're also high in fiber and antioxidants. Buy them ready-made or cook up a batch of black, green, or red lentils to use in place of ground beef in chili, Mexican, and Italian dishes.

Black Beans

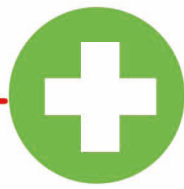
Of all the varieties of beans, these are considered one of the healthiest. Also

called turtle beans, their high antioxidant levels may help lower your risk of breast cancer, other types of cancer, and ongoing illnesses. Black beans are also a strong source of ergothioneine, an amino acid that protects your DNA.

Whole Grains

These are a crucial source of bioactive phytochemicals, natural compounds that can help prevent or manage breast cancer. In one study, women who ate whole grains more than seven times a week showed a reduced risk of breast cancer. Sound like a lot? Whole-grain oatmeal, bread, crackers, tortillas, cereals, pastas, and brown rice all count.

WebMD



What Is Hip Pain?

THE hip joint can withstand repeated motion and a fair amount of wear and tear.

As the largest ball-and-socket joint in the body, its structure allows for fluid movement.

Whenever you use the hip (for example, by going for a run), a cushion of cartilage helps prevent friction as the hip bone moves in its socket.

Despite its durability, the hip joint isn't indestructible. With age and use, the cartilage can wear down or become damaged. Muscles and tendons in the hip can get overused. Bones in the hip can break during a fall or other injury. Any of these conditions can lead to hip pain.

If your hips are sore, here is a rundown of what might be causing your discomfort and how to get relief from hip pain.

Symptoms of Hip Pain

Depending on the condition that's causing your hip pain, you might feel discomfort in your:

- ▶ Thigh
- ▶ Inside of the hip joint
- ▶ Groin
- ▶ Outside of the hip joint
- ▶ Butt

Sometimes, pain from other areas of the body, such as the back or groin (from a hernia), can radiate to the hip.

You might notice that your pain gets worse with activity, especially if it's caused by arthritis. Along with the pain, you might have a reduced range of motion. Some people develop a limp from persistent hip pain.

Hip Pain Causes

Hip pain can have many different causes. Depending on the cause, you may feel pain in different areas of the hip, such as the inside of the hip or groin, and the outside of the hip or buttock area.

Common causes of hip pain

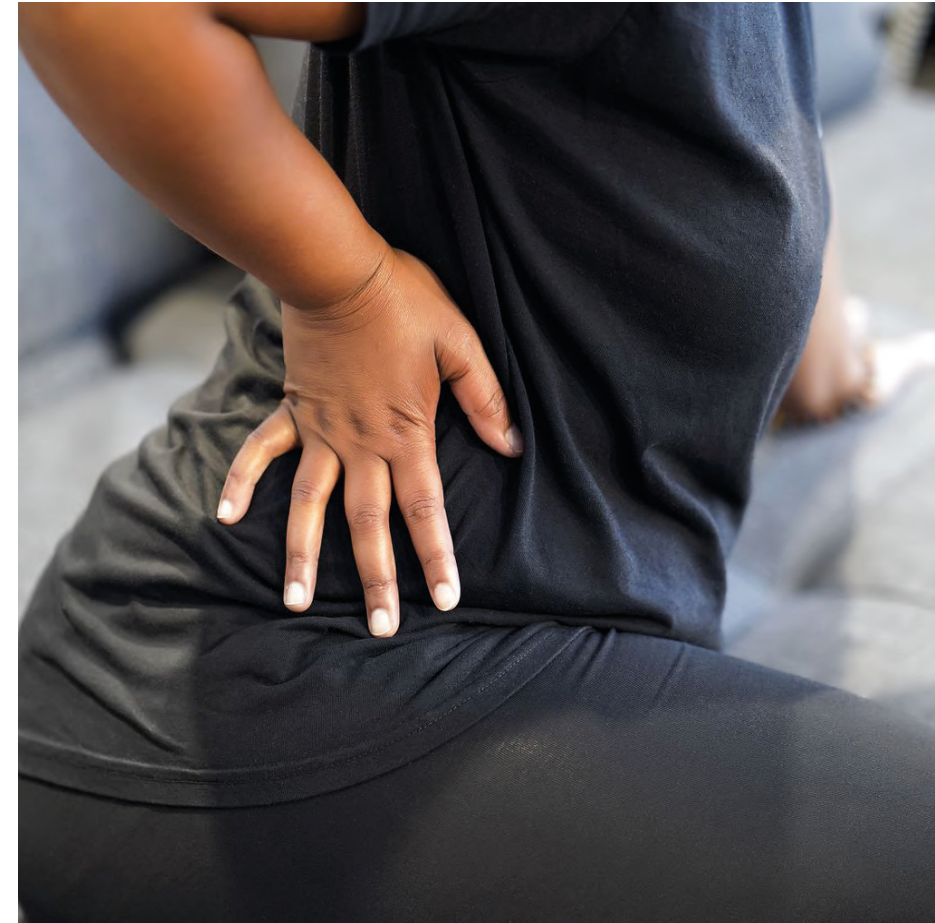
These are some of the conditions that often cause hip pain:

▶ **Osteoarthritis.** It is one of the most common causes of hip pain, especially in older people. With osteoarthritis, either an injury or normal wear and tear damages the cartilage that cushions your hip bones, and that lack of cushioning causes pain and stiffness. You may also have a reduced range of motion in your hip.

