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AFRICA COMMUNITY MEDIA



■ Transnet National Ports Authority has appointed Zutari for the implementation plan for the Port of Durban. Full story on page 2

Spaza shops in spotlight after children's deaths

DOREEN PREMDEV

Twenty-two children around the country have lost their lives due to food borne illnesses. President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced decisive measures to address the recurrence of such incidents. These include the immediate closure of spaza shops implicated in the deaths and stricter regulations to protect communities.

Addressing the nation from the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Friday November 15, President Ramaphosa outlined three critical interventions to be implemented with immediate effect.

"Following the special meeting of Cabinet, we have decided to make the following interventions: The first intervention is to get hazardous pesticides off the street, the second critical intervention is to protect children from exposure to these substances, the third critical intervention is to prevent future outbreaks. The following measures

will be implemented with immediate effect," the President said.

He added that the spaza shops which have been implicated in the deaths of children will be closed with immediate effect. Non-compliant businesses and shops linked to any poisoning incidents or found to unlawfully stock hazardous chemicals will be shut down. To ensure compliance, all spaza shops and food-handling facilities must register with their respective municipalities within 21 days. Any shop that is not registered within 21 days and does not meet all health standards and requirements will be closed.

President Ramaphosa's address comes in response to 890 reported cases of food-borne illnesses across the country, with Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu-Natal (KZN), Limpopo, Free State, and Mpumalanga the hardest hit.

Continued on page 4

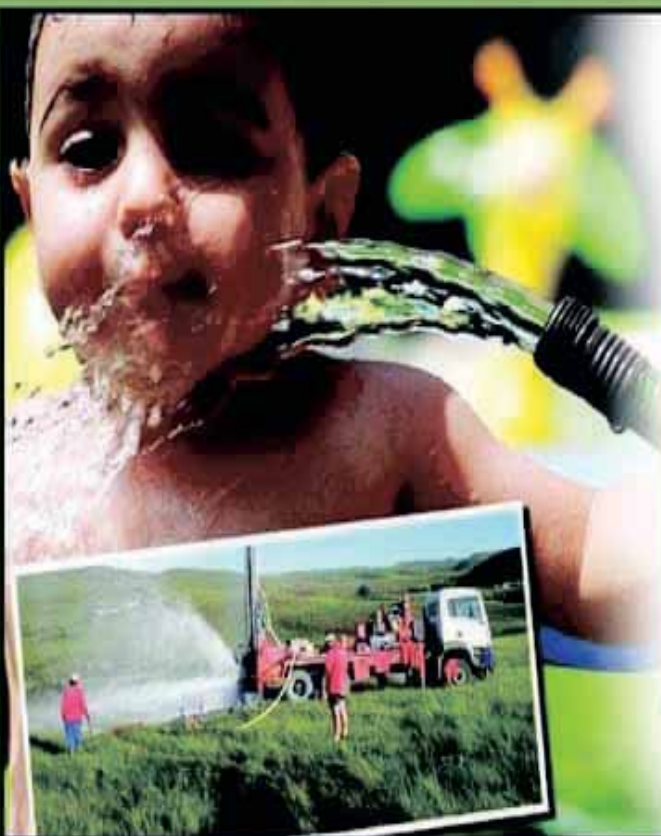
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Two women kept in custody for drugging, robbing man

NIYANTA SINGH

Two women have been remanded in custody after their appearance in the Verulam Magistrate's Court.

The women were apprehended by Reaction Unit South Africa (RUSA) in connection with the drugging and robbery of a 75-year-old pensioner.

The suspects appeared in court on Wednesday after their arrests on Monday afternoon.

The arrests came after RUSA officers tracked one suspect to Montford in Chatsworth and the other to Sunford in Phoenix.

"While the suspects have been detained, their family members have handed over items that were stolen on November 8," said RUSA's Prem Balram.

According to reports, the women allegedly "met" the elderly victim on Facebook, where they

arranged to meet in person. During their encounter, it is claimed that the suspects drugged his hot drink. The pensioner reportedly woke up hours later to find his home ransacked.

Both suspects face criminal charges, and the State Prosecutor opposed bail, citing links to two similar cases in Phoenix registered with the South African Police Service (SAPS) in the eThekweni region. Additionally, the court was informed that one of the suspects had previously received a five-year suspended sentence for a crime with a similar modus operandi.

The magistrate ordered that the suspects remain in SAPS custody at the Verulam Police cells, with the case adjourned until Wednesday November 20.

The identities of the suspects, as well as bodycam footage from RUSA officers, is being withheld until an identity parade is completed.

Municipal staff arrested for asphalt theft

DOREEN PREMDEV

Six municipal employees made their first appearance in court on Friday November 15 on charges of asphalt tar theft. They were arrested in Inanda on November 14.

They were found transporting the asphalt tar and failed to produce a job card to explain why and where they were transporting it to. The employees are from the Roads and Stormwater Maintenance Department at the eThekweni Municipality.

