



Clear your debts with ‘Dvuladvula’, Speaker tells MPs

By Delisa Magagula

SPEAKER of the House Jabulani ‘Buy Cash’ Mabuza has urged Members of Parliament (MPs) to use the forthcoming salary adjustments responsibly and clear their debts before the end of their term. “Kute imali, but use the little you will get to clear your debt. Whatever you have been given is from God, use it with grace,” Mabuza said.

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SPEAKER of the House Jabulani ‘Buy Cash’ Mabuza has urged Members of Parliament (MPs) to use the forthcoming salary adjustments responsibly and clear their debts before the end of their term.

“Kute imali, but use the little you will get to clear your debt. Whatever you have been given is from God, use it with grace,” Mabuza said.

He was addressing MPs during their two-day retreat held at Sibebe Resort on Wednesday, where he reminded them of their duty to lead by example in matters of financial discipline and stewardship.

The Speaker said legislators are expected to receive their payments in November following the government’s salary review implementation.

He warned them against reckless spending, emphasizing that the funds are meant to help them settle debts and not for luxury.

“Let us be financially responsible with our money. When December 2027 comes, you should not have any outstanding debts. They should be cleared,” Mabuza told MPs.

He reminded lawmakers that they were called to serve the nation with integrity, regardless of personal challenges.

“We took an oath to serve the people and the country under any kind of pressure. We must continue to serve faithfully and with humility,” he said.

Worth noting Eswatini has implemented a new public sector salary review, with 100 per cent of the recommended adjustments taking effect in October 2025.

The adjustment includes a phased payment of back pay, with 15 per cent received in October 2025 and the remaining 85 per cent due in July 2026.

Employees whose grades were not adjusted will receive a once-off payment of five per cent of their annual basic salary. Revised housing and bus fare allowances are also being implemented in phases, with full rollout for some bands expected in July 2026.

Mabuza said that although there has been no circular confirming how much MPs will receive, the expectation is that whatever comes should be used wisely.

“We must lead by example and show discipline in how we use the resources that come our way,” he added.

Speaker urges MPs to uphold the constitution, Monarch

The Speaker also reminded legislators to uphold the Constitution and the monarchy, saying the two pillars are central to the

‘Clear your debts with Dvuladvula’

Speaker of the House tells MPs



▲Speaker of the House Jabulani Mabuza during the MPs retreat held at Sibebe Resort on Wednesday.

country’s governance system.

He encouraged MPs to remain respectful and committed to their duties, even in the face of public criticism.

“Respect the system, respect the Constitution and uphold the monarch to its finest. We are serving under God’s guidance, and we must not be swayed by insults or public pressure,” he said.

During the retreat, MPs were also sensitised on mental wellness and health by Siyabonga Mabuza, who encouraged them to prioritise their mental wellbeing and self-worth.

He urged MPs to stop seeking validation from social media and strangers, saying leadership requires inner strength and reflection.

“Stop comparing yourselves and putting each other down. Validate yourselves and understand that being an MP is a demanding role. You need to recharge and reconnect outside the House to strengthen your effectiveness in serving the nation,” he said.

He added that many leaders often neglect rest, leading to burnout and reduced productivity.

“Rest is not a weakness but a necessity for effective leadership,” he said.

‘We are broke’ – MPs

Some MPs, speaking on the sidelines of the retreat, admitted that they were struggling financially. Several said they were deep

in debt due to the high cost of living and delays in salary adjustments.

“We are broke. The cost of living has gone up and many of us are struggling to keep up,” one MP said.

The lawmakers said the upcoming salary review would provide some relief, but only if used responsibly.

“It will help us clear some of the debts, but we need to be careful with how we use it,” another MP added.

The Speaker’s message to the legislators was to use the upcoming funds wisely, settle debts, and maintain integrity in leadership.

MPs mum on Mthandeni’s release

Members of Parliament have remained largely silent on the conditional release of former Ngwempisi MP Mthandeni Dube, who was freed this week under strict terms as part of the 2025 King and Ingwenyama’s Special Pardon.

While some MPs said they wished him well, most declined to comment on the matter when approached during the retreat.

Speaker of the House Jabulani Mabuza said he was not yet authorised to speak publicly about the matter.

“I have not yet been briefed on the details of his release. I do not want to jeopardise his release or the conditions attached to it,” said Mabuza.

“I will consult and provide a proper re-

sponse once I have been informed,” he added.

Nhlambeni Member of Parliament and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairperson Manzi Zwane also declined to comment, saying the matter was sensitive.

“It’s not something I want to comment on at this stage,” he said briefly.

Other MPs expressed mixed feelings, with some saying they hoped Dube had learnt from his experience.

“We wish him well. Everyone deserves a second chance if they have changed,” one MP said.

His Majesty’s Correctional Services (HMCS) Commissioner General Phindile Dlamini confirmed that Dube was among 12 inmates 10 males and two females who benefitted from the conditional release.

The conditions attached to the release include restrictions on media interviews, participation in social gatherings, public speaking, and social media use until completion of their sentences.

Commissioner Dlamini explained that the conditional release was authorised under Section 329, read with Sections 330, 331, and 332 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act No. 67 of 1938.

“Under the King and Ingwenyama’s Special Pardon of 2025, these 12 inmates will serve the remainder of their sentences through community service,” Dlamini said.

She added that the pardon was divided into two parts — a general pardon for 464 offenders released unconditionally and a reduction of sentences for 2 346 offenders. The 12 under special pardon were released with conditions.

Among the other beneficiaries were convicted murderer Boyce Gama (57) and con artist Sitile Knowledge Dlamini (42), who was convicted of theft by false pretences.

When the retreat concluded, Speaker Mabuza reminded MPs that leadership begins with discipline, humility and faith.

“We must show the people that we can manage our lives well. Financial discipline and service to the people go hand in hand,” he said. The Speaker’s message on both financial management and conduct set a firm tone for the remainder of Parliament’s term, urging members to remain grounded, responsible and focused on their mandate.

Vodacom settles 17-year legal dispute over call-back service

JOHANNESBURG — South African telecoms group Vodacom said on Wednesday it had reached an out-of-court settlement in a dispute with a former employee over his role in creating the company’s call-back messaging service.

The legal battle over the “Please Call Me” service has dragged on for about 17 years, reaching South Africa’s highest court.

“Shareholders are hereby advised that on 4 November 2025, the Vodacom board approved a settlement agreement and the matter was settled by the parties out of court,” Vodacom said in a statement on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Vodacom, a unit of Britain’s Vodafone did

not disclose the settlement amount.

The settlement will be accounted for in its financial results for the six months to the end of September, which will be published on November 10, it said.

As part of the settlement, Vodacom has withdrawn its case at the Supreme Court of Appeal. There was no immediate comment from the former employee, Nkosana Makate, who had previously rejected a 47 million rand (\$2.7 million) offer from Vodacom, holding out for a larger sum.

More than two decades ago Makate told Vodacom’s then-director of product development about his idea of developing the “Please Call Me” service.

The director agreed to put the product on trial for commercial viability, and Makate



▲Nkosana Makate.

was told he would be paid a share of the revenue generated by his product, but that did not happen, according to court papers.

In July Vodacom won a partial court victo-

ry, when the country’s Constitutional Court found major flaws in a lower court’s ruling that Vodacom’s offer was inequitable.

(Reuters)

Stories By Thokozani Mazibuko

HMCS officers praise King after release of 12 inmates

SEVERAL officers within His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) have expressed gratitude and admiration towards His Majesty King Mswati III and the Commissioner General Phindile Lomakhosini Dlamini, following the release of 12 inmates under the royal pardon, including former Ngwempisi Member of Parliament Mthandeni Dube.

The inmates 10 men and two women walked free from the Matsapha Correctional Centre earlier this week after being granted clemency as part of the King's exercise of mercy powers.

Speaking to the Eswatini Daily News on condition of anonymity, correctional officers described the gesture as a "sign of compassion and progress" within the country's justice and rehabilitation system.

"We are so excited and thrilled to be led by the Commissioner General. She

has completely embraced the concept of correctional services as a tool for transformation, not just punishment," said one officer, who has served in the department for over a decade.

Another officer commended the monarch's decision, saying it reflected His Majesty's commitment to forgiveness and nation-building.

"The King's mercy reminds us that everyone deserves a second chance. It also shows the world that Eswatini's correctional system is aligned with restorative justice," said the officer.

A third officer noted that under Commissioner General Dlamini's leadership, the correctional institution has seen significant reforms aimed at rehabilitation, education, and reintegration of offenders.

"The COMGEN has been hands-on in ensuring that inmates leave our facilities as better citizens. Her leadership has brought pride and professionalism to the service," said the officer.

Commissioner General Dlamini, who witnessed the release, earlier urged members of the public to support the reintegration of the pardoned inmates and to help them rebuild their lives.

Observers say the pardon is part of ongoing efforts to promote social harmony and rehabilitation within the Kingdom's correctional framework.

The HMCS has in recent years introduced a range of initiatives including skills training, education programmes, and spiritual guidance aimed at reducing reoffending and fostering national unity.



▲ HMCS COMGEN Phindile Lomakhosini Dlamini.

Eswatini steps up national response to GBV ahead of 16-days of activism

The Deputy Prime Minister's Office of Eswatini has convened a two-day high-level meeting aimed at bolstering the country's coordinated response to gender-based violence (GBV), ahead of the global 2025 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

Held at the United Nations House in Mbabane, the meeting brought together members of the Multi-Sectoral Technical Team on Violence (MTTV) a coalition comprising senior representatives from government ministries, international development agencies, and civil society organizations.

Officials said the session sought to strengthen collective planning and coordination among partners to ensure a unified national approach to ending all forms of violence in the kingdom.

"The Government of Eswatini continues to demonstrate strong leadership and political commitment to eliminate violence in all its forms," a statement from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office said.

"This includes sustained implementation of the National Strategy to End Violence in Eswatini (2023-2027) and enforcement of landmark laws such as the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act (2018)."

Strengthening framework and partnerships

Participants reaffirmed that the government's anti-violence strategy rests on solid institutional and legislative foundations, while also emphasizing the indispensable role of partnerships.

Through collaborative programmes such as Hlonipheka: Thriving for Dignity an initiative supported by the European Union partners are providing vital technical assistance, financial resources, and evidence-based advocacy to reinforce the country's prevention and response systems.

"This meeting underscores the importance of synergy across all sectors," said a participant from the United Nations office.

"We are not only planning for a campaign; we are reinforcing a movement that prioritizes dignity, safety, and equality for everyone in Eswatini."

A whole-of-society approach

The Deputy Prime Minister's Office noted that the 16 Days of Activism campaign will continue to mobilize communities nationwide under the theme of promoting mutual respect, non-violence, and equality.

The MTTV emphasized that ending GBV requires a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach, engaging women, men, girls, and boys alike.

"Only through collective action can we build a society free from violence," the statement added.

"Our goal is not only to respond to violence but to prevent it through education, awareness, and social transformation."

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is observed globally from 25 November to 10 December each year, serving as a rallying call to governments, institutions, and communities to take concrete steps toward ending violence against women and girls.



▲ The team from Taiwan with officials from EIPA and some businesspeople during a workshop at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre in Manzini.

Eswatini trains local traders to boost digital trade under buyEswatini initiative

More than 70 small and medium enterprises in Eswatini are set to benefit from a new national drive to strengthen their capacity to trade online, as the government pushes to make local businesses more competitive in the digital economy.

The BuyEswatini Capacity Building Workshop for Traders, hosted by the Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority (EIPA) at the Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre in Manzini, aims to equip entrepreneurs with practical skills in e-commerce, digital marketing, online store management, and customer engagement.

Opening the two-day event on Tuesday, EIPA Executive Head of Trade Promotion Sibusiso Mnisi said the initiative marks a turning point in Eswatini's digital trade journey. "Today is about growth, empowerment, and shared progress," Mnisi said. "It is about giving every local trader the tools and confidence to thrive in an increasingly digital marketplace."

Connecting Eswatini to the world

Mnisi said the BuyEswatini platform was created to link local producers and service providers with buyers in Eswatini, across Southern Africa, and beyond.

"BuyEswatini is not just a plat-

form it is a movement. It tells the world that Eswatini products are made with excellence and pride," he said. Though still in its pilot phase, the platform has already attracted over 70 local companies, 150 unique products, and more than 100 registered buyers. It has also facilitated over 65 successful online sales, generating E15,000 in transactions.

Top-performing brands on the platform include Honey Child Style, Lujilo Honey, My Coils, Patience Delight, and Master Candy.

Partnerships driving digital growth

Mnisi expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its continued technical and financial support in developing the platform and facilitating trader training programmes.

He also commended the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade and other stakeholders for advancing the national digital trade agenda.

"This collaboration reminds us that sustainable progress is built through partnership and shared purpose," Mnisi said.

Embracing the digital economy

The EIPA official underscored that

digital transformation is now a critical driver of global competitiveness, urging Eswatini's traders to adapt to new technologies.

"The marketplace is now global, fast, and always open," he said. "BuyEswatini is your gateway to that opportunity it bridges the gap between traditional trade and the digital economy."

During the workshop, participants will receive training in e-commerce finance, digital marketing, product presentation, and customer engagement to enhance their visibility and sales online.

Mnisi said future phases of the BuyEswatini initiative will focus on improving logistics, enhancing payment systems, and expanding market access across the region and internationally.

"We want to see Eswatini's products not only online but in homes, offices, and stores across Africa and the world," he said.

He urged traders to take full advantage of the platform, noting that their participation is key to building a resilient national digital economy.

"Each step you take online, each sale you make through BuyEswatini, brings us closer to a stronger, more connected economy," Mnisi concluded.

ETA launches 2025 Festive Season Campaign

Stories By Siphesihle Dlamini and Taonga Nkhata

THE Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) officially launched its highly anticipated 2025 Festive Season Campaign under the captivating theme “Choose Eswatini” during a ceremony held on Wednesday at Brookside Lodge. The event marked a moment of pride, reflection, and renewed optimism for Eswatini’s tourism sector as it prepares to welcome both local and regional travellers to rediscover the Kingdom’s natural beauty, cultural warmth, and festive spirit. Delivering the keynote address, ETA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Vusie Dlamini described the campaign as a celebration of national pride and a call to action for every liSwati and visitor to see the Kingdom not only as a home but as a destination.

“It is my great honour, on behalf of the Eswatini Tourism Authority, to welcome

... “Choose Eswatini” inspires visitors to explore the Kingdom

you to the official launch of our 2025 Festive Season Campaign, Choose Eswatini,” he said warmly. “This campaign is more than a marketing initiative; it is a heartfelt invitation to rediscover Eswatini. It encourages every citizen and visitor to embrace the spirit of travel, connection, and celebration within our borders. The message is simple and powerful, Choose Eswatini.”

He emphasised that the campaign was deliberately crafted to stir both emotional and economic engagement among emaSwati, urging them to take advantage of the upcoming festive season to explore local destinations. He further explained that the Choose Eswatini campaign doubles as both a slogan and a hashtag, designed to foster participation and visibility across digital platforms.

