



PM CALLS FOR REVIVAL OF

## ‘Nawe Uliphoyisa’ in national anti- crime effort



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By Thokozeni Mazibuko

PRIME Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini has called for the revival of the once-popular community policing campaign “Nawe uliphoyisa” (You are also a police officer), stressing that the fight against crime in Eswatini must become a shared responsibility between citizens and law enforcement.

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By Thokozani Mazibuko

PRIME Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini has called for the revival of the once-popular community policing campaign “Nawe uliphoyisa” (You are also a police officer), stressing that the fight against crime in Eswatini must become a shared responsibility between citizens and law enforcement.

Speaking at The George Hotel on Monday during the opening of a workshop for the Prime Minister’s Office Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on the Police Regulations 2025, Dlamini said the government was determined to restore trust between the public and the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) by reviving civic cooperation in combating crime.

“The fight against crime cannot be left to police officers alone,” the Prime Minister said. “Every citizen has a role to play. The spirit of ‘Nawe uliphoyisa’ must live again because community vigilance and cooperation are powerful tools for peace and safety.”

Community as the first line of defense

Dlamini explained that the campaign, which gained traction in the early 2000s, helped strengthen partnerships between communities and the police. It encouraged citizens to take an active role in reporting criminal activities, safeguarding neighborhoods, and assisting investigations.

He noted that while modern policing continues to evolve through legislation and training, grassroots engagement remains essential in ensuring security across the kingdom. “A safe nation starts with vigilant communities,” he said. “When citizens see themselves as part of the solution, criminals lose their hiding places.”

The Prime Minister added that Eswatini’s

# PM CALLS FOR REVIVAL OF ‘Nawe Uliphoyisa’

## ... in national anti-crime effort



▲The Prime Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini has made a clarion call for the return of the ‘Nawe Uliphoyisa’ mantra in the anti-national crime crusade.

demographic and technological changes require a new version of Nawe uliphoyisa one that embraces both traditional neighborhood watch systems and digital citizen reporting mechanisms.

Dlamini said the 2025 Police Regulations would not only define internal discipline and welfare within the service but also enhance transparency and public accountability. He emphasized that a collaborative approach where police and the public work hand-

in-hand was critical in achieving lasting security.

“The police must be seen as partners in development, not as enforcers in isolation,” he said. “We must bridge the gap between officers and the communities they serve. The days of mistrust must give way to mutual respect and cooperation.”

The Prime Minister further urged Members of Parliament to lead by example in promoting civic responsibility and crime

prevention initiatives in their constituencies. “Leadership at community level is vital,” he said. “When MPs champion citizen involvement, it inspires unity and confidence in our policing system.”

Public reaction and broader context

Security experts welcomed the Prime Minister’s remarks, noting that reviving Nawe uliphoyisa could help tackle rising incidents of theft, gender-based violence, and substance-related crimes that often go unreported.

Community policing initiatives have been credited worldwide for reducing crime rates through public trust and local intelligence. Dlamini’s call aligns with a growing continental trend emphasizing citizen-centered policing models across Africa.

The workshop, organized by the Prime Minister’s Office, aims to give parliamentarians an in-depth understanding of the Police Regulations 2025, which operationalize the Police Service Act of 2018. As deliberations continue, the government’s message is clear: safety in Eswatini depends not only on the strength of its police force but also on the commitment of its people.

“Nawe uliphoyisa is not just a slogan,” Dlamini concluded. “It is a reminder that peace and security begin with each one of us.”

# PM calls for strengthened professionalism, discipline within REPS

By Thokozani Mazibuko

PRIME Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini has called for strengthened professionalism and discipline within the ranks of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), as government moves forward with implementing the new Police Service Regulations derived from the Police Service Act No. 22 of 2018.

Dlamini was speaking during the official opening of a parliamentary workshop held on Monday at The George Hotel, Manzini. The workshop brought together Members of Parliament and senior police officials to deliberate on the proposed regulations, which cover a wide range of issues governing the conduct and welfare of officers within the police service.

“The regulations that we are here about today stem from the Police Service Act Number 22 of 2018,” the Prime Minister said. They touch on critical areas such as preliminary provisions, conduct, appointment, probation, promotion, acting ranks and seniority, retirement and resignation. They also outline discipline and the various schedules that will guide the service going forward.”

Police welfare and representation

A key highlight of the new regulations is the formal introduction of the Royal Eswatini Police Service Staff Association, established under Part 5 of the Act. The association is designed to give police officers a structured platform to raise concerns about their welfare, terms, and conditions of service.

“This initiative ensures that police officers have representation within government negotiation structures,” Dlamini explained. “Through it, they will be able to engage meaningfully on issues such as remuneration, allowances, and other aspects of their service.”

The Prime Minister emphasized that empowering police officers to have a voice in their welfare discussions will not only improve morale but also strengthen the overall performance of the service.

Discipline: The cornerstone of policing

Dlamini underscored that Part 6 of the regulations focuses on discipline a fundamental element of effective policing. “Discipline is the cornerstone of any effective law enforcement agency,” he said. “A disciplined police service is essential for building public trust and ensuring high standards of service delivery.”

He added that maintaining discipline within the force is not only about enforcing rules but also about upholding integrity, accountability, and professionalism in every



▲Some of the participants at the opening of the Police Service Regulations 2025 Workshop for the PM’s Office Parliamentary Portfolio Committee.

aspect of policing.

Appreciation to Parliament

In his closing remarks, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the Parliament administration for facilitating the workshop and urged members to engage constructively in refining the regulations.

“Your input and deliberations will be critical as we move forward with this process,” he said. “These regulations are not just administrative instruments they

are the foundation of a modern, ethical, and effective police service.

The workshop forms part of government’s ongoing efforts to modernize Eswatini’s security sector, align it with international policing standards, and ensure that officers’ welfare and accountability structures remain at the center of law enforcement.

The Royal Eswatini Police Service Act of 2018 aims to professionalize policing, improve internal governance, and strengthen community confidence in law enforcement operations across the kingdom.



# Her Majesty Indlovukazi praised for her compassion

... as Manzini Council successfully holds AGM

By Thokozani Mazibuko

HER Majesty Indlovukazi has been lauded by Manzini residents and market vendors for her enduring compassion and dedication to community upliftment, during the Manzini Municipal Council's 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at The George Hotel this week.

The meeting brought together city officials, vendors, and civic stakeholders to assess progress made by the council over the past year and discuss persistent challenges facing Eswatini's commercial capital.

Among the most emotional moments came when vendors expressed gratitude to the Queen Mother for her support in improving their livelihoods. They noted that many informal traders who previously sold their goods under harsh street conditions now operate within a proper market facility a development they credited to Her Majesty's concern for the poor and vulnerable.

"We used to sleep on the pavement waiting for space to sell," said one vendor representative. "Now we have shelter and dignity because of Her Majesty's compassion. She has changed our lives."

Calls for safer, cleaner Manzini During the meeting, stakeholders engaged with the council in a wide-ranging dialogue on governance, infrastructure, and service delivery. The council presented its annual performance report and audited financial statements, inviting the public to offer feedback and suggestions.

Several key issues dominated discussions, including road safety near schools, where an increase in child-related traffic incidents has sparked concern among parents. Stakeholders called for the installation of more pedestrian crossings, warning signs, and traffic officers during school hours.

Crime was another major concern, with

residents urging for enhanced police visibility and lighting in high-risk areas. Reports of robberies, break-ins, and drug-related crimes have unsettled several neighbourhoods.

"We cannot talk about development without safety," said a community member. "Our children and businesses need protection from criminal activity."

### Public health and infrastructure under scrutiny

Participants also pointed to worsening road conditions, potholes, and neglected parks as indicators of infrastructural decline. Some residents said abandoned public spaces had become gathering spots for vandals and illegal dumpers.

Concerns were also raised over the sale of expired or improperly stored food in some retail outlets. Community members urged the council to publicly name and penalize offending businesses to deter health risks.

"Consumers deserve protection," said one resident. "Those selling expired goods should be exposed, not hidden."

### Golf course turns crime hotspot

One recurring complaint involved the Manzini golf course area, which residents described as a growing hotspot for criminal activities, including robberies and the illegal slaughter of livestock. The council promised to coordinate with law enforcement agencies to restore safety and accountability in the area.

### Progress recognised amid challenges

Despite the grievances, residents commended the council for positive community-oriented initiatives, particularly the Mayor's Cup, a local football tournament



▲ Her Majesty Indlovukazi has been lauded by Manzini residents and market vendors for her enduring compassion and dedication to community upliftment.

credited with reducing youth idleness and promoting unity.

Participants also called for the construction of a multi-purpose community hall that could host educational workshops, youth activities, and cultural events.

Mayor and council officials pledged to review the proposals and intensify cooperation between local government and citizens.

### A spirit of dialogue and accountability

The AGM showed a renewed commitment to transparency, with the Municipal Council emphasizing its goal to maintain open channels of communication with residents.

Council officials said feedback from the public would guide future planning, budgeting, and urban development priorities aimed at making Manzini a safer, cleaner, and more inclusive city.

"Our vision is a responsive city that listens," said a council spokesperson. "The AGM is not just a formality it is where residents shape the future of Manzini with their voices."

As the meeting concluded, one sentiment echoed among attendees: Her Majesty Indlovukazi's compassion continues to inspire civic responsibility and unity, reminding Eswatini's citizens that nation-building begins with love for one another.

## DPM receives E1.9 mln disability-friendly vehicles from Taiwan

By Siphesihle Dlamini  
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

THE Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has received a generous donation of two universally designed vehicles, commonly known as quantumts, from the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Valued at E1.9 million, these vehicles are specially equipped to accommodate persons with disabilities, significantly enhancing their mobility and access to services across the country. The handover ceremony, held on Monday, saw Deputy Prime Minister Thulisile Dladla officially receive the vehicles from Taiwan Ambassador Jeremy Liang.

Ambassador Liang underscored Taiwan's longstanding commitment to fostering bilateral cooperation with Eswatini, particularly in key sectors such as health, human rights, and social development. Highlighting Taiwan's impactful projects, he cited the re-vamping of the Mbabane Government Hospital referral complex as a prime example of



▲ The office of the DPM has received two generous donation of two universally designed vehicles, commonly known as quantumts, from the Republic of China (Taiwan).

efforts aimed at uplifting vulnerable communities throughout Eswatini.

In her remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Dladla expressed heartfelt gratitude for the donation, emphasising the critical role these vehicles will play in improving the lives of persons with disabilities. "These vehicles will serve as vital tools to improve mobility,

access to services, and dignity for some of the most vulnerable members of our society," she stated. She reflected the government's commitment to inclusivity and social welfare, recognising mobility as a fundamental right that empowers individuals and fosters independence.

The Deputy Prime Minister also high-

lighted the deep and enduring partnership between Eswatini and Taiwan, noting that this donation represents yet another chapter in their rich history of cooperation. She recalled with appreciation the earlier support Taiwan provided through the Asibambisane Sibe Ngumndeni family reunification program, where two vehicles were donated to help reunite families torn apart by hardship. This initiative has brought hope and healing to countless families, underscoring the humanitarian spirit that defines the bilateral relationship.

Beyond mobility and family reunification, the Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged Taiwan's ongoing support in other critical areas. These include the provision of decent shelter for vulnerable citizens and funding for educational infrastructure, such as the construction of a boys' hostel at St. Joseph's Mission School. Such projects demonstrate Taiwan's holistic approach to development assistance, addressing both immediate needs and long-term social progress.



By Delisa Magagula

# Ministry of Home Affairs calls for order, peace in Churches

MINISTER for Home Affairs, Her Royal Highness Princess Lindiwe has assured religious leaders that the government's engagement with faith institutions is aimed at ensuring order and peace within churches, and not at policing worship or interfering with religious practices.

Speaking during the first session of the Ministry of Home Affairs' discussions on shaping a national policy for religious institutions, Minister Princess Lindiwe emphasised that the government's goal is to address the uncontrolled growth of churches in the country while maintaining guaranteed freedom of worship.

"The government does not intend to police belief or interfere with worship. Our goal is to bring order and restore peace, and to manage the uncontrolled mushrooming of churches," she said.

The session, held at the Commerce Auditorium, brought together Christian leaders from across the country. It opened with a series of prayers and songs before transitioning into structured discussions between faith leaders and government officials.

Concerns were raised about the commercialisation of religion. Bishop Samson Hlatjwako, President of the League of Churches, warned that some churches appear to operate more as businesses than spiritual institutions.

"Some individuals are turning faith into business. Churches should serve spiritual needs, not act as profit-driven entities," Bishop Hlatjwako said.

Meanwhile, Lengesihle Mzileni of the Metropolitan Evangelical Church highlighted that the challenge for religious institutions has not been registration under the Ministry of Commerce. Instead, the issue lies in non-compliance by certain churches with existing rules and regulations.

"Registering under the Ministry of Commerce was never the issue. The real concern is ensuring churches follow the rules and remain accountable," Mzileni said.

Meanwhile, several church members expressed their opposition to taxation but welcomed investigations into institutions that evade regulations or misuse church status for business purposes.

They emphasised that their concern is with transparency and



▲ The Ministry of Home Affairs hosted pastors.

accountability, not taxation of genuine religious work.

"We are not opposed to investigations targeting misuse or abuse. What we do not want is arbitrary taxation on churches that are genuinely serving communities," said one church member.

## Legitimacy

Questions about the legitimacy of the church mother bodies were also raised. Reverend Johannes Mazibuko asked whether the Council of Swaziland Churches, the Eswatini Conference of Churches, and the League of African Churches are the only recognised bodies in the country, noting that many other churches are actively operating.

Mazibuko emphasised that clarification is necessary so that all religious institutions know which bodies are officially recognised and can engage with government policy in an appropriate manner.

Meanwhile, Bishop Robert Kasaro, President of the Eswatini Conference of Churches and founder of Jesus Calls Worship Centre, urged that the government first establish a code of ethics for churches before drafting a formal policy.

"The creation of a policy must be preceded by a code of ethics. This will provide clear standards for church accountability and regulation," Bishop Kasaro said.

