

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

Meet Iris — South Africa's First AI Robot

Hluhluwe-born inventor Thando Gumede (left) brought the MTN KZN MCT Summit to a standstill when she unveiled IRIS - South Africa's first homegrown AI robot. In an exclusive sit-down with our editor Kasia Yoko (right), Gumede spoke about the audacity it takes to build the future from KwaZulu-Natal, the long road from concept to creation, and why she believes Africa's greatest innovations have yet to come. IRIS is not just a robot. She is proof that world-class ingenuity thrives right here at home.

See full story on page 9



JUST LANDED THE ALL-NEW JMC VIGUS RANGE BUILT FOR MORE



SINGLE CAB FROM **R299 900** DOUBLE CAB FROM **R399 900**

LIMITED OFFER

BIDVEST McCARTHY JMC GATEWAY
2 - 11 Sunset Close, Umhlanga
Tel: 031 576 5312 | Email: anushah@mcmotor.co.za
Call: Anusha **079 622 4576** | Vinay **083 336 1385**

Pictures are for illustrative purposes only. Terms and Conditions Apply. E&OE

IBV GOLD



www.ibvgold.co.za

We Buy & Sell Krugerrands At The Best Rates In South Africa

Call 031 880 2119

Drive into Autumn in Style - Only at CMH Suzuki Ballito



SWIFT 1.2 GL + M/T

FROM **R236 900** Incl. VAT

Includes a 4-year/60 000km Service Plan | 5-year 200 000km Warranty



FRONX 1.5 GL M/T

FROM **R285 900** Incl. VAT

Includes a 4-year/60 000km Service Plan | 5-year 200 000km Warranty

These prices are subject to In-House Finance. T's & C's Apply. Images shown for illustrative purposes only. E&OE



"Grief is the price we pay for love," by Queen Elizabeth II

He Is Not Gone

Pain is a shape shifter, it comes and it goes. It mutates from sorrow to tears. It has no timer, no schedule,

no courtesy. It arrives uninvited at 3am and sits at the edge of my bed. It ambushes me in the grocery store when I reach for something he used to like. It is relentless and it is ruthless and it does not apologise for any of

its invasions. Pain is the boogeyman hiding silently in the closet waiting for a moment of weakness, to come out and drag me through emotional hell all over again.

what we needed. He redirected wayward paths with a single look, a single sentence. He pushed me, relentlessly, toward the best version of myself. Not because he doubted me. Because he never did. He just

On the 8th of April 2026, my father, Stanislaw Koryl left this world. We nursed him through his final four months. We watched a man who was, in every sense, larger than life, grow quieter, weaker, vulnerable... And then still. But here is what I know to be true: he is dead but he is not gone. My father was a man of genius and grit. He did not coddle me. He did not sit with me in my self-pity, because there was simply no room for it in his world. He was the rock we fell on - not the cushion. And somehow, that was exactly what we needed. He redirected wayward paths with a single look, a single sentence. He pushed me, relentlessly, toward the best version of myself. Not because he doubted me. Because he never did. He just knew I was a problem child and I often strayed. He had a way of knowing — and this is the thing that undoes me most — he always knew when I needed guidance before I knew it myself. That radar of his never failed. I am here, doing what I do, because he pointed me in the right direction when I could not see past my own fear. He had two sayings that lived rent-free in my head. The first: "If you have a soft heart, you must have a hard arse." The second: "You become who you associate with." These were blunt lessons but that is who he was. Practical. Irrefutable. Dad's wisdom, delivered without formality. He never had to say he loved us, and he never did, it was not his style and I did not miss it because his love was in everything he did for me. In the time he gave to me and my children. In the standard he held. In the way he showed up, fully, every single time. And now I carry him. Through my deep faith, I know that grief is not the end of the relationship — it is the transformation of it. He has not left the conversation. He has simply changed how he speaks. I feel him in the decisions I hesitate on. I hear him when I am about to take the easy road. He is right here, beside me, in this uncertain, beautiful, brutal world. I choose to celebrate him every day because mourning him would be disrespectful. His wisdom is not archived. It is alive. So here's to my father: thank you for the time you gave us to learn how to live without you. We are not there yet. But we are moving forward — because that is what you taught us to do.

OPUS 1

MOOI RIVER HOME TEXTILES FACTORY SHOP

FREEDOM PROMOTION

OPEN 27 APRIL AND 1 MAY 9am-12:30pm

Huge savings - Limited time 27 April-5 May

SCATTERS TAKE 5 FOR R99

GUEST TOWELS TAKE 9 FOR R99

FITTED SHEET + PILLOWCASE (ALL SIZE) R99

CURTAINS

PRINTED DUVET COVER QUEEN

SHOWER CURTAINS TAKE 2 FOR

BATH MATS

QUILT SUB STD

R99

BUY LUXURY VELVET DUVET COVER GET R99 OFF

BUY PILLOWS DUVET INNERS GET R99 OFF

BUY 100% COTTON FITTED SHEETS GET R99 OFF

BUY T200 DUVETS GET R99 OFF

Tel: 032 944 1396 Whatsapp: 076 556 1838

29 Edmund Morewood Road, Truroland, Tongaat

Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm, Friday 8:30am - 3pm, Saturday 9am - 12:30pm

f

op

us_1_luxury_linen

t

op

us1factoryshop

Dear Editor,

Re: No to the Bingo Lounge

The recent approval by the eThekweni Municipality for a bingo lounge at Umhlanga Plaza has stirred deep concern among residents of Umhlanga — and rightly so. This is not simply about a building or a business licence. It is about the long-term character and integrity of a community that has been carefully nurtured over decades. Umhlanga is not just another commercial node; it is a residential haven, a lifestyle destination, and a symbol of coastal living that attracts both investment and families seeking stability and quality of life. The Umhlanga Residents and Ratepayers Association has taken a principled stand, reflecting the voices of many who feel blindsided by a decision that appears to prioritise short-term commercial gain over sustainable urban planning. Concerns around declining property values, increased congestion, and the social implications of introducing a gambling-focused venue into a family-oriented area cannot simply be brushed aside. Municipal decisions must be guided not only by policy compliance but by meaningful public participation and a genuine respect for the communities they serve. Development, when done correctly, uplifts. When done without sensitivity, it erodes trust. This moment calls for transparency, accountability, and above all, a willingness to listen. The people of Umhlanga are not opposing progress — they are asking for thoughtful, responsible growth that aligns with the identity of their suburb.

Yours sincerely, Wayne Howard

Dear Ed,

Re: Two good books

A good non-fictional book is one that would be interesting, thought provoking and gives the reader joy, enlightenment and illumination. Besides, in many instances, it would add to the readers' pursuit of wisdom and knowledge and provide invaluable advice, guidance and assistance. I have recently been blessed with 2 books, which I recommend to avid and casual readers too. The first one is "Fast Facts On False Teachings" by Ron Carlson and Ed Decker. The co-authors are 2 renowned authorities on cults and have combined their extensive knowledge to provide quick and clear facts on major cults and false teachings. They cover issues such as atheism, freemasonry, new age, evolution, satanism and Mormonism. They provide powerful insights that will help people ensnared by falsity and deception. The second book is "The Top 100 Questions " by Richard Bewes. It provides biblical answers to popularly asked questions. The answers offered are not pat answers to outwit the questioner but ones that give clarity based on applicable biblical scriptures. As a bonus explanations are provided on 50 difficult scriptural passages. Note the books could be of interest and value to persons of any belief/faith and even to agnostics and atheists, noting that the pursuit of formal and non-formal education and acquisition of wisdom and knowledge are for life. An open mind would help. Books can leave indelible impressions and can shape and mould ones life in positive and meaningful manners, with endless opportunities and unlimited benefits. Textbooks are in a league of their own and have contributed to the development of mankind and the academic and vocational excellence of peoples over centuries, being the pillars of diverse vocations and business, trade and industry, both local and international.