Forensic Investigators from the City Integrity and Investigations Unit (CIU) together with the Metro Police received a tip off and pursued the employees. Their arrest coincided with an anti-fraud and corruption seminar which took place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC) on November 14.

Head of the CIU, Mr Jimmy Ngcobo said their arrest shows that the city means business when it comes to rooting out corruption.

"The team quickly acted on the information received and tactically monitored the movement of the two identified vehicles and suspects. They followed the vehicles for hours until they stopped in Ezimangweni,



A municipal truck and equipment were recovered from six employees who were caught stealing asphalt tar in Inanda.

Inanda," said Mr Ngcobo.

The suspects' cellphones were seized and will be sent for analysis to determine the person behind the theft. Mr Ngcobo said the municipality has adopted a zero-tolerance stance against fraud, corruption, and the violation of human rights. Building an ethical, corruption-free organisation is a key focus for the city, Mr Ngcobo said.

Mr Ngcobo urged the public to report suspected crimes targeting municipal infrastructure.

"This arrest is a prime example of how theft of Municipal assets hampers service delivery in communities," he said.

The public can report fraud and corruption by calling 0800 20 20 20 or email ombuds@durban.gov.za

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5	8	4	2	3	1	9	7	6
8	4	9	7	6	5	2	3	1
3	5	6	1	2	8	4	9	7
7	1	2	4	9	3	5	6	8
4	3	5	9	1	7	6	8	2
6	9	8	3	4	2	7	1	5
2	7	1	8	5	6	3	4	9

No 100
Level: 3
Tricky
Puzzle on page 12

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Public warned not to buy fake Ozempic

DOREEN PREMDEV

Beware of counterfeit medication being sold across the country. The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has expressed concern at the increasing presence of counterfeit Glucagon-like Peptide (GLP-1) products, such as Ozempic, on the local market.

According to SAHPRA, GLP-1-containing products, like Ozempic, which help lower blood sugar levels and promote weight loss, are being made available to the public through websites, social media, and other informal channels.

"These pose a health risk to the public. SAHPRA cautions the public to not purchase and/or consume such products as their safety, efficacy, and quality have not been assessed," SAHPRA said in a statement.

"The regulatory authority

has reported an increase in suspected counterfeit Ozempic, chemically known as semaglutide, which is one of the registered products containing GLP-1 agonists from Novo Nordisk."

According to the SAHPRA, Ozempic in South Africa is registered under two presentations of pre-filled injectable pens, namely 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg/dose pen and 1 mg/dose pen.

"Ozempic is registered in South Africa for the treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes to reduce blood sugar levels for the treatment of adults with insufficiently controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus as an adjunct to diet and exercise," SAHPRA said.

"It is also approved to reduce the risk of major cardiovascular events, such as heart attack, stroke, or death, in adults with type 2 diabetes who have known heart disease. Ozempic is not registered in



South Africa for weight management."

Mounjaro (tirzepatide), developed by Eli Lilly and Company, is also gaining attention in South Africa. It is available in pre-filled pens that come in a single dosage, containing either 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, or 15 mg in a 0.5 ml solution for injection.

Mounjaro is indicated for treating type 2 diabetes mellitus but has not yet been imported into and placed on the market in South Africa through Eli Lilly and Company distribution channels. Just like Ozempic, the watchdog stated that Mounjaro is not approved in South Africa for weight management.

"The complexity of compounding GLP-1 agonists, which are sterile medicines containing complex active substances poses a public health and safety risk. The risk associated with compounded medicines containing GLP-1 agonists are posed by the absence of the evaluation of these medicines by SAHPRA and the unknown nature and safety of ingredients used in compounding," the regulatory authority said.

Compounded products that claim to contain semaglutide have not been verified or evaluated by SAHPRA to

SAHPRA has called on the public to avoid buying fake versions of Ozempic, which is available to the public via websites, social media and other informal channels.

determine if the active pharmaceutical ingredient is identical to the registered one, as required by the Medicines Act. It may be substandard and pose a risk to those using them, said SAHPRA. Medicines using an active ingredient that is not contained in a product registered with SAHPRA is illegal in terms of the requirements of the Medicines and Related Substances Act.

The public is urged to purchase only SAHPRA-registered products containing GLP-1 agonists, considering these risks.

According to Section 29 of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, a person who commits an offence will be held criminally liable, and applicable penalties will be enforced. SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela, stressed that safeguarding the well-being of the South African public remains a primary concern for the regulatory authority.

"SAHPRA is monitoring the supply chain as well as the online platforms for unregistered, substandard, and falsified medicines containing or claiming to contain semaglutide. We are also investigating any contraventions relating to the Medicines and Related Substances," said Dr Semete-Makokotlela.