▶ **Hip fractures.** As you age, your bones can become weak and brittle, making them more likely to break during a fall. A hip fracture can be caused by this type of injury or by repetitive stress. You can get a stress fracture when pressure is repeatedly placed on the bone, such as during sports. Stress fractures are common among athletes.

▶ **Bursitis.** Bursae are sacs of liquid found between tissues such as bone, muscles, and tendons (which connect muscles to bones). Bursae ease the friction from these tissues rubbing together. When bursae get inflamed, they can cause pain. This usually happens because of repetitive activities that overwork or irritate the hip joint.

▶ **Tendinitis.** Tendons are the thick



bands of tissue that attach bones to muscles. Tendinitis is inflammation or irritation of the tendons. It's usually caused by repetitive stress from overuse. Learn more about tendinitis symptoms.

▶ **Muscle or tendon strain.** Repeated activities can put strain on the muscles, tendons, and ligaments that support the hips. When they become inflamed due to overuse, they can cause pain and prevent the hip from working normally. One example is a strain in the hip flexor, a muscle where your thigh meets your hip. Learn about the best stretches for tight hip muscles.

▶ **Hip labral tear.** This is a rip in the ring of cartilage (called the labrum) that follows the outside rim of your hip joint socket. Your labrum cushions your hip joint and acts like a rubber seal or gasket to help hold the ball at the top of your thighbone securely within your hip socket. Athletes and people who perform repetitive twisting movements are at higher risk of developing this problem. Learn more about hip labral tears.

▶ **Sciatica.** Your sciatic nerve runs through your buttock and hip on each side. Sciatica, sometimes called a pinched nerve, is when the nerve is injured or irritated, and it can cause hip pain.

Other hip pain causes

▶ **Cancer.** Tumors that start in the bone or spread to the bone can cause pain in the hips, as well as in other bones of the body.

▶ **Avascular necrosis (also called**

osteonecrosis). This condition happens when blood flow to the hip bone slows and the bone tissue dies. Although it can affect other bones, avascular necrosis most often happens in the hip. It can be caused by a hip fracture or dislocation, or by taking high-dose steroids (such as prednisone) for a long time, among other causes.

▶ **Inflammatory arthritis.** People of all ages can develop inflammatory arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis, which involves the lining of the joint becoming inflamed. It can cause pain and stiffness in your hip. This type of arthritis is a less common cause of hip pain than osteoarthritis.

▶ **Fibromyalgia.** This ongoing condition causes pain in the muscles and tissues all over your body, including those in and around your hip.

Causes of hip pain in children

Hip pain in children can be caused by:

- ▶ An injury, such as a labral tear or hip fracture
- ▶ A structural hip issue, such as hip dysplasia, which happens when the hip socket is too shallow
- ▶ A disease, such as Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, in which the bone breaks down because the femoral head temporarily loses its blood supply
- ▶ An infection, such as septic arthritis, in which the joint tissues and fluid are infected

Why does my right hip hurt when standing?

Many causes of hip pain, such as injuries, may happen on only one side. If you have hip pain on only one side, it could also be from habits such as carrying a baby on that hip or sleeping on that side.

But if you have pain in your abdomen on the right side, above your hip bone, it could be appendicitis, which is an infection or irritation of your appendix. If you have pain in that area, you should see a doctor right away.

What causes left hip pain in women?

Hip pain on the left side could be caused by using that hip differently, like sleeping on your left side every night or sitting with your legs crossed.

Hip pain is common during pregnancy, and sometimes the pain is worse on one side.

Among older women, a tendon disorder called gluteal tendinopathy is a common cause of hip pain. With this disorder, the tendons that connect to your buttocks muscles break down.

Why is hip pain during pregnancy common?

During pregnancy, hip pain is common because pregnancy hormones relax your ligaments and loosen up your pelvic bones to prepare your body for childbirth. This often causes pain in the hips and pelvis.

How Is Hip Pain Diagnosed?

To diagnose your hip pain, your doctor will do a physical exam. This may include checking your range of motion, how you walk, and your muscle strength.