Simon T Dehal Verulam

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." By Helen Keller

The Scorpio-N Still Bites. Harder Than Ever

Road Report by *Tomas Yoko*,
Motoring Editor - *The Bugle KZN*



The Mahindra Scorpio-N

I drove the Mahindra Scorpio-N when it first landed on these shores, and I remember thinking: India has quietly done something rather brilliant here. Having spent more time with it recently, courtesy of the excellent team at CMH Mahindra Ballito, I can confirm that the Scorpio-N hasn't lost a single tooth.

This is a proper body-on-frame, seven-seat, 4x4 adventure SUV with a body-on-frame setup and low-range capability that would genuinely embarrass vehicles costing considerably more. Built on Mahindra's third-generation platform with class-leading structural rigidity, the Scorpio-N arrives wearing Pininfarina's fingerprints on its confident, muscular silhouette. It does not apologise for taking up space, because frankly it doesn't have to.

Under the bonnet lives the mHawk 2.2-litre turbodiesel producing 128kW and 400Nm, channelled through a six-speed automatic that gets on with its job without drama or fuss. It isn't quick. It never pretends to be. What it does is pull

cleanly, cruise contentedly, and return a real-world figure hovering around 7.1L/100km, which for a seven-seater 4x4 is genuinely commendable.

The terrain management system, called 4XPLORE, offers selectable modes covering Normal, Snow, Mud and Sand, while three drive personalities named Zip, Zap and Zoom add a touch of personality to the proceedings. Inside, a Sony audio system, touchscreen infotainment with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, wireless charging and a sunroof ensure nobody feels shortchanged when the tarmac returns.

The value proposition remains staggering. A 5-year/150,000km warranty and 5-year/100,000km service plan wrapping a vehicle that seats seven, goes off-road properly, and looks the business doing it.

CMH Mahindra Ballito is your North Coast home for the Scorpio-N. Go introduce yourself. Tell them Tomas sent you. 35 Moffat drive, Ballito. Call them on 032 946 5820 today.

Born Untamed. Built to Prove It.



CMH Nissan Ballito goes the extra mile to making the ownership of a Nissan extraordinary, check out the Warrior today

PRODUCT REVIEW

Nissan Navara Warrior Pro-4X

There are vehicles that take you places. And then there are vehicles that dare you to find places worth going.

The Nissan Navara Warrior Pro-4X is emphatically the latter.

This is not a bakkie that politely asks permission. From the moment those Pro-4X badged doors swing open and you settle into a cabin that means business, something shifts inside you. A quiet, primal understanding that whatever road ends ahead, this machine considers that a suggestion rather than a problem.

Under the bonnet lives a powerplant matched to a chassis engineered for punishment and refined for pleasure. The suspension eats corrugated dirt roads for breakfast. The Warrior body kit commands respect before you've even turned the key. And those wheels, aggressive, purposeful, unapologetic, telling the complete story of what this bakkie was born to do.

But here's what separates the Pro-4X from mere toughness. It never asks you to sacrifice comfort for capability. Long highway kilometres pass with genuine refinement. Technology keeps you connected. The load bay works as hard as you do.

The Navara Warrior Pro-4X doesn't just carry your gear. It carries your ambition. Some bakkies are bought. This one is earned.

CMH Nissan Ballito have amazing deals on the Warrior and other derivatives. There is a limited stock available so call right away on 032 946 5820 and secure your Warrior today. Visit their showroom at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito and take a Warrior for a spin.

NISSAN WARRIOR PRO 4X
R699 900

NISSAN WARRIOR PRO 2X
R649 900

NISSAN MAGNITE ACENTA 1.0 MANUAL
R239 900

SAVE
R47 000

NISSAN MAGNITE MOVE
R199 900

SAVE
R30 000

Claim your
VAT back!

CMH NISSAN BALLITO

35 - 37 Moffat Drive, Ballito | Tel: 032 946 5820 | Email: cristos@cmh.co.za

Christo 084 640 8881 | Khulekani 07? ??? ???? | Raymond 07? ??? ???? |

All Prices Exclude Mandatory Delivery Charges. Pictures are for illustrative purposes only. Terms and Conditions Apply. E&OE

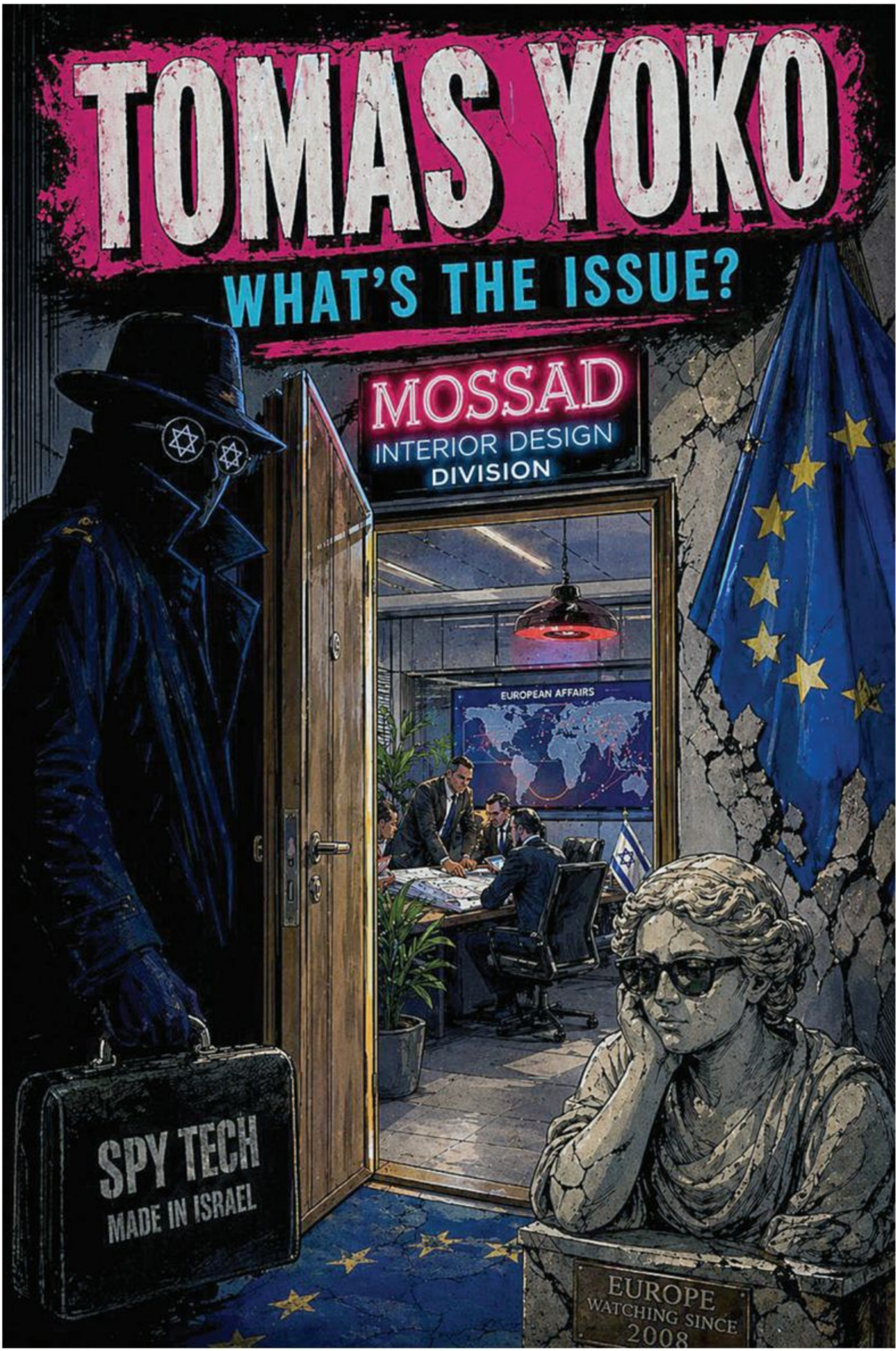
mahindra
SCORPIO^N
2.2D 4X4 Z8L
RUGGED POWER
MEETS
PREMIUM COMFORT
From **R622 990**