During the session, faith leaders engaged in discussions covering accountability, governance, and the regulation of unregistered or non-compliant churches.

Leaders welcomed the government's assurance that policies will clarify procedures without infringing on religious freedoms.

Church representatives applauded the government's approach, describing it as a partnership aimed at bringing structure to religious institutions, rather than exerting control.

Furthermore, the discussions highlighted broader challenges facing religion in Eswatini. Rapid growth in the number of



▲ Bishop Samson Hlatjwako.

churches has raised questions around legitimacy, transparency, and the commercialisation of faith. Leaders noted the importance of clear guidelines to ensure that churches focus on spiritual missions rather than financial gain.

Bishop Hlatjwako noted that some churches have been accused of using their status to conduct business unrelated to religion, highlighting the need for compliance measures to prevent misuse.

## Clearer registration rules

The Minister for Home Affairs confirmed that clearer registration rules for religious institutions will soon be issued. These rules are intended to facilitate self-regulation, maintain accountability, and prevent exploitation of church structures for commercial purposes.

Princess Lindiwe emphasised that the Ministry is committed to working closely with faith leaders to ensure policies are practical, transparent, and fair. She encouraged churches to fully participate in shaping the forthcoming national policy.

Faith leaders agreed on the importance of ongoing dialogue with government officials. The session emphasised that collaboration is essential to create a framework that balances freedom of worship with accountability and order.

Church representatives welcomed the government's assurances, highlighting that compliance measures will not interfere with genuine religious practice. Leaders also

called for clear guidance on ethics, reporting standards, and oversight procedures to prevent misuse while safeguarding spiritual activities.

Worth noting the Ministry of Home Affairs' discussions mark a significant step in addressing issues related to the rapid growth of religious institutions in Eswatini.

While church members raised concerns over taxation and commercialisation, they welcomed the government's message of order and peace, and its commitment to create rules that promote transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct.

The dialogue between government officials and faith leaders is ongoing, as policymakers and church representatives work together to finalise a national policy on religious institutions.

Updates are expected as sessions progress, signalling continued collaboration between the state and religious bodies to ensure accountability, peace, and order in the country's faith sector.

"A church should be transparent. Salaries should be taxed, accounts kept clear, and operations open. Funds used for genuine evangelism, community work, or charity are exempt, but any personal benefit derived from church income will be scrutinised and taxed," the Minister said.

Echoing the Minister's comments, ERS Director of Legal Operations, Henry Sukati, clarified that tax exemption is not automatic for churches.



▲ Minister for Home Affairs, Her Royal Highness Princess Lindiwe.



Stories by Thokozani Mazibuko

A 22-year-old man from Nhlambeni tragically lost his life late on Sunday night after his vehicle overturned and crashed into a nearby homestead along the MR9 public road at Kashi.

According to a police report, the fatal accident occurred around 2200 hours on November 9, 2025, when the driver, who was alone in the vehicle, reportedly lost control of his Isuzu light delivery vehicle (LDV). The vehicle veered off the road, overturned several times, and landed inside a homestead close to the roadside.

Deputy Police Information and Communication Officer, Assistant Superintendent Nosipho Mnguni, confirmed the incident and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

“Preliminary investigations suggest that the driver lost control of the vehicle, leading it to overturn before coming to rest in a nearby homestead. He sustained serious head injuries and was rushed to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital, where he was unfortunately certified dead upon arrival,” said Mnguni.

She added that no other injuries were reported from the homestead where the vehicle landed, though property within the yard was damaged.

# Driver dies after vehicle overturns, lands in homestead



“It was a single-vehicle accident. Thankfully, no one in the homestead was hurt, but parts of the fence and a small structure were damaged. Our traffic officers have since opened an inquiry to determine the exact cause of the accident,” she said.

Mnguni urged motorists to exercise extreme caution on the roads, especially at night, as fatigue, speeding, and distraction remain major contributors to road fatalities.

“We continue to appeal to all drivers to observe speed limits,

ensure their vehicles are roadworthy, and avoid driving when tired or under the influence of alcohol. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and every life lost on our roads is one too many,” she emphasized.

The deceased’s name has been withheld pending official communication with his family.

Meanwhile, traffic police in the Manzini region have recorded an increase in night-time accidents, particularly involving young drivers. Authorities have since intensified road patrols and safety campaigns under the ongoing “Arrive Alive Eswatini” initiative aimed at reducing road deaths during the festive season build-ups.

The body of the deceased was taken to the RFM mortuary for post-mortem examination as investigations continue.

### Road Safety Alert

- Police remind drivers to:
- Always wear seatbelts.
- Avoid speeding, especially on rural roads.
- Conduct vehicle maintenance checks before travel.
- Refrain from using mobile phones while driving.
- Rest adequately before long-distance journeys.

## Police launch manhunt after Honda Jazz stolen in Manzini

POLICE have launched an investigation following the theft of a motor vehicle at Palm Beach in Manzini, where a 40-year-old man from Phonjwane discovered that his car had been stolen by unknown suspects.

According to the Deputy Police Information and Communication Officer, Assistant Superintendent Nosipho Mnguni, the incident occurred on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at around 1800 hours, when the victim found that his light blue Honda Jazz, registration number USD 679 AM, valued at E40,000, had vanished from where it was parked.

“A case of theft of motor vehicle has been opened and investigations are underway.

The complainant reported

that he had parked his car near Palm Beach earlier in the day and upon returning, found it missing. The vehicle was stolen by unknown persons who remain at large,” said Mnguni.

She urged the public to assist the police with any information that may lead to the recovery of the stolen vehicle or the arrest of the suspects.

“We appeal to anyone who may have seen a suspicious vehicle matching the description or individuals attempting to sell a similar car to immediately contact the nearest police station,” Mnguni added.

The police spokesperson further reminded motorists to ensure their vehicles are securely locked and parked in safe, well-lit areas, especially when left unattended for long periods.

## Two men arrested with illegal firearm in Nhlangano

IN another incident, police in Nhlangano arrested and charged two men aged 34 and 29, from Nsongweni and kaZombodze, respectively, for being found in possession of a pistol and four live rounds of ammunition without a valid licence or permit.

Assistant Superintendent Mnguni confirmed that the arrest took place at Phola in the early hours of Sunday, November 9, 2025, at around 0130 hours.

“The suspects were found with an unlicensed firearm and ammunition during a police patrol operation. They were immediately taken into custody and charged accordingly,” Mnguni said.

The duo is expected to appear before court soon to face charges under the Arms and Ammunition Act. Police have since intensified stop-and-search operations to curb the illegal possession and circulation of firearms across the country.



▲ Assistant Superintendent Nosipho Mnguni.

## Dagga worth thousands seized in Bhunya

MEANWHILE, two men aged 38 and 49 from Malutha and Mkhulamini have been arrested for being found in possession of dagga weighing 130.465 kilograms.

According to Mnguni, the arrest occurred at Malutha area at around 0600 hours on November 9, 2025, after officers discovered the large quantity of dagga during a police operation.

“Both suspects failed to produce a valid licence or permit authorizing them to possess the substance. They were arrested on the spot and charged under the Opium and Habit-Forming Drugs Act,” Mnguni stated.

Police believe the dagga was intended for sale, and investigations are continuing to trace the supply network. Assistant Superintendent Mnguni commended officers for



▲ A picture of dagga sourced from the internet.

their vigilance and reiterated the Royal Eswatini Police Service’s commitment to fighting crime at all levels from vehicle theft to illegal arms and drug trafficking.

“The police remain on high alert and will continue to ensure that all those who choose to operate outside

the law are brought to justice,” she said.

Police urge members of the public to report suspicious activity by calling 999 or visiting the nearest police station. Anonymous tips are welcome and treated with confidentiality.





# Scammers net over E700 000 in October

Stories by Delisa Magagula

IN October alone, cybercriminals in Eswatini swindled more than E700,000 from unsuspecting victims.

This is according to Senior Superintendent Nicholas Jele of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) Fraud Department.

Jele said a total of 75 cases were reported last month, with 31 classified as 'Facata' crimes a type of fraud where scammers impersonate trusted individuals or institutions to extract money.

Meanwhile, 88 people were arrested in connection with these offences. While the number of cases represents a decline from last year, when 91 cases were recorded in September, Jele warned that cybercriminals are persistent and constantly devising new ways to trick the public.

"The scammers are relentless every day they develop new ways to trick people into handing over money. With the festive season approaching, it is more important than ever for the public to remain vigilant," said Jele.

Worth noting the term 'Facata' refers to frauds in which perpetrators impersonate family members, friends, or officials to manipulate victims into transferring money. These scams often exploit social media, mobile phones, or hacked accounts.

"The goal is to convince victims to send money or provide banking credentials before they realise they are being deceived," Jele explained.

He further said the 31 Facata cases reported in October highlight the ongoing prevalence of impersonation-based scams in the country.

## Bankers Association urge caution during the festive season

ADDING to the warnings, Nokuthula Mkhathshwa, representative of the Bankers Association of Eswatini, highlighted a rise in crimes linked to ATMs and online shopping scams.

She urged consumers to verify sellers before making purchases online, especially on platforms like Facebook Marketplace.

Mkhathshwa warned that scammers increasingly employ sophisticated tactics such as fake calls using legitimate company logos to deceive people into sharing sensitive information.

"If the price online looks too good, or the seller cannot be verified, stop and check with someone you trust," Mkhathshwa advised.

She further said, the festive period typically sees heightened spending on gifts, online shopping, and mobile-money transactions, making it a prime target for fraudsters.

Mkhathshwa said the Bankers Association has observed patterns including, fake online ads and listings where payment is made, but goods are never delivered.

"We have seen impersonation calls from scammers posing as banks or mobile-money agents requesting banking details, increased mobile-money transfers following phishing attempts," she said.

Meanwhile urged the public was urged to think twice before completing any transaction that seems suspicious, noting that scammers often capitalise on urgency and excitement during festive periods.

Authorities recommend practical measures to reduce risk:

- Verify sellers when making online purchases.
- Never share full card details or PINs.
- Use secure payment platforms that offer recourse if transactions fail.
- Report any suspicious activity to the Fraud Department immediately.

Jele noted that, although the drop in case numbers from 91 to 75 suggests some progress, the E700,000 lost in a single month underscores the persistent threat posed by cybercriminals.

He said both REPS and the banking sector emphasise vigilance, especially as the festive season approaches, warning that while criminals refine their methods, public awareness is the best defence.

Although Eswatini's awareness initiatives may differ slightly in timing, the principle remains the same, cybercriminals exploit increased online activity, making awareness critical.

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▲ Nicholas Jele head of the Fraud Department says scammers are relentless.



## Gambling on the rise – REPS

DURING a suicide-awareness event hosted by Montigny in partnership with the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), in Bhunya Deputy National Commissioner Wendy Hleta warned of a marked rise in gambling across the country, linking the trend to increasing numbers of suicides.

Hleta said the temptation of quick returns through betting has drawn more people into high-risk behaviour and that when gambling moves from occasional to compulsive, lives are being lost.

She said that the criminal justice and health systems are seeing more cases where gambling debt, job loss or financial collapse are major contributors to fatal self-harm.

The warning comes against a backdrop of alarming national suicide statistics. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Eswatini ranks among the highest in the world for male suicide rates.

Meanwhile, gambling addiction itself has surged, regulators report that registered online gaming users ballooned from 220,000 in April 2023 to 385,000 in April 2024.

At the event, Hleta referenced a recent tragic incident, where a man reportedly took his own life after losing approximately E15,000 in gambling bets.

Local authorities and NGOs say the issue demands immediate intervention: counselling services, self-exclusion tools for gamblers, awareness campaigns and better regulation of online betting platforms.

Hleta urged anyone battling gambling debts, thoughts of self-harm or heavy emotional stress to seek help through REPS or the Ministry of Health's mental health unit.

"As we talk about suicide prevention, we must talk also about the underlying causes and unchecked gambling is one of them," she said.



▲ Deputy PICO Nosipho Mnguni.





## BUSINESS NEWS

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Only 4% of SMEs qualify for bank loans — CFI

ONLY 4 per cent of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Eswatini qualify for or have access to bank loans, according to new findings by the Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI) Eswatini. The statistics were presented by James Manyasi, the Research and Information Manager at CFI, during a panel discussion at the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025, held on Monday, at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini.

#### World stocks jump as investors eye potential end to US shutdown

LONDON — Global shares rose on Monday, lifted by optimism that an end to a historic U.S. government shutdown was in sight, while government bond yields rose and the dollar steadied. The U.S. Senate moved forward on Sunday on a measure to reopen the federal government and end a now 40-day shutdown that has sidelined federal workers, delayed food aid and snarled air travel.

#### Oil steady after US shutdown talks advance, oversupply in focus

LONDON — Oil prices edged higher on Monday as investors assessed a potential end to the U.S. government shutdown and concerns around oversupply in the crude market. Brent crude futures rose 31 cents, or 0.49 per cent, to \$63.94 a barrel by 1300 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$60.05 a barrel, up 30 cents, or 0.5 per cent.

### EswatiniBank

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Notes/Cash		
	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	16.9066	17.3696
G.B. Pound	22.6731	23.3452
EURO	19.7282	20.3347
Bank Rate	(July 2023)	7.50%
Prime Rate	(July 2023)	11%
Inflation	(July 2023)	4.5%
Petrol	E21.60/Litre	
Diesel	E22.90/Litre	
Paraffin	E17.25/Litre	

# Eswatini targets an 80% MSME-controlled economy

By Delisa Magagula

ESWATINI aims to grow its economy to a point where 80 per cent of economic activity is controlled by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), up from the current 45 per cent.

This was announced by Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo (MP) during the opening of the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025 at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini on Monday.

Khumalo said the government aspired to emulate countries such as Taiwan and China, where MSMEs account for between 80 per cent and 90 per cent of economic activity, noting that Eswatini's long-term vision is to empower local enterprises to drive growth, job creation, and innovation.

"Eswatini aspires to reach a point where 80% of the economy is in the hands of MSMEs. Across the world, MSMEs are engines of employment, innovation, and inclusive economic participation. They are the backbone of our national economy," said Khumalo.