“This call-to-action doubles as our official campaign name and festive season hashtag,” Dlamini elaborated. “It urges both domestic and regional travellers to consider Eswatini as their destination of choice this festive

season. To strengthen our domestic tourism focus, we have also adopted the hashtag #PholaEswatini, reminding EmaSwati to relax, unwind, and enjoy memorable experiences close to home.”

In his remarks, Dlamini highlighted that this year’s festive campaign was anchored on strong partnerships and creative collaborations, a deliberate strategy to ensure inclusivity and sustained visibility across various communication platforms. He revealed that the ETA continues to work closely with local influencers and digital content creators, who have become essential partners in promoting the country’s travel offerings to new and younger audiences.

“We are proud to continue working with some of Eswatini’s most engaging content creators and influencers,” Dlamini said. “With their creativity and authenticity, these influencers will help us tell Eswatini’s story in a relatable and inspiring way.” The CEO reiterated ETA’s commitment to positioning Eswatini as a top-tier domestic and regional

travel destination. He described tourism as a critical component of national economic growth and social cohesion, noting that the festive season represents both a cultural and economic opportunity to strengthen local business ecosystems.

Dlamini expressed confidence that this year’s campaign would not only increase visitor numbers but also rekindle national appreciation for Eswatini’s diverse attractions, from the scenic northern highlands and wildlife reserves to the vibrant cultural festivals and eco-tourism sites. “When we ask people to Choose Eswatini, we are not merely promoting destinations,” Dlamini said. “We are inviting everyone to choose experiences, connections, and memories that stay with you long after the journey ends. Whether you’re exploring our mountains, dining at local lodges, or attending community events, Eswatini has something unique for every traveller.”



▲ Eswatini Tourism Authority Board Chairperson Penelope Mkhwanazi making her address.



▲ A section of the attendees during the launch.

... ETA Board Chairperson applauds national unity through travel

ALSO addressing the event, ETA Board Chairperson Penelope Mkhwanazi commended the Authority’s staff, partners, and stakeholders for ensuring the successful rollout of the 2025 festive season campaign. She described the initiative as a fitting conclusion to a year of resilience, recovery, and innovation within the tourism industry. “We are honoured to have the opportunity to close off the year with another festive season campaign that reminds emaSwati that they too can explore what our beautiful Kingdom has to offer,” Mkhwanazi stated.

She emphasised that tourism begins at home, urging citizens to explore and appreciate Eswatini’s scenic landscapes, historical sites, and cultural heritage before looking beyond the borders. Her message carried a strong sense of inclusion, noting that the campaign seeks to remind everyone that the Kingdom’s attractions are accessible

to all, regardless of social status or location. “To our visitors,” she continued, “you will not run out of local destinations to add to your Eswatini Travel Wishlist because you will have an opportunity to tour the different corners of the Kingdom which showcase the diverse local attractions.” Mkhwanazi further acknowledged the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs and other strategic partners for their unwavering support, saying their contributions have made the campaign possible. She described the festive initiative as a model of collaboration that reflects the government’s vision for inclusive tourism growth.

“More importantly,” she added, “I would like to convey the Ministry’s gratitude for the existing partnerships that have loomed in ensuring that the festive season campaign materialises.” Mkhwanazi’s address also carried a heartfelt reminder that Eswatini’s strength lies in its diversity, from its people to its natural wonders.

“May this Choose Eswatini festive season campaign remind us all that there is something for everyone in Eswatini regardless of your age and where you come from,” she said. “There is certainly no better place to spend the holiday season with your loved ones than here in Eswatini.”

She further emphasised that tourism is not reserved for international visitors but belongs equally to citizens who call Eswatini home.

“On a parting note,” Mkhwanazi concluded, “as ETA, on the Choose Eswatini campaign, ours is to ensure that no liSwati is left behind in the quest to indulge the numerous tourists wonders that the Kingdom is renowned for the world over.”

She wished everyone a safe and joyous festive season, calling on the public to share their experiences using the hashtags #ChooseEswatini and #NgcebelekaEswatini, both designed to spread awareness and foster community spirit.

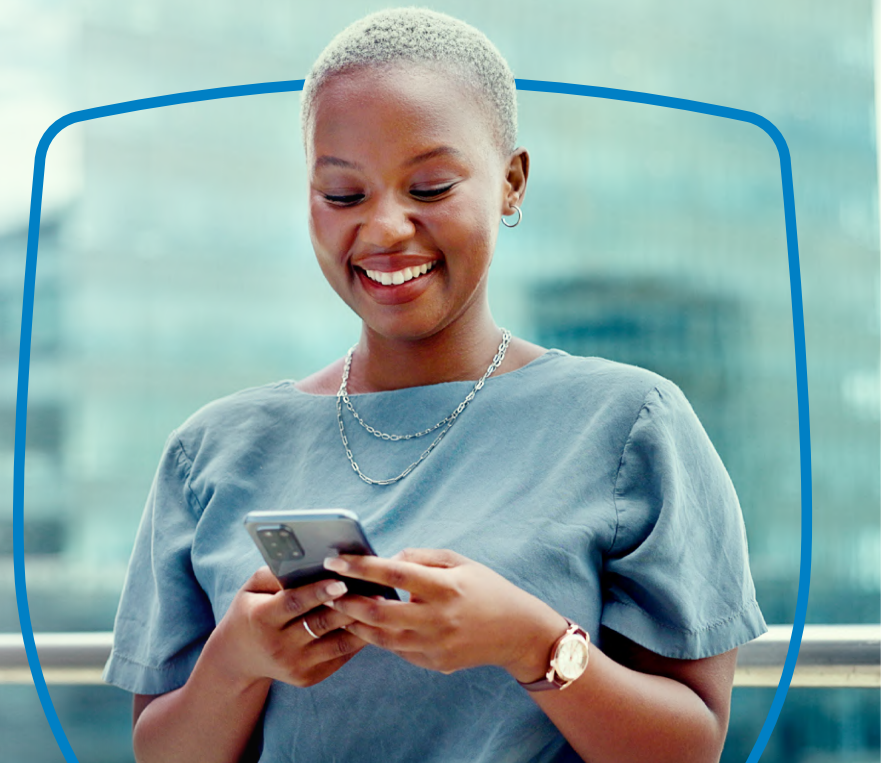
“Here is to wish you all a safe, memorable and adventure-filled holiday season in the beautiful Kingdom of Eswatini,” she said. “The festive season is a suitable time to #ChooseEswatini and #NgcebelekaEswatini as indeed Eswatini has more. The Eswatini Festive Season Campaign is officially launched! May we all have a safe and blessed Eswatini festive season.”

The festive season campaign is expected to boost both domestic tourism numbers and cross-border visitor arrivals from neighbouring South Africa and Mozambique, who traditionally make up the bulk of Eswatini’s international tourist base.

Through initiatives such as Choose Eswatini and Phola Eswatini, the ETA aims to encourage citizens to explore lesser-known gems, including rural homestays, cultural villages, hiking trails, waterfalls, and adventure tours, thereby distributing tourism benefits more evenly across the country.



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Stories By Delisa Magagula

Relief at the pumps for Eswatini motorists



▲ The public has welcomed the price drop.

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy has announced a reduction of E0.45 per litre on all fuel products, bringing long-awaited relief to motorists and households across Eswatini.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Principal Secretary Lindiwe Mbingo confirmed that the new prices will take effect at midnight on Thursday, November 6, 2025 (effective Friday, November 7).

The price of Unleaded Petrol (ULP95) will decrease from E20.60 to E20.15 per litre, Diesel (50ppm) will fall from E21.00 to E20.55 per litre, while Illuminating Paraffin drops from E15.35 to E14.90 per litre.

“The lower crude oil price coupled with the stronger Lilangeni had a positive impact on local fuel prices. We encourage the public to use fuel efficiently as the international oil markets and the Lilangeni/Dollar exchange rate remains highly volatile,” said Mbingo.

According to the Ministry, the decrease follows a slight dip in the global price of Brent crude oil, which averaged US\$64 per barrel in October, compared to US\$67 per barrel in September.

Meanwhile, Lilangeni also appreciated, trading at an average of E17.29 to the US dollar, stronger than the E17.52 recorded the previous month. The last fuel price change was recorded in September 2024, when petrol fell by E1.00 per litre, offering brief relief after several increases earlier in the year.

Cut

Across the country, motorists expressed cautious optimism about the latest price cut.

“It’s not much, but any drop is good news,” said Nokuthula Simelane, who drives daily from Ezulwini to Mbabane.

“We’ve been stretched thin by these fuel hikes. This means I can finally breathe a little,” she added.

For ride-hailing driver Sabelo Dlamini, the relief is more practical than emotional.

“A 45-cent drop won’t change my business model, but it helps with daily margins. I hope it doesn’t go up again next month,” he said.

Others, like rural driver Banele Magagula, were more restrained.

“We buy fuel from far stations and prices vary by town. The drop won’t be felt evenly,” he noted.

Commuters, too, are watching how public transport will respond. “If kombis keep the fares the same, we’ll actually feel the

difference,” said student Thandeka Gama.

In the kombi sector, reactions were mixed. Some welcomed the drop, while others said it came too late to ease operational pressures.

“This helps us for now,” said Mbabane kombi. Diesel prices have been eating into our profits, so even 45 cents makes a difference,” said owner, Phesheya Mdluli.

However, Manzini’s conductor, Musa Dlamini, was sceptical. He said fuel goes down today, and next month it jumps again.

“We cannot keep changing fares. We just absorb the cost,” he said.

Another kombi owner, Sifiso Magagula, added that while the decrease offers relief, it won’t offset other costs.

“Tyres, servicing, and licenses keep going up. We’re surviving on thin margins,” said Magagula.

Meanwhile, Economists say the fuel price reduction will offer short-term relief but

warned that it may not last if the global market shifts.

“This decrease is positive, but we must remember Eswatini imports all its petroleum products,” said economist Dr Ncamiso Simelane.

Energy analyst Zanele Nxumalo added that while the adjustment may slightly ease inflationary pressure, the broader cost of living will remain high.

“Fuel cuts often take time to filter into prices of goods and transport fares,” she said. Internationally, crude oil prices have been fluctuating due to geopolitical tensions, production cuts by major oil producers, and slow demand recovery in key economies.

Locally, fuel price adjustments have become frequent as Eswatini’s economy remains sensitive to changes in global energy markets and exchange rate movements.

“The lower crude oil price coupled with the stronger Lilangeni had a positive impact on local fuel prices. We encourage the public to use fuel efficiently as the international oil markets and the Lilangeni/Dollar exchange rate remains highly volatile”

What the price cut means for local economy

THE 45-cent decrease in fuel prices is expected to provide modest relief to consumers, transport operators, and small businesses but economists caution that its impact on the broader economy will be limited.

Lower pump prices may help reduce operational costs for transporters, manufacturing firms, and farmers who rely heavily on fuel.

“We might see a small easing in the cost of goods and services. Transport costs are a major inflation driver, so this helps in stabilising short-term consumer prices,” said Simelane.

For households, the effect will be felt in marginally lower transport expenses and reduced paraffin costs a welcome reprieve as families approach the festive season.

However, the Ministry’s warning about market volatility underscores that this relief could be temporary.

Worth noting is that, the Lilangeni’s recent appreciation against the dollar provided a buffer for the decrease, but analysts note that the currency remains vulnerable to global shocks and domestic economic pressures.

“Eswatini’s economy still depends on imports and faces structural challenges. This drop eases the load, but it doesn’t change the fundamentals,” said Nxumalo.

Nxumalo said, overall, the cut may calm inflation and slightly boost disposable income, but the long-term trajectory will depend on how international oil prices and exchange rates behave in the coming months.



▲ Petrol prices in Eswatini are set to decrease.

BUSINESS NEWS

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Eswatini charts new financial future with co-operative bank plan

ESWATINI is taking a major step toward reshaping its financial landscape with plans to establish a Cooperative Bank that will strengthen rather than compete with existing Cooperative Financial Institutions (CFIs). Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Manqoba Khumalo, said the initiative would serve as a transformative milestone in advancing inclusive finance.

Warning of three possible 'bubbles' in global economy

SAO PAULO — The world should watch out for three possible bubbles in financial markets, including artificial intelligence, the head of the World Economic Forum said on Wednesday, in comments that came amid sharp falls in global technology stocks. Brokers and analysts say the falls are a cause for caution but not panic as markets have been touching record highs and some valuations are looking overblown.

Stocks drop, as investors fret over tech valuations

LONDON — Stocks fell on Wednesday, as a selloff in global tech shares dragged down markets from Tokyo to Frankfurt, driving volatility to highs not seen since April and helping underpin safe-haven assets like gold and government bonds. Asia stocks were hit particularly hard overnight, pushing Japan's Nikkei down nearly 7 per cent from Tuesday's record highs at one point, while shares in South Korea plunged as much as 6.2 per cent.

EswatiniBank

FX RATES

Notes/Cash	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	17.0844	17.5510
G.B. Pound	22.2302	22.9102
EURO	19.6269	20.2355
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	

Customs admins push for digital integration, regional alignment

By Delisa Magagula

CUSTOMS leaders from across the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region have convened in Mbabane to chart a collective strategy focused on strengthening trade facilitation, enhancing revenue mobilisation, and reinforcing integrity within customs administrations.

The 2nd Regional Steering Group (RSG) under the World Customs Organisation (WCO) ESA region brings together representatives from over 20 member states, including regional training centres and technical experts.

The three-day discussions are expected to refine and adopt the 2025–2028 ESA Regional Strategy and Work Plan, aligning national administrations with the WCO's global objectives.

Opening the meeting, Eswatini Revenue Service Acting Commissioner General Pearl Dlamini underscored the importance of collaborative innovation across customs agencies, especially in light of the digital transformation shaping international trade.

"The strategy offers a regional framework that strengthens collaboration in enforcement and programme implementation while promoting secure and compliant trade," said Dlamini.

"Our collective focus must be on building resilient administrations capable of adapting to emerging trade dynamics," she added.

Delegates are engaging in detailed panel discussions around four key regional objectives:

- Efficient Trade Facilitation and Integration
- Sustainable Revenue Mobilisation and Digitalisation
- Protection of Society and the Environment
- Enhancing Professionalism and Integrity within Customs



▲ ERS Acting Commissioner General Pearl Dlamini.

Dlamini noted that the region's customs agencies must harness technology and data-driven processes to improve compliance, streamline border operations, and facilitate legitimate trade flows.

"Embracing technological advancements and leveraging data will be essential for enhancing operational efficiency and strengthening effective controls within customs operations," she said.

The agenda includes presentations from the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB ESA) and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO ESA) on progress made during the first half of the 2025/26 financial year.

Delegates from countries including Angola, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Malawi, Mauritius, and Kenya are sharing practical experiences on combating narcotics trafficking, addressing e-commerce revenue challenges, and harmonising the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme across the region.