Depending on the exam and the type of pain you have, your doctor may also order imaging tests such as:

- ▶ X-ray
- ▶ MRI
- ▶ CT scan
- ▶ Ultrasound

How to Relieve Hip Pain

The best way to ease your hip pain depends on what's causing it. Your doctor can recommend treatments and pain relief methods that are appropriate for you.

Medications

If your hip pain is caused by a muscle or tendon strain, osteoarthritis, or tendinitis, you can usually relieve it with an over-the-counter pain medication, such as acetaminophen or a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug such as ibuprofen or naproxen.

Rheumatoid arthritis treatments also include prescription anti-inflammatory medications such as corticosteroids, disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) such as methotrexate and sulfasalazine, and biologics, which target the immune system.

WebMD

Around the world in pics



▲ A member of the media shows the front page of a newspaper outside the entrance to the Royal Lodge, a large property on the estate surrounding Windsor Castle, where Andrew, the younger brother of Britain's King Charles lives, in Windsor, Britain.



▲ A lioness receives dental treatment from veterinarians of the global animal welfare organisation FOUR PAWS at the former Zoo Lujan, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina.



▲ Homes damaged by Hurricane Melissa on Tuesday in Kingston, Jamaica.



▲ A woman fills a container with water after heavy rains brought by Hurricane Melissa caused deadly flooding in Petit Goave, Haiti.



▲ President Donald Trump displays a print of a TIME cover that mentions his 2024 assassination attempt, which a girl gave him to sign, during a Halloween event for children at the White House in



▲ A family that collects recyclables for a living works amid smog and air pollution along the Malir River in Karachi,

ERLING Haaland scored twice to propel Manchester City up to second in the Premier League with a 3-1 win over Bournemouth on Sunday. The Cherries started the day in second thanks to the longest unbeaten run in the English top flight.

But Andoni Iraola’s side were undone by the scintillating form of the Norwegian striker, who took his tally to 13 Premier League goals in 10 games.

Haaland’s relentless streak is maintaining City’s title challenge as they reduced the gap to leaders Arsenal back to six points and edged one point ahead of Liverpool, who they face next weekend.

Despite a first defeat in 10 games away to Aston Villa last weekend, Pep Guardiola remained confident his side can pose a threat to Arsenal come May.

There were more encouraging signs for Guardiola as Rayan Cherki and Phil Foden shone in creative roles, while Nico O’Riley became the first City player other than Haaland to score in the Premier League for over a month.

Buoyed by their unbeaten streak since losing at Liverpool on the opening night of the season, Bournemouth started brightly.

However, their brave high line was exposed on 17 minutes when Cherki’s header allowed Haaland to gallop clear from inside his own half to slam past Djordje Petrovic.

The visitors levelled eight minutes later when Gianluigi Donnarumma claimed he was impeded as the Italian tried to collect a corner and Tyler Adams thrashed home the loose ball.

But Haaland restored City’s advantage

Haaland fires Man City up to second in Premier League

before halftime by racing onto another Cherki pass in behind the Bournemouth defence to round Petrovic and slot home his 26th goal for club and country this season.

Rayan Cherki and Erling Haaland do the double

Stream #MCIBOU on DStv: <https://t.co/> The 25-year-old also became only the third player to ever score multiple goals in four consecutive Premier League home games after Luis Suarez and Robbie Fowler.

Guardiola has called for greater contributions from his other attacking players to lessen the goalscoring burden on his prolific No 9. Still no City player other than Haaland has scored more than once in the league this season, but O’Riley chipped in from full-back to seal the three points.

Foden was the creator this time as O’Riley strode forward before arrowing a low shot into the far corner.

Haaland was denied the chance of a hat-trick as he was replaced by Omar Marmoush eight minutes from time with one eye on facing his former club Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday.

A double was enough to keep City still within range despite Arsenal’s rampant run of nine consecutive wins and seven straight clean sheets in all competitions.

(Super Sport)



▲ Erling Haaland scored twice to propel Manchester City up to second in the Premier League.

Inter snapping at Napoli’s heels, Roma poised to pounce

INTER Milan were handed a 2-1 win at Verona by a late own goal on Sunday to move to within a point of stuttering Serie A leaders Napoli.

Defending champions Napoli slugged out a 0-0 deadlock with rising force Como on Saturday.

Inter, last season’s Champions League finalists, took to the pitch knowing a win would leave them breathing down Napoli’s neck.

Winless so far this season, Verona fell behind in the 16th minute when Inter’s Piotr Zielinski produced a moment of magic.

The Polish midfielder arrived on the edge of the box to fire home a thunderous volley from a poorly cleared corner.

Giovane levelled for Verona on 40 minutes and the sides went back to the dressing rooms level at 1-1.

In a second half under relentless rain, it

appeared the game would peter out, until a late cross from Nicolo Barella was turned agonisingly into his own goal by Verona defender Martin Frese three minutes into added time.

“It was one of those matches that’s easier to lose than win but we did okay, we showed character,” said Inter coach Cristian Chivu.