The Minister further said that MSMEs were central to job creation, women and youth empowerment, and the diversification of the economy, but continued to face barriers, including limited access to finance, certification, digital transformation, and market access.

He said the government remained committed to creating a coherent and enabling environment to help small businesses thrive and contribute more meaningfully to national development.

"Our role as government and stakeholders is to clear the path, reduce the barriers, and build a system that works for them one that finances their ambitions, equips them with skills, connects them to markets, and rewards innovation and quality," Khumalo said.

The Minister commended the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade for leading the MSME agenda, and acknowledged the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), describing its contribution as catalytic in transforming the MSME ecosystem.

He highlighted ongoing initiatives including the Citizen Economic Empowerment Act, the establishment of entrepreneurship hubs, and digital integration programmes, which are designed to increase MSME participation in the national economy.

The three-day conference brings together entrepreneurs, financial institutions, academia, private sector players, and development partners to discuss strategies for accelerating MSME competitiveness and resilience.

Khumalo made the remarks shortly before inviting the Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Dr Tambo Gina, who represented Prime Minister Russell Dlamini, to deliver the keynote address.

#### Government, UNDP push MSME empowerment agenda

The Government of Eswatini, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), has reaffirmed its commitment



▲ Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo.



▲ PM representative Minister of Economic Planning & Development Dr Tambo Gina.

to strengthening the MSME sector through targeted reforms and capacity-building initiatives.

Speaking during the opening of the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo said the government's collaboration with development partners has already delivered tangible progress.

"Together, we have reviewed the National MSME Policy, strengthened our standards and certification ecosystem, expanded entrepreneurship development initiatives, and promoted digital integration," Khumalo said.

He said these achievements laid the groundwork for the next phase of the country's MSME growth plan, which requires deeper collaboration among stakeholders.

"This conference is not a talk shop, it is a space for honest reflection, bold ideas, and practical solutions," he explained.

Khumalo said MSMEs were not just a sector but the heartbeat of the national economy, highlighting their role in job creation, youth and women empowerment, and innovation-led growth.

He added that the three-day engagement will focus on six key areas:

- Access to finance
- Digital transformation
- Market expansion
- Certification and standards
- Sustainable business practices
- Entrepreneurship skills development

The minister said the government's long-

term vision was to empower MSMEs to become fully competitive locally, regionally, and globally.

#### MSME conference to drive inclusive growth, innovation

The inaugural Eswatini MSME Conference 2025 has officially been declared open, marking a major milestone in the country's economic transformation drive.

The three-day event, held under the leadership of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, aims to strengthen Eswatini's MSME ecosystem through knowledge sharing, policy dialogue, and strategic partnerships.

Prime Minister Russell Dlamini, represented by Dr Tambo Gina, said the conference would provide practical outcomes to boost MSME competitiveness and sustainability.

"Participants will leave with an enhanced understanding of the MSME landscape and practical strategies to overcome key barriers. New partnerships will be forged between government, financiers, industry, and development institutions," he said.

Dr Gina said Eswatini's entrepreneurs from digital innovators and craft makers to small-holder agro-processors demonstrate the creativity and resilience driving the nation's economy forward.

He added that the government's goal was to build an environment where every Swati entrepreneur has equal access to finance, training, and markets.

The conference gathers over 200 participants, including senior government officials, financiers, private sector leaders, academia, and development partners from across the region.

Organisers said discussions will culminate in a set of evidence-based policy recommendations to inform future government actions on MSME development.

"The conversations we begin here must translate into action.

The commitments we make must be fulfilled, and the partnerships we form must endure," Dr Gina emphasised.

The conference was then officially declared open by Dr Gina on behalf of the Prime Minister.



By Delisa Magagula

# Only 4% of SMEs qualify for bank loans — CFI

ONLY 4 per cent of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Eswatini qualify for or have access to bank loans, according to new findings by the Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI) Eswatini.

The statistics were presented by James Manyatsi, the Research and Information Manager at CFI, during a panel discussion at the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025, held on Monday, at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini.

Manyatsi said the figure reflects a major financing gap in the country's SME sector, adding that the majority of small businesses continue to struggle to meet banks' lending requirements.

"Only 4 per cent of Eswatini's SMEs tick the box for credit or loans from financial institutions. The rest are excluded either because they don't meet the conditions, lack collateral, or their businesses are considered too risky by lenders," said Manyatsi.

He added that the low percentage highlights a deep structural challenge in Eswatini's financial system, where small enterprises which make up nearly half of the national economy still face difficulties accessing the financial support needed to grow.

80% of SMEs are in survival mode

A CFI's recent study has revealed that 80 per cent of MSMEs in Eswatini are operating in survival mode, meaning they are functional but not thriving.

"These are enterprises that take money in and out of the bank, they are working hard to stay afloat, but they are not growing or expanding. They are not closing down, but they are also not scaling up they are barely getting by," he explained.

Manyatsi said the findings paint a picture of a sector that remains highly active but financially fragile, with most businesses unable to transition from day-to-day survival to sustainable profitability.

"According to the study, these survivalist enterprises contribute to the economy through trade and employment but often lack access to finance, market linkages, and business development support key ingredients for growth," he said.

The study also found that 57 per cent of MSMEs in Eswatini use banking products such as savings or current accounts, representing a 7 per cent decline from the previous CFI survey.

"This means fewer small businesses are interacting with the formal banking system. We are seeing a shift away from traditional banking toward mobile money platforms," Manyatsi said.

He said more SMEs are now using mobile money services for day-to-day transactions because of accessibility, speed, and fewer requirements.

While this digital shift has made financial transactions easier, it has also created new risks.

Manyatsi warned that excessive reliance on mobile platforms without formal banking engagement could weaken the financial resilience of small businesses in the long term.

"Mobile money services are convenient, but they don't build credit records which limits SMEs' ability to qualify for larger financing or investment opportunities in the future," he said.

In hindsight, Manyatsi urged commercial banks to rethink their lending conditions and design inclusive financial products tai-



▲ Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Mangoba Khumalo, Minister of Economic Planning & Development Dr Tambo Gina and United Nations Resident Coordinator George Wachira at the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025.

lored to the realities of small businesses.

"Something needs to be done. SMEs need to re-evaluate their business models, and banks must review their expectations and requirements. If the financial sector remains rigid, MSMEs will continue to be locked out of formal finance," he said.

He said the low borrowing rate also pointed to the need for SMEs to strengthen record-keeping, formalise their operations, and improve creditworthiness.

"We cannot place the blame on one side both the financial institutions and SMEs need to meet halfway one by easing access, and the other by improving business discipline and financial management," said Manyatsi.

Manyatsi emphasised that financial inclusion is at the heart of national development and urged government and private partners to continue supporting initiatives that empower entrepreneurs.

Worth noting the Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI) Eswatini is an agency under the Ministry of Finance tasked with coordinating the implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy.

Its work focuses on improving access to and usage of financial services for individuals and enterprises across the country.

The panel discussion formed part of the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025, a three-day national dialogue convened by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade under the theme of enhancing MSME competitiveness and resilience.

The conference brings together government officials, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, academia, and development partners to discuss solutions for inclusive economic growth.

UN lauds King for entrepreneurship advocacy on the global stage

United Nations Resident Coordinator George Wachira has applauded His Majesty King Mswati III for his consistent and deliberate advocacy for entrepreneurship, both locally and internationally.



▲ SEDCO CEO Khethiwe Mhlanga at the conference.

Wachira was speaking on Monday, during the official opening of the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025, held at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini.

He praised the King for ensuring that entrepreneurship remains central in Eswatini's national development agenda and for consistently promoting the country's business potential when addressing international audiences.

"We thank His Majesty for his unwavering, consistent, and intentional entrepreneurship advocacy. Each time His Majesty takes the stage at international forums, he speaks passionately about entrepreneurship in Eswatini, and that leadership continues to inspire confidence in the nation's economic future," he said.

The UN official said the King's voice on global platforms has helped position Eswatini as a country committed to innovation, youth empowerment, and private-sector-driven growth.

Wachira also commended the Govern-

ment of Eswatini and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade for working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other partners to strengthen the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

He described the Eswatini MSME Conference 2025 as a practical demonstration of that commitment, noting that the United Nations would continue supporting programmes that empower local entrepreneurs, especially women and youth.

The three-day conference, officially opened by Minister of Economic Planning and Development Dr Tambo Gina on behalf of Prime Minister Russell Dlamini, brought together government officials, financiers, development partners, and entrepreneurs from across the country.

The gathering aims to create a platform for collaboration, policy dialogue, and innovative solutions to boost the growth, competitiveness, and sustainability of Eswatini's MSME sector.



By Nell Mackenzie and Rae Wee

# World stocks jump as investors eye potential end to US shutdown

LONDON — Global shares rose on Monday, lifted by optimism that an end to a historic U.S. government shutdown was in sight, while government bond yields rose and the dollar steadied.

The U.S. Senate moved forward on Sunday on a measure to reopen the federal government and end a now 40-day shutdown that has sidelined federal workers, delayed food aid and snarled air travel.

In a procedural vote, senators advanced a House-passed bill that will be amended to fund the government until January 30 and include a package of three full-year appropriations bills. Wall Street looked due to open higher with Nasdaq futures up 1.5 per cent while S&P 500 futures rose 0.9 per cent. European shares rode on this buoyant mood with the pan-European STOXX 600 up about 1.4 per cent, while Diageo shares soared after the world's largest spirits maker named a new CEO.

"A possible end to the longest running U.S. shutdown is a positive for markets," said Prashant Newnaha, senior Asia-Pacific rates strategist at TD Securities.

"Our expectation is that the next step is for a House vote on Wednesday, with the government set to reopen this Friday."

If the Senate eventually passes the bill, the package must still be approved by the House of Representatives and sent to President Donald Trump for his signature, a process that could take several days.

The shutdown has taken a toll on the



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

U.S. economy, with federal workers from airports to law enforcement and the military going unpaid while the central bank flies blind with limited government reporting of economic data.

White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett said in an interview that fourth-quarter GDP could be negative if the shutdown dragged on. Data on Friday showed that U.S. consumer sentiment slumped to near a 3-1/2-year low in early November as households worried about the economic fallout.

Mark Haefele, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management, said allocations to quality fixed-income and gold, as a well-diversified portfolio could help manage risks effectively.

"Overall, the combination of Fed easing and robust corporate earnings remains favorable for stocks, while quality bonds offer appealing risk-reward," Haefele said in a note.

"Under-allocated investors should add exposure to transformational growth trends including AI."

Gold rose around 2.5 per cent on Monday to its highest level in two weeks at about \$4,097 an ounce, on the heady combination of weak U.S. economic data, Federal Reserve rate cut expectations and a softer dollar.

Still, overall risk sentiment remained upbeat on Monday. In China, the CSI300 blue-chip index closed up almost 0.4 per cent, reversing early losses, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index rose 1.6 per cent.

Data on Sunday showed China's producer price deflation eased in October and consumer prices returned to positive territory, as the government steps up efforts to curb over-capacity and cut-throat competition among firms.

U.S. Treasury yields edged higher, with the benchmark 10-year yield up about 4 basis points to 4.13 per cent as a risk-on mood took hold across world markets.

In currencies, the dollar recovered some of its losses from last week, as investors assessed the outlook for the U.S. economy against a more hawkish Fed.

While recent data stoked worries about a weakening U.S. labour market, a slew of Fed officials last week reiterated their preference for going slow on further rate cuts.

Markets are currently pricing in a 63 per cent chance of a December Fed rate cut.

Against the yen, the dollar rose 0.44 per cent to 154.11. The greenback was little changed on the day against the euro and sterling. Bank of Japan policymakers saw a growing case to raise interest rates in the near term, with some calling for the need to ensure companies' wage-hike momentum will be sustained, a summary of opinions at the October meeting showed on Monday.

In commodities, oil prices pared earlier gains, with Brent crude futures up 29 cents to \$63.92 per barrel, while U.S. crude climbed 27 cents to \$60.02. (Reuters)



## Oil steady after US shutdown talks advance, oversupply in focus

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

By Shadia Nasralla

LONDON — Oil prices edged higher on Monday as investors assessed a potential end to the U.S. government shutdown and concerns around oversupply in the crude market.

Brent crude futures rose 31 cents, or 0.49 per cent, to \$63.94 a barrel by 1300 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$60.05 a barrel, up 30 cents, or 0.5 per cent.

The U.S. Senate on Sunday moved forward on a measure aimed at reopening the federal government and ending a now 40-day shutdown that has sidelined federal workers, delayed food aid and snarled air travel.

U.S. lawmakers' first step in ending the shutdown helped the return of risk appetite to markets, PVM analyst Tamas Varga said.

Analysts were concerned about any impact from flight cancellations on U.S. jet fuel demand. Airlines canceled more than 2,800 U.S. flights and delayed more than 10,200 on Sunday in the worst day for disruptions since the start of a U.S. government shutdown.

Brent and WTI fell about 2 per cent last

week and notched their second weekly decline, on fears of a supply glut. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, or OPEC+, agreed to increase output slightly in December, but it also paused further hikes in the first quarter.

Crude inventories are also on the rise in the United States while the volume of oil stored on board ships in Asian waters has doubled in recent weeks after tightening Western sanctions curtailed imports into China and India. There's a decoupling between the rising volume of crude oil stored at sea and the increasingly limited availability of Russian products sustaining fuel demand, PVM's Varga said.

Meanwhile, Russian oil producer Lukoil has declared force majeure at Iraq's giant West Qurna-2 oilfield, four sources with knowledge of the matter said on Monday, after Western sanctions on the Russian oil major hampered its operations.

Lukoil's operations faced mounting disruptions as a U.S. deadline for companies to cut off business with the Russian company looms on November 21 and after a hoped-for sale of the operations to Swiss trader Gunvor collapsed. (Reuters)

## Crypto treasury companies pivot to fringe tokens, stoking volatility fears



▲ Representation of cryptocurrencies.

By Hannah Lang

AS companies focused on stockpiling bitcoin and other major cryptocurrencies come under pressure amid market saturation and souring sentiment, new entrants are pushing into less popular tokens, stoking worries over increased volatility.