The discussions on sustainable revenue mobilisation are particularly focused on mitigating

revenue losses from the surge in cross-border e-commerce. Member states are exchanging strategies on digital tracking systems, automated declarations, and data exchange frameworks aimed at sealing revenue leakages.

The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a central theme of the meeting. Nkambule stressed that customs modernisation and harmonised procedures are key to unlocking the full benefits of the free trade area.

"The AfCFTA requires seamless cross-border procedures that rely on electronic processing and real-time information exchange. Programmes such as the Authorised Economic Operator, supported by mutual recognition agreements, are critical to ensuring secure supply chains and fair participation for compliant traders," she said.

Delegates are also evaluating how regional cooperation can support small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) to participate in the AEO programme step seen as vital to inclusive trade growth.

The meeting includes a session on Enhancing Professionalism and Integrity, led by Zambia's Deputy Chair of the Integrity Working Group, Violet Mulubwa.

The session focuses on implementing the Regional Code of Conduct on Integrity and the WCO's Integrity Toolkit, which are designed to strengthen accountability within customs administrations.

Dlamini emphasised that capacity building must extend beyond technical skills to include leadership development and organisational culture.

"It is especially important that we focus on the soft issues the personal attributes and social abilities that influence how people interact. This helps boost employee engagement, reduce turnover, and improve performance across administrations," said Dlamini.

Eswatini hosts RSG meeting after years of budget delays

By Delisa Magagula

FOR Eswatini, this year's RSG meeting carries special significance. It is the first time the country has hosted the gathering since the Eswatini Revenue Service became a semi-autonomous agency in 2011.

Eswatini Revenue Service Acting Commissioner General Pearl Dlamini acknowledged that while Eswatini had long intended to host, budget limitations in previous years made it impossible.

"Our inability to host previous meetings was solely due to challenges related to budget availability. These constraints, rather than any lack of commitment, were the primary reason," he explained.

She further said the event marks a turning point for Eswatini. Dlamini added that the event's successful hosting demonstrates the country's renewed commitment to regional cooperation and signals fiscal stability within the revenue authority.

"We are delighted to finally welcome the region to Eswatini. It reaffirms our dedication to



▲ The industry players that attended the opening of the three day workshop. the collective goals and initiatives of the ESA," she said.

The meeting also marks the first RSG attended by ROCB ESA Director Josephine Manyasi, who recently assumed office. Dlamini congratulated her on the appointment and expressed Eswatini's support for the ROCB's work in capacity building and regional cooperation.

"The region stands to benefit significantly from her expertise in trade facilitation, enforcement, and border control," she said.

The WCO Representative, Fujimitsu Motohiro, also attended, signaling the WCO's continued technical support for the ESA region and its

member states.

Nkambule the Commissioner General concluded his opening address by encouraging delegates to explore Eswatini's attractions and experience the country's renowned hospitality while focusing on advancing the region's customs transformation agenda.

Worth noting is that the 42nd WCO ESA Regional Steering Group Meeting continues until Friday, November 7, 2025, in Mbabane.

The final day will adopt the region's new strategic work plan for 2025–2028 and define a roadmap for customs innovation and integration across Africa.

By Delisa Magagula

ESWATINI is taking a major step toward reshaping its financial landscape with plans to establish a Cooperative Bank that will strengthen rather than compete with existing Cooperative Financial Institutions (CFIs).

Delivering keynote remarks at the Roundtable on the Establishment of the Eswatini Cooperative Bank, held on Wednesday morning at Mountain View Hotel in Mbabane, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Manqoba Khumalo, said the initiative would serve as a transformative milestone in advancing inclusive finance.

“The Eswatini Cooperative Bank will act as a central hub, providing liquidity, digital systems and training to strengthen our Cooperatives and extend financial inclusion to MSMEs, farmers, youth and women,” Khumalo said.

He noted that Eswatini’s Cooperative movement a legacy that dates back to 1931 had demonstrated remarkable endurance and growth, making the time ripe for a more unified and sophisticated financial system to support its expansion.

“We are not just designing a bank. We are shaping the future of Eswatini’s Cooperative movement. The soul of this initiative is Swati, and it belongs to our people and our dream of shared prosperity,” he said.

Eswatini charts new financial future

... with cooperative bank plan



▲ Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo.



▲ Ministry of Commerce Under Secretary Phesheya Dube.

... Sector managing over E3.5 billion in assets



▲ Industry players who came to the event listening closely to the speakers on the day.

By Delisa Magagula

ACCORDING to the Minister, the Cooperative sector now manages over E3.5 billion in assets, a figure that reflects the sector’s rapid growth and increasing influence in the national economy.

“This growth calls for stronger liquidity, modern skills and digital transformation. The Cooperative Bank will not compete with our financial institutions it will empower them. It will serve as a liquidity bridge, a capacity builder and a digital enabler,” said Khumalo.

He added that the proposed bank would support wholesale banking, meaning it would provide back-end financial services to CFIs rather than directly serving retail customers.

The goal is to create a system where Co-

operatives have access to shared resources, improved risk management tools, and an integrated digital platform to enhance transparency and efficiency.

The Minister expressed gratitude to the German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation (DGRV) and Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU) for their continued technical support in developing a sustainable model for Eswatini’s Cooperative Bank.

“These institutions have walked with us, offering expertise and models that have succeeded in other regions. Their guidance is helping us create a Cooperative Bank that truly serves Swazis, not just in theory, but in practice,” said Khumalo.

Worth noting is that, the partnership with DGRV is expected to focus on the regulatory framework, capacity building, and digital infrastructure, while MoCU will assist in designing training programmes and operational strategies for local Cooperative leaders.

Minister Khumalo paid tribute to the late

Russell Nxumalo, a pioneering figure in Eswatini’s Cooperative movement, whose vision for a unified and self-sustaining sector laid the foundation for today’s progress.

“Nxumalo’s dream was to see Cooperatives that are not dependent, but self-reliant institutions that drive rural development, create employment and build community wealth. His legacy lives on through this initiative,” he said.

The Minister said the new bank would ensure that Cooperatives remain the backbone of Eswatini’s inclusive economic growth agenda, fostering entrepreneurship and financial access across both rural and urban communities.

Representatives from the Eswatini National Cooperative Federation (ESNAFED) and the Eswatini Building Society (EBS) welcomed the announcement, describing it as a sign of renewed confidence in homegrown financial solutions.

ESNAFED Chairperson, Thandeka Maseko, said the Cooperative Bank would fill the

gap between ambition and access, particularly for small and medium Cooperative enterprises seeking affordable capital.

“We have long struggled with liquidity and modern banking systems. A Cooperative Bank means we will finally have a financial home built on our own values,” Maseko said.

Meanwhile, EBS Managing Director, Sandile Dlamini, said the plan complements national efforts to expand digital and inclusive banking.

“This is an opportunity to bridge the gap between formal finance and community-based institutions,” he said.

Economists believe the Cooperative Bank could help diversify Eswatini’s financial sector and reduce the heavy reliance on commercial banks for credit and liquidity.

Economist Dr Ncamiso Simelane said the move aligns with the government’s broader strategy of promoting financial inclusion.

“Cooperative financial systems, when properly capitalized and supervised, can mobilise domestic savings and finance small enterprises that commercial banks often overlook,” he said.

Another economist, Zanele Nxumalo, noted that Cooperatives already play a key role in rural finance.

“Formalising their access to liquidity through a national Cooperative Bank will multiply their impact,” she said.

The Ministry confirmed that the next phase of the project will focus on feasibility studies, regulatory consultations, and the structuring of the bank’s governance framework to ensure compliance with both domestic and international financial standards.

Once operational, the Eswatini Cooperative Bank will serve as the financial backbone of the country’s Cooperative system, pooling resources, strengthening oversight and improving resilience against market shocks.

“The Cooperative spirit is woven into our history through collective effort that Eswatini will build a financial system that is fair, inclusive and sustainable,” he closed.

Warning of three possible 'bubbles' in global economy

By Oliver Griffin

SAO PAULO — The world should watch out for three possible bubbles in financial markets, including artificial intelligence, the head of the World Economic Forum said on Wednesday, in comments that came amid sharp falls in global technology stocks.

Brokers and analysts say the falls are a cause for caution but not panic as markets have been touching record highs and some valuations are looking overblown.

The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

"We could possibly see bubbles moving forward. One is a crypto bubble, second an AI bubble, and the third would be a debt bubble," WEF president Borge Brende told reporters during a visit to Brazil's financial hub, Sao Paolo.

Governments have not been so heavily indebted since 1945, he added.

Markets have for months shrugged off concerns over elevated interest rates, stubborn inflation and trade turmoil, pushing higher partly on expectations that AI could transform the prospects for the global economy and businesses.



▲ President of World Economic Forum Borge Brende.

AI offers the possibility of big productivity gains but could also threaten many white collar jobs, said Brende, whose organisation is best known for its annual meetings at Davos, Switzerland, where business and political leaders discuss pressing global challenges.

"What you could - worst case - see is that... there is a 'Rust Belt' in those big cities that have a lot of back offices with white-collar workers that can more easily be replaced by

this AI and increased productivity," Brende said, citing recent job cut announcements from companies such as Amazon and Nestle.

"We also know from history that technological changes over time lead to increased productivity, and productivity is the only way over time to increase prosperity," he added.

"Then you can pay people better salaries, and you have more prosperity in society." (Reuters)



▲ An aerial view shows the oil tanker named Boracay (also called Pushpa), a vessel being investigated by French authorities and suspected of belonging to the so-called "shadow fleet" involved in the Russian oil trade, off the coast of the western France port of Saint-Nazaire, France

Oil steady amid weak economic data

By Enes Tunagur

LONDON — Oil prices were steady on Wednesday as investors digested weaker economic data from top oil importers while U.S. inventory data provided some support.

Brent crude futures were down 22 cents, or 0.34 per cent, at \$64.22 a barrel by 1218 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was 28 cents, or 0.46 per cent, lower at \$60.28.

Oil prices followed equities lower on Wednesday, as a shift in risk sentiment has been an important driver in recent days, said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

Weaker economic data coupled with a rally in the U.S. dollar kept oil from making significant gains, while prices found support from refined products amid lower U.S. stocks, PVM analyst Tamas Varga said.

China's factory activity shrank for a seventh month in October, while U.S. manufacturing contracted for an eighth straight month in October.

The U.S. dollar index, which measures the currency against the euro, sterling and other peers, was at a three-month high, buoyed by division among the Federal Reserve board, indicating low odds for an interest rate cut in December.

A stronger greenback makes dollar-denominated oil more expensive for holders of other currencies, which can affect demand. A U.S. interest rate cut typically boosts demand.

Earlier in the day oil found support from lower U.S. fuel stocks.

U.S. crude stocks rose by 6.52 million barrels while gasoline and distillate inventories fell by 5.65 million and 2.46 million barrels, respectively, in the week ended October 31, sources said, citing Tuesday's American Petroleum Institute figures.

On the supply side, Russia's Black Sea port of Tuapse has suspended fuel exports, while its oil refinery halted crude processing after Sunday's Ukrainian drone attacks on its infrastructure, according to two industry sources and LSEG ship tracking data.

Kazakhstan's crude oil production excluding gas condensate declined 10 per cent last month to 1.69 million barrels per day, still above the OPEC+ output quota, according to an industry source and Reuters calculations.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allied producers, a group known as OPEC+, agreed on Sunday to increase output by 137,000 barrels a day in December. It decided to pause further increases in the first quarter of 2026. (Reuters)

Stocks drop, as investors fret over tech valuations

By Amanda Cooper

LONDON — Stocks fell on Wednesday, as a selloff in global tech shares dragged down markets from Tokyo to Frankfurt, driving volatility to highs not seen since April and helping underpin safe-haven assets like gold and government bonds.

Asia stocks were hit particularly hard overnight, pushing Japan's Nikkei down nearly 7 per cent from Tuesday's record highs at one point, while shares in South Korea plunged as much as 6.2 per cent before clawing back some losses to be down 2.9 per cent.

In Europe, tech was the worst-performing sector of the STOXX 600, which dropped 0.2 per cent on the day, while Germany's DAX fell 0.3 per cent and Amsterdam's AEX index, home to Nvidia supplier ASML fell 0.1 per cent. U.S. e-mini futures slid 0.1 per cent, suggesting Tuesday's 1.2 per cent drop for the S&P 500 may continue.

Stocks retreating from record highs

Stocks are retreating from record highs on fears equity markets may have become overstretched after the CEOs of Wall Street heavyweights Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs questioned whether sky-high valuations can be sustained.

Lombard Odier economist Samy Chaar said the overall backdrop remained supportive of equities, given that interest rates will continue to fall, while economic growth mostly holds up.

"Statistically speaking, we've had a couple of good years, so there is some anxiety here. The data's still OK, governments are



▲ The German share price index DAX graph is pictured at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany.

spending, central banks are cutting," he said.

"Earnings are (around) 9 per cent above what was expected initially. The private sector is doing well. Of course, valuations are super, super demanding. So there is no room for comfort or error here," he said.

Last month, banking giant JPMorgan Chase's CEO Jamie Dimon had warned of a heightened risk of a significant correction in the U.S. stock market within the next six months to two years.

The warnings come as a surge in enthusiasm for generative AI has swept across stock markets worldwide this year, drawing comparisons to the dotcom bubble.

"At some point, profits need to be booked. Especially when we've seen repeatedly solid runs to record highs," said Matt Simpson, senior market analyst at StoneX in Brisbane. "Those with money on the line aren't likely seeking answers right now - they're just copying each other like kids in an exam. And the answer is to run."

In premarket trading, shares in AMD and Super Micro Computer fell 4.5 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively, while Big Tech shares showed more stability, with Meta up 0.3 per cent and Nvidia down 0.8 per cent.

Chinese shares rose 0.2 per cent as the

State Council's tariff commission said it would suspend its 24 per cent additional tariff on U.S. goods for one year but retain a 10 per cent levy following last week's meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump.

In currencies, the dollar was also steady, having fallen overnight against the safe-haven yen before paring those losses to trade at 153.695, almost unchanged on the day, after the release of minutes from the Bank of Japan's September policy meeting.

The euro was last a shade firmer at \$1.1491, having hit a three-month low following five straight days of declines, while the pound was up 0.2 per cent at \$1.304, after dropping to its lowest since April the day before, after finance minister Rachel Reeves seemingly paved the way for tax rises in her upcoming budget in a speech on Tuesday.

Among safe-haven assets, gold rose nearly 0.85 per cent to \$3,965 an ounce, while U.S. Treasury prices also retained some of their overnight gains, which kept the yield on benchmark 10-year notes steady at 4.09 per cent.

Bitcoin briefly fell below \$100,000 for the first time since June in choppy trading. It was last up 2.3 per cent at \$102,582. (Reuters)

‘Shadrack Sibiya told Vusimuzi Matlala to open false theft case against me’

SOUTH African Police Service (SAPS) National Head of Crime Intelligence Lt-Gen Dumisani Khumalo has told the Madlanga commission that suspended Deputy National Commissioner of Police (crime detection) Lt-Gen Shadrack Sibiya urged alleged drug cartel member Vusimuzi “Cat” Matlala to open a false theft case against him.