Goal hero Zielinski praised Chivu’s leadership.

“His message is sinking in, you get moments like this in a season, when it’s hard to win,” he said.

With Napoli on 22 points and Inter on 21, Roma could climb clear on 24 if they can navigate an away win at AC Milan later on Sunday.

Struggling Fiorentina lost 1-0 at home to Lecce and remain winless from 10 Serie A games, while Torino and Pisa drew 2-2.

(Super Sport)



▲ Inter Milan were handed a 2-1 win at Verona by a late own goal on Sunday



▲ Akie and Chisato Iwai.

History-making Japan golf twins push each other to greater heights

AKIE and Chisato Iwai were born just a minute apart and now the identical twins from Japan are making history together on the LPGA Tour.

Competing in their debut seasons on the top professional women’s golf circuit, Chisato won the Riviera Maya Open in Mexico in May for her first LPGA title.

Not to be outdone, Akie – nominally the older of the twins – triumphed in Portland just three months later.

The 23-year-olds are the first twins to secure silverware on the LPGA Tour.

“I didn’t think I would win on the Tour this year,” Akie told AFP this week at the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur.

“But my sister won first, and her victory inspired me. I did my best and felt the power in me to win.

“This is a special year for the both of us.”

Chisato echoed Akie’s sentiments as the siblings push each other on to even greater heights on their rookie seasons on the LPGA Tour. “We inspire each other a lot, so it’s a special feeling for both of us to win,” she

said.

The LPGA Tour has witnessed its fair share of title-winning siblings.

They include Sweden’s Annika and Charlotta Sorenstam, Thailand’s Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn, and US sisters Nelly and Jessica Korda.

The Americans have 21 Tour titles between them, and counting.

As the first twins to win on the tour, the Iwais are a source of particular intrigue, even if they are actually quite different in some respects. Akie is described as quieter and is more inclined to wear baseball caps. Chisato is more outgoing and prefers wearing a visor.

They also differ out on the course.

Chisato is said to be a stronger putter while Akie is known to hit the baller farther.

They like to leave the golf talk out on the course. “We do not talk about golf. Just about life in general,” said Chisato.

Going into Sunday’s final round in Malaysia, Akie was tied for seventh. Her sister was out of the running in tied 28th.

(Super Sport)

Sinner seizes Paris Masters crown to reclaim world number one ranking

ITALY'S Jannik Sinner powered past Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4 7-6(4) to capture his maiden Paris Masters title on Sunday, a triumph that catapulted the Italian back to the summit of the men's rankings ahead of the ATP Finals. The second seed knew only victory would suffice to leapfrog rival Carlos Alcaraz atop the standings and he delivered in style to become just the fourth player in tournament history to lift the trophy without dropping a set.

For Auger-Aliassime, the stakes were equally high but the outcome crushingly different. The Canadian ninth seed needed the title to secure his spot at the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, but instead saw his hopes dashed in a high-quality final.

Sinner's Paris conquest marked his first Masters crown of the year and fifth title of 2025, extending his remarkable indoor hardcourt winning streak to 26 matches.

'INTENSE FINAL'

"It's huge, honestly. It was such an intense final here and we both knew what's on the line. Also him, he's in a very tough and difficult spot, but from my side I'm extremely happy," Sinner said in an on-court interview.

"The past couple of months have been amazing. We've tried to work on things,



▲ Italy's Jannik Sinner powered past Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4 7-6(4) to capture his maiden Paris Masters title on Sunday

trying to improve as a player. Seeing these kind of results makes me incredibly happy.

"Another title this year, it has been an amazing year, no matter what comes now in Turin. I'm extremely happy."

Sinner made his intentions clear from the opening game, breaking Auger-Aliassime's

serve before consolidating the break as he controlled rallies while the Canadian leaked unforced errors.

Despite the majority of the crowd rallying behind the underdog, Auger-Aliassime struggled to match Sinner's relentless power and precision.

Sinner proved untouchable on serve, mixing deep groundstrokes with drop shots and half-volleys to bamboozle his opponent.

The Italian's dominance was complete in the opening set when Auger-Aliassime failed to earn a single break point while Sinner dropped just three points on serve, sealing the set with a flourish by firing a cross-court forehand winner.

The second set offered more resistance, however, as Auger-Aliassime showed his mettle, saving five break points.

But even his resolute defence could not crack Sinner's serving stranglehold as the set headed to a tiebreak.

Auger-Aliassime held his own in the tiebreak until a crucial error handed Sinner the advantage and the Italian needed no second invitation to surge into the lead.

Sinner then delivered the knockout blow on match point, forcing Auger-Aliassime wide during the rally before unleashing a searing backhand winner down the line to claim his fifth Masters crown.