Buoyed by U.S. President Donald Trump's crypto-friendly stance and inspired by the meteoric success of Michael Saylor's Strategy MSTR.O, the number of publicly-traded companies investing in cryptocurrencies in the hopes they will appreciate has boomed.

As of September, there were at least 200 digital asset treasury, or DAT, companies - mostly focused on bitcoin - with a combined capitalization of around \$150 billion, up over threefold from a year earlier, according to an analysis by law firm DLA Piper.

More companies, many of them penny stocks seeking ways to boost profits, are

launching daily. But as bitcoin sags, they are turning to esoteric, more volatile tokens in a bid to amplify returns, according to a Reuters analysis of more than three dozen company announcements.

### Risks ahead for investors?

In recent weeks, for example, Greenlane, OceanPal and Tharimmune announced plans to stockpile BERA, NEAR and Canton Coin, respectively.

The trend illustrates how the often-volatile and speculative world of cryptocurrencies is becoming more entwined with traditional markets, creating potential hazards for investors.

"DATs are expanding towards more exotic and less liquid cryptocurrencies, and that's exactly where the risk could be much higher," said Cristiano Ventricelli, vice president and senior analyst of digital assets at Moody's Ratings.

"When markets drop, there is more pressure on the equity of these companies," Ventricelli added. (Reuters)



YOUTUBE has become the biggest platform out there, offering tons of opportunities for creators to earn a living.

Back in June, the company reported that its creative ecosystem added over \$55 billion to the U.S. GDP and created more than 490,000 full-time jobs.

However, many YouTubers have reduced their reliance on ad revenue and brand deals. There are several reasons for this shift. First, ad revenue can be unpredictable. With YouTube continually updating its policies, some creators find it challenging to secure ads for their videos, which can negatively impact their earnings. They've also realized that income from these streams can vanish unexpectedly.

Recognizing the volatility of platform-dependent revenue, many YouTubers are no longer just creators. They're vertically integrated media companies with parallel businesses, including product lines, brick-and-mortar ventures, and consumer brands that can outlast algorithm changes and policy shifts.

In some cases, these side businesses are growing faster and more sustainably than their YouTube channels.

### Mr Beast

Jimmy Donaldson, known as MrBeast, who has 442 million subscribers, isn't just one of YouTube's biggest stars — he's its most aggressive entrepreneur.

What started with a merchandise store in 2018 — ShopMrBeast — has exploded into a business portfolio, including his now three-year-old snack brand, Feastables.

Feastables' initial product was the "MrBeast Bar," a chocolate bar that generated over \$10 million in sales within its first 72 hours, selling over 1 million bars at launch. As of today, Feastables is more profitable than his YouTube content and even his "Beast Games" competition series on Prime Video. In 2024, Feastables generated roughly \$250 million in revenue and over \$20 million in profit, while his media business lost approximately \$80 million. Other ventures include his packaged food brand Lunchly (co-founded with YouTubers Logan Paul and KSI), the toy line MrBeast Lab, MrBeast Burger, and the analytics platform Viewstats. He even attempted to buy the U.S. operations of TikTok by joining the American Investor Consortium, a group of investors led by Employer.com founder Jesse Tinsley.

Now MrBeast is venturing into new areas. He plans to establish a mobile virtual network operator (MVNO), which could involve partnering with one of the major operators, such as AT&T, T-Mobile, or Verizon. Additionally, the YouTuber was spotted filing a trademark application for a mobile app that offers banking, financial advisory, and crypto exchange services.

Most recently, The Times reported that the YouTuber is set to open a theme park in Saudi Arabia, with rides inspired by his video content. For instance, there will supposedly be a game where six players stand on trap doors and must press a button when it lights up or fall down.

### Emma Chamberlain

Emma Chamberlain, who rose to fame as a teen vlogger in 2016, now has over 12 million subscribers and has found success in the beverage industry.

She launched her coffee brand, Chamberlain Coffee, in 2019, which

# YouTubers aren't relying on ad revenue anymore

## ... Here's how they are diversifying

offers a variety of products, including cold brew, coffee pods, ground and whole bean options, as well as tea and matcha. Notably, other YouTubers have followed suit, such as Jacksepticeye with his Top of the Mornin' Coffee brand and Philip DeFranco with Wake & Make Coffee.

In 2023, Chamberlain Coffee had a significant year, introducing ready-to-drink canned lattes and reaching approximately \$20 million in revenue, according to Forbes. The brand recently experienced even more substantial growth, opening its first physical location in January. Previously, it had only an online and retail presence at places like Target, Sprouts, and Walmart.

Although Chamberlain Coffee faced some challenges last year due to supplier issues, it's expected to rebound, with projected revenue growth of over 50% by 2025, reaching more than \$33 million, according to Business Insider. The brand is also aiming for profitability by 2026.

### Logan Paul

Logan Paul (23.6 million subscribers) is now known for his wrestling career but was earlier known for numerous controversies, like an infamous 2017 video and an allegedly scammy NFT project, CryptoZoo.

He also gained attention through his energy drink brand, Prime, which achieved rapid viral success in 2022. The brand, co-founded by YouTuber KSI, surpassed \$1.2 billion in sales in 2023, a figure far exceeding what most content creators earn from views, ads, and brand deals. However, it has since faced declining sales, regulatory scrutiny for its high caffeine content, and lawsuits from business partners. Sales have particularly cooled in the U.K., where revenue dropped by about 70% from 2023 to 2024.

Another venture of his, Maverick Apparel, made between \$30 million and \$40 million in 2020.

His brother, Jake Paul, is also involved in various ventures, including co-founding the Anti Fund, which has touted past investments in OpenAI, Anduril, Ramp, and Cognition, among others. The younger Paul also owns a grooming line, called W, and a mobile betting platform called Betr.

### Ryan's World

Ryan's World, hosted by 13-year-old Ryan Kaji, is another prominent YouTuber with a staggering following. Ryan rose to fame through his toy reviews and unboxing videos, which have captivated nearly 40 million young viewers.

In addition to his YouTube success, Kaji has expanded his brand through a line of toys and apparel that are sold in major retail chains and that reportedly generated over \$250 million in revenue in 2020. Kaji and his family have since diversified their ventures, including launching a TV show and an app that provides educational content tailored for children.

(Tech Crunch)



▲ Jimmy Donaldson, known as MrBeast, who has 442 million subscribers, isn't just one of YouTube's biggest stars — he's its most aggressive entrepreneur.



▲ Emma Chamberlain, who rose to fame as a teen vlogger in 2016, now has over 12 million subscribers and has found success in the beverage industry.



▲ Logan Paul (23.6 million subscribers) is now known for his wrestling career but was earlier known for numerous controversies, like an infamous 2017 video and an allegedly scammy NFT project, CryptoZoo.



# Trump says no US govt official will attend G20 summit in SA

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Friday that no U.S. government official would attend the Group of 20 summit in South Africa later this month, because of what he said were “human rights abuses” taking place in the country. South Africa’s foreign ministry described the decision as “regrettable” and repeated its rejection of Trump’s claims that white Afrikaners face persecution based on their race in the Black-majority country.

“It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa,” Trump said in a Truth Social post. “Afrikaners (People who are descended from Dutch settlers, and also French and German immigrants) are being killed and slaughtered, and their land and farms are being illegally confiscated.”

“No U.S. Government Official will attend as long as these Human Rights abuses continue. I look forward to hosting the 2026 G20 in Miami, Florida!” Trump said.

Vice President JD Vance, who was expected to attend the Group of 20 world leaders in Johannesburg in Nov 22-23, was no longer going, a source familiar with the matter said.

Trump has taken issue with South African domestic and foreign policies - ranging from its land policy to its case accusing Israel of genocide in the U.S. ally’s war in Gaza.

The president last month set the lowest cap on record for U.S. refugee admissions and said those people admitted would be focused largely on white Afrikaners.

South Africa’s foreign ministry said it had taken note of Trump’s “regrettable” post on the platform, and reiterated Pretoria’s oft-stated rejection of the accusation that



▲ A woman walks at the Cape Town International Convention Centre during the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

Afrikaners are subjected to oppression.

“The claim that this community faces persecution is not substantiated by fact,” the ministry said, adding that South Africa’s past of racial inequality gives it the experience to help the world tackle divisions through the G20 platform.

“Our nation is uniquely positioned to champion within the G20 a future of genuine

solidarity,” it said, adding that it looked forward to hosting a successful summit.

Earlier this year, Secretary of State Marco Rubio also boycotted a G20 foreign ministers’ meeting in South Africa, which has the G20 presidency from December 2024 to November 2025. The United States is set to take over the G20 presidency from South Africa. (Reuters)

## South Africans brace for budget that could change the cost of living

SOUTH Africans battling high food and fuel costs could get some relief, if the Reserve Bank’s calculations are right. The markets will be watching Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana closely when he delivers the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement on November 12.

Wednesday’s budget is likely to bring the cost of living into sharp focus, with economists saying he could well back a plan to lower the country’s inflation target range.

South African Reserve Bank Governor, SARB Governor Lesetja Kganyago, has been pushing to lower the inflation target from the current 3%–6% range to a flat 3%.

Kganyago argues that a lower target would support “sustainable economic growth and cheaper borrowing costs”.

This could eventually make borrowing and living costs cheaper. Investec treasury economist Tertia Jacobs said the change would give the policy more credibility.

“What we have seen is that South Africa’s target range is actually at the top end of most emerging markets,” she said.

Jacobs added that “what is very important is that the minister of finance backs it up with a lower inflation target, say from 2 to 4 percent”.

Jacobs said the Reserve Bank had already shifted its focus to the bottom end of the current 3 to 6 percent range.

“If the government can embrace it because it means broader buy-in, that will give impetus and support to the Reserve Bank,” she said.

National Treasury and the central bank had been investigating the impact of



▲ The markets will be watching Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana closely when he delivers the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

lowering the target.

What this means for consumers

A lower inflation target won’t bring instant price cuts, but it could ease pressure on households by:

- Anchoring expectations, helping the Reserve Bank keep prices stable over time.
- Reducing the cost of future borrowing if inflation slows and interest rates fall.
- Creating more room for government to direct funds toward essential services rather than debt repayments.

Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking said stronger tax collections and high gold and platinum prices had boosted

revenue this year.

It forecast a R60 billion tax revenue overshoot in the 2025/26 financial year, giving Treasury slightly more space to manage spending.

The national budget was finally passed in May – after two failed attempts – leaving government battling to fill a R75 billion revenue hole.

It had planned to raise value-added tax (VAT) from 15% to 15.5% this year and again to 16% next year but could not get all members of the Government of National Unity (GNU) to agree.

A later proposal for a smaller 0.5 percentage point VAT increase was also dropped in April after several court challenges.

(IOL)

## Pension Funds adjudicator awards R4.5mln to girlfriend, wife gets nothing

THE customary wife of a deceased failed in her attempt to claim a death benefit as she had not proved dependency on the deceased and was an estranged spouse.

In her complaint to the Pension Funds Adjudicator, Muvhango Lukhaimane, the wife was unhappy that the Becsa Provident Fund distributed the death benefit of R4.5 million to the deceased’s four children and to his girlfriend.

The latter is to receive 15% of the death benefit while the rest was divided between 15% and 25% to the children.

The deceased was a member of the fund until he died in September 2023. The complainant submitted that she was married to the deceased and was financially dependent on him. She provided a copy of a lobola letter dated 17 September 2022 and a marriage certificate in support of her submissions.

The complainant submitted that in terms of the Recognition of Marriage for Customary Marriages Act, either spouse may apply to register his or her marriage after the death of the other. She explained that a few months after the deceased died, she registered her marriage in terms of customary law. Therefore, she said it was not clear as to why the deceased, in his insurance policy, stated he was single while he was customarily married.

The complainant said she did not have any proof that she was financially dependent on the deceased as they bought groceries together and he would give her money in cash. The complainant said she resided in Kwa-Mhlanga and the deceased resided in Witbank. Although they did not reside together, she would visit him on weekends or when she was off from work.

The fund submitted that according to the investigation report, the deceased was never married. The girlfriend had indicated that she was the deceased’s partner and had been residing with him from June 2022 until the time of death. She also provided the fund with a bank statement showing money received from the deceased to prove her financial dependency.

The fund established that the girlfriend qualified as a factual dependent on the basis that she was financially dependent on the deceased, she lived with him, and they shared common household responsibilities. The fund submitted that the complainant did not furnish it with proof of her dependency on the deceased.

In her determination, Lukhaimane said the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act provides for the posthumous registration of a marriage.

(IOL)



▲ A customary wife’s lack of financial dependency caused her to lose out on her husband’s R4.5



THE U.S. Senate on Sunday moved forward on a measure aimed at reopening the federal government and ending a now 40-day shutdown that has sidelined federal workers, delayed food aid and snarled air travel.

In a procedural vote, senators advanced a House-passed bill that will be amended to fund the government until January 30 and include a package of three full-year appropriations bills.

If the Senate eventually passes the amended measure, it still must be approved by the House of Representatives and sent to President Donald Trump for his signature, a process that could take several days.

Under a deal struck with a handful of Democrats who rebuffed their party's leadership, Republicans agreed to a vote in December on extending subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. The subsidies, which help lower-income Americans pay for private health insurance and are due to expire at the end of the year, have been a Democratic priority during the funding battle.

The vote to advance the bill passed by a 60-40 margin, the minimum needed to overcome a Senate filibuster.

"It looks like we're getting very close to the shutdown ending," Trump told reporters at the White House prior to the vote.

The bill would prohibit federal agencies from firing employees until January 30, a win for federal worker unions and their allies. It would stall Trump's campaign to downsize the federal workforce.

Some 2.2 million civilians worked for the federal government at the start of Trump's second term, according to federal records. At least 300,000 employees are expected to leave the government by the end of this year due to Trump's downsizing effort.

It would also provide back pay for all

# US Senate advances bill to end federal shutdown



▲ An airport staff member helps a traveler at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, more than a month into the ongoing U.S. government shutdown.

federal employees, including members of the military, Border Patrol agents, and air-traffic controllers. When the Senate reconvenes on Monday, Republican leaders will try to get a bipartisan agreement to circumvent Senate rules and move quickly to passage. Otherwise, the chamber would require much of the coming week to move through procedural actions before voting on final passage, possibly extending the shutdown into next weekend.