The public is urged to report any suspected products falsely claiming to be sold as Ozempic or Mounjaro. Citizens are urged to report through these whistle-blower platforms, SAHPRA's 24-hour hotline 0800 204 307, or via <https://bit.ly/3nrku5t>

Port set for a revamp

DOREEN PREMDEV

The Port of Durban is getting a revamp. And the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has appointed Zutari, a leading infrastructure and advisory firm, as the transaction advisor to validate the Island View Precinct Strategy and implementation plan for the Port of Durban.

This appointment is a pivotal move aimed at transforming the liquid bulk sector in South Africa while ensuring security of supply, TNPA said.

"The Island View Strategy, originally approved in 2019, is set to undergo a comprehensive revision to ensure it remains relevant in today's rapidly evolving landscape," Transnet said in a statement.

"Zutari's role will be to analyse current market trends, review existing strategies and develop a revised comprehensive plan aimed at enhancing the sector's sustainability and operational efficiency. This initiative aligns with TNPA's commitment to implementing global best practices."

The Port of Durban's Island View precinct is a South African

national key point, managing approximately 74% of South Africa's liquid bulk imports. Transnet said with 12 terminal operators over a 1 545 000 m² area, it handles a variety of products, including petroleum, chemicals and agricultural goods. As part of the country's transition to sustainable energy, the port will also facilitate the handling of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and other cleaner energy sources.

"Zutari's role includes ensuring that the strategy benefits both TNPA and the liquid bulk industry while safeguarding supply chain integrity, especially in this major petrochemical hub," said Transnet.

"TNPA is committed to ensuring security of supply, improved terminal operational efficiencies, operational continuity, risk management and job preservation with the precinct supporting nearly 2 000 direct and indirect jobs as of 2022."

Mpumi Dweba-Kwetana, Acting TNPA Managing Executive for the Eastern Region, said the Island View Strategy aims to accelerate transformation, ensure a reliable supply of liquid bulk commodities, and

increase throughput efficiency.

"The appointment of Zutari is a significant milestone towards achieving these goals. Our collaborative engagement with stakeholders, including Fuels Industry Association of South Africa (formerly known as SAPIA), the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), the Chemical and Allied Industries' Association (CAIA), and terminal operators, has been crucial in building confidence and identifying areas for cooperation in safeguarding the liquid bulk sector," said Ms Dweba-Kwetana.

Transnet National Ports Authority is responsible for the safe, effective, and efficient economic functioning of the national port system, which it manages in a landlord capacity. It provides port infrastructure and marine services at the eight commercial seaports in South Africa – Richards Bay, Durban, Saldanha, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Mossel Bay and Ngqura, added Ms Dweba-Kwetana. It operates within a legislative and regulatory environment and is governed by the National Ports Act (Act No. 12 of 2005).

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Team appointed to investigate deaths

From page 1

Soon after the deaths of 22 children around the country, a multidisciplinary team in government was activated to address the incidents, with Cabinet having met on three occasions to receive reports. These teams included detectives from SAPS, health officials, environmental inspectors, Department of Agriculture officials and officials from the National Consumer Commission.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases was requested to conduct scientific tests and has established that the deaths of the six children in Naledi, North West province, can be directly attributed to a highly hazardous chemical used as a pesticide known as Terbufos.

The President said few words could convey the sadness and pain of the nation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with their families as they go through the pain and the anguish of losing their children. Losing a child is something no parent should ever have to endure," he said.

"The SAPS and other law enforcement agencies will be required to investigate, arrest and prosecute offenders. This will involve close cooperation with all registered manufacturers and suppliers."

Inspection teams will do compliance inspections of food handling facilities, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers. This will include spaza shops and general dealers. A massive campaign of door-to-door inspections of all spaza shops, tuck shops and other informal traders will be undertaken, starting with KZN and Gauteng, the President said.

This will be undertaken by inter-disciplinary inspections teams consisting of the South African Military Health Services, environmental health practitioners, the SAPS, the National Consumer Council, labour inspectors and others.

The President emphasised that the initial phase of inspections will need to be completed within a month. Registered manufacturers and distributors of Terbufos will also be scrutinised to ensure compliance and prevent misuse. The supply chain for hazardous chemicals will face tighter regulations, including strengthened protocols for traceability, repackaging, and disposal.

"All registered manufacturers of Terbufos will be inspected to ensure that no products are diverted into

the non-agricultural market. The supply chain process for distribution and sale of Terbufos will be investigated to ensure that controls are being adhered to and that there is accountability for who they sell to," said President Ramaphosa.

He emphasised that regulations and protocols on the traceability, repackaging, destruction and sale of pesticides, insecticides and foodstuffs will be strengthened.

Turning to the second intervention on the protection of children from exposure to harmful substances, the President announced that the Department of Basic Education will immediately issue a circular to Provincial Education Departments and all schools on best practice protocols for preventing and managing food-borne illnesses within schools.