Auger-Aliassime is set to play this week in Metz, where he had a first-round bye, in a last attempt to secure the final spot at the ATP Finals the following week.

(Reuters)

Wolvaardt heroics in vain as Proteas women lose to India in World Cup final

A heroic century from Proteas women captain Laura Wolvaardt was not enough to save her team, as they fell to a 52-run defeat against India in the final of the 50-over World Cup at the Dr DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai on Sunday.

Wolvaardt cracked 11 fours and a six in a sublime 101 off 98 balls, her second straight century after her player of the match 169 in their semifinal win over England, but she unfortunately didn't receive enough support from the rest of the batting order.

Youngster Annerie Dercksen, 35 off 37 balls (1x4; 2x6) was the next

best batter, showing how little support Wolvaardt received from the rest of the order, in particular the senior players who came up short.

For India it was star all-round performances from Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma that secured them a famous win in front of their home fans.

Verma top scored for her team with 87 off 78 balls (7x4; 2x6) at the top of the order, while Sharma struck a run-a-ball 58 (3x4; 1x6) down the back end to get them to a solid 298/7 batting first. Sharma then spun a web in the chase, picking up a brilliant 5/39 in 9.3 overs, while Verma, who is only a part time bowler,

claimed 2/36 in seven, with the Proteas eventually all out for 246.

"I think I couldn't be prouder of this team for the campaign we have had. We played some brilliant cricket throughout, but we were outplayed today. I think India played fantastically well," said Wolvaardt during the presentation. "Unfortunately for us to be on the losing side but I am sure we will definitely grow from this as a group. "We did so well to put a few bad games (in the pool stage) behind us. We were either really good or really bad, but thankfully there was a lot more really good (moments) throughout this tournament. (Super Sport)



▲ Laura Wolvaardt cracked 11 fours and a six in a sublime 101 off 98 balls, her second straight century after her player of the match 169 in their semifinal win over England, but she unfortunately didn't receive enough support from the rest of the batting order.

Arrows climb into top eight after thumping Gallants

GOLDEN Arrows claimed a comfortable 4-0 victory over 10-man Marumo Gallants in the Betway Premiership match, which was played at the King Goodwill Zwelithini Stadium on Sunday evening.

The victory elevated Abafana Bes'thende into the top eight as they are now placed seventh in the standings. The KwaZulu-Natal side will be looking to make it two wins in a row when they play host to Orlando Pirates on Wednesday in another league game.

Bahlabane Ba Ntwa, on the other hand, remained outside the top eight as they are occupying the 10th spot in the standings. Coach Alexandre Laffite's side will be in action in eThekwinini once again on Wednesday when they lock horns with Durban City.

Having found the back of

the net in each of his last three league matches, Sede Junior Dion was the man to watch out for in the Abafana Bes'thende side and the Ivorian centre forward managed to continue his impressive goalscoring form against Bahlabane Ba Ntwa

Jerome Karelse set up Dion, who made no mistake as the 31-year-old hitman hit the back of the net to hand Arrows the lead, as he haunted his former club, having had two spells with Gallants. The score was 1-0 to Arrows at the interval, thanks to league top scorer Dion's seventh goal of the season.

Coach Mangqoba Mngqithi introduced Thokozani Khumalo 12 minutes into the second-half. Khumalo provided the assist when 19-year-old Isaac Cisse scored with 15 minutes left on the clock and it was the Ivorian teenager's second goal in as many league matches. (Reuters)



▲ Golden Arrows claimed a comfortable 4-0 victory over 10-man Marumo Gallants.

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela
sibusisomrubiconmedia.group

Another international podium finish for Ncamiso



▲ Ncamiso Hlatshwayo with Athletics Eswatini gender equity chairperson Nqobile Dlamini.

NCAMISO Hlatshwayo is proving to be the country’s new middle-distance king. Hlatshwayo bagged a silver medal during the 21km of Tswelepelo marathon held on Saturday in Mbombela. He recently won a gold medal in the 21km of the Imbube marathon, and the SADC regional marathon held two months ago in Zimbabwe. Imbube marathon 10km champion Manco-ba Sangweni came fourth in the same race. Marathon national team coach Nsizwa Thwala congratulated the duo for their gal-lant display. “I am happy with the performance of the two runners, and they both have a bright fu-ture ahead of them. They should continue working hard in their respective careers,” he said. Thwala attended the race as a repre-sentative of Zithande Athletics Club. The race is part of the collaboration of re-gional countries under the auspices of the Confederation of Southern African Athlet-ics headed by seasoned local administrator Zakhele Dlamini. Dlamini is also Athletics Eswatini President and Eswatini Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association Vice president.