CMH MAHINDRA BALLITO
35 - 37 Moffat Drive, Ballito



032 946 5820
Email: leadmaster68@cmh.co.za



The Spineless Leading the Clueless: A World in Perfect Chaos

Congratulations, humanity. We did it. After thousands of years of civilisation, after Socrates, Shakespeare, the Renaissance, the moon landing, (sic) we have arrived at the golden summit of human achievement: a world run by reality TV logic, governed by men whose greatest skill is performing outrage on a screen while their citizens queue at food banks.

Take a bow. You've earned it. Let's start with our so called leaders, because calling them that is already the funniest joke of the century. We have a man in the most powerful office on earth who communicates primarily through social media tantrums, whose foreign policy appears to be written by someone who lost a game of Risk and never got over it. The world's greatest democracy, reduced to a hostage negotiation where the hostage is common sense. You can almost see the controlling hand up his

Meanwhile, Europe seems crippled by its controllers as it watches them push for war. Because that's what the EU does now. Watches. Issues statements.

Two confirmed cases of Mossad-linked private intelligence operatives meddling in European affairs and Brussels responded with its default setting - silence. At this point the Mossad linked Israeli spy-tech industry hasn't merely knocked on Europe's door, it has redecorated the interior. Sergey Karaganov, a prominent political scientist has stated "The EU has gone mad, and it must be stopped." While idiots like Markus Soder, head of the, wait for it, Bavaria's Christian Social Union, calls for compulsory military service.

In Israel, somebody has to explain to Bibi what the term cease fire means, he just keeps bombing. With Donald's help of course. Bibi is so bad his political opposition has just joined forces to oust him in the elections planned for later this year, if he lets that happen ... Things are so bad over there that ex-Mossad Chief Tamir Pardo has said "My mother was a Holocaust survivor, and what I saw reminded me of the events that happened against Jews in the last century," Pardo said. "What I saw today made me feel ashamed to be Jewish."

Africa, my beloved, battered, infinitely patient Africa, continues to be lectured about governance by the same Western nations currently having full governmental meltdowns on live television. France has been accused of meddling in Mali with waves of terrorist attacks supported by the European and Ukrainian mercenaries repelled in a failed coup attempt.

The Middle East burns. Russia stonewalls. China watches everything and says nothing, which is frankly the most intelligent foreign policy anyone is running right now, and that should terrify you.

Back home, we lead the world in youth unemployment rates as our own leaders have elevated mediocrity to an art form. Load-shedding the truth. Tendering out accountability. Cadre-deploying incompetence into every institution until the institution itself forgets what it was meant for.

And still ... still ... we re-elect them. We shrug. We say "what can you do?" and go back to our lives as if civilisation is someone else's problem.



MERSAT
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

DISTINGUISHED BY SERVICE

- Gate & garage remotes
- Gate & garage automation
- DStv remote controls
- Biometric & facial access control
- TV ,satellite, intercom & CCTV systems
- Electric fencing & compliance certificates

Contact us to discuss the perfect solution for you
032 946 1820 | info@mersat.co.za





TESTED & TRUSTED
FOR OVER
20 YEARS
ON THE NORTH COAST
TESTED & TRUSTED





PIT STOP
AUTO REPAIR CENTRE

Tel: 032 947 0828
UNIT 6, UMHLALI VILLAGE PARK, UMHLALI
Email: info@pitstopauto.co.za

SERVICES AND REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF VEHICLES





At a time when spiritual authority was often seen through a masculine lens, Tara declared that awakening has no gender. Wisdom has no gender. Compassion has no gender.



DARNALL COUNTRY CLUB

A World awaits at Darnall

Golf Course | Squash Courts
Bowling Greens | Swimming Pool
Tennis Courts | Function Facilities
Sports Bar

To book a function room or to enquire about memberships
info@darnallclub.co.za
032 008 5071 064 907 1818
www.darnallclub.co.za



Sudoku
AUGUST'S SOLUTION

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

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

"There is no pain so great as the memory of joy in present grief," by Aeschylus

SOUTH AFRICA IS DAYS AWAY FROM A POTENTIAL CRISIS

AND HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

MAY 4
NATIONWIDE
SHUTDOWN



National Shutdown Planned for 4 May

South Africa is days away from a potential crisis — and here's what you need to know. A nationwide shutdown is planned for May 4, with organizers demanding that all foreign nationals — papers or no papers — leave the country. The call has already put communities on edge, with many immigrants reportedly too scared to leave their homes. This isn't happening in a vacuum. Unemployment is brutal, poverty is widespread, and frustration has been building for years. Foreign nationals are increasingly becoming the target of that frustration — whether fairly or not.

Ghana has already raised the issue diplomatically after reported attacks on its citizens. Police say they're ready, and anyone caught inciting or committing violence will face arrest. But readiness and prevention aren't the same thing. South Africa has been here before. The scars from past xenophobic violence haven't fully healed. The question now is whether May 4 becomes a turning point — or a repeat. Is this shutdown a legitimate cry for change, or are innocent people about to pay the price for problems they didn't create?