The third intervention, which is aimed at preventing future outbreaks, is that the President has directed that joint operational and intelligence structures be established at a national and provincial level to deal with the crisis.

"Our local municipalities will be required to take urgent action to address the problem of rat infestations by cleaning cities and towns and removing waste. All municipal landfill sites will be required to comply with the National Environmental Management Waste Act. Failure to comply will result in strict sanctions that include directives, compliance notices and criminal enforcement," he said.

The President said a Ministerial Health Advisory Committee was being established to develop medium- and long-term prevention measures. This committee will consist of experts such as toxicologists, paediatricians, chemical pathologists, epidemiologists, forensic pathologists and others.

"All deaths of patients 12 years and below will be made notifiable in the Notifiable Medical Condition Surveillance System. An electronic medical certification of death system will be established to allow the National Department of Health to access cause of death information immediately after a death is certified," the President said.

President Ramaphosa added that the work of the Biosecurity Hub will be strengthened to better control the entry of products, organisms and harmful biological products at ports of entry. The Department of Agriculture is in the process of reviewing and updating all relevant legislation

with respect to the regulation and authorisation of agricultural pesticides for use in South Africa.

"A joint fund of R500 million will be established by the Departments of Trade, Industry and Competition and Small Business Development to support township and rural businesses, including community convenience shops.

The funding will be for the refurbishment of businesses and non-financial support in terms of technical skills, regulatory compliance and capacity building," the President added.

He added that as government undertakes these interventions there is a lot that parents can also do to protect their children.



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Businesses rewarded for reducing waste

DOREEN PREMDEV

The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Waste Management Awards celebrated the province's leading sustainable businesses at a gala dinner held at the Mount Edgecombe Country Club, north of Durban. Attendees were entertained and inspired by Guinness World Record holder Quinton Rutherford, who shared his passion for environmental stewardship.

Hosted biennially by the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA) KZN branch, the awards spotlight organisations excelling in responsible and effective waste management.

Gareth Goosen, IWMSA KZN Chairperson, hailed 2024 as "the year of the first entrant". He commended companies that demonstrated resilience and innovation following the 2021 civil unrest, leveraging eco-friendly practices to drive sustainability.

KZN generates 9.9% of South Africa's total general waste, contributing significantly to the over 42 million cubic metres produced nationally each year. The region,



■ Celebrating sustainability champions in KwaZulu-Natal. First-Time Entrants Triumph at the KZN Waste Management Awards 2024. Frey's Food Brands were awarded as the top entrant in the Large Manufacturing category. The award was presented by Mark Williams Wynn, far left, and Quinton Rutherford, far right, to Naveen Rajoo and Carmen Haripursad.

along with Mpumalanga, is also a major source of hazardous waste due to its mining and fertiliser industries. Although the province's average waste generation of 0.5 kg per person per day is below the national average, it surpasses figures seen in less affluent nations.

"Waste from households, commerce, and industry is rising across South Africa, exceeding 20 million tonnes annually due to population growth and economic expansion," said Mr Goosen.

Continued on page 8



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Chronic stress can lead to anxiety, depression and decreased academic performance, making it essential for parents, caregivers, and educators to equip children with effective management techniques.

As a parent, it is essential to help your little ones develop healthy coping mechanisms to manage stress and anxiety. Remember, every child is unique, so it is essential to try different techniques to find what works best. Below are some tips to help you help your children to relax.

1. Model calm behaviour: Kids learn from what they see, so make sure you are modelling calm and relaxed behaviour yourself. Take deep breaths, count to 10 or take a break when you feel overwhelmed.
2. Encourage open conversation: Create a safe space where your child feels comfortable opening up about their feelings. Listen attentively to what they say and avoid interrupting or offering solutions right away.
3. Teach relaxation techniques: Introduce simple relaxation techniques like deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation or guided imagery. You can find plenty of child-friendly resources online, including videos and apps.
4. Encourage physical activity: Regular exercise is a great stress-reliever for kids. Engage them in fun physical activities like dancing, jumping rope or playing their favourite sports.
5. Create a calming environment: Help your child create a cozy and calming space in their bedroom or play area. This could include dim lighting, soft music, or a favourite stuffed animal.
6. Practice mindfulness together: Engage in mindful activities like yoga, meditation or simply paying

7. Offer positive affirmations: Help your child develop a positive self-image by repeating affirmations like "I can handle this, I am strong, I am capable"



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8. Encourage creative expression: Allow your child to express their emotions through drawing and writing for example.
9. Teach problem solving skills: Encourage your child to identify problems, brainstorm solutions and take action. This helps them feel in control and builds more confidence.

Stress Management in Children and Adolescents

10. Schedule downtime: Make sure that your child has enough rest time to recharge. Establish a consistent bedtime routine and create opportunities for relaxation during the day too.