Tough outing for Ladies Under 20 in SBS league

THE national Under 20 netball team faced a tough start in the integrated Swaziland Building Society E150 000 league. The Themba Dlamini led side suffered a 25-40 defeat to Buffaloes on Saturday at the Olymp Africa Centre Courts. The junior squad was recently incorporat-ed into the national league, together with the Senior males and females, to spearhead their preparations for international assignments. The Themba Dlamini-led side will com-pete in the 2026 Region V youth Games in Maputo. The Malawi-bound senior men’s national team outsmarted Vixiens 48-43. The Male lads will represent the country in the 2025 Africa Cup. Other matches saw Green Lightning beat Manzini Ladies 97-16, while Royal Flames outsmarted Olymp Africa by 76-12 in the La-dies main category. The army giants also grooved in the Males category where Green Lightning walloped

Vixens while Flames pipped Ball Busters 57-20. Eswatini National Netball Association (ENNA) Secretary Nkabindze Shabalala confirmed the latest updates. “We are happy with the progress of the league, as we are also using the league to prepare for international assignments. We are confident that they will be in the right shape during their respective competitions,” he said. **The results**
Females
1. Royal Flames 76 - 12 Olympafrica.
2. Green Lightning 97 - 16 Manzini Ladies.
3. Buffaloes 75 - 0 Mankayane.
4. U20 National Team 25 - 40 Buffaloes.
5. Manzini Ladies 75 - 0 Mankayane.
Males
1. Green Lightning 60 - 31 Vixens.
2. Royal Flames 57 - 20 Ballbusters.
3. Senior Ladies National Team 48 - 43 Vix-ens.

Top 20 finish for Kwanele Jele in Alzu

4EVA cycling club’s top rider, Kwanele Jele, made a gallant display on foreign soil. Jele finished in the top 20 bracket in the 70km with a time of 2.15minutes in the Alzu cycling race, Mpumalanga on Saturday. Veteran rider Sihawu Dlamini suffered a puncture during the race and did not get a placing. Female rider Zodwa McNamara competed in the 30km, where she finished the race out-side the podium bracket. The club Principal, Clint McNamara, com-mended the team for their performance. “We are happy with the performance of

the team despite the lack of a podium finish from our riders. Our riders gained interna-tional exposure,” he said. McNamara further stated that the race helped them prepare for the Mulasport Kus-ekhaya Lowveld Challenge in three weeks’ time. “We are confident that our riders will do well in the domestic race so that we can fin-ish the season on a high note,”he said. The Manzini-based club youngsters, Makepeace Bailey, Malik McNamara and Ke-andra McNamara missed the international assignment due to academic commitments.



▲ Eva cycling club members Sihawu Dlamini, Zodwa McNamara and Kwanele Jele during the Alzu race.

By Chris Dlamini

A TRUE master indeed! That is what Ashihara Karate Association’s Sensei Abdul Khaaliq Dlamini displayed on his big return to the tatami (fighting ring) in the STANLIB Oyama Champ of Champs Tournament.

The 15th edition of the annual and best karate competition in the kingdom took place at the Mavuso Sports Emporium in Manzini on Saturday

Dlamini gave a stellar show, kicking and punching with vigour, precision, and strategy until he was crowned the champion.

This division is always much-anticipated, and once again, it lived up to expectations. Dlamini got through tough and determined opposition, especially in the semi-finals and final.

The champion had an intense one against Oyama’s Samkelo Dlamini, who was favoured to win the title in the absence of Sensei Linda Dlamini, who officiated in the tournament.

However, fight hard he did, but he was put to the ground once, got up and fought again. By the time the fight was stopped after the two minutes, it turned out it was a tie, and they fought for another minute where the champion was decided.

In the final, he met Celumusa Zungu, who was also coming a fierce fight against fourth place winner Philani Mamba. Zungu started well, but he was caught badly with a high kick on his right cheek, a strike that saw the fight immediately stopped, and the champion was given a point for it.

However, determined as he was, Zungu continued with the fight and still put up a good effort, but Sensei Abdul was just a little too much for him. Zungu lost the fight and took home the runners-up trophy.

Oyama: Sensei Abdul kicks hard, wins STANLIB title



▲Winners displaying their prizes including Sensei Abdullah Dlamini at the STANLIB Oyama Cup held on Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

I’m stunned, excited — ladies open champ

By Chris Dlamini

SHE defied the odds to win the ladies’ open weight division.

Training at Zakhele Dojo (club), Temabovu Ngubeni, had a ‘David vs Goliath’ final in the STANLIB Oyama Champ of Champs. She was up against a senior, heavier, and higher ranking rival in Mbabane Dojo’s Tembuso Dlamini, a Brown belt edging closer to her 1st Dan Black belt grading.

What a final by the two karate ladies! Ngubeni took it home after fighting an extra minute to decide the winner following a tie in the initial two-minute round.

“It’s such a good feeling to win. I’m shocked, though, to win the Best Fighter Award again. As for the championship, it’s my first, and I’m perplexed,” she said.