By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

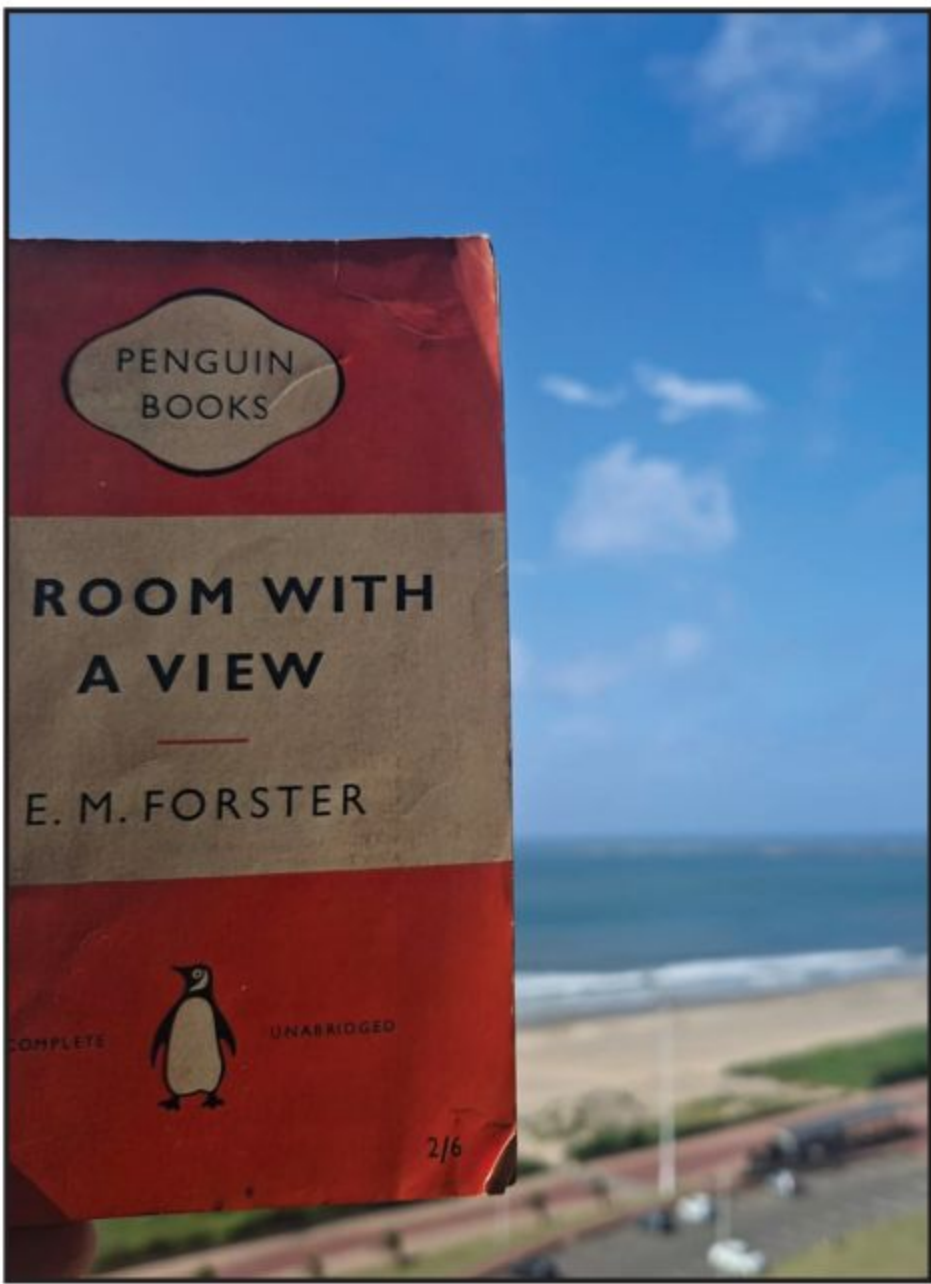


“We cast a shadow on something wherever we stand, and it is no good moving from place to place to save things; because the shadow always follows. Choose a place where you won't do harm - yes, choose a place where you won't do very much harm, and stand in it for all you are worth, facing the sunshine.” (EM Forster). Every morning, I sit with a coffee overlooking the sea. The ebb and flow carries me into our momentary existence as the seas roll on eternally. It is a moving wonder, my corner that overlooks the harbour. The movement of ships, the annual whale season, the sardine run, the festival of Chariots, the baptisms; the sacred in the day, a blessed feeling of rhythm and peace, changing colour palettes, the moon tide, the push and pull of the ocean. The ocean both a mirror and a window.

A Room with a View

Over the centuries people have tried to control the ocean. Remember the Persian King Xerxes who demanded of his soldiers that they whip Hellespont strait 300 times as retribution for a storm that made short shrift of his pontoon bridge. We hear stories of governments stealing the ocean into land. But the oceans always rise. I have just finished reading EM Forster's “A Room with a View” first published in 1908. It tells the story of Lucy Honeychurch. Lucy escapes the class prejudices and minutely policed social etiquette of the Edwardian period as she travels to Italy. As the plot unfolds with her kissing George and then returning to Windy Corner, the tensions mount, for Lucy has a fiancé. He is bent on shaping her into what a woman ‘should be’. Lucy is living at

a time when women had to know their place as her cousin explains: “Why were most big things unladylike? Charlotte had once explained to her why. It was not that ladies were inferior to men; it was that they were different. Their mission was to inspire others to achievement rather than to achieve themselves. Indirectly, by means of tact and a spotless name, a lady could accomplish much. But if she rushed into the fray herself, she would first be censured, then despised, and finally ignored. Poems had been written to illustrate this point.” But Lucy rebels. Her and George escape once more to Italy. As I write these words on Freedom Day, aren't we all striving to be a Honeychurch? Looking for a room with a view into the future, straining against the straitjacket of convention, hoping that the next tide will steal our hearts and liberate our minds.



My room with a view

Arts & Culture • Durban

Literary Events • Book Reviews

Love Made Me Do It

By Kasia Yoko

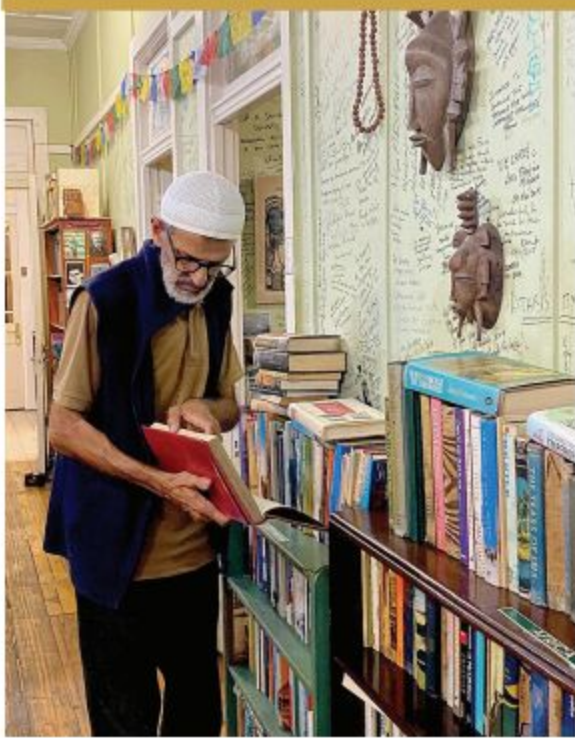
The launch of Umphrofethi - Lu Dlamini's isiZulu translation of Khalil Gibran's The Prophet - at Ike's Books & Collectables, Durban