Tips for children and Adolescents

1. Deep breathing exercises: Take slow, deep breaths in through your nose and out through your mouth. This helps calm the mind and body.
2. Physical activity: Regular exercise is crucial for healthy minds and bodies – dance, play your favourite sport to release endorphins which are natural mood-boosters
3. Creative expression: Channel emotion in a healthy way by drawing, painting or creating art to express your feelings.
4. Talk it out: Have open conversations with a trusted adult, such as a parent, teacher or counsellor, talking about your feelings can help you process and release stress.
5. Mindfulness: Techniques such as Focus on the present moment. Grounding techniques using your five senses- 5 things you can see, 4 things you can touch, 3 things you can hear, 2 things you can smell and 1 thing you can taste.
6. Healthy sleep habits: Have a consistent bedtime routine – aim for 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night to help regulate stress hormones.
7. Relaxation techniques: Progressive muscle relaxation, visualisation or guided imagery techniques can help you unwind and relax. Ask an adult to assist with online services.
8. Positive self-talk: Practice positive affirmations. Look into a mirror and speak this affirmations to yourself – "I can handle this, I am strong and capable, I am the best, today is MY day, I am a winner"
9. Time Management: Prioritise tasks, break them down into smaller steps and take regular short breaks to avoid feeling overwhelmed.
10. Laugh it off: Read a humorous book, watch funny videos. Laughter is a great way to relieve stress and boost your mood.



Teams from the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation, SAAMBR and Ezemvelo prepare Bokkie for release.

Bokkie the amputee turtle released

TAMLYNNE THOMPSON AND STAFF REPORTER

Bokkie, the amputee green turtle, took its first plunge back into the Indian Ocean, off the KwaZulu-Natal coast after a year of rehabilitation at the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town.

Luna the green turtle who was rescued from Port Nolloth in the Northern Cape in February, was also released alongside Bokkie.

The turtles were released into the Marine Protected Area of iSimangaliso Wetland Park on Monday October 21 by the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation's Turtle Conservation Centre team, with the help of South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR).

The green turtle was found stranded on Struisbaai beach by members of the Turtle Rescue Network, around the time that Springboks narrowly beat England in the 2023 Rugby World Cup semi-final.

The turtle, who was aptly named Bokkie, was transported to the turtle conservation centre and arrived, covered in algae and with an amputated left front flipper.

During the process of admitting Bokkie into the rehabilitation centre, the turtle team removed 800 grams of barnacles from its plastron (bottom shell).

A statement from the aquarium said that the team expected Bokkie's amputated flipper would be her biggest challenge, however, three days into her treatment at the Turtle Conservation Centre, a bigger problem was evident. Bokkie had mistaken bits of plastic pollution for food resulting in bowel obstruction. In total, they excreted 47 separate pieces of plastic, an unenviable record for the most plastic found in a turtle treated at the Turtle Conservation Centre.

A total of 71% of rescued turtles at the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation's Turtle Conservation Centre have consumed plastic in their lifetimes, said the statement.

After extensive medical treatment and a year of rehabilitation, Bokkie was ready for release.

"The release of our amputee green turtle in iSimangaliso Wetland Park is close to our hearts and important to our work. The collaborative efforts to transport, get permits for and action Bokkie's release were inspiring for the future of turtle conservation in South Africa.

"We are thrilled to be working with SAAMBR, iSimangaliso, and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and look forward to building this network of conservation organisations," said



Bokkie, an amputee green turtle takes the plunge into the warm waters of the Indian Ocean at Sodwana Bay, part of the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area.

Talitha Noble-Trull, Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation's Turtle Conservation Centre Manager.

Following Bokkie's journey, the team watched as the turtle covered the short distance between the beach and the surf and quickly plunged into the warm waters of her wild ocean home.

Alexandra Panagiotou, Aquatic Scientist and Sea Turtle Enrichment Coordinator at the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation's Turtle Conservation Centre said: "Watching our three-flipped Bokkie swim off into the reef at Sodwana Bay beach was a moment of pride. However, it is always bittersweet releasing one of our rehabilitated turtles, because as we delight in them being strong enough for release, we cannot ensure their safety and survival in a polluted ocean."

iSimangaliso Wetland Park, where the turtles were released, is home to the Coral Reef and Turtle Beaches of Tongaland, a key part of the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area, said iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority Acting CEO Keletso Tembe.

"Each year, we monitor turtle nesting activity and work diligently to ensure that hatchlings make their way safely back to the ocean.

"It is a privilege to witness moments like the release of Bokkie, a turtle that has travelled far to find sanctuary in iSimangaliso, where she can thrive in the warmth of the Indian Ocean. Stories like Bokkie's continue to inspire us, strengthening our commitment to conservation in South Africa."

Bokkie was fitted with a satellite tag which will allow the team to follow her movements after release.

"We are excited about the possibilities of releasing our rehabilitated turtles in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park MPA. Bokkie's satellite tag gives the team a chance to follow their movements in the weeks and months to come," said Ms Noble-Trull.