The champion also revealed that she had four weeks off training as she was writing her exams.

“That’s why I feel perplexed. It’s huge for me, and im grateful to my team and Senseis for the training and encouragement,” she said.

Meanwhile, under-60kg favourite Bruce-Lee Pedro showed his power and skill but by the time he reached the final, fatigue had been written all over him.

He stumbled in the opening minute but made a fight back in the last, forcing the match to a decider where eventual champion Sonkhe Dlamini won it.

Otherwise, the full results are included in the article. The action was watched by over 40 spectators while the sponsor STANLIB Eswatini, Eswatini Sport and Recreation Council (ESRC) Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) Darius Dlomo, Eswatini Martial Arts Federation (EMAF) Executive Committee and Oyama Kyokushinkaikan Karate Association’s (OKKE) top brass led by its President Shihan Mfanafuthi Vilakati.

STANLIB Oyama Champ of Champs 2025 results:

Under-60kg

- 1. Sonkhe Dlamini
- 2. Bruoe-Lee Pedro
- 3. Sanele Kunene
- 4. Philani Hlophe

Under-70kg

- 1. Msimisi Mdluli
- 2. Mkhululi Ndzinisa
- 3. Nkosingiphile Mgooi
- 4. Mondli Myanga

Under-80kg

- 1. Seluleko Zwane
- 2. Majaha Mkhulisi
- 3. Andile Khumalo
- 4. Noamiso Mdluli

Under-65kg Ladies

- 1. Khonzinkhosi Rachivumo
- 2. Selekusiwe Mlotsa
- 3. Tracy Shongwe
- 4. Lenhle Vilakati

Open Ladies

- 1. Temabovu Ngubeni
- 2. Tembuso Dlamini
- 3. Vangile Dlamini

Open Males

- 1. Abdul Khaaliq Dlamini
- 2. Celumusa Zungu
- 3. Samkelo Dlamini
- 4. Philani Mamba

Individual Awards

Best Fighter (Ladies)

- 1. Temabovu Ngubeni

Best Fighter (Males)

- 1. Abdul Khaaliq Dlamini



▲Ladies open weight division winner Temabovu Ginindza displaying her prize with teammates and trainer Sensei Ginindza.



▲Team Mbabane displaying their trophies.

- MTN PREMIER LEAGUE SUPER SUNDAY -

Stories by Chris Dlamini

It's Birds on top

WHILE it rained, literally, it was also raining goals in the exciting MTN Premier League Super Sunday matches involving the country's big guns in Manzini Wanderers against Mbabane Highlanders, and Mbabane Swallows against Royal Leopard.

A nine-goal rout was witnessed at the tiny but packed arena. Before the Wanderers and Highlanders clash, five goals were scored between last season's runners-up Leopard and Swallows, the latter stealing the maximum points when Leopard looked to be the one that could grab the winner after coming from a 2-0 deficit to level matters.

Then came Wanderers and Highlanders where four goals, with Highlanders twice coming from behind, were the order of the day. It was not without any drama, particularly the Wanderers and Inkunz'emnyama (Highlanders) game where two Highlanders' big key defenders in Vusi Vilakati and Ndumiso Dlamini were stretchered off and taken to the hospital.

The match, locked at 2-1 following former Highlanders midfielder Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule netting their second in 15 minutes from time, Wanderers lost their goalkeeper Mario Janine after he intercepted a clear goalscoring chance out of his box with his hand. This brought joy to Highlanders as it gave them some fire and soon after threw everything to their rivals who were forced to divert defender Mphumuzi 'Tower' Ginindza to goalkeeping as all five substitutes had



▲ Swallows players celebrate after beating Royal Leopard 3-2 during their MTN Premier League match Super Sunday.

been made. He was forced into two match-deciding facts within the closing five minutes

as Highlanders were on top of things with their exciting possession football.

They deservedly got the equaliser through Thando Dube who netted his first in the black and gold team kit with just a minute of regulation time left on the clock. Dube scored a screamer from way out of the 18-area and the makeshift goalie could do nothing about it. However, despite making two big saves, Nkambule was the man of the match for his contribution to both their goals.

Putting Liweseli in front was Siyabonga Simelane at the stroke of half-time, before Highlanders levelled matters 12 minutes into the second half through Ayanda Mabuza. Wanderers were given all sorts of trouble by South African second-half substitute Sphiwe Hopewell Cele who will definitely cause most wing-backs sleepless nights with his skills to eliminate his markers like they were not there.

In the end, it was a share of spoils between the two giants, with Wanderers also having a new head coach in Gcina Dlamini from Ubombo Sugar. The result leaves Highlanders at number three with seven points, and Wanderers at number 14 with two points after four games apiece. Swallows has taken the top spot with nine points in four games. Police outfit Royal Leopard is on 15th with a point in two games while Malanti Chiefs dropped to second with eight points.