Khumalo revealed this information on Wednesday at the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference, and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System taking place in Pretoria.

In his testimony on Wednesday, Khumalo told Advocate Adila Hassim SC, the commission’s evidence leader, that on December 6, 2024, police went to the Centurion, Pretoria, house of Matlala to search for kidnapped Pretoria businessman Jerry Boshoga.

Khumalo said after the search and questioning operation at Matlala’s house, police confiscated his five firearms and two iPhone cellphones.

False claims of stolen Rolex

He said Matlala filed an urgent application in the Pretoria High Court to demand the return of items. He was referring to items that police confiscated from him.

“Matlala said police took five of his firearms, two iPhone cellphones, one MacBook, one Rolex watch, and a lady’s watch. He said police stole his watches. It is not true that the police took Matlala’s MacBook, Rolex watch, and the lady’s watch. Police only con-

fiscated his firearms and cellphones. The firearms were taken because the way they were placed in Matlala’s home contravened the Firearms Control Act,” said Khumalo.

He said the matter sat on December 24 2024. The judge in the matter dismissed Matlala’s application due to lack of urgency.

Khumalo said following this, Matlala told police that he is withdrawing his application against the police.

He said a day before the matter sat at the Pretoria High Court, he met former police minister Bheki Cele in Pretoria. Cele told him about a conversation he had with Matlala.

“He [Cele] said Matlala told him that General Sibiya told him to file an affidavit and open a false case against myself and my [SAPS] members that we stole Matlala’s watches and MacBook during the search operation at his house.

Urged by top cop to make false claims

“Cele said Matlala told him that the items [watches and MacBook] were not stolen or taken. And that he is still wearing the Rolex watch that was allegedly taken. Matlala told Cele that Sibiya forced him to file the High Court affidavit stating that police stole his watches and MacBook...,” said Khumalo.

Meanwhile, Boshoga was kidnapped in Centurion in November 2024. Boshoga has been missing for almost a year now. He was last seen in November last year after he said he was going to meet someone in Rooihuiskraal, Centurion

The commission is taking place at the Bri-



▲ National Head of Crime Intelligence Lt-Gen Dumisani Khumalo.

gitte Mabandla Justice College in Pretoria.

It is chaired by retired Constitutional Court

Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga.

(Sundayworld)

S.African iron ore mine to close after ArcelorMittal halts purchases

SOUTH Africa’s African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) (ARIJ.J), opens new tab said on Wednesday that its jointly owned Beeshoek iron ore mine will be placed on “care and maintenance” after its sole customer, the ailing steel producer ArcelorMittal South Africa, ceased purchases.

Care and maintenance means that the Beeshoek mine is being temporarily shut down as the owners evaluate further options to resume operations if market conditions change.

Mining operations at the mine ceased at the end of October, and about 622 permanent workers will be let go effective November 30, the South African miner said in a statement.

Beeshoek, operated by Assmang - a joint venture between ARM and international miner Assore - stopped deliveries to ArcelorMittal in late July following the expiry of a long-term contract in June, ending a decades-long supply relationship.

ArcelorMittal South Africa had continued buying iron ore on a month-to-month basis but halted purchases altogether on July 27.

ARM said an extensive review of operational, commercial and financial alternatives failed to identify a viable path forward for the ageing mine, which has legacy infrastructure and a cost base heavily reliant on ArcelorMittal’s offtake.

“In the absence of a sustainable offtake arrangement, Beeshoek Mine is no longer economically feasible to operate,” the group said in a statement.

It added that consultations with unions under South Africa’s Labour Relations Act



have been completed and the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources has been notified of the shutdown.

The decision confirms a warning issued in August, when Assmang told unions it was considering closure after ArcelorMittal unexpectedly declined to sign a new three-year supply contract.

ArcelorMittal South Africa is grappling

with weak domestic demand, high electricity costs, poor freight logistics and competition from Chinese imports and mini-mills.

It has also deferred the closure of its long steel plants in Newcastle and Vereeniging as it continues talks with the South African government and labour representatives.

(Reuters)

Nigeria sells \$2.25 billion Eurobond as it shrugs off US military threat

NIGERIA raised \$2.25 billion in a bond sale on Wednesday as markets largely shrugged off threats from U.S. President Donald Trump of potential military action in the country.

The sale reflects a sharp improvement in global borrowing conditions that is tempting some of the world’s riskiest sovereigns back to international bond markets, with Congo Republic, Angola and Kenya also selling their high-yield debt to eager investors.

Nigeria’s dual-tranche listing for ten-year and twenty-year bonds was oversubscribed, and priced at 8.625% and 9.125%, respectively, according to IRF, below the initial price expectations.

The firm demand came despite Trump’s Sunday threat of military action in Nigeria if the country did not crack down on the killing of Christians.

Instead, investors are keen to place their cash in frontier countries like Nigeria that have spent years making painful fiscal reforms; President Bola Tinubu removed fuel subsidies and allowed the naira to devalue - moves that experts say were necessary but that have made life tougher for citizens.

BORROWING COSTS FALL - AND INVESTORS CLAMOUR

JPMorgan data also showed that only four emerging market countries still have bond spreads above 1,000 basis points over U.S. Treasuries - the threshold that is considered prohibitively costly. The spread compression has lured frontier borrowers back to the market.

(Reuters)

Tesla board to shareholders: Pay Musk or else



▲ Elon Musk attends the opening ceremony of the new Tesla Gigafactory for electric cars in Gruenheide, Germany.

ket for the best available CEO at any given time.

Musk did not respond to requests for comment. A spokesperson for Tesla’s board declined to comment.

Musk told board members during negotiations that he might prioritize his many other ventures – including rocket firm SpaceX, artificial-intelligence startup xAI and brain-implant firm Neuralink – unless they came to terms. And board chair Robyn Denholm has repeatedly emphasized the risk of losing Musk in selling shareholders on his

compensation.

Charles Elson, founding director of the Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance at the University of Delaware, said Tesla’s board is being “held over the barrel by a ‘superstar CEO.’”

“To me the appropriate answer is to say, ‘Have a good day,’” Elson said.

Major shareholders including the biggest U.S. public pension fund, the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS), and Norway’s sovereign wealth fund echoed those concerns in publicly opposing Musk’s compensation. Norges Bank Invest-

ment Management said on Tuesday the pay proposal could dilute shareholder value and failed to mitigate the “key person risk” in staking Tesla’s future on Musk.

The board sought to ensure Musk’s longevity in company leadership with provisions including stock vesting periods.

Krishna Palepu, a professor at Harvard Business School focusing on corporate governance, said the proposal aligns with shareholders’ interests by tying Musk’s compensation to large stock-value increases and requiring him to hold the shares he earns for five years.

Musk, he said, has a track record of achieving extraordinary stock-price growth and would receive the largest payouts only if he does it again.

“The numbers are big because the goals are big,” Palepu said.

THE LEVERAGE OF BOLD PROMISES

Musk’s leverage over the board and shareholders lies largely in Tesla’s current stock-market value, which far exceeds the current financial fundamentals of its declining electric-car business. Tesla’s \$1.5 trillion market capitalization, rather, rests almost entirely on Musk’s longstanding promises that Tesla will dominate the future of self-driving vehicles and humanoid robots.

The threat of Musk leaving now, causing a collapse in Tesla’s stock, gives him enormous power to make unprecedented compensation demands, some corporate governance experts say. (Reuters)

Futuristic quantum computing stocks take speculators on roller-coaster ride

INVESTORS in pure-play quantum computing stocks are grappling to value these futuristic companies, making prices highly volatile for the latest hot trend on Wall Street.

Rigetti IonQ , D Wave Quantum and Quantum Computing Inc are racing to turn quantum theory into machines that could crack problems beyond the scope of today’s computers, possibly assisted by artificial intelligence.

This could revolutionize a wide range of fields from cryptography to drug discovery. Buzz around these companies has seen their shares soar by 100% or more this year alone.

“All of a sudden, it feels like science fiction has moved into the world of real technological possibility,” said Sylvia Jablonski, chief investment officer of Defiance ETFs, who oversees the Defiance Quantum fund.

Steve Sosnick, chief markets strategist at Interactive Brokers, questioned whether investors are getting carried away by the technological excitement.

“What is the right price to pay for a piece of the future?” said Sosnick, who has watched the share price of Rigetti Computing soar from \$1.06 a share to a recent high of \$58. As of late October, it was the fourth most actively traded stock among his firm’s clients, with customers trading more Rigetti shares than those of Apple (or Amazon Rigetti shares now hover at around \$38, more than 1,000 times the company’s sales. By comparison, shares of AI chipmaker Nvidia trade at about 50 times sales.

While Rigetti’s stock has soared, its operations remain unprofitable, its financial statements show, although a change in the value of securities it owned produced a bottom line profit in the first quarter of 2025.

Christopher Poch, CEO of Promethium

Advisors, who manages portfolios for ultra-wealthy clients and families, compared how investors were valuing such stocks to being “a magic act.”

“How else can you explain a company that has a \$13 billion market capitalization but only \$22 million in forecast revenues?” LSEG earnings consensus forecasts anticipate that Rigetti will earn \$21.9 million in 2026.

While a clutch of stocks are involved in quantum computing, including IBM and technology giant Alphabet traders have latched on to four names that have collectively been dubbed the “Quantum 4”, said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at B. Riley Wealth.

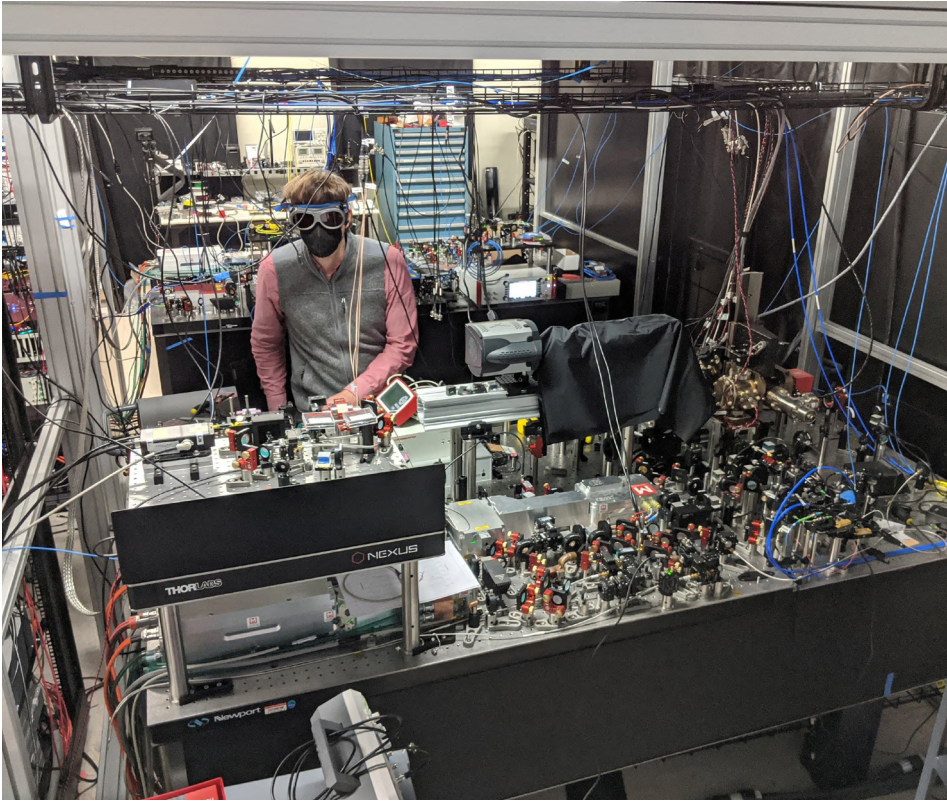
Spokespeople for Rigetti, IonQ and Quantum Computing did not return calls seeking comment on their valuations. A spokesperson for D-Wave declined any comment on the company’s roller-coaster stock or its outlook.

Some analysts that cover the stocks still recommend them despite the valuation. David Williams, an analyst at Benchmark Equity Research, rates Rigetti as a “buy” and last month boosted his target on the stock to \$50 a share from \$20.

Nevertheless, he told Reuters, “the valuation on quantum names is more of an art than science.”

On Monday, B. Riley analyst Craig Ellis cut his rating on Rigetti to “Neutral”, citing its “premium valuation” and concerns that the U.S. government shutdowns could create revenue headwinds. Still, Ellis boosted his price target on the stock to \$42 a share from \$35. On Tuesday, the stock traded at \$36.43 a share, down nearly 7%.

Banks and corporate America have shown interest in the trend. Last month, JPMorgan Chase announced plans to invest up to \$10



▲ Quantum computer startup QuEra Computing’s 256-qubit machine and Florian Huber, one of the team of scientist that built the machine are shown in this picture taken in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.

billion in strategically important sectors such as quantum computing. In September, IBM and HSBC announced that they had used quantum-based technologies to develop a new algorithmic bond trading platform. Both ignited a fresh round of fervor, as did reports last week that the U.S. government may also inject new funding into quantum computing in exchange for equity stakes.

A U.S. Department of Commerce official told Reuters in an email that it is “not currently negotiating” such arrangements.

Still, while the quantum computing stocks

have posted jaw-dropping gains and a McKinsey report projects the total value of the market could top \$100 billion, the technology has taken only baby steps forward and even technology investing experts remain cautious.

“It’s the holy grail of computing; the use case is undeniable, and undeniably awesome,” said Rick Bradt, a portfolio manager at Neuberger Berman who invests in disruptive technologies. “But there’s still a lot of uncertainty about the timing.”

(Reuters)

At least seven dead after UPS plane crashes in fireball on takeoff from Louisville, Kentucky

A UPS wide-body cargo plane crashed on Tuesday and erupted into a fireball moments after takeoff from the international airport in Louisville, Kentucky, killing seven, including all three aboard, and injuring 11 on the ground, officials said.

Flames from the crash, shortly before sundown, ignited a string of fires in an industrial corridor adjacent to the airport, forcing authorities to halt flight operations through the night, the officials said.

The Louisville airport, which is home to UPS Worldport - a global hub for the shipping company's air cargo operations and its largest package-handling facility worldwide - was expected to reopen on Wednesday morning.

Two runways were strewn with debris from the crash.

In a Tuesday night service alert, UPS said delivery schedules for airborne and international packages "may be affected" by the disruption.

"Contingency plans are in place to help ensure that shipments arrive at their final destinations as quickly as conditions permit," it added.

The triple-engine plane was fueled for an 8-1/2 hour flight to Honolulu. It had a crew of three,

UPS (UPS.N), opens new tab said. None survived, officials said.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg told reporters at a late-night news briefing that four deaths were confirmed on the ground, with 11 injured people taken to hospitals.

Separately, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said the death toll was at least seven and expected to rise. Some survivors had suffered "very significant" injuries, he said.

It was the first UPS cargo plane to crash since August 2013, when an Airbus aircraft went down on a landing approach to the international airport in Birmingham, Alabama, killing both crew.