There are evenings in Durban when the world feels smaller, softer, and somehow more meaningful. Tuesday night at Ike's Books & Collectables in Greyville was one of them. The occasion was the launch of Umphrofethi — a deeply personal and inspired isiZulu translation of The Prophet by Khalil Gibran, brought to life by Lu Dlamini. But this was no ordinary literary event. It was a gathering shaped by emotion, memory, music, and something far more powerful than words alone: love. Lu Dlamini spoke candidly about her journey with Gibran's work. She described how The Prophet shifted her inner landscape, how its themes did not feel foreign or distant, but intimately familiar — echoing the wisdom, struggle, and spiritual depth of her own Zulu heritage. In her voice was conviction, but also tenderness. This was not a project born from ambition, but from something far more instinctive. “Love made me do it,” she shared — a simple phrase that seemed to settle gently over the room. That love translated itself into language, into rhythm, and ultimately into music. As Lu performed, her voice carried more than melody; it carried meaning. The songs did not merely accompany Gibran's words — they interpreted them, expanded them, and rooted them firmly in African soil. It was as if the soul of the

original text had found a new home, one that resonated deeply with those gathered. The audience, a blend of Durban's literary faithful and curious newcomers, responded in kind. There was a quiet attentiveness, a shared understanding that something rare was unfolding. Conversations flowed easily between strangers. Smiles lingered longer. The atmosphere was unmistakably warm — the kind that cannot be staged or manufactured. At the heart of it all was Ike's Books & Collectables, once again proving itself as more than just a bookshop. Under the gracious stewardship of owner Jo Rushby, it continues to serve as a vital cultural space — a place where stories are not only sold, but celebrated. A place where people come not just to read, but to feel connected. As the evening drew to a close, there was no rush to leave. Guests lingered, holding onto the moment just a little longer, as though stepping back into the outside world might break the spell. In many ways, Umphrofethi is more than a translation. It is a bridge — between languages, between cultures, between past and present. But above all, it is a reminder that when something is created from a place of genuine love, it has the power to reach far beyond its origins. And on this particular evening in Durban, that love was felt by everyone in the room.



...In many ways, Umphrofethi is more than a translation. It is a bridge — between languages, between cultures, between past and present...



"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die," by Thomas Campbell

TASO'S
BAR GRILL

THIS
Mother's Day
CELEBRATE MOM AT
TASO'S Ballito

Mellow sea breeze,
scrumptious menu &
a beautiful friendly vibe

THE BEST PLACE TO
BRING YOUR MOTHER

To Book call 067 941 1458

CHEERS TO MOM

FRESH & YUMMY
SUSHI
Made to tempt!

COCKTAILS
Sip. Relax. Celebrate.

STEAK

PLATTERS
Build your own combos!

For all celebrations,
for all occasions,
for all temptations

THERE'S ALWAYS A
REASON FOR TASO'S

BOOK YOUR MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION TODAY!

17 Compensation Beach Road, Ballito | 067 941 1458 | TASOSBALLITO
WALK-INS WELCOME | SECURE PARKING | FAMILY FRIENDLY

FOOD IS YOUR PHARMACY

Recipe & Pics by Kasia Yoko



HAPPINESS ELIXIR

Immune-boosting Granadilla Juice



A golden, soul-warming elixir made with organic passion fruit, wild raw honey, and healing spices and herbs from my rooftop flower pots. Natural, fresh, wholesome goodness... A recipe for happiness.

Yields Approximately 10lt



INGREDIENTS

METHOD

- 5 kg organic granadilla (passion fruit)
- 500gr raw wild honey
- 12 lemons/limes, juiced
- 3 lemongrass stalks
- handful of fresh oreganum
- Big chunk of fresh ginger
- Small chunk of fresh turmeric
- 1 tablespoons allspice corns

- ① Wash granadilla. Halve and scoop out all the pulp and seeds into a jug, place in a pot with 3lt of water (you will need a 5lt pot). Boil the granadilla shells for 90min.
- ② Blend the granadilla with the herbs and spices using good mineral water.
- ③ Pour the blended fruit through a muslin cloth or fine sieve. Squeeze the last drop.
- ④ Let the water from the granadilla shells cool before adding to the Granadilla juice. Add lemon and honey. Taste, make it sweet and luscious.
- ⑤ Sterilise glass bottles: Place clean bottles in boiling water and sterilise thoroughly.
- ⑥ Pour the finished juice into the bottles,
- ⑦ Cool and store in the fridge.

NOTES

Sourced with love - granadillas from the farming ladies at Verulam Market, honey from wild honey hunters in Zululand. Always sterilise your bottles - this is non-negotiable for long-life preservation. Properly sealed bottles can last for several months. This is old-world wisdom in a bottle: no additives, no shortcuts, just good honest food as nature intended.

"Tears are words that need to be written." by Paulo Coelho



Rex Hunt cooks 200 litres of rich, meaty vegetable stew every week

One Man. One Pot. One Mission.

How Rex Hunt is feeding hundreds and why he needs you

Every Wednesday morning, before most of us have finished our first cup of coffee, Rex Hunter is already at work. As the founder of ADCA, Rex has spent years looking into the eyes of hungry people — pensioners, the disabled, families with nothing — and choosing, every single week, to do something about it.

It starts at the ADCA centre in Umhlali. Volunteers gather at 8am to chop vegetables — potatoes, carrots, onions, butternut, spinach and more — donated by generous hearts across the community. Rex then cooks 200 litres of rich, meaty vegetable stew. By Thursday morning, it is on its way to those who need it most.

On Wednesday afternoons, Rex personally drives whole vegetables to Groutville, where meals cooked over an

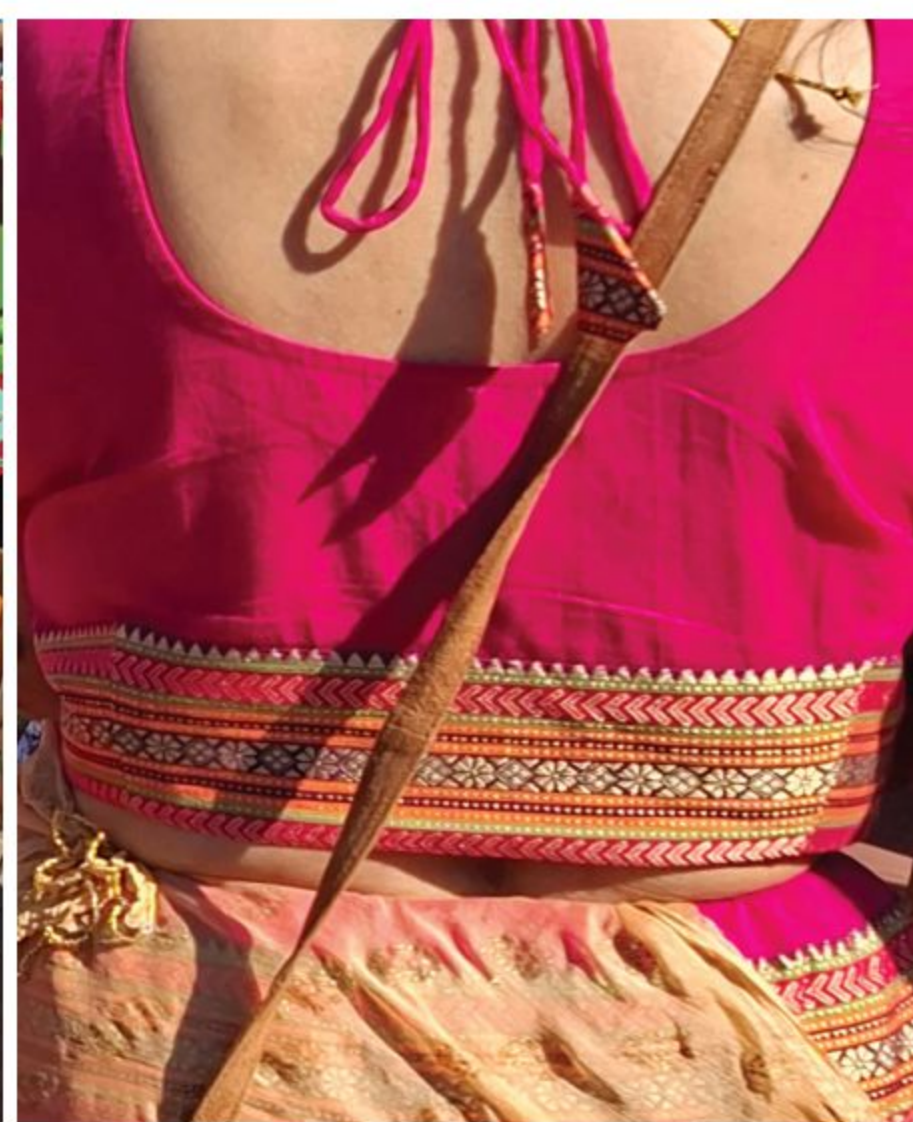
open fire nourish 100 pensioners — five to six times a week. He has also been introduced to a small, determined group in Shakashead caring for 160 disabled people. Rex is stretching every resource to feed at least 50 of them weekly. Together, the initiative already produces around 600 meals every week. But the need is greater than ever, and Rex cannot do it alone.