Defending champions Nsingizini Hotspurs occupy the sixth spot with six points in two games while Moneni Pirates sit behind them with a point short in four matches as well.

... 'Birds' fly over Leopard in five goal thriller

Mbabane Swallows..... @ 3,
Nhlanhla Ngwenya 51st, Bonginkhosi Magagula 58th, Lizwe Dlamini 79th
Royal Leopard..... @ 2,
Felix Badenhorst 62nd minute, Manooaba Tsabedze 74th minute

AYEZA amanzi khona uzonethwa!

Mbabane Swallows revived their famous slogan with an emphatic 3-2win over Royal Leopard at a rain-soaked Mavuso Sports Centre on Sunday.

The red and white glamour put off their off-the-field battles, the ownership battle between the two factions headed by incumbent president Absalom Ngwenya and former player Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko, with the spirited performance.

The Caleb Ngwenya led charges added more wounds on the police service side CAF Confederation Cup exit at the hands of Congolese side AS Union Maniema to

jump into top spot, nine points after four matches in front of 3,000 fans, who braved the drizzling weather.

The two sides created a few chances during the opening half, with Swallows winger Nhlanhla Ngwenya asking some questions on the opposition goalkeeper Mlamuli Makhanya with a ramping shot from the edge of the box.

Strike

Leopard playmaker Junior Magagula saw his well taken box parried off the bar by the opposition veteran goalkeeper Sandanezwe Mathabela for a fruitless corner.

Magagula, though he had given his side the lead deep into the half hour, when his strike was ruled off after he was judged to have handled the ball by referee Theminkosi Dlamini.

The two sides were locked in a barren stalemate.

Swallows started the second half on a

high note after Nhlanhla Ngwenya put them upfront six minutes into the restart with a sublime finish against the run of play.

The Swallows grandstand was on cloud nine in the 58th minute when the impressive Bonginkhosi 'Karas' Magagula, doubled the scoreline with another clinical finish from a break attack.

Leopard looked unshaken by the two-goal deficit as veteran striker Felix Badenhorst pulled back with a rasping shot.

The Edwin Matsebula-led side levelled matters moments later from a Mancoba Maseko spot kick after second half substitute Muzi 'Mzoro' Dlamini was hacked inside the box by Mthunzi Motsa.

Swallows stole the contest in the 79th minute when youngster Lizwe Dlamini snatched with a well taken finish inside the box from a Philiso Newman pass to provoking a wild celebration from the Swallows grandstand.

... Lizwe dedicated Man of the award to 'Birds' family

MBABANE Swallows youngster Lizwe Dlamini has dedicated his man of the match award to the 'Beautiful Birds' family.

The former Sidwashini United player said this after winning the individual accolade following their 3-2 win over Royal Leopard on Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

He took home E2 500 for helping the crowd pullers secure their third win of the campaign against the police service side.

"I would like to thank the entire Swallows players for supporting me since I joined the club. I am also happy with my performance on the day and will continue working hard," he said. The second match saw Manzini Wanderers captain Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule taking home E2 500 for helping the 'Weslians' secure a 2-all draw against Mbabane Highlanders. Nkambule said the award was a huge motivation for him. "I am happy with the award, which has encouraged me to continue working hard. We will take one game at a time and appreciate the support of our loyal supporters who came in numbers to support the team," he said.



▲ Mbabane Swallows midfielder Ncomo Gina fighting for the ball against Royal Leopards Thembisa Shabangu.Swallows won 3-2.



▲ Swallows Lizwe Dlamini displaying his E2 500 cheque after winning the man of the match award.

PREMIER LEAGUE OF ESWATINI									
SUNDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2025									
NO	TEAM	MP	W	D	L	GD	PTS		
1	MBABANE SWALLOWES	4	3	0	1	2	9		
2	MALANTI CHIEFS	4	2	2	0	2	8		
3	MBABANE HIGHLANDERS	4	2	1	1	2	7		
4	MANZINI SEA BIRDS	4	2	1	1	0	7		
5	RANGERS FC	4	2	1	1	2	7		
6	NSINGIZINI HOTSPURS	2	2	0	0	3	6		
7	MONENI PIRATES	4	2	0	2	1	6		
8	EZULWINI UNITED	3	1	2	0	1	5		
9	GREEN MAMBA	3	1	1	1	0	4		
10	YOUNG BUFFALOES	4	1	1	2	0	4		
11	AMAWELE FC	4	1	1	2	-1	4		
12	UBOMBO SUGAR	4	1	1	2	-2	4		
13	TABANKULU CELTICS	3	1	0	2	1	3		
14	MANZINI WANDERERS	4	0	2	2	-3	2		
15	ROYAL LEOPARD	2	0	1	1	-1	1		
16	SISONKHE FC	3	0	0	3	-7	0		