"It was a good vote tonight," Senate

Majority Leader John Thune told reporters after the Senate adjourned on Sunday. "Hopefully, we'll get an opportunity tomorrow to set up the next votes. Of course, that's going to take some cooperation and consent." Sunday's deal was brokered by Democratic Senators Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen, both from New Hampshire, and Senator Angus King, an independent from Maine, said a person familiar with the talks. "For over a month, I've made clear that

my priorities are to both reopen government and extend the ACA enhanced premium tax credits. This is our best path toward accomplishing both of these goals," Shaheen posted on X. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, the chamber's top Democrat, voted against the measure. Many Democrats on the Hill watched the deal unfold with displeasure. "Senator Schumer is no longer effective and should be replaced," wrote U.S. Representative Ro Khanna on X. "If you can't lead the fight to stop healthcare premiums from skyrocketing for Americans, what will you fight for?"

Sunday marked the 40th day of the shutdown, which has sidelined federal workers and affected food aid, parks and travel, while air traffic control staffing shortages threaten to derail travel during the busy Thanksgiving holiday season late this month. Senator Thom Tillis, a Republican from North Carolina, said the mounting effects of the shutdown pushed the chamber toward an agreement.

"Temperatures cool, the atmospheric pressure increases outside and all of a sudden it looks like things will come together," Tillis told reporters. Should the government remain closed for much longer, economic growth could turn negative in the fourth quarter, especially if air travel does not return to normal levels by Thanksgiving, White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett warned on the CBS "Face the Nation" show. Thanksgiving falls on November 27 this year. (Reuters)

# Sarkozy back home after court frees him pending appeal

FORMER French President Nicolas Sarkozy was freed from jail and went home on Monday, after a Paris court ruled he could be released while he appeals against his conviction for conspiring to raise funds from Libya.

Sarkozy was sent to prison on October 21 after he was found guilty in September of criminal conspiracy over efforts by close aides to procure funds for his 2007 presidential bid from late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The former conservative leader, who was president from 2007 to 2012, told the court that being in jail had been tough.

The court said he did not represent a flight risk and therefore did not have to remain in prison until his appeal.

His release was based on specific criteria, such as whether there was a risk he could flee, and is no indication of whether his appeal is likely to succeed.

"Vive la liberte" (Long live freedom), Sarkozy's youngest son, Louis, posted on his X account with a childhood photo of himself smiling alongside his father, after the court granted the release.

Sarkozy's five-year prison sentence had been enforced swiftly because of what judges in September called the "extraordinary seriousness" of the crime. He was incarcerated at La Sante prison in Paris - a stunning downfall for a former president.

But the public prosecutor on Monday recommended that Sarkozy be freed pending his appeal of the guilty verdict.

The court agreed to release him under judicial supervision, which includes a ban on leaving France and a ban on talking to any



▲ Vehicles believed to be carrying former French President Nicolas Sarkozy leave the Sante prison, after a Paris court granted him an early release from jail, pending an appeal, weeks after he started a five-year sentence for conspiring to raise campaign funds from Libya, in Paris, France, justice ministry official.

Sarkozy has consistently denied wrongdoing, calling himself a victim of revenge and hatred. He did not attend Monday's hearing in person but was taking part via video link from prison.

He told the court he would respect any demand from the judiciary if he was freed.

"I'm French, sir. I love my country. I'm fighting for the truth to prevail. I will comply with all the obligations imposed on me, as I

always have," he said.

Speaking of being in jail, he added: "It's tough. Really tough — as it must be for any detainee. I'd even say it's draining."

Sarkozy has faced several legal battles since leaving office.

Last year, France's highest court upheld a conviction for corruption and influence peddling, ordering him to wear an electronic tag for a year, a first for a former French head of state. The tag has now been removed.

Also last year, an appeals court confirmed a separate conviction for illegal campaign financing over his failed re-election bid in 2012. A final ruling from France's highest court is expected on that case this month.

Sarkozy is also under formal investigation in another case for being an accessory to witness tampering.

(Reuters)



# UK's Jimpster brings Deep House vibes to UTW Eswatini

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini  
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

UK producer Jimpster is set to headline the highly anticipated Unleash The Wolf (UTW) event in Eswatini.

Scheduled for December 7, 2025, the event will take place at the stylish Oryx Restaurant & Lounge, kicking off at 3 pm and continuing late into the night. Hosted by the charismatic ISooks, UTW Eswatini is poised to become one of the most talked-about music events of the year.

"For the first time in eSwatini, we bring you legendary UK producer, Jimpster. The iconic deep house craftsman is set to light up #UTWEswatini with his timeless, groove-heavy, and soulfully textured soundtracks at Oryx Restaurant & Lounge on the 7th of December. You don't want to make the mistake of missing this one Wolf Pack," posted the Unleash The Wolf page.

Ticket prices are structured to accommodate both early planners and last-minute attendees. Early bird tickets are available for E100, followed by phase 1 tickets at E150. A limited number of phase 2 tickets will be sold at E200, with the final phase tickets priced at E250. This tiered pricing strategy aims to ensure broad access while rewarding early commitment.

Jamie Odell, better known by his stage name Jimpster, is a multifaceted artist whose influence spans producing, DJing, remixing, and running his own record labels. His career, which began in 1991 with releases on the Jumpin' & Pumpin' label, has evolved into a distinguished legacy within the deep house and electronica genres.

Jimpster's debut album, 'Messages From The Hub,' released in the late 1990s, marked a turning point that established him as a formidable force in the music industry. The album garnered critical acclaim and opened doors to collaborations and remix opportunities with a diverse range



▲ UK's Jimpster.

of artists, including Seal, Coldcut, Lamb, Airt Moreira, and even the legendary Bob Marley. Over the years, Jimpster has maintained a steady output of music primarily through his own labels, Freerange and Delusions Of Grandeur. His tracks such as 'Dangly Panther,' 'A Love Like This,' and 'Solitude' have become staples in DJ

sets worldwide, celebrated for their rich textures and emotive depth. More recent releases like 'These Times' and 'Porchlight And Rocking Chairs' have attracted remixes from prominent artists such as Dixon and KiNK, further cementing Jimpster's relevance and appeal in the contemporary electronic music scene.

## Celumusa joins star-studded lineup for Sunset Concert 3.0

THE upcoming Sunset Concert 3.0 has announced the addition of celebrated local vocalist Celumusa amplifying the excitement surrounding this year's edition.

Scheduled for November 22, 2025, the concert embraces the theme "A Rare Stage," signalling a unique and diverse musical experience that aims to celebrate and elevate Eswatini's rich and evolving musical landscape.

Sunset Concert 3.0 is more than just a performance; it is a carefully curated fusion of genres including classical, opera, Afro-soul, jazz, acoustic, and pop. This eclectic mix reflects the dynamic nature of Eswatini's music scene, blending traditional and contemporary sounds to create an evening that resonates with a broad audience.

The concert's lineup features a compelling roster of local talent, each bringing their distinctive style to the stage. Zinia is set to captivate audiences with her blend of contemporary pop and acoustic music, delivering performances rich in emotional depth. Sethu Magagula will anchor the Afro-soul segments, known for

his soulful voice and heartfelt delivery.

Jazz enthusiasts can look forward to Mongezi Simelane, whose versatility allows him to seamlessly integrate jazz elements into cross-genre collaborations. At the centre of this constellation of artists is Celumusa, affectionately known as "Ceceboy," whose powerful presence and vocal prowess make him both a marquee performer and the visionary behind the concert initiative.

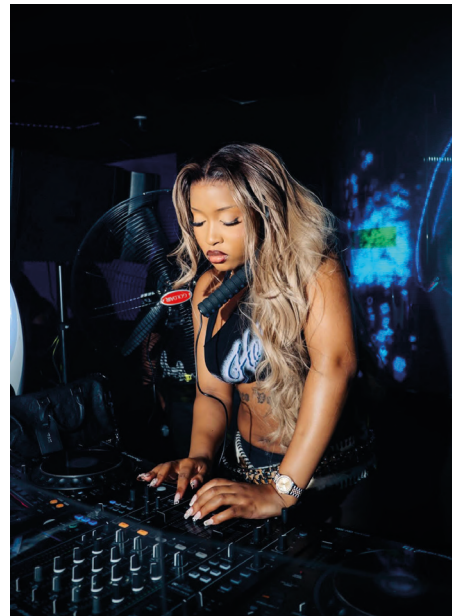
Celumusa's reputation extends beyond national borders, having represented Eswatini at prestigious events such as the Africa Youth Orchestra Festival Vision Concert in Pretoria and the Standard Bank Luju Food & Lifestyle Festival. His dual role as artist and mentor underscores the concert's mission to nurture emerging musicians.

Ceceboy emphasised that the Sunset Concert is not merely an entertainment event but a developmental platform designed to equip young artists with the experience and confidence necessary to succeed on international stages. The organisers have kept the venue confidential as they finalise arrangements related to seating capacity and accessibility, but



▲ Celumusa.

ticket sales are already active. General admission tickets are priced at E200, while VIP tickets are available for E400. Tickets can be purchased at the CMB Production Studio located in Manzini Mall and Berachah Kitchen in Mzimnene.



▲ Uncle Waffles.

## Uncle Waffles takes World Tour to Australia

GLOBAL sensation and Eswatini-born DJ, Uncle Waffles, continues to solidify her place among the world's most electrifying musical exports with the next leg of her "I'm In Dis Ho" World Tour, this time taking her irresistible energy to Australia.

The acclaimed performer, known for her dynamic stage presence and genre-bending amapiano sets, announced a string of highly anticipated shows that will take her to major Australian cities this November. The Australia leg of the tour will see her perform in Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, and Melbourne, with several venues already reporting limited ticket availability or complete sell-outs. Each stop promises to deliver the signature Uncle Waffles experience, a fusion of high-tempo beats, expressive choreography, and vibrant fashion that has captivated audiences across continents.

From the moment the announcement was made, excitement rippled through social media, with fans in Australia celebrating the long-awaited arrival of one of Africa's most internationally recognised DJs. The tour's creative concept, tied to her bold "I'm In Dis Ho" branding, reflects her unapologetic confidence and her continued celebration of African musical identity on the global stage.

Uncle Waffles' journey from Eswatini's vibrant cultural landscape to the world's biggest stages has been nothing short of extraordinary. Rising to fame through her viral DJ performances, she quickly transcended the status of internet sensation to become a global ambassador for amapiano, a genre that has taken the world by storm. Her tours have brought the uniquely South African sound, infused with her personal artistry, to audiences across Europe, North America, and Asia, helping to cement Africa's influence in the global music scene.

The Australian edition of the tour kicks off on November 13, 2025, at Eclipse, Brisbane, before moving to Metro City in Perth the following night. The excitement continues at Bella Live and Glass Island in Sydney, with the latter already marked as sold out, before culminating in a grand finale at Ms Collins in Melbourne. These venues, known for their vibrant nightlife and cutting-edge sound systems, provide the perfect stage for Uncle Waffles' high-energy sets.



# Mduduzi Ncube headlines ‘Pens Down’ at Yolo Lounge

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini  
siphesihled@rubiconmedia.group

THE end of the academic grind will be marked spectacularly this November as South African music sensation Mduduzi Ncube headlines the much-anticipated ‘Pens Down’ celebration at Yolo Lounge in Malkerns.

The event, slated for Saturday, November 22, 2025, is set to merge youthful excitement, soulful melodies, and energetic performances into one unforgettable night. Organised by Blue Print and Ultrasound Entertainment, the event is set to attract students, graduates, and music lovers from across Eswatini and beyond. It will officially signal the start of the festive season, giving those who have spent months buried in books a chance to put their pens down and let their spirits soar. Mduduzi Ncube, one of South Africa’s most admired vocalists, has built a reputation for delivering heartwarming performances that bridge love, faith, and hope. Known for hits like “Istimela,” “Phumelela,” and “Langa Linye,” the soulful artist has become a beacon of authenticity in the Southern African music scene. His performance at Yolo Lounge is expected to set the perfect tone for a night dedicated to joy and release. The supporting lineup features some of Eswatini’s most energetic and talented DJs and performers. The roll call includes DJ Wawa, Yukiboy, No Stress, Ntuntu, M98, and Charlie B, each bringing their unique blend of genres ranging from amapiano to hip-hop and dance tunes. Mduduzi Ncube’s rise to prominence is a compelling story of



▲ Mduduzi Ncube.

talent and perseverance.

Best known for his breakout hit single ‘Isiginci,’ Ncube’s music resonates deeply with fans due to its authentic storytelling and emotional depth. The song touches on themes of love, struggle, and resilience, drawing heavily from his own life experiences, which have earned him a loyal following across Southern Africa.

A pivotal moment in Ncube’s musical journey occurred in 2017 when he received

a guitar as a gift. This seemingly simple act reignited a dormant passion for music, providing him with a powerful outlet for self-expression. Mduduzi Ncube’s breakthrough came in 2019 when he was discovered by the influential DJ Tira, a key figure in the South African music industry known for nurturing emerging talent. Under DJ Tira’s mentorship, Ncube recorded two songs, one of which featured the acclaimed singer Berita.

## Vintage weekend to celebrate timeless class

ESPINHO Rest & Lounge, in collaboration with the Gentleman Classic Riders, is set to take Eswatini on a nostalgic journey back to the 1960s with the much-anticipated Ezam’zukwana Vintage Weekend.

The event, scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2025, promises to blend elegance, rhythm, and vintage culture into one unforgettable celebration. The weekend affair is expected to transform Espinho Rest & Lounge into a lively showcase of retro charm, complete with a vintage car parade, soulful music, and classic fashion. The organisers have created an atmosphere that will remind guests of an era when cars defined character, fashion reflected grace, and music carried the heartbeat of a generation.

The Ezam’zukwana Vintage Weekend aims to honour the spirit of the 60s, a time remembered for sophistication, creativity, and cultural pride. The celebration will bring together old-school car enthusiasts, music lovers, and those who appreciate timeless elegance. From the polished chrome of the classic cars to the carefully selected playlists, every detail is designed to immerse guests in the aura of the past.