Television channel WLKY, a CBS affiliate, showed video of Tuesday's crash, with flames visible as the plane took off, and the fireball erupting as it hit the ground.

Several buildings in an industrial area beyond the runway were on fire after the crash, with thick, black smoke seen rising into the evening sky.

Beshear said stricken facilities on the ground included a petroleum recycling center and an auto parts business.

"UPS Flight 2976 crashed around 5:15 p.m. local time on Tuesday, Nov. 4, after departing from Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport in Kentucky," the Federal Aviation Administration said in a

statement.

One key question for investigators is why one engine appeared to have separated from the plane before the crash, a person briefed on the matter said, pointing to video images of airfield debris.

The cause and origin of the fire before the aircraft went down were also unknown.

U.S. air safety expert and pilot John Cox said investigators will need to look at why the plane with three engines failed to fly after one apparently caught fire.

"It's too big a fire for a normal, typical-engine fire," Cox said. "It's much too big."

"That airplane should have flown on two engines. So now we've got to look at what caused it not to fly," he added.

Fires on the ground burned for hours afterwards, with authorities warning the public within a 5-mile (8-km) radius of the scene to stay indoors to guard against air-quality hazards. The shelter-in-place zone was later reduced to a mile across.

CRASH INVOLVED 34-YEAR-OLD PLANE

FAA records show the crashed plane, an MD-11 freighter, was 34 years old. Boeing (BA.N), opens new tab, which shut down the MD-11 program after acquiring it in a merger with McDonnell Douglas, said it was concerned for the safety



▲ Smoke rises from the wreckage of a UPS MD-11 cargo jet after it crashed on departure from Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport in Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.

and well-being of those affected, and it would provide technical support to the investigation.

Flightradar24 said the plane, which began operations with UPS in 2006, had flown from Louisville to Baltimore earlier on Tuesday before returning to Louisville.

It climbed to an altitude of 175 feet and reached a speed of 184 knots before making a sharp descent, Flightradar24 data showed.

The National Transportation Safety Board will lead the accident investigation and was sending a team to the site, a spokesperson said.

The NTSB typically takes 12 to 24 months to complete an investigation, make a finding of probable cause and issue recommendations to help avoid similar incidents.

UPS is the largest employer in Louisville, providing 26,000 jobs, the publication Louisville Business First said.

"We are terribly saddened by the accident tonight in Louisville," the company said in a statement.

Louisville's Worldport is at the center of the hub-and-spoke system for its air cargo network, serving the high-tech, healthcare and retail industries, handling more than 300 flights and processing about 2 million packages a day.

More than 150 UPS customers, such as Merck & Co (MRK.N), opens new tab and other major pharmaceutical companies, have inventory there.

"My heart goes out to everybody at UPS, because this is a UPS town," Louisville Metro Council member Betsy Ruhe, whose district includes the airport, said at the press conference.

"We all know somebody who works at UPS, and they're all texting their friends, their family, trying to make sure everyone is safe. (Reuters)

Democrats sweep first major elections of second Trump term

DEMOCRATS swept a trio of races on Tuesday in the first major elections since Donald Trump regained the presidency, elevating a new generation of leaders and giving the beleaguered party a shot of momentum ahead of next year's congressional elections.

In New York City, Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old democratic socialist, won the mayoral race, capping a meteoric and unlikely rise from an anonymous state lawmaker to one of the country's most visible Democratic figures. And in Virginia and New Jersey, moderate Democrats Abigail Spanberger, 46, and Mikie Sherrill, 53, won their elections for governor with commanding leads, respectively.

"If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him. And if there is any way to terrify a despot, it is by dismantling the very conditions that allowed him to accumulate power," Mamdani told a raucous crowd of supporters. "So Donald Trump, since I know you're watching, I have four words for you: turn the volume up."

Tuesday's contests offered a barometer of how Americans are responding to Trump's tumultuous nine months in office. The races also served as a test of differing

Democratic campaign playbooks ahead of 2026, with the party locked out of power in Washington and still trying to forge a path out of the political wilderness.

That said, the midterm election is a year away, an eternity in the Trump era, and opinion polls show the Democratic brand remains broadly unpopular, even as Trump's own approval rating has declined. The most closely watched contests on Tuesday also unfolded in Democratic-leaning regions that did not support Trump in last year's presidential election.

Perhaps the biggest practical boost to Democrats on Tuesday came out of California, where voters approved a plan to redraw the state's congressional map in the party's favor, expanding a national battle over redistricting that will shape the race for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The winning candidates on Tuesday could reenergize and inspire more engagement from Democratic voters, many of whom have clamored for fresh faces at the vanguard of the party. Turnout in the New York City mayoral race was the highest since at least 1969.

All three Democratic candidates emphasized economic issues, particularly affordability, an issue that remains top of mind for most voters. But Spanberger and Sherrill hail from the party's moderate wing, while Mamdani used a viral



video-fueled insurgent campaign to present himself as an unabashed progressive in the mold of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Mamdani, who will become the first Muslim mayor of the biggest U.S. city, outlasted former Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo, 67, who ran as an independent after losing the nomination to Mamdani earlier this year. Cuomo, who resigned as governor four years ago after sexual harassment allegations that he has denied, portrayed Mamdani as a radical leftist whose proposals were unworkable and dangerous.

Mamdani has called for rais-

ing taxes on corporations and the wealthy to pay for ambitious left-wing policies such as frozen rents, free childcare and free city buses. Wall Street executives have expressed concern about putting a democratic socialist at the helm of the financial capital of the world.

Republicans have already signaled they intend to present Mamdani as the face of the Democratic Party. Trump has incorrectly labeled Mamdani a "communist" and vowed to cut funding for the city in response to Mamdani's ascension.

In a social media post on Tuesday night, Trump blamed the losses on the fact his name was not on the ballot and on an ongoing federal government shutdown.

TRUMP LOOMS OVER RACES

Spanberger, who beat Republican Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, will take over from Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin in Virginia. New Jersey's Sherrill defeated Republican Jack Ciattarelli and will succeed Democratic Governor Phil Murphy.

Both Sherrill and Spanberger had sought to tie their opponents to Trump in an effort to harness frustration among Democratic and independent voters over his chaotic tenure.

"We sent a message to the world that in 2025 Virginia chose pragmatism over partisanship," Spanberger said in her victory speech. "We chose our Commonwealth over chaos."

Trump gave both candidates some late-stage grist during the ongoing government shutdown.

His administration threatened to fire federal workers — a move with an outsized impact on Virginia, a state adjacent to Washington, D.C., and home to many government employees. He froze billions in funding for a new Hudson River train tunnel, a critical project for New Jersey's large commuter population.

(Reuters)

Eemoh headlines Umswenko Fest

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

MANZINI is set to become the epicentre of Amapiano music this December as South African sensation Eemoh prepares to headline the highly anticipated Umswenko Fest at Manzini Club.

Scheduled for December 12, 2025, the festival promises an exhilarating day and night of pulsating beats, vibrant performances, and a celebration of Southern Africa’s dynamic music culture. Eemoh, whose real name is Nqubeko Mbuliso Shangase, has rapidly ascended the ranks of the Amapiano scene, captivating audiences with his innovative sound and energetic stage presence.

Born on July 23, 1999, in the small town of Untunjambili, Kranskop in KwaZulu-Natal, Eemoh’s journey from humble beginnings to regional stardom is a testament to his talent and relentless dedication. Over the years, he has collaborated with some of the biggest names in the industry, including De Mthuda, Master KG, DJ Maphorisa, and Da Muziqal Chef, creating a string of hits that have resonated deeply with fans across Southern Africa. The festival lineup doesn’t stop with Eemoh. Adding to the star power is Busiswa, another heavyweight from South Africa’s vibrant music scene. Known for her powerful vocals and dynamic performances, Busiswa’s presence guarantees an electrifying atmosphere that will keep the crowd energised throughout



▲ South Africa’s Amapiano sensation Eemoh.

the event. Also confirmed are 015 Music and Vancity Music, promising a diverse and rich musical experience that showcases the best of contemporary Southern African music.

Tickets

Umswenko Fest is designed to be accessible to a wide audience, with ticket pricing structured to accommodate various budgets. Early bird general tickets

are available at E100, offering an affordable entry point for eager fans. As the event approaches, ticket prices will increase in phases: phase 1 general admission at E150, phase 2 at E200, phase 3 at E250, and tickets at the door priced at E300. This tiered pricing strategy aims to encourage early purchases while ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to partake in this landmark musical celebration.



▲ Obsession has joined the lineup for Jazzworx & Thukuthela show.

Eswatini’s finest join Jazzworx & Thukuthela show

MUSIC enthusiasts across Eswatini and the region are gearing up for an unforgettable night as South Africa’s acclaimed production duo, Jazzworx and Thukuthela, and a local lineup are set for the Ultimate Shutdown event.

Scheduled for November 21, 2025, at Mdzimba View Shisanyama, this concert is set to be a vibrant celebration of African dance music with an electrifying lineup that includes some of Eswatini’s finest local talents. The local artists set to grace the stage alongside Jazzworx and Thukuthela are Obsession, Bongiswa, MaWillies, Sbuda, Castle, Slim Deep, Sade, and MaTenTen.

This diverse roster showcases the rich musical talent thriving within Eswatini, reflecting a broad spectrum of styles and sounds that will complement the headline act’s energetic vibe. The Ultimate Shutdown event was officially announced via the venue’s social media platforms, instantly sparking excitement among fans.

Loading

A post from the Mdzimba View Shisanyama page boldly declared, “The Ultimate Shutdown is loading. Jazzworx and Thukuthela are taking over Mdzimba View Shisanyama, November 21, mark the date, it’s about to get crazy lit!” This enthusiastic message captured the anticipation building around the event, promising an evening of high-energy music and dance.

Jazzworx, whose real name is Kamohelo Monese, and Thukuthela, born Kgotso Dube, have carved out a significant place in the South African and African music scenes. Known for their innovative fusion of house, kwaito, and Afrobeat, the duo has created a distinctive sound that resonates widely with audiences. Their music is characterised by infectious rhythms, pulsating beats, and a seamless blend of traditional African sounds with contemporary electronic production.

Their journey to stardom has been marked by a string of chart-topping hits and memorable live performances. Jazzworx and Thukuthela have collaborated with some of the continent’s biggest music stars, further cementing their reputation as trendsetters in African dance music. Their ability to energise crowds and create an immersive musical experience has made them a sought-after act at festivals and clubs across Africa.

‘Jazz Meets Opera’ at Luxy Garden

IN what promises to be one of the most enchanting evenings of the year, The Jazz Gallery, in partnership with Into Music Society, will host ‘Jazz Meets Opera.’

Scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025, this concert stands out not only for its artistic ambition but also for its exclusivity. With tickets priced at E400 and no sales at the door, the event anticipates a full house of eager attendees, underscoring the growing appetite for innovative live music experiences in the region. The decision to limit ticket availability in advance reflects the organisers’ confidence in the event’s appeal and the high standards they aim to uphold.

‘Jazz Meets Opera’ is a celebration of musical fusion, bringing together the improvisational freedom of jazz with the structured, soaring expressiveness of opera. These genres, while distinct in their traditions and performance styles, share a common goal: to evoke deep emotional responses through vocal and instrumental mastery. The concert will showcase a repertoire that includes classical opera pieces alongside fresh jazz interpretations, creating a dynamic dialogue between the two forms.

The venue, Luxy Garden, is poised to provide an intimate yet grand setting, perfect for the nuanced interplay of arias and jazz solos. Audiences can expect a sensory



▲ Attendees at a recent Jazz Gallery event.

journey where the grandeur of operatic crescendos meets the subtlety of jazz piano and saxophone improvisations. This blending of soundscapes promises moments of both reverence and rhythmic vitality, inviting listeners to experience music as a powerful, living conversation.

Vision

Central to the event’s vision is Nelisa Lawton, a prominent figure in Eswatini’s music scene and the director of both Into Music Society and The Jazz Gallery. Lawton’s leadership and innovative spirit have been instrumental in bringing this

project to life. Her enthusiasm is evident in her public statements, where she highlights the event as a boundary-pushing celebration of musical artistry and cultural exchange. Lawton’s role ensures that ‘Jazz Meets Opera’ is not just a concert but a curated experience that elevates the local music scene onto an international platform. “We are excited to merge the realms of jazz and opera in a night that will linger in memory. Join us for an evening of soul-stirring harmonies and culinary delights,” Lawton declared, hinting at the musical feast awaiting attendees.

Nqaba Tsela debuts as ‘Vacu’ in ‘Isitha: The Enemy’

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

NQABA Tsela, a multi-talented actor, scriptwriter, and art educator from Eswatini, is making waves across Southern Africa’s entertainment landscape.

With a career marked by compelling performances and a commitment to nurturing local arts, Tsela has become a rising star in the region. His latest milestone is his debut as Vacu in the popular South African drama series *Isitha: The Enemy* on ETV, a role that promises to elevate his profile even further.

Tsela’s journey into acting began in his home country, where he honed his craft and built a foundation in theatre and television. However, it was his transition to the South African entertainment industry that truly showcased his versatility and screen presence. Over the years, Tsela has captivated audiences with a range of characters, from relatable everyday personas to deeply complex figures, earning him a loyal following and critical acclaim.

Before joining *Isitha: The Enemy*, Tsela was best known for his role as Siphwe on ETV’s daily soap opera *Scandal!* His portrayal was notable for its authenticity and the distinctive SiSwati accent he brought to the character, which resonated strongly with South African viewers. This role not only highlighted his acting skills but also helped bridge cultural gaps, bringing Eswatini’s rich linguistic and cultural heritage to a broader audience. The success of *Scandal!* opened doors for Tsela, leading to more prominent roles and collaborations with leading industry figures.

While Tsela has made significant inroads



▲ Nqaba Tsela.

into South African television, he has remained deeply connected to Eswatini’s entertainment scene. His performances in local productions such as ‘Buhle Buyeza’ and ‘Ekhaya’ demonstrate his dedication to uplifting the arts within his home country.

Pivotal

The role of Vacu in *Isitha: The Enemy* marks a pivotal moment in Tsela’s career. Taking over from Antony ‘Zuka’ Ntjalintjali in November 2025, Tsela steps into a character central to the show’s intricate narrative of power struggles and moral

conflict. *Isitha: The Enemy* is renowned for its gripping storylines and complex characters, and Vacu’s arc is no exception.

Beyond his acting achievements, Tsela is also a passionate art teacher committed to nurturing the next generation of talent in Eswatini. His work as a mentor and director has had a profound impact on young artists. One of his notable contributions was directing a modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* at Lilima Montessori Life High School, performed at the Theatre Club.



▲ Bobo Rocboy, the visionary behind SDSS.

Bobo Rocboy launches multi-functional hub

SHISELO Down South Studios (SDSS) is poised to transform the creative and entertainment scene in Eswatini by establishing a dynamic and inclusive hub that integrates music, arts, physical training, and media production.