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16 Days of Activism campaign kicks off

DOREEN PREMDEV

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign runs from Monday November 25 to Tuesday December 10.

The South African government has approved the conceptual approach to this year's campaign, which will take place under the theme "30 Years of Advancing Collective Action to End Violence Against Women and Children".

This campaign emphasises the importance of a whole-of-society approach to combating gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and the importance of a multi-sectoral accountability, said Minister in the Presidency Khumudzo Ntshavheni last Wednesday, November 13.

"This year's campaign continues

to address the root causes of GBVF while promoting positive masculinity and gender equity, along with creating economic opportunities for women and children," said Ms Ntshavheni.

"While more than 1 000 GBVF perpetrators were convicted between April 1 and September 31, 2024, we still have more to do as a nation to eradicate this scourge from society."

This year marks the 26th anniversary of South Africa's participation in the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign, which will be launched on November 25. This supports the global campaign which runs from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day).

Awards highlighted benefits of waste management

From page 6

"Recognising and celebrating organisations that adopt best environmental practices is crucial. Through science, technology, and innovative strategies, these businesses achieve cost-effective waste management while safeguarding the environment."

The awards also highlighted the tangible benefits of responsible waste management, including reduced waste volumes, improved efficiency, lower costs, and enhanced profit margins. Past winners have credited their participation with fostering innovation and long-term sustainability gains.

Keynote speaker, Mr Rutherford, captivated the audience with his account of securing two Guinness World Records in surfski and his enduring commitment to protecting the marine ecosystems. His message encouraged attendees to continue championing environmental sustainability for current and future generations.

The winners included: Netcare's Sustainability Leadership Netcare Parklands, St Augustine, and The Bay Hospitals were recog-

nised for their outstanding efforts in waste reduction, recycling, energy efficiency, and social responsibility.

Small Manufacturing: Cipla Medpro's Innovative Practices. Cipla Medpro Manufacturing, a first-time entrant, impressed judges with initiatives such as paperless operations, packaging optimisation, chemical reduction, and employee engagement.

Large Manufacturing: Freys Food Brands' Resilience and Sustainability.

Freys Food Brands, also a first-time entrant, excelled with initiatives focused on water efficiency, packaging reduction, waste minimisation, and social responsibility.

The winners were selected through an on-site judging process, including audits on policy adherence, cleaner production, resource efficiency, record-keeping, communication, social responsibility, and site inspections.

"The innovation and professionalism displayed by this year's entrants were exceptional. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to our sponsors, the judges and organisers for upholding the highest standards in promoting excellence in sustainability," said Mr Goosen.

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Spotlight on disabled's quality of life

DOREEN PREMDEV

Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD), Sindisiwe Chikunga, has called on South Africans to ensure we live in a disability-inclusive society that upholds a better quality of life and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

This call was made in support of Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM), which is observed from November 3 to December 3.

"This month provides an important platform to champion disability rights and to work toward a South Africa where dignity and equality are universal. Whether disabled or able-bodied, all individuals must be empowered to contribute toward an inclusive society," said Ms Chikunga.

This year's theme is "Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy: Creating a Disability-Inclusive Society for a Better Quality of Life and the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities".

This month-long campaign underscores the universality, interdependence, and fundamental rights of persons with disabilities, advocating for the full enjoyment of these rights without discrimi-

nation. It aims to drive awareness, inclusion, and empowerment of persons with disabilities across South Africa.

"Aligned with the 2024-2029 Medium-Term Development Framework, which seeks to address current socio-economic challenges, DRAM2024 serves as a bridge uniting South Africans to build a disability-inclusive, barrier-free society," the Minister said.

"It envisions a South Africa where persons with disabilities actively contribute to socio-economic empowerment within their communities. Government also urges all members of society to participate in the significant process of domesticating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, facilitated by the South African Law Reform Commission. This process will contribute to the development of the Disability Rights Bill."

The purpose of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity, Ms Chikunga said.



Disability Rights Awareness Month is marked from November 3 to December 3 and Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga has called all South Africans to champion the rights of people with disabilities and work towards a country where dignity and equality are universal.

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UKZN students and staff gaining hands-on experience using the new endoscopic equipment they received recently.



R4m boost for surgical skills lab

DOREEN PREMDEV

A R4 million donation of endoscopic equipment will be a boost for the multidisciplinary surgical skills laboratory at the School of Clinical Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Facilitated by the UKZN Foundation, the money was donated by Karl Storz, a global leader in endoscopic equipment and surgical instrumentation.

This latest donation aligns with their ongoing efforts to support academic institutions and training hospitals across South Africa.

"When Dr Andile Sibiyi approached us about supporting the new skills lab at UKZN, it was a natural decision for us to contribute to this vital initiative," said the company's tender and projects manager, Ann Law.