The highlight of the evening will be the Cars Parade, which will showcase some of the most iconic vehicles of the 1960s. It will serve as a living museum of motoring history, where each car tells a story of craftsmanship and nostalgia. The organisers have encouraged attendees to come dressed in 60s-style fashion, with the best-dressed



▲ Shinely Greenz.

guest set to receive a special prize.

Music will be the heartbeat of the event. A lineup of celebrated DJs, including DJ Kelly (Old Skool), DJ Maye, DJ Mfundo, DJ Fortuna, and Mike, will curate an old-school sound experience featuring the golden hits of soul, funk, and rhythm and blues.

### Performances

Adding to the night’s entertainment will be live performances by Shinely Greenz and Fitzhamagi, artists known for their soulful stage presence and appreciation of retro-inspired sounds.

The organisers have emphasised that Ezam’zukwana Vintage Weekend is more than just a themed gathering, it is a revival

of cultural pride. The Gentleman Classic Riders, well known for their passion for retro automobiles, will contribute their signature charm through the display of rare vintage cars. Their participation underscores the event’s mission of preserving heritage through creativity and craftsmanship.

Entrance to the event will be E50 for all, while those who prefer exclusive experience will have access to VIP parking at E150. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the car parade and the fashion showcase. A Friday Pre-Party, taking place on October 28, 2025, will offer free entry to all, serving as a curtain-raiser for the main event.



▲ Asakhona.

## Asakhona to host Eswatini Lifestyle Awards Karaoke

ESWATINI radio presenter Asakhona Dlamini is set to host the Eswatini Lifestyle Awards Karaoke Night.

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

Following this, a lively karaoke session from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm will engage guests in an interactive and entertaining warm-up before the main awards ceremony, which will run until 10:00 pm. Ticket prices are set at E250 for general admission and E350 for VIP access, making the event accessible while offering premium experiences for select guests. The transformation from the former Jumbo Festival to the Eswatini Lifestyle Awards marks a significant strategic shift. This rebranding effort is designed to broaden the event’s scope and enhance its prestige by explicitly highlighting the awards component. The change reflects a deeper commitment to acknowledging the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations that shape Eswatini’s vibrant lifestyle sectors, including business, leadership, corporate affairs, culture, fashion, and creativity.

### Commitment

Jumbo Khumalo, the event director, expressed his excitement about this new chapter. “We are thrilled to announce the rebranding of the Jumbo Festival to Eswatini Lifestyle Awards. This exciting new chapter reflects our commitment to celebrating the best of Eswatini’s praiseworthy personalities across all fraternal of lifestyle like business, leadership, corporate, culture, fashion and creativity.”

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

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



# Khaya Mthethwa returns to work after the wedding

AWARD-WINNING musician and worship leader Khaya Mthethwa, who is newly-wed, is set to host his annual Art & Worship II gathering, blending music, art, and worship.

The Durban preacher and Idols SA season 8 winner tied the knot with his partner, fitness and travel content creator Sine Mthethwa (Ndlovu), in a luxurious and intimate gathering at Oasis Church in Umlazi, Durban.

The couple exchanged vows in front of a congregation of witnesses, family, and friends. For a few weeks, he was basking in the glow of a new marital life, enjoying being a newlywed, marking a new and joyous chapter in his life. Khaya Mthethwa and Sine Mthethwa's wedding day

He returns to work with the Art & Worship II concert, which will be his first big event after the wedding. "Things have been amazing, after marriage," he told Sunday World.

"I'm so excited to get back to work and celebrate these great moments of my life."

This is Mthethwa's second marriage after parting ways with his first wife, and Mpu-malanga's former beauty queen, Ntando Kunene, after only two years together.

He comes back to work, feeling "renewed."

The Art & Worship II will be hosted on 15 November 2025 at the iconic Big Top Arena, Carnival City, this second installment promises to be a historic celebration of artistry, faith, and South African excellence. He will host a free Worship Masterclass for worship teams at selected churches across Johannesburg.

"It's my contribution and pouring into the next generation of worship leaders. Art & Worship II is a curated worship journey designed to inspire, uplift, and immerse audiences in a night of divine creativity."

Being both a talented musician and highly involved in the church, he hopes to share the two sides on one stage. "I'm an artist and a worshiper, and so bringing these two parts of my life together means unearthing creativity while pursuing God with all that I am," Mthethwa told Sunday World.

"Art & Worship II is a celebration of the gift of worship, but also a call to embrace art as a language of faith. This show is about excellence, culture, and creating a space where people can encounter God in every sense."

(Sunday World)



▲ Award-winning musician and worship leader Khaya Mthethwa.

## Michael Jackson biopic trailer breaks record with 116M views

Michael Jackson fans have shown up in the millions online to support the late King of Pop.

Lionsgate recently released the trailer of Jackson's biopic, "Michael", and within the first 24 hours, it had shattered records, amassing over 116.2 million views worldwide, according to WaveMetrix. This accomplishment also marks Lionsgate's largest trailer debut to date.

The film stars Jackson's nephew, Jaafar Jackson, who takes on the iconic role.

The teaser showcases Jaafar Jackson performing some of Jackson's legendary dance moves, including the famous moonwalk. It also offers a sneak peek into the unforgettable "Thriller" music video.

"The film tells the story of Michael Jackson's life beyond the music, tracing his journey from the discovery of his extraordinary talent as the lead of the Jackson Five to the visionary artist whose creative ambition fueled a relentless pursuit to become the biggest entertainer in the world," read the official synopsis.

It continued: "Highlighting both his life off-stage and some of the most iconic performances from his early solo career, the film gives audiences a front-row seat to Michael Jackson as never before. (Bang Showbiz)



## Friends remember Zahara

LATE singer Bulelwa "Zahara" Mkutukana would have turned 38 years old today, Sunday 9 November.

Her close friends, hosted by her Personal Assistant Lisa Gwengxeka, gathered in honour of the late singer's life at a venue in the west of Johannesburg.

Gwengxeka, who also lived with the singer, said they hosted the gathering at a venue where she often dined to remember the good memories. "We chose a place that she frequented, as it was close to her home. All the staff knew and adored her, and it was just something small and intimate for us to remember the good old days and time we spent with her."

"Her untimely passing has been a very hard pill to swallow. How it happened and all the events leading up to her death were traumatic, but every year it gets better." The Loliwe singer died on December 11, 2023, af-

ter a lengthy hospital stay in Johannesburg.

Her family confirmed at the time that she died from complications related to liver damage. She was buried in her hometown of East London

The celebration had all her favourite treats.

"Oh, she loved flowers, we bought flowers and a beautiful cake. We sang happy birthday and just shared great memories over a drink-something we would have done every year," Gwengxeka said.

She wishes to host something of a greater magnitude in Zahara's honour in due course, she said. "A tribute concert in her name would mean a lot and have her favourite artists and friends share good memories. However, it has been tough with too many hands in the jar wanting to benefit through her legacy. But hopefully one day, we will agree on making it possible with her family."

(Sunday World)

# Trevor Noah scores a Grammy nomination

TREVOR Noah has received a nomination for Best Audio Book, Narration and Storytelling Recording for his reading of his illustrated fable, "Into the Uncut Grass", at the upcoming 68th Annual Grammy Awards.

The nominations were announced on Friday, November 7, and this marks another milestone in Noah's evolving creative journey.

Known globally as a comedian, author and television host, Noah continues to expand his storytelling across different mediums.

In this category, he joins a select group of artists whose works showcase exceptional narration and the power of voice-driven storytelling.



▲ Trevor Noah has received a nomination for Best Audio Book.

"Into the Uncut Grass" follows the success of Noah's acclaimed memoir "Born a Crime", which explored his experiences growing up in South Africa as the son of a black mother and a white father during and after apartheid.

While "Born a Crime" offered a deeply personal and often humorous reflection on identity and survival, "Into the Uncut Grass" shifts into the realm of tale and imagination.

Created in collaboration with illustrator Sabina Hahn, the book is an imaginative fable about conflict, empathy and understanding.

It tells the story of a young boy who, hoping to escape his chores, ventures into the uncut grass in search of adventure. His loyal companion, a bear named Walter, warns him of the dangers but decides to follow him anyway.

As they journey deeper into the grass, the pair encounters a gnome who offers them an important lesson: "Every person is just an obstacle unless you try to understand them. Even your own mother."

Through this experience, the boy and Walter come to realise the value of empathy, communication and peace within relation-

ships. Although presented as a children's story, "Into the Uncut Grass" carries universal themes that resonate with adults as well.

Noah has said that the story is designed to be read aloud or alone, and that the meaning of the tale shifts depending on one's stage in life. It blends simplicity with emotional depth, encouraging readers to reflect on how they connect with others.

The audiobook version, narrated by Noah himself, brings his distinctive voice and timing to the story, making the experience intimate and engaging for listeners.

His ability to convey humour, warmth and sincerity through narration has contributed to the nomination.

Noah's connection to the Grammy Awards extends beyond this year's nomination. He has hosted the prestigious ceremony several times, earning praise for his sharp wit and composure on the global stage.

The 68th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony will take place on Sunday, February 1, 2026, in Los Angeles.

(Bang Showbiz)



#### Hydrogen Peroxide

IT'S a popular zit fighter because it kills bacteria living on your face.

But hydrogen peroxide can damage your own skin cells, including fibroblasts that help make new tissue and heal wounds. Also avoid it for cleaning cuts and scrapes. Use soap and water instead. Hydrogen peroxide might irritate your already fragile skin.

#### Breast Milk

This liquid gold has long been known for its bevy of health benefits for babies. Now some spas are offering breast milk facials to tamp down pimples and to soothe skin. It won't hurt you. But you're better off using a cream or other products that contain lauric acid, the fatty compound found in mother's milk.

#### Witch Hazel

This plant is a common natural remedy to treat acne, tighten pores, and fight greasiness. Witch hazel acts as an astringent, a type of chemical that causes your skin tissue to contract. But toners that contain witch hazel can strip all the natural oils from your skin. That might lead to irritation, dryness, and even allergic reactions.

#### Hydrocortisone Cream

This medication is a balm for red, itchy, swollen skin. So you might be tempted to smear it on if you have rosacea or similar conditions. But this type of steroid cream thins the skin, so the blood vessels on your face are more likely to burst. It also can force your oil glands to go into overdrive, leading to what's called "steroid acne." It's OK to apply a small amount for bug bites and itchy rashes for a day or two.

#### Deodorant

If beads of sweat are always rolling down your face, swiping an antiperspirant over your brows, cheeks, and elsewhere may seem like a clever solution. It isn't. Deodorant sticks and rollers can clog pores and make you break out. The skin on your face is also sensitive, and you might get an allergic reaction. See a dermatologist instead. They may curb your sweaty glands with prescription medications or Botox.

#### Honey

This sweet stuff has been used to treat wounds since ancient times. Today, some folks dab it on to banish acne. Honey helps to keep germs at bay and lessens inflammation. But it probably doesn't do much. One study found that honey worked no better than antibacterial soap. If you still want to try it, look for manuka honey that has a minimum rating of 10 UMF to ensure it has enough germ-fighting power.

#### Hair Dye

If you color your hair, you may want your brows to match. But it's not a DIY project. Home dyes have too much peroxide to use safely near your brows. You might burn the surrounding skin or even injure your eyes. Instead, look for tinted brow gel at your drugstore. Or coat your brows with a lightweight mascara or eye shadow powder.



● **Lemon Juice is loaded with vitamin C, which can brighten skin and smooth fine lines. But lemon juice is acidic and can irritate your face**

#### Urine

Devotees swear by their pee as the secret to smooth, unclogged skin. Urine is made up of mostly water and a compound called urea. Many creams and potions include a lab-made form of urea because it binds to moisture in the air and draws it to the skin. But your pee probably doesn't contain enough of it to matter. Plus, it's just gross.

#### Hair Spray

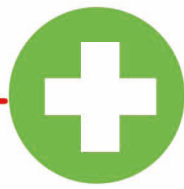
It's a handy and effective fix to stop a run in your stocking or to get rid of static cling.

But don't use hair spray to set your makeup. The same ingredients that make hair stick also can dry out your skin or trigger an allergic reaction. A makeup setting spray is a better choice.

#### Lemon Juice

It's loaded with vitamin C, which can brighten skin and smooth fine lines. But lemon juice is acidic and can irritate your face. You also might end up with an ugly rash from phytophotodermatitis, a skin reaction that happens if you expose chemicals in certain plants and fruits to sunlight or other





ultraviolet light. The rash goes away on its own, but it can be uncomfortable..

Coconut Oil

If you believe the hype, it's a magic elixir for beautiful skin. It's true that coconut oil is rich in lauric acid, which has proven zit-fighting powers. But it's also about 90% saturated fat, which can clog your pores. Use it as much as you want on your body -- in fact, research shows it can help with severe dryness or eczema -- but keep it away from your face.

Very Hot Water

Wash your face following the Goldilocks rule: not too hot, not too cold, but just right. High-temperature water strips your skin of moisture. When that happens, your skin's oil glands try to replace it by churning out even more oil. The result? Acne breakouts.

Body Lotion

If you run out of your facial moisturizer, you may be tempted to substitute it with your body lotion. Resist. Most lotions for the body are thicker, and thus more likely to clog your pores. They also may have fragrances or other ingredients that can cause an allergic reaction on the thinner, more delicate skin on your face. Want to check if it's OK to use on your face? The label should say fragrance free and non-comedogenic

Glue

It's all the rage on social media: turning school glue into facial masks to root out blackheads. People spread a layer of the white sticky stuff around problem-prone areas, let it dry, and peel it off. Unfortunately, this home hack won't clean out your pores. It may just leave you with irritated skin or broken blood vessels. Worse yet, you could accidentally strip away the surface layer of your skin.

Nail Polish

Some people might resort to it in a pinch as a substitute for face paint at Halloween or for costume parties. The only place nail polish belongs is on your fingernails. Most contain ingredients like acetate and formaldehyde that can irritate your skin. To clean up, you'll need nail polish removers, which have even harsher chemicals like acetones that may damage your face.