Will you be part of the miracle? Chop vegetables. Donate produce. Come and serve alongside Rex — children are welcome. Every pair of hands, every bag of carrots, every hour given means another plate of food for someone who has nothing.

Contact Rex: 082 555 4492
www.adca.co.za. Every Wednesday, 8am — ADCA Centre, Umhlali.



Rex and his volunteers produce around 600 meals every week



Where the Sacred Meets the Shore: Durban's Festival of Chariots

Every Easter on Durban's North Beach promenade, the air fills with the sound of drums and devotional singing, towering chariots draped in flowers begin to move, and the line between the sacred and the spectacular dissolves entirely. It is the Ratha Yatra, the Festival of Chariots — and for those who witness it, it is one of the most breath taking celebrations on the South African calendar.

This Easter, thousands gathered along the KwaZulu-Natal beachfront to take part in this extraordinary tradition. What made this year especially poignant was the rare convergence of sacred time across faiths: as Hindu devotees pulled the

chariots of Lord Jagannatha along the promenade, Christians marked the resurrection of Christ, Muslims observed days of reflection, and Buddhists engaged in their own spiritual commemorations. For a few shining days, Durban became a living testament to the beauty of a city where diversity is not merely tolerated but genuinely celebrated.

To understand why Ratha Yatra holds such a special place in KwaZulu-Natal, one must look back to the Indian indentured labourers who arrived on Natal's shores from 1860 onwards. They came with little more than the clothes on their backs and the faith in their hearts, planting the seeds of a culture that would take

root and flourish on South African soil. The festival itself originates in the holy city of Puri in India, where millions gather to witness the chariots of Lord Jagannatha drawn through the streets. Durban first hosted its own version at the beachfront in 1988, under the vision of ISKCON leader Indradyumna Swami. Today it draws over 200,000 visitors across four days, making it one of the largest Ratha Yatra festivals in the world outside of India.

The procession itself is unforgettable. Three fifteen-metre-high chariots, adorned with cascading flowers and richly embroidered canopies, are pulled by hand by hundreds of singing,

dancing devotees dressed in vibrant silks and cottons. The sound — drums, cymbals, voices lifted in ancient kirtan — washes over the crowd. Spectators of every background line the promenade, drawn together by something that transcends religion: the simple, irresistible power of beauty offered openly to all.

When the chariots move, they carry more than deities. They carry the memory of a people who held on to what was precious about their heritage and passed it on, until it could bloom into something that now belongs to all of KwaZulu-Natal. The chariots will return next Easter. They always do.



Anathi Simamane with Sanele Manyisa

A Heart That Gives What It Doesn't Have

Sanele Manyisa has nothing; and gives everything.

Unemployed, yet he founded a non-profit to serve the underprivileged children of his community. Without steady funding, he dips into his own empty pockets to provide care, dignity, and hope. As winter closes in, he's fighting to put warm school jerseys on the backs of children who face biting cold without complaint, because no child should shiver their way through a school day.

But Sanele's heart doesn't stop there.

He spotted Anathi Simamane,

a 16-year-old girl from Hambanathi Township, Tongaat, and recognised talent in a swimmer where others saw only struggle. Born in 2009, Anathi has been cutting through the water since age six. Her coaches saw her gift and then moved on. Her family can't afford coaching, swimming gear, or competition fees. She's a Grade 11 learner at Nkosibomvu Secondary School, training on determination alone.

Sanele is asking for help he'll never ask for himself. A little goes a long way. Will you answer?

Call Sanele on his cell 067 160 5382.

CBK MOTORS

We Pay Top Cash Prices for Cars and Scooters

Any make, Any Model!

We come to you

We will beat any written quote if its a car or scooter we want.

Call us on 076 659 0675 or visit us at the corner of Garlick Drive and PheZulu Drive, Ballito

Terms & Condition apply. E&OE

"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow." By Unknown

Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

The Market Is Evolving It Is Changing Who Is Buying and Why



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



R2 950 000 **EXCLUSIVE MANDATE**
87 KING SHAKA ESTATE, LA MERCY
3 Beds | 2 Baths | 2 Garages
Beautiful Home with Sea Views

Perfectly positioned on an elevated hillside, this elegant and light-filled contemporary home offers effortless living with sweeping ocean views that stretch all the way to Durban Harbour. Designed for comfort and convenience, the home is entirely on one level with no internal stairs, creating a seamless flow throughout the living spaces. At the heart of the home is a sleek modern kitchen with contemporary finishes that connect with the open plan living areas

Mellini Naidoo
074 788 5665
mellini.naidoo@seeff.com

WEB REF: RLS999128
northcoast.seeff.com

032 940 5005 | northcoast@seeff.com



There is an interesting change happening in the North Coast property market right now. On one hand, agents will tell you about quieter weeks, more selective buyers, and deals that take longer to conclude. On the other hand, well-positioned homes in the right estates are still selling, often quietly and sometimes quickly, with no obvious rhyme or reason.

This begs the question: is the market slowing down, or is something else happening beneath the surface that we are not paying enough attention to?

The market is not simply slowing or accelerating. It is becoming more intentional. And once you shift the question from what the market is doing to who is buying, and why they are buying, everything starts to make more sense.

Today's buyers are not driven by one factor. They are balancing lifestyle, affordability, security, access to specific amenities and long-term value — each with very different priorities.

The first group is the lifestyle-driven buyer. They are not just purchasing a property; they are buying a way of life. Security estates, coastal access, family environments, and space have become primary drivers. For this buyer, estates such as Zimbali Estate, Simbithi Eco-Estate, Dunkirk Estate and Brettenwood Coastal Estate are not simply locations; they are lifestyle decisions, each with its own set of compelling reasons that make it desirable.

Then there is the value-conscious buyer. This group is closely watching interest rates, monthly repayments, levies, and the total cost of ownership. They are active in the market, but cautious. They will act decisively when the value is clear, but equally, they will delay if the numbers do not align. This behaviour creates longer decision cycles and more negotiation in the mid-market. Seaward Estates and Palm Lakes Estate provide excellent value for this type of buyer.

A third group is the long-term positioner. These buyers are less reactive and more strategic. They are buying into growth corridors such as Seaton Estate and Zululami Luxury Coastal Estate, or new emerging specialist estates offering semi-rural smallholdings. These buyers' focus is not just on today's value, but future potential and development upside over the next decade. These buyers are patient and like the idea of locking in the early mover equity.