"We share a common goal with UKZN and that is to ensure that patients receive the highest standard of care through well-trained, skilled surgeons. The

donated equipment includes four endoscopic camera systems, complete with telescopes and instruments tailored for various types of endoscopic surgery."

Dr Sibiyi, who played a key role in securing the donation, said it was a significant leap forward for their training programmes.

"The camera towers and other instruments will allow our students and staff to gain hands-on experience with the latest technology, ensuring that they are well-equipped to deliver the highest quality care to their patients. It will enhance their hand-eye coordination and dexterity, while also shortening the learning curve, enabling them to quickly master complex surgical techniques," Dr Sibiyi said.

"We see this donation not just as support, but as an investment in the future of health care," said Ms Law. "By helping to develop the next generation of health care professionals, we're contributing to the long-term advancement of medical practice and patient care."

Maskandi musician stays true to his genre

PHIRI CAWE
PHIRI.CAWE@ACM.CO.ZA

Maskandi musician Nkosibonile Dlamini became an instant star after going viral on social platforms and has since graced the stages at numerous events.

Performing under the name Mphathi Wohlelo MC, the 30-year-old recently dropped his latest album, *Abantu Baxakakile*, and entertained crowds at the Khayelitsha Maskandi Festival, in Cape Town, where he arrived

on a horse with revellers shouting his name.

The singer is originally from Umzimkulu kwaMaduna in KwaZulu-Natal and has four albums under his belt, *Kancane Kancane*, *Izidakamizwa*, *Ngezamela Abantabami* and *Abantu Baxakakile*.

Speaking to DurbanLocal, Dlamini said he was happy to have a huge fan base in the Western Cape where the maskandi genre isn't as popular.

"My music is pretty electric. For those that do not know me,

I'm a singer who is passionate about maskandi.

"This is the music that we do back in KZN and love. I appreciate being in Cape Town and singing this genre which I see growing even here."

He says staying true to his fans has brought him this far and he has made sure he was not a one hit wonder.

He has inspired others through his music with songs like *Khelele lam* and *Isalukazi*.

Having collaborated with another great maskandi musi-

cian (Twaso Lekhansela, the pressure to stay at the top is real because the music industry is constantly evolving.

"It is not easy to stay on top but I measure my relevance by impacting lives and staying true to my artistic vision. I am grateful to my fans and will always be," he told DurbanLocal.

Mphathi Wohlelo MC's music is on most music streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple music, YouTube and Distrokid.

For bookings he is available on 078 334 9139 or email nkosimphathi2@gmail.com



■ Mphathi Wohlelo MC at the Khayelitsha Maskandi Festival a fortnight ago.

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Read of the week

The Tea Merchant
Jackie Phamotse
Penguin Random House
Review: Karen Watkins



With its gloriously glossy cover, Jackie Phamotse weaves a tapestry of historical fiction through the origins of rooibos tea.

The story begins in Cape Town in 2005 when Luna, a young Khoisan nursing graduate, meets nurse Amora, who is

Coal who is on leave from the Navy and is rarely home. He has left his blind teenage daughter, Mia, in the care of his alcoholic father, John, who is struggling with the grief of losing his wife, Emily, who, along with Coal's wife, Summer, had perished in a fire at their farm 10 years earlier.

Through vivid characterisations, Phamotse delves into issues of community dynamics and the intricacies of parenthood, particularly highlighting the challenges faced by men in modern parenthood. Other themes include community life, loss, grief, inheritance, landlessness, racial dynamics, heritage and belonging.

While Phamotse's story is richly textured and well-researched, it sometimes stumbles in racial dynamics and is implausible and naive. Despite these minor shortcomings, her style, storytelling and pace draws the reader in.

This two-part story marks a departure for Phamotse, known for the *Bare* series for which she was awarded the African Icon Literary Award in Lagos, Nigeria, in 2018 for *Bare: The Blessor's Game*.

The release of *The Tea Merchant* signals her return to the public eye after she was sentenced to two years of house arrest with a fine and unpaid community service after being found guilty on two counts of crimen injuria, one count of defamation and one of contempt in her case involving Basetsana and Romeo Kumalo.

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No-cost craft market for local artisans launched

NIYANTA SINGH

The Galleria Mall and the eThekweni municipality will, in a bid to strengthen local entrepreneurship and celebrate Durban's creative talent, launch the Galleria Craft Market, offering a no-cost retail platform for local artisans.

Running until December 31, the market will support 10 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the arts and crafts sector, granting them prime exposure and valuable market access.

Situated next to The Hub at Galleria Mall, the craft market is part of the municipality's "Support and Buy Local" initiative. It's an exciting space showcasing an array of locally crafted goods, from woven baskets and leather bags to African-inspired fashion, beaded candles, wellness items, and fine art curated from the Durban Art Gallery. Here, shop-



■ The craftwork on display at the Galleria mall market.

pers can discover unique gifts while directly supporting the artisans of Durban.