WebMD



SOME people can't face the day before their first cup of coffee.

It turns out that your mug of joe might offer more benefits than just a morning jolt. Several studies suggest that coffee may lower a man's odds of getting prostate cancer.

The Connection

In one study, men who drank 6 or more cups of coffee each day had their chance of prostate cancer cut by almost 20%. Interestingly, it didn't matter whether they drank caffeinated or decaffeinated coffee.

What's more, the benefit appears to be even bigger for lethal prostate cancer. Men who drank 6 or more cups of coffee had their chances of that cut by almost 60%.

But you don't have to drink java all the time to see an upside. One to 3 cups a day can lower your odds of aggressive prostate cancer by nearly a third -- no matter what your health condition is.

If you have or used to have prostate cancer, the news could be good for you, too. Researchers also found that 4 or more cups of coffee a day may help delay the disease's progression. It could also keep prostate cancer from coming back.

How Does Coffee Help?

We aren't exactly sure why this popular drink seems to lower chances of certain types of prostate cancer. We do know that coffee has hundreds of active ingredients that can help your health. For example, it's rich in antioxidants like flavonoids and polyphenols. Some of these compounds may prevent damage to your cells and ease inflammation.

Scientists did identify two possible contenders for coffee's cancer-fighting abilities: kahweol acetate and cafestol. These compounds slowed the growth of prostate cancer cells in a recent study.



This may explain why men who drink boiled coffee have lower odds of prostate cancer compared to men who drink filtered coffee. Paper filters trap kahweol acetate and cafestol. Since boiled coffee doesn't need a filter, the compounds stay in your cup.

Not So Fast

The findings are promising, but we need more studies. The current research shows a relationship between coffee consumption and a lower chance of prostate cancer. But they don't prove that drinking coffee can prevent prostate cancer. Clinical trials can test that.

Plus, there are downsides if you have too

much coffee. More than 4 cups a day might give you:

- ▶ Headaches
- ▶ Irregular heartbeat
- ▶ Insomnia
- ▶ Irritability
- ▶ Keep in mind that a cup is 8 ounces.

Most coffeehouses give you much more than that, as do those giant mugs you might have at home.

Some people may be more sensitive to caffeine, too. Pay attention to how your body reacts to your daily brew. Cut back if you find coffee gives you the jitters or keeps you up at night.

WebMD



# Around the world in pictures



▲ A member of the National Guard packs food at a Los Angeles Regional Food Bank facility in Los Angeles, California. Nearly 42 million Americans rely on SNAP benefits delayed by the ongoing government shutdown, now the longest in U.S. history.



▲ A man reacts while selecting produce at Connections 4 Life food pantry in Fountain, Colorado.



▲ Federal employees line up before collecting food from a Capital Area Food Bank distribution center in Hyattsville, Maryland.



▲ People wait in line outside Adams County Emergency Food Bank in Commerce City, Colorado.



▲ A volunteer assists women in loading selected food into their car after visiting Connections 4 Life food pantry in Fountain, Colorado.



▲ A retired Air Force Lieutenant General James A. Fain Jr. directs traffic for more than 100 cars visiting the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center food distribution site.





# Uncapped Overy could make World Cup squad

MANCHESTER United teen James Overy has not played any senior club football but Australia coach Tony Popovic says the defender could make his World Cup squad next year. Popovic has included the 18-year-old in his squad for friendlies against Venezuela and Colombia as the Socceroos build toward the 2026 finals in North America.

“He’s worth having a look at,” Popovic told reporters.

“I’m very open minded about what that looks like for the immediate future and long term.”

The right back played in last

month’s under-20 World Cup in Chile but has yet to feature in United’s senior team despite being highly regarded.

“Watching him closely in Chile, I was impressed,” Popovic said.

“We have good contacts at Man U, so we know what he’s doing at training, we know how much he trains, how much he trains with the first team.

“He’s getting games with the under-18s, the under-21s, and he’s in the process where he’s getting called up (to first team training) a lot more often.”

The Socceroos meet Venezuela

on Friday in Houston, Texas before playing fellow World Cup qualifiers Colombia in New York next week.

Overy is among seven uncapped players in the squad as Popovic looks to build depth before the World Cup.

Another is Al Hassan Toure, the older brother of striker Mohamed Toure, who has six caps for the Socceroos. Sydney FC forward Al Hassan scored a recent hat-trick for the A-League team, and Popovic said staff were impressed with the 25-year-old’s power and speed.

“(He’s) a little bit different to what we’ve got,” said Popovic.

(Rueters)

# Parma keeper Suzuki out of Japan squad

JAPAN goalkeeper Zion Suzuki has withdrawn from the squad for upcoming friendlies against Ghana and Bolivia after suffering fractures to his wrist and finger, the Japanese Football Association (JFA) said.

The Parma keeper will miss games against Ghana in Toyota on Friday and Bolivia in Tokyo four days later, and has been replaced in the squad by Royal Antwerp’s Taishi Brandon Nozawa, the JFA said in a statement.

Parma said the 23-year-old

picked up the injury in their 2-2 draw with AC Milan on Saturday.

“After picking up an injury against AC Milan last night, Zion Suzuki underwent scans today, which revealed a composite fracture in the middle finger of his left hand and in the scaphoid bone,” Parma said in a statement on Sunday.

“Suzuki will undergo further specialist consultation in the coming days, and he will also have to undergo an eventual surgery in order to help cure the injury.”

(Rueters)



▲ Japan goalkeeper Zion Suzuki.

# Knicks rout Nets to remain perfect at home

KARL-ANTHONY Towns posted another double-double Sunday night for the host New York Knicks, who remained perfect at home with a wire-to-wire 134-98 win over the Brooklyn Nets.

Towns had 28 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who have won the first four games of a season-long seven-game homestand to improve to 6-0 at Madison Square Garden this season. New York is 0-3 on the road. The double-double was the eighth of the season for Towns and his 66th in 81 regular season games since he was acquired by the Knicks on Oct. 2, 2024.



▲ New York Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) grabs a rebound away from Brooklyn Nets guard Tyson Etienne (10) in the fourth quarter at Madison Square Garden.

Jalen Brunson and OG Anunoby scored 19 points apiece for the Knicks, who scored their second-most points of the season while allowing their second-fewest points of the campaign. New York shot 54.5%, including 45.9% (17-of-37) from 3-point land, while limiting the Nets to 40.2% shooting.

Michael Porter Jr. scored 25 points for the Nets, who have lost nine of their first 10 this season. Drake Powell had 15 points while fellow reserve Ziaire Williams finished with 13 points. Nic Claxton collected 12 points while Egor Demin and Day’Ron Sharpe added 10 points apiece.

(Rueters)



▲ Tennis player Taylor Fritz.

# Fritz overpowers Musetti to start with a win at ATP Finals

LAST year’s losing finalist Taylor Fritz beat Italian Lorenzo Musetti 6-3 6-4 in a dominant display by the American to win his opening round-robin match of the ATP Finals in Turin on Monday.

Musetti, a late replacement after the withdrawal of seven-times winner Novak Djokovic, began brightly but started to tire despite the backing of a largely partisan crowd at the Inalpi Arena, and Fritz proved unstoppable once his service game got going.

The turning point came in the third game when Fritz saved four break points, serving two aces in the process, and then broke

Musetti to lead 3-1. The Italian, who won to love in his first service game, faced break points for the rest of the first set.

“I did a great job early on in the match to serve my way out of trouble and save some break points,” Fritz said.

“I’m really happy. I thought I did a lot of things really well.”

Musetti, beaten by Djokovic in an almost three-hour final in Athens on Saturday, managed to claw back four break points in the second set opener, but two double faults in his next service game gave Fritz the decisive break.

(Rueters)



LANDO Norris does not have to win another race this season, although the McLaren driver will not be looking at it that way, to become Formula One champion.

The simple sums after a weekend in Sao Paulo were clear: the title is Norris's to lose and he is favourite to follow seven-times title-winner Lewis Hamilton as the latest in a line of British world champions.

Norris is 24 points clear of Australian teammate Oscar Piastri, whose title bid has rapidly imploded, with three grands prix -- Las Vegas, Qatar and Abu Dhabi -- and one Saturday sprint remaining.

Even if Piastri were to take maximum points, Norris would still be champion when the final chequered flag is waved under the floodlights at Yas Marina on December 7 if he finished runner-up every time.

The chances of that happening are unlikely, however.

While the constructors' champions have romped to seven one-two finishes so far this season, the last was in Hungary in August and Piastri has been off the podium in his last five regular races.

Until Mexico last month, Norris had also gone five races in a row without a win.

Piastri was 34 points clear of Norris after Zandvoort and lost it all over the next five. Red Bull's Max Verstappen was 104 points behind Piastri at the same point and is now 25 adrift of the Australian.

The four-times world champion, along with Mercedes pair Kimi Antonelli and George Russell and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Hamilton could still play a big part in the title outcome by taking wins and podiums from the McLaren pair.

# Norris now clear favourite for F1 title, barring late twist

Norris, 25, will worry less about that than Piastri, who needs to make the big gains and is running out of time to turn things around.

The Australian's surprising tailspin has been stark but there is always hope. One no-score for Norris -- and the leader has had two already in 21 races -- could put the Australian right back into the reckoning.

Norris, who has said he does not believe in momentum, recognised there was still a lot that could happen and rejected talk of his double success in Brazil -- sprint and main race -- being some turning point.

"It's still a long way to go. So no point getting too happy or excited just yet," he told reporters.

The next race is Las Vegas and McLaren have played down expectations about that one.

"I think it was our worst race last year. So I'm not really looking forward to it," said Norris.

"We know Mercedes were incredibly strong there last year, as well as Red Bull and Ferrari. I think we were the bottom of those four. Obviously, we've improved a lot of things this year, so I'm not going to be too negative about it. I think there's plenty to look forward to. We know Abu Dhabi and Qatar are ones we are looking forward to."

(Reuters)



▲ McLaren's Lando Norris celebrates on the podium with a trophy after winning the Sao Paulo Grand Prix.



## Fatigued Australia insist there's still energy for test assignments

AUSTRALIA prop forward Angus Bell insisted the Wallabies still have "petrol in the tank" even if coach Joe Schmidt says his side is running on empty.

Bell said there was still plenty of motivation to play for Australia even if Saturday's test against Ireland will be an energy-sapping 14th international in a span of 20 weeks for the team.

Australia have won five of 13 since July and looked haggard in their last two encounters, against England at Twickenham on November 1, and last Saturday when they lost to Italy in Udine.

Schmidt suggested fatigue was a factor in the loss to the Italians but Bell gave that short shrift at a press

conference in Dublin on Monday.

"We definitely have enough petrol in the tank," Bell said.

"When you play for the Wallabies, when you play for your country, it's a massive honour, whether you've done it once or 100 times.

"Every week is exciting. Every week is an opportunity. I sit here as a 25-year-old and you never know how many more tests you're going to play. You never know what's around the corner," he added.

"Every time you pull on that jersey, it's an absolute privilege. So, for me, there's no bigger motivator than playing for country, and I know we're ready for the next two weeks, and we're going to try really hard to get to resurrect things."

Australia's clash against Ireland on Saturday is followed by a final tour match in Paris against France on November 22.

Bell said there had been a thorough review of their performance on Monday.

"This morning was really tough, but it's about not taking it personally and just trying to get better," he said.

"We have hard conversations even when we win. I remember after the third Lions test, when we beat them, there were still hard conversations happening.

"It's about being in a professional environment and being with a team that holds high standards," Bell added.

(Super Sport)

## Injured Courtois set to miss Belgium World Cup qualifiers

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois is a doubt for their World Cup qualifiers against Kazakhstan and Liechtenstein after pulling a leg muscle playing for Real Madrid, the Spanish club said on Monday.

Courtois, 33, suffered an adductor injury during Madrid's goalless league draw at Rayo Vallecano on Sunday.

Madrid did not specify the estimated duration of the

goalkeeper's absence, but Spanish press reports claimed he will be out for between 10 and 12 days.

Courtois could therefore be back for their LaLiga match against Elche on November 23.

Belgium will qualify for next year's World Cup if they win in Kazakhstan on Saturday.

They round off their Group J campaign against Liechtenstein three days later.

(Super Sport)



▲ Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.





Stories by Chris Dlamini

#### HOME advantage well-utilised.

They knew the Ezulwini Golf and Country Club fairways quite too well and used that to their full advantage to beat visiting Nigerian businessespeople on the course.

That is the Eswatini team dominated by entrepreneurs and dignitaries, including ministers Mancoba Khumalo and Mandla Tshawwuka, as well as Member of Parliament (MP) Mashayinkonjane Nhlengetfwa.

The Eswatini golfing team won the 18-hole battle both on Saturday and Sunday. The better-ball score on the final day was 15-3 in favour of Eswatini, while the individual matchplay also went to the home team with a 16.5 to 6.5 scoreline.

Eswatini's shining stars, scoring the highest points, were the trio of Rasheed Mohammed, former Mbabane Swallows star Lenny

'Nengomasha' Mkhonta and Siboniso Simelane. Mohammed played 76 while the other two tied at 75.

Over 30 Nigerians who travelled from Lagos played in the beautiful Ezulwini Golf and Country Club course, enjoying its scenic nature since Friday. It was a tournament that also had several lady players like the renowned Nosimilo Kgomo, Chazile Dlamini, and one from Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Eswatini also had some former soccer greats who have chosen golf since they retired from the game of millions. These are Cosmo 'Wall of Death' Mthethwa,

Lenny 'Nengomasha' Mkhonta and Ricky Saulos, Sandile Choncho (Swallows), Nhlanhla 'Kid' Maphanga (Denver Sundowns), Mlungisi 'Puma' Simelane (Usushwana Rhinos and Denver Sundowns), Frank Hlophe (Mhlume Peacemakers), Saidi Juma (Mhlambanyatsi Rovers) and Sam 'Styles' Richards (Manzini Wanderers). The tournament was sponsored by Futi's, Spotted Horses, and K&H Property Consultants.