All three buyer groups exist simultaneously, yet behave very differently. This is why one property can attract immediate attention, while another in a similar price bracket remains on the market longer than expected.

Overlaying all of this is a global shift. Remote and hybrid working have removed traditional location constraints. Buyers are no longer forced to live where they work, but are choosing where they want to live. Naturally, this continues to support coastal regions like the North Coast, where lifestyle and infrastructure intersect. The future could see foreign buyers flock to the North Coast once they discover the Ballito lifestyle.

At the same time, the cost of ownership has become a far more important consideration. Electricity, levies, security, and maintenance all form part of the real monthly picture, not just the purchase price.

Estate agents are no longer just about marketing a home and hoping for a result. It is about understanding buyer psychology and aligning the right buyer with the right property. A lifestyle buyer responds differently to a value-driven buyer, and an investor makes decisions on entirely different criteria. When that alignment is correct, properties sell, sometimes quickly and quietly. When it is not, even well-priced homes can remain on the market longer than expected.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



THE LAW DESK
FAWZIA KHAN & ASSOCIATES

GIVING YOU THE POWER OF ATTORNEY
EST 1991

- ATTORNEYS
- CONVEYANCERS
- NOTARIES
- MEDIATORS

When a Sick Note Turns Into a Showdown: *Employer Pushes Too Far*

On 23 April 2026, the Western Cape Labour Court delivered its judgement in a case involving constructive dismissal and it didn't mince its words: saying that sometimes, an employer's conduct doesn't just cross the line — it obliterates the employment relationship altogether.

At the centre of this case was an employee who was dealing with serious mental health challenges — stress, anxiety, and depression. She submitted a valid medical certificate confirming she was unfit for work. That's where things started to unravel. Instead of handling the situation responsibly, the employer questioned the legitimacy of the medical certificate and accused her of dishonesty and malingering. It also backtracked on initially accepting her medical explanation and withheld most of her salary. Most importantly, it failed to investigate the medical evidence at all. The Court found that this was not a one-off incident but a pattern of dismissive and hostile conduct. The employee filed a claim with the CCMA of constructive dismissal. The employer tried to fight back, arguing that the situation wasn't "intolerable" and that the employee should've filed a formal grievance instead of resigning. However the Court wasn't buying it. Why? Because reality matters more than

technicalities.

The employee had already tried to resolve things directly with senior management. Nothing changed. The accusations stuck. The salary stayed withheld. The trust? Completely shattered. At that point, expecting the employee to jump through more internal hoops was unrealistic — and the Court said exactly that. The Court emphasised that this didn't happen in isolation. It found that before the sick note dispute, there had already been a breakdown in communication. The employer had terminated remote working arrangements and the employment relationship was already fragile.

From the employee's side the court found that she did try to fix the relationship with her employer. She engaged directly with senior management and tried to resolve the dispute informally, but the employer dug in its heels. The accusations remained and the salary issue wasn't fixed. The employer also tried to slice the situation into neat little compartments, saying it was just a salary dispute. The Court rejected that argument and made it clear that you don't get to isolate one issue when the real problem is a pattern of conduct. The withheld salary wasn't separate; it was part of the bigger breakdown. The Court said this clearly: expecting her to then file a

formal grievance was unrealistic in those circumstances. From the Court's perspective, resignation wasn't a choice — it was the only reasonable option left.

And then came the big legal test: would another court likely come to a different conclusion? Not could — would. That's a high bar. The employer didn't even come close.

The Court held firm: the conduct, taken as a whole, made continued employment intolerable. Even the argument that the resignation was "pre-planned" fell flat. The employee only secured new work after leaving. It's important for employers to recognise the need to tread very carefully when dealing with medical issues. Jumping to accusations, ignoring evidence, and playing hardball with pay doesn't just damage morale — it can legally justify an employee walking out and claiming constructive dismissal. In the end, the employer's application for leave to appeal was dismissed. No costs order. The message was clear: Treat your employees fairly — or be prepared to lose, decisively.

The Law Desk of Fawzia Khan & Associates! Established 1991. * Strategy* Integrity* Results Giving YOU the Power of Attorney. Email fawzia@thelawdesk.co.za or call 031-5025670 for legal assistance at competitive rates.



THE LAW DESK
FAWZIA KHAN & ASSOCIATES

GIVING YOU THE POWER OF ATTORNEY
EST 1991

ATTORNEYS • CONVEYANCERS • NOTARIES
MEDIATORS

Coastal Building, 2 Flanders Drive, Mount Edgecombe

With over 30 years of legal practice, we offer a full-house and personalised legal service. Together we will chart a resolution to help you achieve an expeditious, cost-effective workable solution to your

legal matter. We explore all options available to you including mediation, negotiation and litigation and arbitration. We are accredited mediators and members of the KZN Society of Mediators.

Trust us with your Business, Labour, Commercial, Civil, Property, Family Law and Litigation matters.

Give us a call on 031 - 502 5670 or email fawzia@thelawdesk.co.za for excellent legal representation in your legal matters.

THE ALL-NEW SUZUKI SWIFT SPACE...
WHERE COMPACT MEETS COMFORT

4 YEAR OR 60 000KM SERVICE PLAN!
5 YEAR OR 200 000KM WARRANTY



SMART, SPACIOUS DESIGN
FUEL-FRIENDLY AND COST-EFFECTIVE
YOUR PARTNER TO SMALL BUSINESS DONE RIGHT!

SUZUKI SWIFT
SPACE 1.2 PANEL VAN

NOW **R199 900**
EX VAT

CMH SUZUKI | www.cmhsuzuki.co.za
Ts & Cs Apply



The Little Van That Means Business From CMH Suzuki Ballito

If you've ever driven a Suzuki Swift, you already know the feeling. That grin. That confidence. That sense that this little car was made specifically for you. Now imagine that same Swift energy, but put to work.

The Suzuki Swift Space Panel Van takes everything we love about the Swift and channels it into one seriously clever compact commercial. Agile enough to slice through Ballito's coastal traffic, practical enough to carry your business forward, and cool enough that you won't mind being seen in it. That's a rare trifecta in the working vehicle world.

With a fuel-sipping 1.2-litre engine, a smartly reconfigured cargo interior, and that unmistakable Swift stance, this little panel van punches so far above its weight class it's almost unfair to the competition.

But the Swift Space Panel Van is just

one chapter in CMH Suzuki Ballito's commercial story. The legendary Suzuki Super Carry continues to be the heartbeat of small businesses across KZN, a tough, dependable little workhorse that refuses to let you down. Then there's the Suzuki Eeco, the people-and-payload champion that makes every kilometre count whether you're hauling stock or staff.

Three vehicles. Three smart solutions. One address on the North Coast.

Whether you're just starting out or scaling up, CMH Suzuki Ballito has a commercial option sized exactly right for where your business is going. Delivery available nationwide, finance options available, and a team that actually gets excited about helping you find the right fit.

Come see us. The Swift groupies are waiting. Call them on 031 001 9965 or visit 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito and get your VAT back.