This innovative studio, founded by Bongani M. Dlamini, known professionally as Bobo Rocboy, aims to nurture local talent and foster a vibrant community that celebrates the rich cultural diversity of the Shiselweni region. Situated in the bustling town of Nhlangano, SDSS emerged from a clear need for a multifunctional space that supports a broad spectrum of artistic and physical disciplines.

Unlike traditional studios that focus solely on music or visual arts, SDSS offers a comprehensive platform encompassing seven key areas: music recording, dance and modelling training, instrument playing, fine arts, self-defence training, podcasting, and music video production. Bobo Rocboy, the visionary behind SDSS, explains the studio’s mission. “We want to create a space where all forms of art are celebrated. This is more than just a studio, it’s a community hub for artists, athletes, and creatives of all kinds to come together, collaborate, and innovate.”

Challenge

Historically, many aspiring artists from Shiselweni have faced the challenge of relocating to larger cities to pursue their careers, often encountering financial and logistical obstacles. SDSS aims to reverse this trend by offering a local platform where talent can thrive without the need to migrate. “Too many artists have to leave their homes to find success,” Bobo said. “At SDSS, we’re giving talent a place to stay and grow right here in Shiselweni. We’re showing them that they can succeed without having to migrate to bigger cities.”

The studio’s impact extends beyond training and production. It is actively involved in creating projects that highlight the region’s artistic potential. A notable upcoming release is the music video for “Ngisite,” a collaboration between Bobo Rocboy and fellow artist Yung Trevor.

SIGMA Clothing elevates Ndzevane Art Group with new dance gear

SIGMA Clothing has made a significant contribution to the performing arts community by sponsoring the Ndzevane Art Group with brand-new dancing costumes and footwear for both boys and girls.

This generous gesture follows the group’s remarkable achievement of securing third place at the prestigious Wafa Wafa National Dance Competition, held on September 7 at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre during the Eswatini International Trade Fair.

The sponsorship consists of two complete sets of dance attire, thoughtfully designed and tailored to enhance the group’s professional image and stage presence. The first set, delivered in early September, featured Kofifi Dance/African dance costumes, including elegant dresses for the girls and coordinating shirts for the boys.

The second set, provided in early October just before SIGMA’s new factory launch dinner, included vibrant African touch green skirts paired with white T-shirts for the girls, while the boys received short-sleeved shirts matched with long khaki trousers. To complete the ensemble, SIGMA also supplied white tekkies for the boys and black tekkies for the girls, ensuring the dancers could perform with both style and comfort.

Sibusiso “Mr Sey” Gwebu, the director of Ndzevane Art Group, expressed immense gratitude for the sponsorship, describing it



▲ Mr. Sey, the director of Ndzevane Arts Group with the Ndzevane boys in their newly sponsored costumes.

as the fulfilment of a long-held dream. “We appreciate the SIGMA Association for this sponsorship as it was one of my dreams that the dancers have a uniform.

Professional

This was really a blessing to us as now we look professional,” he said. Gwebu emphasised that the new uniforms have not only enhanced the group’s appearance but also strengthened their identity within the

performing arts space.

The sponsorship’s impact goes beyond aesthetics, providing a profound sense of pride and belonging, especially for many group members who come from underprivileged backgrounds. “What I have noticed is that my dancers were less privileged, so by SIGMA sponsoring us, it gives us that privilege to be recognised,” Gwebu noted.

Nadia Nakai nominated for Best Celebrity Personality at the National Film and TV Awards

THE South African rapper and reality star Nadia Nakai has snagged herself a nomination for Best Celebrity Personality at the upcoming National Film & TV Awards South Africa (NFTA).

The NFTA recently announced the full list of nominees for the 2025 edition of the prestigious awards in an Instagram post. The list included names of industry legends who will receive honorary recognition for their lifetime contributions to film and television.

The 3rd annual South African edition will take place on Saturday, November 22, at the South African State Theatre.

The artist will be going up against Khanyi Mbau, Ayanda Thabethe, The Funny Chef, Anele Mdoda, Katlego Maboe, Minnie Dlamini, Lawrence Maleka and Lasizwe Dambuza.

Nakai showed her appreciation for the nomination by commenting with a heart emoji on NFTA's Instagram post with a heart emoji.

The category truly represents the diverse and dynamic nature of South Africa's celebrity culture, with each nominee having significantly impacted their fields.

The "Young, Famous & African" star continues to captivate audiences through her artistry and cultural influence, and this nomination marks yet another remarkable

achievement in her thriving career.

The 35-year-old rapper has long been a force in the entertainment industry, and she has proven her influence beyond the music scene with her reality show that is slated for another season.

The "Bragga" hitmaker is adored by millions and has taken the music and TV world by storm. She has also been busy with several other business ventures.

Nakai recently released her make-up range "Naked Without" by Bragga Cosmetics, a line in which she seeks to commit to authenticity, redefining beauty standards and catering to a diverse range of skin tones and textures.

The "Naaa Meaan" hitmaker launched her app, "Bragga World", in 2023, which gives fans an exclusive look into her life.

She also established a podcast called "Hello Bragga" in November, which is available on the "Bragga World" portal.

With the ceremony approaching, excitement is building as the organisation prepares to honour the personalities who have shaped the entertainment landscape over the past year.

Public voting for the National Film & TV Awards South Africa concludes at 12:00 on November 20, 2025. Winners are determined by these votes, cast via the official Academy public voting platform.

(IOL)



▲ The "Bragga" hitmaker, Nadia Nakai earns a nod for 'Best Celebrity Personality' at the upcoming NFTA South Africa.

Thabang Moleya: From K-TV dreamer to award-winning director

BEFORE becoming one of South Africa's most respected filmmakers and creative powerhouses, Thabang Moleya was just a bright-eyed young boy from Tembisa with big dreams and a contagious smile, one that captured the hearts of thousands when he became a K-TV presenter in the late 1990s.

Today, Moleya is the acclaimed director and co-founder of Seriti Films. It is the production company behind some of the country's most beloved shows, including Gomora, The Wife, and The Queen. But as he reflects on his journey, he credits his humble beginnings on the kids' television show that shaped a generation.

"There was a big open audition and we were shortlisted from thousands of kids. I went through at least six different callbacks before they finally told me I'd been selected as a K-TV presenter."

What makes his story even more remarkable is that, growing up, Thabang's family didn't even have access to M-Net.

"At home, we couldn't afford a decoder, so we only had Open Time. So, growing up in Tembisa, no one actually believed I was on K-TV. Only the families who had M-Net could see me on TV."

Despite that, Moleya's charm and confidence stood out. It laid the foundation for a creative journey that would later revolutionise South African television.

Years later, Thabang still holds fond memories of the friendships and connections built during his K-TV days.

"Since we're in the same industry, I've kept in touch with Wandile Molebatsi from Coal Stove Pictures," he said. "We've even tried to collaborate and work together through our companies."

He's also reconnected with several of his former co-presenters online.

"On Facebook, I'm in touch with this big K-TV community. And I've reconnected with Heather McKenzie, Rebecca Solomons, and Jena Dover."

For Moleya, K-TV was more than just a job. It was an education in storytelling, production, and the power of representation.

"K-TV was instrumental in opening my eyes to the industry. As a township boy from Tembisa, it was my first real exposure to the world and to endless possibilities. That experience sparked my creative direction in the arts." (Sunday World)



▲ Filmmakers and creative powerhouse, Thabang Moleya.

Cassper Nyovest reveals his secret to staying motivated

IF there is one rapper who constantly finds himself under scrutiny, it is Cassper Nyovest.

Throughout his career, Nyovest has been criticised for almost everything, from his music and fashion choices to his social media posts and physical appearance.

Whatever he does, it seems there is always someone ready to comment. However, no matter how much criticism he faces, he never stays down for long. When he finds it necessary, he claps back, but most times, he simply keeps moving.

Speaking on "You FM", Nyovest was asked what keeps him going despite the constant negativity.

"You have to go on," he said. "I think everyone wants a soft life. We all want peace. The only peace I have is in Christ, because through all the noise and commotion, there's one thing I know that never changes, and that's Christ," he shared.

He also shared that one incident, which summed up the hate he endures, was when someone used his name to gain attention online. Even then, he chose not to retaliate, saying he refuses to hurt others the way people have tried to hurt him.

"I saw a guy spreading the most ridiculous story about me," he said. "I know how it feels when your name is used in that way. That is why you will never find me insulting or tearing someone down. I know how much that hurts."

"People hated Jesus; they killed him. So who am I? You have to take it, that's people. It is also spiritual. We are not fighting flesh



▲ Casspr Nyovest.

and blood. You become a target, and when you start speaking about Christ, it feels like all hell breaks loose," he said.

Back in 2019, he trended after calling himself "the most loved hip hop artist of all time".

The statement did not sit well with many online users who accused him of seeking attention and trying to overshadow other artists.

The award-winning rapper later stood by

his words, saying that he knew his worth and was not afraid to celebrate it.

At another point, he told fans that he was too drained to keep clapping back at trolls. He admitted that arguing online had become pointless because "people have too much time" and that he preferred to focus his energy on things that truly mattered.

(IOL)

TO eat healthier, start by making small changes.

Make each meal or snack contain nutrient-dense foods, and try to avoid processed foods.

Healthy eating does not have to be complicated. You can nourish your body while still enjoying the foods you love. Food is meant to be enjoyed — not feared, counted, weighed, and tracked.

Keep reading to learn more about what healthy eating means and how to make it work for you.

Why does eating healthy matter?

Food is what fuels you and delivers the calories and nutrients your body needs to function. If your diet is deficient in calories or one or more nutrients, your health may suffer.

If you eat too many calories, you may experience weight gain. People with obesity have a significantly increased risk of:

- ▶ type 2 diabetes
- ▶ obstructive sleep apnea
- ▶ heart disease
- ▶ liver disease
- ▶ kidney disease

Additionally, the quality of your diet affects your disease risk, longevity, and mental health. Research suggests that diets rich in ultra-processed foods are linked to increased mortality. Studies have also found that diets rich in ultra-processed foods are associated with a greater risk of conditions like cancer and heart disease. On the other hand, diets comprising mostly whole, nutrient-dense foods—such as the Mediterranean diet—are associated with increased longevity and disease protection. Diets rich in highly processed foods may also increase the risk of depressive symptoms, particularly among people who get less exercise. If your current diet is high in ultra-processed foods and beverages but low in whole foods like vegetables, nuts, and fish, you're likely not eating enough of certain nutrients. This may negatively affect your overall health.

Do you have to follow a certain diet to eat healthy?

Although certain people need — or choose — to avoid particular foods or adopt diets for health reasons, you don't have to follow any specific diet to feel your best.

“Healthy eating” simply means fueling your body with mostly nutritious foods.

The specifics may be different for each person depending on location, financial situation, culture, and taste preferences.

The basics of healthy eating

Nutrient density

Even though calories are important, your primary concern should be nutrients.

That's because nutrients, including protein, carbs, fat, vitamins, and minerals, are what your body needs to thrive. “Nutrient density” refers to the amount of nutrients in a food in relation to the calories it provides.

All foods contain calories, but not all foods are nutrient-dense.

For example, egg whites are much lower in calories and fat than whole eggs. However, an egg white provides 1% or less of the Daily Value (DV) for iron, phosphorus, zinc, choline, and vitamins A and B12, while a whole egg packs 5–21% of the DV for these nutrients.

Some nutrient-dense foods, such as



Guide to healthy eating in real life

numerous fruits and veggies, are low in calories. Others like nuts, Greek yogurt, egg yolks, avocado, and fatty fish are high in calories. That's perfectly OK!

Just because a food is high in calories doesn't mean that it's bad for you. On the same note, just because a food is low in calories doesn't make it a healthy choice.

As a general rule, try to mostly eat foods that are high in nutrients like protein, fiber, healthy fats, vitamins, and minerals. These foods include veggies, fruits, nuts, seeds, beans, fatty fish, and eggs.

Diet diversity

Following a diet that's rich in different kinds of food:

- ▶ supports your gut bacteria
- ▶ promotes a healthy body weight
- ▶ promotes longevity
- ▶ protects against chronic disease

Eating a variety of foods may be difficult if you're a picky eater. If that's the case, try to introduce new foods one at a time.

If you don't eat many vegetables, start by adding a favorite vegetable to one or two meals per day. You can build off of this at a pace that is comfortable to you.

Although you may not enjoy trying new foods, research shows that the more you're exposed to a food, the greater your chances of growing accustomed to it.

Macronutrient ratios

Macronutrients — the main nutrients you get from food — are carbs, fat, and protein. (Fiber is considered a type of carb.)

Generally, your meals and snacks should be balanced between the three. In particular, adding protein and fat to fiber-

rich carb sources makes dishes more filling and tasty.

For example, if you're snacking on a piece of fruit, adding a spoonful of nut butter or a bit of cheese helps keep you fuller than if you were to eat the fruit alone.

However, it's fine if your diet isn't balanced all the time. Counting macros and following a set macronutrient plan isn't necessary for most people — except athletes, people seeking a specific body composition, and those who need to gain muscle or fat for medical reasons. Plus, counting macros and obsessing about staying within a certain macro range may lead to an unhealthy fixation with food and calories or cause disordered eating tendencies. It's important to note that some people may thrive on diets that are low in carbs and high in fat and protein — or low in fat and high in carbs. However, even on these diets, macronutrient counting typically isn't necessary. For example, if you feel your best on a low carb diet, simply choosing low carb foods like nonstarchy veggies, proteins, and fats more often than high carb foods will usually suffice.

Highly processed foods

One of the best ways to improve your diet is to cut back on ultra-processed foods.

You don't have to avoid processed foods completely. In fact, many healthy foods like shelled nuts, canned beans, and frozen fruits and veggies have been processed in one way or another.

In contrast, highly processed products like soda, mass-produced baked goods, candy, sugary cereals, and certain boxed snack food contain little if any whole food ingredients.

How to make healthy eating work for you

The first step to following a healthier diet is to make food one of your priorities. This doesn't mean that you have to spend hours meal prepping or cooking elaborate meals, but it does require some thought and effort.

Going to the grocery store regularly will help ensure that you have healthy choices in your fridge and pantry. A well-stocked kitchen makes choosing healthy meals and snacks much easier.

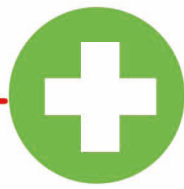
When grocery shopping, stock up on:

- ▶ fresh and frozen fruits and veggies
- ▶ protein sources like chicken, eggs, fish, and tofu
- ▶ bulk carb sources like canned beans and whole grains
- ▶ starchy veggies like white potatoes, sweet potatoes, and butternut squash
- ▶ fat sources like avocados, olive oil, and full fat yogurt
- ▶ nutritious, simple snack ingredients like nuts, seeds, nut butter, hummus, olives, and dried fruit
- ▶ Rule of threes

If you're drawing a blank at mealtime, think in threes:

- ▶ Protein: eggs, chicken, fish, tofu
- ▶ Fat: nuts, seeds, nut butter, avocado, cheese, or Greek yogurt
- ▶ Fiber-rich carbs: sweet potatoes, oats, certain fruits, and beans — or low carb fiber sources like asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, and berries

If you're not used to cooking or grocery shopping, focus on a single meal or just a few meals. Shop for the ingredients for a couple of breakfast or dinner dishes at a time. **Healthline**



MOISTURIZERS form a barrier on the skin, locking in moisture and making it softer.