#### The Results:

1. Rasheed Mohammed - 76
2. Lenny 'Nengomasha' Mkhonta - 75
3. Siboniso Simelane - 75

#### Better-ball Score:

Eswatini - 15  
Nigeria - 3

#### Individual Match Play:

Eswatini - 16.5  
Nigeria - 6.5  
Hole 3 - Hakeem  
Hole 6 - Khulile Dlamini  
Hole 14 - Frank Hlophe  
Hole 18 - Mduduzi Maphalala

#### Longest Drive:

Hole 18 - Vusi H. Dlamini  
Hole 4 - Nosimilo Kgomo

## '... You can play, invest in Eswatini'

THAT would appear to be the message from Eswatini to Nigeria after the two countries gathered over the weekend to network through the Eswatini Business Golf held from Friday to Sunday.

This was at the Ezulwini Golf and Country Club.

Representing Tourism Minister Jane Mkhonta-Simelane and himself as a player, Agriculture Minister, Mandla Tshawwuka extended an invitation for business investments to the visiting Nigerian team led by the City Ryders Golf Association President Oladapo Olaide 'Olooye' Mohammed.

"We are proud and excited to have you for the second time in Eswatini. You are always welcome in Eswatini and did government has very impressive onboarding systems if you come to invest here. We would be pleased to have you invest in Eswatini and I know we have capable EmaSwati who can do the same in Nigeria," said Tshawwuka.

The Minister said such platforms were important for networking and promoted ties between the two countries. He said he was certain that the visitors enjoyed the golf course despite not winning against the home team.

Like the tournament's organising com-



▲ Female golfer Nosimilo Kgomo with his partner Siboniso Dlamini during the competition.

mittee Chairman Dumsani Msibi, Tshawwuka said they were happy that Eswatini was their chosen destination when they could have gone anywhere in the world.

City Ryders President Olooye said they would always return here if it proves difficult for Eswatini to come to Nigeria next year as per their invitation for May. It remains to be seen if Eswatini can honour the invitation.



▲ Gordon Bennett with his Nigerian compatriots also made it to the podium.



▲ Futi's staff members served golfers with food on Sunday.





▲Tambankulu Celtics hattrick hero Malangeni Dlamini receiving the match ball from PLE Stadium representative Vusi Sukati.

By Chris Dlamini

FOOTBALL, bloody hell! Who would have thought that a star-studded Royal Leopard could lose 3-0 to elite debutants and minnows Tabankulu Celtics, especially when they had lost 3-2 to Mbabane Swallows before the past weekend?

The police outfit was not the only victim, but Swallows also lost to Ezulwini United. The Stingers edged Swallows 1-0 while things got real gloomy for Manzini Wanderers against Manzini Sea Birds - the latter walloped Wanderers 4-0, leaving them winless in five games. Here’s our weekend review.

**AT THE SUMMIT:**  
**Rangers (1st - 10 points)**

- Minnows they are but under coach Mthunzi ‘Lomphofu’ Ginindza, they are proving a tough nut to crack and ready to upset any rival in the league. Despite Moneni Pirates putting the brakes on them with a 1-1 draw, they are at the summit after matchday 5.

**CLOSER TO RANGERS:**  
**Green Mamba (2nd - 10 points)**

- The Correctional Services side, Green Mamba was able to bounce back from a goalless draw with elite debutants Amawele on matchday 4 to edge Ubombo Sugar FC 1-0 on matchday 5, taking charge of the second spot after five games.
- Manzini Sea Birds (3rd - 9 points)**
- What an ambush - Sea Birds 4-0 Manzini Wanderers! Inyoni Zolwandle proved too good for a winless Wanderers on Saturday, netting four to nothing and taking the second spot. Sea Birds has nine points in five games. Before matchday 5, Mbabane Swallows held the summit with nine points. They are level with defending champions Nsingizini Hotspurs who are just below them but also with a game in hand.

**THE NEW COACHES**  
**Gcina Dlamini**  
**(Manzini Wanderers 15th - 2 points)**

- After two games in charge, the best he has is a point from the Mbabane Highlanders 2-2 draw. This past weekend, his former team, Manzini Sea Birds, took Wanderers to the cleaners, as they were ambushed 4-0. This leaves Wanderers winless and languishing

at the bottom of the table with two points in five matches.

**Van Rooyen Magagula**  
**(Ubombo Sugar FC)**

- He is a caretaker coach, appointed soon after Gcina Dlamini left to join Manzini Wanderers a fortnight ago. Magagula lost 2-0 to Nsingizini Hotspurs in his first game, and things did not get any better over the weekend when they were edged 1-0 by Green Mamba. Ubombo Sugar is sitting on the 14th spot with four points in five games.’

**THE UPSETS**  
**Royal Leopard (12th - 4 points)**

- Fresh from losing 3-2 to Mbabane Swallows, then a mid-week 3-1 win over struggling Sisonkhe, Royal Leopard got more than they had bargained for when elite debutants Tabankulu Celtics stunned them with a 3-0 defeat. Can they come back from this on matchday 6? It’s a wait-and-see.

**Mbabane Swallows**

- You stun Royal Leopard with a 3-2 defeat and then go on to lose 1-0 to minnows Ezulwini United - is that how cruel football is?

**AT ROCK BOTTOM**  
**Sisonkhe FC (16th - 0 points)**

- It’s one defeat after the other for Sisonkhe. Will they survive the axe this term after being so close last season? It’s either they start winning soon or risk their elite status.

**THE GOALBANGERS:**  
**Hleliso Gamedze**  
**(Rangers - 5 goals)**

- The Rangers’ attacking midfielder is on fire for his team. He has been a regular scorer since matchday 1, and over the weekend, he rescued his team from the jaws of defeat two minutes from time. He scored late to give his team a point after a 1-1 draw with Moneni Pirates. That goal took his tally to five in five games.

**Mlungisi Dlamini**  
**(Tabankulu Celtics - 5 goals)**

- The first hat-trick of the

## MTN PREMIER LEAGUE 2025/26 REVIEW

# Six down for Leopard!

... Celtics score an upset, first hat-trick, while Birds stung, Westlians ambushed



▲Ezulwini United Alvin Shabashi fighting for the ball against a Mbabane Swallows player during their 1-0 win over the capital city giants.



▲Malanti Chiefs winger Gift Namieg fighting for the ball against Highlanders’ Siyabonga Mkhonto during an MTN Premier League match which ended in a 1all draw at Killarney Stadium on Sunday.

season was finally witnessed in the match between Royal Leopard and Tabankulu Celtics. The score line was 3-0, and all goals came from Celtics’ Malangeni Dlamini. He got his matchball for it, and his tally is now five goals.

**Philani Mkhonto (M. Sea Birds)**

- He scored once in the 4-0 annihilation of Manzini Sea Birds, taking his tally to four.
- Isaac Yeboah (M. Chiefs forward)**
- He was on target again this week. The Ghanaian scored their only goal against Mbabane Highlanders in the 1-all draw on Sunday and now has four goals in five games.

**THE FANS CORNER**

The Mavuso Sports Centre in Manzini and Killarney Stadium in Pigg’s Peak had the biggest spectatorship. Moneni Pirates and Mbabane

Swallows both had their games at Mavuso before Highlanders painted Killarney black, white, and gold.

**COACH(ES) OF THE WEEK:**  
**Ncamiso Nxumalo (Tabankulu Celtics)**

- Just when his job looked to be plagued by inconsistency, he just rose to stun a giant\
- Celtics outfoxed a star-studded Royal Leopard 3-0. What a big win!
- Musa Manyatsi (Ezulwini United)**
- Since he left Mbabane Swallows to join the Stingers, as Ezulwini United fondly goes, the former has struggled to beat the minnows. The Stingers ruined Swallows’ weekend with a 1-0 defeat despite finishing the match one man short due to a red card.

**UPCOMING FIXTURES (MATCHDAY 6)**

T. Celtics vs. Y. Buffaloes  
G. Mamba vs. Ez. United  
Highlanders vs. Sisonkhe  
Rangers vs. M. Swallows  
M. Pirates vs. M. Sea Birds  
R. Leopard vs. Amawele  
M. Chiefs vs. Ns. Hotspurs  
U. Sugar vs. Manzini Wanderers

◀Rangers FC coach Mthunzi Ginindza.







IT'S NOT GOOD ON AND OFF THE FIELD...

# Step down – Wanderers NSC tell Director

By Sibusiso Masilela  
sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

THINGS are not so wonderful in the Manzini Wanderers camp. The National Supporters Committee is now demanding the exit of director Mlamuli Mabuza. The Committee accuses Mabuza of making promises he has not fulfilled, especially after the team's heavy 4-0 defeat to Manzini Sea Birds on Saturday at Simunye Stadium. Mabuza assumed the hot seat at the start

of the current campaign. NSC Chairman Mthunzi Dlamini confirmed the latest news when reached for comment. "We kindly request the Director to step down due to unfulfilled promises. Clearly, he is failing to run the team, and he promised to invest over E1 million when he became a director. We cannot watch our players suffer and a lot is not well in the team," he said.

**Issue**

Dlamini said they were still going to meet the legal team over the issue. "We will now seek guidance from the legal

team before escalating it to the Premier League of Eswatini," he said. Mabuza politely declined to comment on the matter when reached for comment. The hub giants are currently sitting at position 15 in the MTN Premier League log standings with two points after six matches. The maroon and white ensemble recently enlisted the services of former Ubombo Sugar FC coach Geina Dlamini. The club further signed a couple of players, such as Pius Baffour (Ghana), Mario Jamine (Mozambique), and Sandile Mazibuko (South Africa), among others.

## MulaSport NFD League heats up

By Chris Dlamini

THE competition is getting more interesting in the MulaSport National First Division (NFD) League. This is only just after five games for all 16 second-tier league teams. It is proving as tight as it can be at the top part of the table. After matchday 5, it is Nkwene Sundowns at the summit with just one defeat and four wins under their belt. This leaves Sundowns with 12 points, level with second-placed Red Rhinos. Both teams were on a winning run over the weekend, with Sundowns going 2-0 against Lozitha Spurs. Rhinos were 3-1 victors against Usuthu Liverpool. Only a two-goal difference stands between the leaders and Rhinos. Interestingly, Madlenya are right behind them in third place with 10 points as they look to make a quick return to the top flight after their relegation last season. Behind Madlenya and level on 10 points is Pigg's Peak Professionals. Sides like Sidwashini United and Lozitha Spurs are within the top 8, but they need to do a little bit more to catch up. Lozitha has nine points on position seven while Sidwashini United, relegated alongside Madlenya, has seven points at number eight. At the bottom part of the table are Ludzeludze Killers, Viva Stumbo XI, Usuthu Liverpool, and CK Survivors with no more than four points. Stumbo XI has struggled despite getting promoted as Manzini Super League champions last season, and they currently have two points.

## Ezulwini United face E20 000 fine

By Sibusiso Masilela  
sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

EZULWINI United could be caught on the wrong side of the Premier League of Eswatini rules and regulations. The 'Stingers' could be slapped with an E20 000 fine for using a legal entry during their 1-0 win over capital city giants Mbabane Swallows on Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre. The Musa Manyatsi led side used the VIP passage to enter the dressing flouting article 20.1(c) of the 2025/26 MTN Premier League season rules and regulations. "Any Club entering the field of play from an entrance other than the official match entrance/tunnel shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions," the article reads. The PLE further warned clubs against returning to the field without the authorisation of match officials during halftime. "The Premier League of Eswatini has observed a recurring breach of Article 20.3(d) of PLE Master Rules and Regulations; wherein certain teams return to the field of play during halftime without prior authorisation from the appointed Match Officials or Match Commissioner. Furthermore, instances



▲ Ezulwini United FC players.



▲ Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze.

## 'Pupu' on target again

By Chris Dlamini

TWO games, two goals. Was he the missing link for Green Mamba? That is gifted former Eswatini international midfielder Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze. He is back from Tanzania where he played his football at Tabora United last season and now with Correctional Services side Green Mamba. He just had his second consecutive game with the green and white outfit where he has also reunited with former Mbabane Swallows and Mbombela United teammates in midfielder Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu and forward Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa. Sikhondze was the match winner for his new employers for the second consecutive time after earning them all three points against a stubborn Ubombo Sugar FC on Saturday. Green Mamba won the match with a narrow 1-0 margin. He scored from inside the box after Ndzinisa teed him off and he shot straight into the back of the net, giving the goalkeeper no chance.

**Winner**

It is worth noting that Sikhondze was their match winner prior to the past weekend as it was his lone strike that sunk defending champions Nsingizini Hotspurs. He now has two goals in two matches. If he keeps up his scoring form, he will join the likes of leaders Rangers' attacking midfielder Hleliso Gamedze and Tabankulu Celtics forward Malangeni Dlamini who are tied on five goals after matchday 6. Right behind the duo is Manzini Sea Birds attacking midfielder Philani Mkhonto who added to his three-goal tally when he scored once in the 4-0 drubbing of faltering Manzini Wanderers. Mkhonto is on four goals, level with Malanti Chiefs' Ghanaian midfielder Isaac Yebouh also adding his fourth against Mbabane Highlanders. The two sides played 1-all on Sunday. Mkhonto's teammate Joseph Kibonge has three goals. Meanwhile, the Top Goalscorer Award is valued at E14 000 and last season's gong went to Green Mamba's Ndzinisa after he scored 18 goals.

### THE LEADING SCORERS CHART:

- 1. Hleliso Gamedze (Rangers) - 5 goals
- 2. Malangeni Dlamini (T. Celtics) - 5 goals
- 3. Philani Mkhonto (M. Sea Birds) - 4 goals
- 4. Isaao Yeboah (M. Chiefs) - 4 goals
- 5. Joseph Kibonge (M. Sea Birds) - 3 goals





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**Sport**

DULA WESELI 2025 ▶▶▶



MLAMULI  
**MABUZA**  
MANZINI WANDERERS

DULA WESELI DIRECTOR ▶▶▶

IT'S NOT GOOD ON AND OFF THE FIELD...

**Step down – Wanderers  
NSC tell Director**

**... Winless hub giants' National Supporters Committee (NSC)  
claims players struggling due to unfulfilled promises. *Page 23***