The market operates Monday

to Saturday, 9am to 7pm and on Sundays and public holidays, 9am to 5pm. From December 13 to 22, the market will stay open

until 9pm, providing additional time for festive shopping.

Thembo Ntuli, chairperson of eThekweni's Economic Development and Planning Committee, said this was part of their plan to showcase local businesses.

"Through the Business Support, Tourism, Markets, and Agri-Business Unit, we assist businesses by offering exposure, business support services, and market access. Beyond market exposure, the municipality is committed to strengthening the skill sets of local entrepreneurs by providing technical workshops and skills training, focusing on business management, sales, and marketing. The entrepreneurs are also given opportunities to showcase their products at national and international pop-up markets, widening their reach.

"Already, the benefits are evident. In the past month, businesses at Galleria made R53 000 in sales. During Heritage Month,

our collaboration with Galleria Mall resulted in R128 000 in sales for 15 arts and crafts businesses from September 13 to 29," said Mr Ntuli.

One of the participating artisans, Lindile Dlungwana, founder of Gavutheju Business Enterprise in Verulam, said the exposure had boosted her sales and provided meaningful connections that continue to generate new orders. Specialising in African print bags, hats, and recycled material greeting cards, she values the platform as an opportunity to grow her brand and connect with a wider audience.

The 10 artisans were selected from eThekweni's arts and craft database, that includes about 200 SMEs receiving on-going business support. For those interested in joining the arts and craft database or seeking to register, contact Nondumiso Mhlongo at 031 311 4578/00 or email nondumiso.mhlongo@durban.gov.za

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Mlaba is Sportswoman of the Year

DOREEN PREMDEV

Nonkululeko Mlaba walked away with yet another Sportswoman of the Year award at the KZN Sports Awards held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC) Durban.

The Hollywoodbets Dolphins and Proteas star spinner's continuous rise is evident in her recent performance at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in the UAE. The left-arm spinner finished the tournament as the second highest wicket taker and has consistently been in the top ten bowlers' rankings for T20 cricket.

Mlaba, who is from Ntuzuma in KZN, is a well-documented product of the KwaZulu-Natal Cricket Union (KZNCU), Sunfoil, KZN Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (KZNSAC) Hub Development Programme.

She has become a shining light for young girls and boys from rural areas proving that they too can become international stars.

"The entire Dolphins cricket family is incredibly proud of the person that Nonkululeko has become and that's the most important thing," said CEO of KZN Cricket Heinrich Strydom.

"Her success on the field has been incredible but her ability to carry herself so well off the field is a huge asset to her. At 24-years-old she has shown she is one



PICTURE: DOLPHINS CRICKET

■ **Nonkululeko Mlaba celebrated winning a second consecutive KZN Sports Awards, getting the Sportswoman of the Year award on Saturday November 2. KZN Cricket CEO Heinrich Strydom received the Federation of the Year award.**

of the best in the world and there is a lot of cricket ahead of her. Congratulations Nonku on winning the Sportswoman of the Year award again, you are an inspiration to many."

Mlaba wasn't the only member of the KZN cricket family that won an award on Saturday. The KZN Cricket Union was awarded the Federation of the Year award once again, and the Hollywoodbets Dolphins Ladies team received the Team of the Year award.

"Congratulations to our union, our dedicated CEO, and the incredible staff for being honoured with the Federation of the Year Award again," said president of the KZN Cricket Union, Yunus Bobat.

"This recognition is a testament to your hard work, commitment, and unwavering passion for the sport.

"I also want to congratulate the Sportswoman of the Year recipient Nonkululeko Mlaba. Your contributions have set a shining example for all, demonstrating the power of resilience and dedication in the world of cricket. Our Hollywoodbets Dolphins Ladies team, has also done us proud, they were given the Team of the Year award. This accolade reflects the teamwork, skill and determination that you all bring to the field."

It's the second time in three years that the KZN Cricket Union has won Federation of the year after they received the award in 2022. The Hollywoodbets Dolphins Ladies beat the KZN Senior and Junior Rhythmic Gymnastics teams to the prestigious award on Saturday evening. The Dolphins won the 2023/24 CSA One Day Challenge and became the first team to win the professional 50 over title.

Sudoku No 100;

Level: 3 Tricky

How to play: Fill every column, row and 3x3 box so they contain every number between 1 and 9.

Solution on page 2

1			7	8	4
	6		4	1	2
5	8	2			
	4	7	5	2	
3					7
		2	4	3	6
			7	8	2
	9	8	3		1
2		1	5		9

What's On

What's On notices are free to public schools, non-government organisations, non-profits organisations, charities, small clubs and churches. They can be submitted to durbanlocal.news@acm.co.za. They must be received a week before publication date, which is the last Thursday of the month and there is no guarantee they will be published.

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Friday

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