Hydrators absorb moisture from air or skin to keep it trapped. Both do similar jobs but have different effects.

You might think hydration is something that only people with dry or dehydrated skin need to worry about.

But hydrating your skin is just like hydrating your body: Your body needs hydration to look and feel its best — and, no matter your skin type, so does your skin.

But what, exactly, is hydration? Is it the same as moisture? And with so many different products claiming to give you the hydrated skin you crave — oils and creams and gels, oh my! — how do you choose one that actually gives your skin the potent dose of moisture it needs?

Hydrator vs. moisturizer: What's the difference?

Scientifically, moisturizer is an umbrella term for moisturizer types:

- ▶ emollients (fats and oils)
- ▶ squalene (oil)
- ▶ humectants
- ▶ occlusive

But in the world of marketing and the world in which we buy products, the terminology has gone through a makeover.

“[Hydrator and moisturizer] are marketing terms and can be defined by the brands pretty much however they want,” says Perry Romanowski, cosmetic chemist and co-founder of The Beauty Brains.

But while there's no gold standard for what defines a hydrator and a moisturizer, for the most part, brands use these terms to differentiate how your skin gets the moisture it needs.

Is water a good moisturizer?

Water alone isn't a strong enough ingredient to keep your skin moisturized. It's also likely by the time you leave the bathroom, it's evaporated away — along with your skin's natural oils. In fact, the more you wash your skin without applying a moisturizer or hydrator, the more likely your skin will dry out.

The technical terms are occlusives, which you may see labeled as moisturizers and hydrators (humectants).

“Moisturizers ... are oil-based ingredients, including occlusive agents, such as petrolatum or mineral oil, and emollients like esters and plant oils. They work by creating a seal on the surface of skin that prevents water from escaping. They also make the skin feel smoother and less dry,” says Romanowski.

“Hydrators are ingredients called humectants, such as glycerin or hyaluronic acid, that absorb water from the atmosphere or your skin and hold it in place on your skin.”

It's important to recognize that they work very differently because what you choose can make or break your skin health. The end goal might be the same — better hydrated skin — but the game plan to get there depends on your skin type.

The million-dollar question: Which is best for your skin type?

There are a ton of different products on the market, from balms to oils to creams, gels to ointments to hydrators — but the truth is, most of them do the same thing.

“Most skin lotions [and products] will

contain both occlusive and emollient ingredients and humectant ingredients — so they moisturize and hydrate at the same time,” says Romanowski.

“The particular form that a product takes, gel, balm, oil, cream, etc., doesn't really affect the performance of the product. It's the ingredients that matter. The form just affects the experience of applying the ingredients.”

That being said, read the ingredients and experiment. Sometimes your skin might do better with only a moisturizer or hydrator, not both. By learning exactly how your skin likes to drink, you maximize your way to hydrated skin.

If you have dry skin, try a thicker moisturizer

If your skin is naturally dry year-round and tends to flake or peel, chances are, it's not weather-related dehydration that's causing your dryness — your skin just has a hard time retaining moisture.

For that, you'll need to moisturize to create a protective seal on the surface to lock in moisture. A thick, emollient moisturizer will help prevent water from leaving your skin and, with the right formula, will provide the nutrients and nourishment your complexion needs to thrive all winter long.

If your skin is really dry, what's the best solution? Good, old-fashioned petroleum jelly, also known as petrolatum. “For really

dry skin, occlusive agents are the best — something with petrolatum works the best,” says Romanowski.

“But if someone wants to avoid petrolatum, [then] shea butter or canola oil or soybean oil can work. In reality, petrolatum is the best, however.”

● Ingredients you'll definitely want to try: petrolatum, oils including plant oils, like jojoba oil, and nut oils, like coconut oil

If you have dehydrated skin, try a hydrating serum

If your skin is dehydrated, you need to actively add water back into the skin. Look for a hydrating serum with hyaluronic acid, which retains an impressive 1,000 times its weight in water — and will add a healthy dose of hydration back into the skin.

● Ingredients you'll definitely want to try: hyaluronic acid, aloe vera, honey

Hydrate from the inside out

Aim to drink plenty of water. A good goal is at least half of your body weight in ounces of water every day. So, if you weigh 150 pounds, shoot for 75 ounces of water per day.

Add water-rich foods such as watermelon, strawberries, and cucumber. These can help give your skin and body the hydration it needs to look and feel its best.

If you have oily skin, try water-based hydrators and moisturizers

Just because you have an oily skin type doesn't mean your skin isn't dehydrated. And if your skin is dehydrated, it can actually exacerbate your oil issues.

People with oily skin often have compromised barrier function, which makes it hard for their skin to retain moisture. As moisture leaves the skin, it becomes dehydrated, causing the skin to produce more oil.

It's a vicious cycle, and the only way to break it is to give your skin the proper hydration and moisture it needs.

Look for water-based, non-comedogenic hydrators and moisturizers. Water-based products will feel lighter on the skin and won't clog your pores.

But how do you know if the product will moisturize or hydrate?

So, final verdict, when it comes to keeping your skin hydrated, which is better: hydrator or moisturizer?

The answer is probably both.

As we mentioned above, it all depends on your skin type and most common creams do both. But if you're a skin care aficionado who's dabbling in single ingredients and 10-step routines, you could be doing it wrong.

Healthline



NEWS IN PICTURES



▲ Los Angeles Dodgers players wave to fans during the team's victory parade after winning the World Series, in Los Angeles.



▲ Hindu devotees sit together with oil lamps to pray to Lokenath Brahmachari, a Hindu saint and philosopher, as they observe the Rakher Upobash festival at a temple in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



▲ Red Cross vehicles drive, after Hamas said that it found the body of an Israeli hostage soldier on Tuesday and prepares to return it to Israel through the Red Cross, in Gaza City.



▲ Ukrainian servicemen walk along a road covered with anti-drone nets, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in the frontline town of Kostiantynivka in Donetsk region, Ukraine.



▲ Voters fill out their ballots at a polling site on Election Day in the New York mayoral election in the Brooklyn borough of New York City.



▲ Democratic candidate for New York City mayor, Zohran Mamdani, speaks to the media following casting a vote in the New York City mayoral election, in a park in Astoria, Queens borough of New York City.

PSG paying the price for long season as Luis Enrique urges calm

MORE than a first Champions League defeat of the season, Paris St Germain's 2-1 loss to Bayern Munich on Tuesday deepened the club's mounting injury concerns, extending a pattern that has hindered the European champions since the start of the campaign.

Ousmane Dembele and Achraf Hakimi both limped off during the match, continuing a run of fitness problems that has prevented Luis Enrique from having a full squad at any point this season.

"I can't remember a single match with the whole squad fit. It's a different kind of season, and we have to manage that. I'm calm and confident we'll recover our players and our level," the Spaniard said.

The latest setbacks came just as the squad was beginning to stabilise.

Dembele, who missed seven games earlier this season with a hamstring injury, was making his first Champions League start of the campaign but was forced off after 25 minutes with what appeared to be a calf problem.

"The injury has nothing to do with the previous one," Luis Enrique told reporters. "He played the time you saw — it's not a relapse."

Shortly before halftime, Hakimi also had to leave the field after a dangerous tackle from Bayern's Luis Diaz, who was sent off for the challenge.

The Moroccan full back, one of the few PSG regulars to have avoided injury this season, left the pitch in tears and was later seen exiting the Parc des Princes on crutches with a protective boot on his left foot.

"For Hakimi, that's football — it's a contact sport," Luis Enrique said. "It's unfortunate, but these are actions that happen with a bit of bad luck."



▲ Luis Enrique.

The injuries add to a long list of absentees that has already included Marquinhos, Joao Neves, Bradley Barcola, Desire Doue and Fabian Ruiz — all sidelined at various points since August. Doue is currently out with a right thigh muscle injury that will keep him unavailable for several more weeks.

After an exceptional 2024-25 season that stretched across 65 matches and yielded four trophies — the Champions League, Ligue 1, French Cup and Trophée des Champions — PSG now appear to be paying the physical price.

Their extended campaign ended only in mid-July after the Club

World Cup, leaving little time for rest before the new season began.

"When you recover injured players, they're not at 100 per cent. That's something I need to manage better," Luis Enrique conceded. "It's a long season, and it's about how you handle these moments."

Despite the disruptions, PSG remain top of Ligue 1 and third in the Champions League's league phase with nine points from four games.

Luis Enrique's tone remained measured as he looked ahead. "I'm calm and relaxed because I know we'll overcome all of this," he said. "We'll get our players back and we'll find our level again." (Supersport)

Tottenham supporting Udogie after alleged gun threat in London

TOTTENHAM say they are supporting 22-year-old Italian international defender Destiny Udogie and his family after he was allegedly threatened with a gun in London.

Police arrested a 31-year-old man in connection with the incident in September. He has been bailed while inquiries continue.

A Tottenham spokesman said on Tuesday: "We have been providing support for Destiny and his family since the incident and will continue to do so."

"Given this is a legal matter, we cannot comment any further."

Police were called late in the evening on 6 September to reports a man in his 20s had been threatened with a gun in a

north London suburb popular with Tottenham and Arsenal players.

A spokesman said: "Officers spoke to the victim and during the course of their investigation it was also reported another man in his 20s had also allegedly been blackmailed and threatened by the same individual."

"No injuries were reported in either incident."

"A 31-year-old man was arrested on Monday, 8 September on suspicion of possession of firearms with intent, blackmail and driving without a licence."

Udogie started Tottenham's 4-0 Champions League home win over Copenhagen on Tuesday.

(Supersport)



▲ Destiny Udogie.

Michael Jordan's 23XI, Front Row score legal win in NASCAR lawsuit



▲ Team owner Michael Jordan.

MICHAEL Jordan's 23XI Racing and Front Row Motorsports notched a major win in their antitrust fight with NASCAR on Tuesday, tightening the case's scope and turning up the pressure for a settlement.

US District Judge Kenneth Bell granted the teams partial summary judgment on a critical threshold issue: the relevant market.

He ruled the case will proceed under the definition of "premier stock-car racing," rejecting NASCAR's argument that teams unhappy with its terms could simply pivot to IndyCar or Formula 1. In other words, those open-wheel series aren't substitutes for NASCAR's Cup Series in this dispute.

Bell leaned on NASCAR's own filings to get there, pointing to the sanctioning body's counterclaim that framed the market as "the market for entry of cars into NASCAR Cup Series races in the United States and any other location where a Cup Series race is held."

As the judge put it, "The same transaction — the sale and purchase of premier stock-car racing services — cannot be a different relevant market depending only on which side is complaining," adding, "Most simply put, NASCAR made a strategic decision in asserting its counterclaim and must now live with the consequences."

The ruling also denied NASCAR's bid to toss the case outright. A jury will now decide whether NASCAR wields monopoly power in that narrower market, and, if so, whether it maintained it through anticompetitive conduct.

"We are very pleased with the Court's decision today, ruling in our favour. Not only does it deny NASCAR's motion for summary judgment,

but it also grants our partial summary judgment motion, finding that NASCAR has monopoly power in a properly defined market," said Jeffrey Kessler, lead counsel for 23XI and Front Row.

"This means that the trial can now be focused on whether NASCAR has maintained that power through anticompetitive acts and used that power to harm teams."

The flashpoint is NASCAR's new charter agreement, which was handed to teams at the start of the 2024 playoffs with a firm signing deadline, following more than two years of fraught talks. Charters are the backbone of the Cup Series model as they guarantee entry and a predictable slice of revenue each week. 23XI and Front Row say the terms left them no viable choice.

(Supersport)

Pirates' Ouaddou bags PSL award as club issue Mofokeng update

ORLANDO Pirates head coach Abdeslam Ouaddou and Golden Arrows rising star midfielder, Siyanda Ndlovu have been named the Betway Premiership monthly awards winners for September and October.

Ouaddou bagged the award, his first Betway Premiership gong, after guiding the Buccaneers to three wins from three matches during that period. The victories saw Pirates move up to an improved position on the table.

"Ouaddou's tactics have been exception both in attack as well as in defense, with all three victories secured without a single concession," read a statement from the Premier Soccer League (PSL).

"Golden Arrows sensation, Siyanda Ndlovu continued his impressive start to the season by securing both the Betway Premiership Player of the Month and Goal of the Month honours.

"Ndlovu has been key in Abafana Bes'thende's recent rise in form, finding the back of the net three times and contributing with three assists in the five matches played over the two months for the KwaZulu-Natal side.

"The 23-year-old's impressive dribble and clinical finish against Stellensbosch FC in their clash on 22 October in Cape Town was voted the Goal of the Month, edging



▲ Orlando Pirates head coach Abdeslam Ouaddou.

out equally strong contenders by Marumo Gallants' Jaisen Clifford's strike against Kaizer Chiefs as well as Thabang Mathuludi's last minute winner for Polokwane City against Chippa United."

Pirates issue Mofokeng update

Meanwhile, Pirates have issued an injury update on midfielders Relebohile Mofokeng and Simphiwe Selepe ahead of their Betway Premiership clash against Golden Arrows.

The fourth-placed Buccaneers will meet eighth-placed Abafana Be-

s'thende at the King Goodwill Zwelithini Stadium in Durban this evening {kick-off is at 7.30pm}.

The duo have missed the last couple of games for Pirates because of injuries.

"There could be a reshuffling of the pack in a match that kicks off a busy week, with the likes of Relebohile Mofokeng and Simphiwe Selepe nearing a return after missing out on a fair bit of the action this season," read a statement from Pirates.

Ritchie and Van Tonder back on home fairways for The Hyundai Open

JC Ritchie and Daniel van Tonder will tee it up in Thursday's first round of The Hyundai Open at the Ebotse Links still revelling in having secured their DP World Tour playing privileges for next season.

Ritchie and Van Tonder are back on home fairways this week for The Hyundai Open, a new tournament on the Sunshine Tour schedule.

They return home after an emotional Grand Final on the HotelPlanner Tour in Spain last week where they both took the opportunity to graduate to the DP World Tour.

Ritchie in particular is back on the Sunshine Tour having made history by becoming the first South African to win three times on the HotelPlanner Tour this season, and the first South African to win the Tour's overall Road to Mallorca ranking.

"That is probably the best achievement I could've gotten this year to justify all the hard work and the struggles of the last couple of years. I'm glad I could prove to myself that it is possible. I think I've had an unbelievable season. It's been a dream season for me. It's such an awesome opportunity to be able to graduate to the DP World Tour," Ritchie told the HotelPlanner Tour.

Ritchie will use his time back on the Sunshine Tour to prepare for his new campaign in the upcoming DP World Tour co-sanctioned events in South Africa towards the end of the year.



▲ JC Ritchie.

"I'm relieved. It's been a long season with a lot of hard work. I feel like the last time I played out on the DP World Tour I didn't know what I was doing. I sort of just felt out of my depth when I was playing there and I just didn't know how to find my feet. It took coming back to the Sunshine Tour and grinding it back up all the way to get back here.

"I decided to lose some weight just to feel better about myself, and started working hard again. I started treating golf like a nine to five and

not a hobby, and it's rewarded me. I'm happy with my game - I know what I'm doing. I'm very excited. I can't wait," he told the HotelPlanner Tour.

This week's field is a strong one and also includes the Sunshine Tour's Courier Guy Order of Merit leader Herman Loubser, the Fortress Rookie of the Year leader Luis Carrera, and all but five of the winners on the Sunshine Tour this season.

(Supersport)

Rybakina stays perfect at WTA Finals with win over alternate Alexandrova

ELENA Rybakina maintained her undefeated record at the WTA Finals with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Russian alternate Ekaterina Alexandrova in Riyadh on Wednesday.

It was a rematch of the Ningbo final from three weeks ago, which saw Rybakina capture her second title of the season.

The Kazakh world No 6 extended to nine of her last nine matches contested, and will face one of Aryna Sabalenka, Jessica Pegula or Coco Gauff in Friday's semifinals.

"Ekaterina is always a tough opponent and has a big serve. I'm happy I was able to win in straight sets. Each win gives you confidence and I'm pretty happy that for now my last matches have been great," said Rybakina, who was playing with taping on her shoulder.

Rybakina entered the match with Alexandrova having already secured her place in the semifinals as the winner of the Serena Williams Group, while Iga Swiatek and Amanda Anisimova will battle it out for the other ticket to the final four.

Alexandrova was brought in as a replacement for American Madison Keys, who withdrew ahead of the match due to a viral illness.

The Australian Open champion suffered two defeats in round-robin play this week in Riyadh, to Poland's Swiatek and compatriot Anisimova, and had no chance of advancing to the knockout stage.

At the end of her match against Anisimova on Monday, Keys wouldn't shake her opponent's hand, indicating she was feeling unwell and didn't want to pass on the virus.

(Supersport)



▲ Elena Rybakina.

Inter and AC Milan complete purchase of San Siro

INTER Milan and AC Milan moved one step closer to a new stadium of their own on Wednesday after completing the purchase of the iconic San Siro, which is set for demolition.

The two Serie A clubs announced "the signing of the deed of sale with the Municipality of Milan", little more than a month after city approval for the acquisition of the land on which the stadium sits.

Nicknamed football's La Scala, San Siro is one of the world's most recognisable stadiums and the longtime home of Inter and AC Milan, who between them have been crowned European champions 10 times.

Inter and AC Milan obtained approval to purchase the land for 197 million euros (\$231 million) after over 11 hours of debate and a knife-edge vote

at Milan city hall in the early hours of September 30.

The sale needed to be completed by next Monday, otherwise a public building protection order for the San Siro's second tier would have come into effect.

Now the two clubs can now push ahead with a project worth around 1.2 billion euros which will radically change an area of just over 28 hectares (70 acres) in a densely-populated neighbourhood on the western outskirts of Milan.

A modern 71 500-capacity arena will be built on land - currently occupied by match-day car parking and a public park - to the immediate west of the current stadium which will continue to be used until the new one is completed.

Facilities with everything to be designed by architectural firms Foster and Partners and MANICA.

(Supersport)



▲ Mbabane Pool club star Sandile ‘Simongo’Mamba preparing to cue a shot.

Way Inn crash, stay on top

Stories By Chris Dlamini

THEY were beaten but remained on top of the standings. That is the decorated Way Inn Pool Club from Malkerns.

They are at the summit of the inaugural Mu and Lee Investments E30 000 Pool League with 13 points after five matches. Way Inn suffered their second defeat of the season at the hands of their town rivals, Malkerns, who ambushed the giants 13-5 on Sunday. Way Inn is the only team that has played matchday 5, while the rest will be on it this weekend.

This was due to the fact that the league now has newer teams, resulting in one being standby, so Way Inn played twice last weekend, beating Blackball Queens 13-4. Meanwhile, the leaders hold a one-point lead over second-placed Malkerns, while Stairs sit on third with nine points from four games. Stairs are the team that stunned Way Inn when

the league started. That trend was once again at play when they inflicted a heavy blow to Mlandvo Pool Club, 13-7 was the margin. This left the latter occupying the sixth spot on four points after three games. The full results and upcoming fixtures are listed here.
Week 4 Results:
Que Potters 6-13 Bhunya
Blackball Queens 4-13 Way Inn
Green Archers 13-1 Figa
Stairs 13-7 Mlandvo
Way Inn 5-13 Malkerns
Green Archers 13-6 Stairs
Fixture (Week 5)
Saturday, November 11, 2025
Kick-off: 2pm
Que Potters vs. Blackball Queens
Bhunya vs. Green Archers
Mlandvo vs. Figa
Stairs vs. Malkerns
Standby vs. Way Inn
Sunday, November 2025
Time 1pm
Blackball Queens vs. Mlandvo.

MPC crowned Sphana KO champs

MONEY in the bank. Decorated Manzini Pool Club (MPC) were the biggest winners in the Sphana Investments Pool Knockout Tournament. This was over the weekend at Tshaneni Pool Room. The competition played overnight until Sunday when the champions were crowned. Among their squad, they have renowned and well decorated stars Sithembiso ‘Dodge’ Matsebula and Eddie ‘Bharuka’ Mondlane. Both are doing so well in their respective single leagues in Mbabane and Manzini. Matsebula has already won the Billiards Singles League after comfortably holding the summit nearly all year. His talent and international experience, alongside the acute Mondlane, helped steer the team into the title. They outfoxed big-time rivals, Give Thanks who had beaten them before this year in another cup final. The match ended 13-12, effectively needing a decider at 12-12, and that favoured MPC.

For their achievement, MPC lifted the trophy and earned E5 000. The runners-up took home E3 000. In third place was yet another star-studded side Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) who were drubbed 13-10 by the champions. REPS received E1 500 alongside Magesi, who also got knocked out in the semi-finals. The latter could not cope with Give Thanks when they also had the opportunity to stun their rivals after tying 12-12. However, Give Thanks cued the decider home, 13-12 it was. The Results:
Last 8
MPC 13-3 Tshaneni
REPS 13-10 Mbabane Pool Club
Magesi 13-12 Legends
Give Thanks 13-3 City Stars
Semi-finals
MPC 13-10 REPS
Give Thanks 13-12 Magesi
Final
MPC 13-12 Give Thanks.



▲ Way Inn team members.



▲ A female pool star Ncobile Dlamini, Siyabonga ‘Siya’ Dlamini were also part of the action.

By Chris Dlamini

YES, we can. Education and football development remains the ultimate reward for the country's youngsters under the Build it Under-13 Football Tournament.

This was emphasised during a press conference detailing the upcoming Build it Tournament National Finals on Wednesday. "It is with great pride and honour to see that our tournament is run so well it is now the best in the region. The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has done a great job running it smoothly. It is one competition that sees our youth involved and given space for opportunities. Over the years, we have had a E10 000 bursary for the best player. The prize goes with our emphasis on education while also excelling in football," said Build it Regional Director Trace Wentzel.

Wentzel and others like Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Frederick Mngomezulu said the Build it slogan, Yes, we can was one that encouraged sport and education as possible.

"Other than the bursary, the children have received even building equipment to take home with pride," Mngomezulu said.

He then declared the National Finals were scheduled for November 15 at Somhlolo National Stadium, Lobamba. The CEO said Build it used to have four stores, but now there were eight, making the national finals a big tournament.

Mngomezulu thanked Build it for the continued and success relationship as already, around 100 players from this programme were elite and playing on the international stage already. Such stars include Eswatini international Alakhe Mdluli, who is with South Africa's Amazulu and Green Mamba's Lindani 'Rio' Matsenjwa, among others.

... Draw sets up 8 teams

A round robin format will be the first phase in the Build it Under-13 Football National Finals 2025.

This was explained just before the eight pick teams representing each Build it store in the kingdom were drawn.

"We decided to group the eight teams into two groups of four teams. They will play a round robin, and then the top two per group will advance to the knockout stage," EFA's Development Officer Sibonangaye Dlamini who, alongside the EFA Technical Director (TD) Boy 'Bizzah' Mkhonta are responsible for the development side of football.



Build it Brand Equity Manager Les Pillay making his remarks.

E10k bursary stands at Build it U13s Nationals



Development coaches displaying the trophy during the briefing held at Sigwaca House.

He gave the honour to defending champions, Mbabane Build it to go first on the draw pot. The pulled ball put them in Group B, interestingly alongside Manzini, Buhleni, and Siphofaneni.

In Group A, there is Siteki, Nhlangano, Matsapha, and Pigg's Peak.

Among the development coaches who represented their teams was Young Buffaloes' development and Manzini Central High School coach Mbongwa Dlamini.

Others included Siphofaneni's Mduduzi Dlamini, Wandile Nkambule (Manzini Manager), and Zaine Mkhathjwa (Manzini). They will lead their teams on this big day at Somhlolo National Stadium.



Build it officials following proceedings.

The EFA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu invited to parents, guardians, stakeholders of football and Build it, the public, and all clubs.

Meanwhile, build it Brand Equity Manager Les Pillay said it was amazing how far they have come.

"As the CEO said, its been 20 years since 2006 and we're so excited to be in this life-changing project," he said.

He said they were looking forward to the National Finals and acknowledged the role played by their corporate partners like the suppliers among others for the development

investment to remain strong. He said football is a strong vehicle for businesses to make an impact.

The Draw:

- Group A
1. Siteki
 2. Nhlangano
 3. Matsapha
 4. Pigg's Peak
- Group B
1. Mbabane
 2. Manzini
 3. Buhleni
 4. Siphofaneni



▲ Green Mamba FC players celebrate after Banele ‘Pupu’ Sikhondze scored the club’s lone goal to secure their victory against Nsingizini Hotspurs during their MTN Premiership League match at King Sobhuza II Stadium in Nhlanguano on Wednesday. Green Mamba won 1-0.



▲ Green Mamba FC’s Banele ‘Pupu’ Sikhondze.

Green Mamba poison Nsingizini Hotspurs

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela
sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

Nsingizini Hotspurs..... 0, Green Mamba..... 1, Banele Sikhondze 31st

FROM Tanzania with love.
Green Mamba’s new signing, Banele ‘Pupu’ Sikhondze, restored his club venom with a solitary strike that stunned Nsingizini Hotspurs at King Sobhuza II Stadium in Nhlanguano on Wednesday.
This was Sikhondze’s second game after leaving Tanzania’s Tabora United handing the defending champions their first defeat of the campaign following their CAF Champions League run.
The victory also helped ‘Inyoka Eluhlazana’

return to winning ways following their recent goalless draw against rookies Amawele FC.
The two teams gave over 500 football lovers a performance worth the E30 with an end-to-end affair.
The home side asked the early questions from the visitors nine minutes into action when a Kwakhe Tfwala was saved by the alert Siyabonga Simelane between the opposition goals.
Green Mamba talisman Sabelo ‘Sikhali’ Ndzinisa called Nsingizini goalkeeper Sibusiso ‘Bharaba’ Dlamini to action in the 25th minute with a glancing header from Banele ‘Pupu’ Sikhondze.
Sikhondze then broke the deadlock five minutes later with a rasping shot from 25 yards, which ‘Bharaba’ failed to handle as the ball went into the net, much to the delight of the motley visiting fans.
Green Mamba enjoyed a slender lead heading to the break.
Nsingizini tried to force their way into the match during the second stanza, with playmaker Thubelihle Mavuso well taken shot from the edge of the box being swallowed by Siyabonga Simelane.
Ayanda Gadlela should have done better in the hour mark when his effort was saved by the alert Simelane.
Green Mamba second-half substitute Lindani ‘Rio’ Matsenjwa missed a sitter four minutes later when he fired his effort wide four minutes later.
The Correctional Services side finished the match with 10 men after centre back Peter ‘Dlamini was given marching orders for a second bookable offence by referee Wandile Mamba at the stroke of death.
The ex-Mbabane Highlanders player launched a rough challenge on South African left-back Njabulo Macina.

... ‘Pupu’ key in our title hunt – Mhlongo

GREEN Mamba head coach Bongani Mhlongo says new signing Banele ‘Pupu’ Sikhondze will be key in their MTN Premier League title hunt.
Mhlongo said this after the former Tabora United player steered them to their League win by a solitary goal against defending champions Nsingizini Hotspurs on Wednesday at King Sobhuza II Stadium.
“I am happy with the performance of the team as we came to the party against a strong opposition. The experience of Pupu also helped us today as he utilised the chance which he got in the first half,” he said. Mhlongo also said they want to compete for honours this season.
“We will fight for the available silverware by fighting for maximum points in every game that we will play,” he said.
Meanwhile, the losing coach, Mandla Qhogi, lamented the result.
“We had a bad day in the office as we were not spot on with decision-making. We tried to force our back into the match against a strong opposition and will pick ourselves moving forward,” he said.

‘King Dunga’ part ways with Wanderers

By Sibusiso Masilela
sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

MANZINI Wanderers assistant Coach Maxwell ‘King Dunga’ Zikalala has parted ways with the club.
The ex-Green Mamba Ladies Coach left the club a week ago following the appointment of a new technical bench headed by Gcina Dlamini three months into the position.
He was part of the previous technical team headed by veteran mentor Nyanga ‘Crooks’ Hlophe, who has been promoted to the Technical Director position. Newly appointed head coach Gcina Dlamini is assisted by Christian Thwala and legend Stanford Ncube. Former Mbabane Highlanders and Royal Leopard goalkeeper Thokozani ‘Beetle’ Mamba is the new goalkeeper coach. Wanderers’ Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mongie Simelane confirmed the latest news.
Maxwell ‘King Dunga’ Zikalala is no longer part of the team, and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours,” he said.
The new technical bench’s first match was the 2-all draw against fellow crowd pullers Mbabane Highlanders on Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre.



▲ Manzini Wanderers FC players. Inset: Maxwell ‘King Dunga’ Zikalala.

**Ouaddou bags
Betway
Premiership Award**

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**'King Dunga'
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**Eswatini
Daily News
Sport**

Thursday 6
November, 2025

BANELE 'PUPU' SIKHONDZE

'PUPU'



VICTORY

F R O M T A N Z A N I A W I T H L O V E



GREEN MAMBA FC



GREEN MAMBA FC 1 - 0 NSINGIZINI HOTSPURS

Green Mamba's new signing, Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze, restored his club venom with a solitary strike that stunned Nsingizini Hotspurs at King Sobhuza II Stadium in Nhlangano on Wednesday.



**Mamba poison
Nsingizini**

... Former Eswatini international Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze nets winner as Green Mamba inflict first loss to defending champions Nsingizini Hotspurs at home. Page 23