Rambling In A Renault Kiger

By: Tomas Yoko



The Renault Kiger offers buyers value, comfort and everyday usability wrapped up in French style

Meet the All-New JMC Vigus

By: Tomas Yoko

Priced from R399 900, the Vigus arrives as a credible, value-packed double cab that refuses to be ignored



Meet the team bringing you the new JMC Vigus bakkie range, on the left is Sales Manager Anusha Harilal 079 622 4576 and then Sales Executives Donovan Govender 083 881 9478 and Vinay Roopchand 079 622 4576, hi will gladly get you behind the wheel of a JMC

Anusha was beaming with anticipation over the latest JMC bakkie to arrive at Bidvest McCarthy JMC Umhlanga Ridge. As the proud face of JMC at this trusted North Coast dealership, she's bringing something genuinely exciting to KZN's bakkie-loving community: the all-new JMC Vigus, and it means serious business.

Priced from R399 900, the Vigus arrives as a credible, value-packed double cab that refuses to be ignored. Under the bonnet sits a 2.5-

litre turbo diesel producing 123kW and a muscular 430Nm of torque, with the kind of low-end grunt that makes light work of both the school run and the job site. Fuel consumption comes in at a claimed 7.0L/100km, which is genuinely impressive for a bakkie of this capability.

Inside, a floating 12.8-inch touchscreen with wireless CarPlay and Android Auto sets the tone for a cabin that punches well above its price point. Best-in-class rear dimensions and a flat centre tunnel mean passengers aren't

an afterthought either.

A BorgWarner 4WD system with 4L low-range and optional rear differential lock ensures the Vigus is no urban-only softie. This thing will get down and dirty when you need it to.

Backed by the reliability of the Bidvest McCarthy name and guided by Anusha's passion for the JMC brand, Umhlanga Ridge just became the most interesting place to shop for a bakkie in KZN. Go say hello, they are at 2- 11 Sunset Close, Umhlanga Ridge.

I climbed into the Renault Kiger with modest expectations and climbed out quietly impressed, which is often the best way a test drive can end. This compact crossover doesn't shout for attention, it just gets on with the job, and does so with a surprising amount of confidence.

On the road, the Kiger felt light on its feet, easy to place and unimposing, which makes it ideal for urban duty. The steering is friendly rather than sporty, but accurate enough to thread through traffic without drama. Out on faster roads the Kiger settled nicely, holding its line with more composure than its size would suggest. The ride quality is one of its strongest cards. The Kiger absorbed rough patches with a shrug, reminding you that Renault understands suspension tuning very well indeed.

Power delivery is sensible rather than spicy, but that's exactly the point. The engine feels eager enough around town and relaxed on longer stretches, making it an easy companion rather than a demanding one. It's a car that encourages calm

driving and rewards it with excellent fuel efficiency.

Inside, the Kiger punches above its weight. The cabin is practical, well laid out and refreshingly honest. Everything is where you expect it to be, with decent infotainment, usable space and a sizeable boot.

The Renault Kiger doesn't try to be a hot hatch or a luxury SUV. Instead, it plays the role of a clever, capable all-rounder exceptionally well. For buyers who want value, comfort and everyday usability wrapped in a bit of style, this little Renault makes a very strong case for itself.

ROAD REPORT | By Tomas Yoko

VW Tayron 1.4 TSI Life DSG



The Volkswagen Taeron doesn't leave a lot to be desired, packed with tech and spec, this is a desirable SUV

Big Family, Small Engine, Zero Apologies. Volkswagen has pulled off something rather cheeky with their new Tayron. They've squeezed a 1.4-litre turbocharged heart into what is, frankly, a proper grown-up seven-seater SUV — and somehow convinced it to behave like it has something to prove.

Dressed in Nightshade Blue Metallic (a colour that shifts from brooding navy to something almost cinematic under KZN's coastal light), our test unit arrived loaded with enough tech to make a NASA engineer quietly impressed. The IQ Drive package brings Travel Assist, lane change

monitoring, area view cameras and proactive passenger protection, essentially a co-pilot who never complains about the radio.

Under the bonnet, 110kW and a meaty 250Nm arrive fashionably early at just 1 500rpm, paired to VW's silky 7-speed DSG. The sprint to 100km/h takes 9.2 seconds, respectably brisk for something that seats seven and swallows 850 litres of luggage with the rearmost row folded flat. Top speed is 207km/h, though your passengers will have opinions about that.

The panoramic sunroof turns every school run into something

resembling a mild safari. The electric tailgate opens with a wave of your foot. And the Discover Pro navigation system means you'll actually arrive where you intended, which in KZN traffic is genuinely revolutionary.

Fuel consumption sits at a claimed 7.6L/100km, which is believable if you leave the DSG to its own devices.

Three-year warranty, five-year service plan. VW hasn't forgotten the paperwork either.

The Tayron isn't trying to be flashy. It simply gets everything quietly, competently right. Which, in this segment, is the flashiest thing of all.

Ford's Got a New Territory

At CMH Ford Ballito



The new Territory has landed at CMH Ford Ballito, you can test drive it from their showroom at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito

The all-new 2026 Ford Territory has arrived on the North Coast, and the team at CMH Ford Ballito is thrilled to introduce it to you. Ford has taken one of their most celebrated family SUVs and refined it beautifully,

delivering a vehicle that feels fresh, confident and more accomplished than ever before.

Let's start with the face. Ford has chiselled, sculpted and refined the Territory's front grill, adding redesigned

LED "Laser" headlights, a wider grille and two new paint options including the rather intriguing Cactus Grey and Oasis Green. Yes, Oasis Green. We didn't name it, but we respect it. Inside, families are treated to a

genuinely generous space with class-leading shoulder room, a flat rear floor, a 448-litre boot that stretches to 1,422 litres with seats folded, and dual 12.3-inch screens anchoring a cabin that feels considerably more premium than its price tag suggests. Wireless CarPlay, Android Auto, Arkamys 3D Audio and Ford App connectivity round out a tech package that'll keep even the most

demanding back-seat critics quietly impressed. Power comes from a 1.8-litre EcoBoost producing 138kW and 318Nm, paired to a 7-speed dual-clutch gearbox with four drive modes including,

brilliantly, a Mountain mode for when the Ballito traffic gets truly feral.

The Territory also comes wrapped in Ford's Family Promise, covering a 4-year/120 000km warranty, 6-year service plan and roadside assistance. Peace of mind, properly packaged.

Speaking of community, CMH Ford Ballito recently proved once again how their local love runs deep by sponsoring the Umhlali Primary School's 1st team rugby squad. Because raising the next generation of Springboks is at least as important as selling SUVs.

Come see the new Territory at CMH Ford Ballito. Your family deserves it. So does your driveway. Call them on 087 723 9278.



A show of strength at the tri line on what is now home turf for CMH Ford Ballito with their sponsorship of the rugby team from Umhlali Primary School



CMH FORD BALLITO

INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW FORD TERRITORY

With 12.3 inch Floating Integrated Smart Screen
ARKAMYS Audio sound effect
Heated and Cooled seats
New HMI Appearance



STARTING FROM
R498 900 Incl VAT

**SAVE
R36 000**

BUILT WILD. REFINED X FORD RANGER

2.0 BI-TURBO WILDTRAK X
DOUBLE CAB 4WD 10AT



FROM
R969 900 Incl VAT

**SAVE
R91 600**

*Terms and Conditions Apply. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. Prices subject to Ford Credit Finance and includes New vehicle Warranties E&OE



CMH FORD BALLITO | 087 723 9278
35 - 37 Moffat Drive, Ballito | www.fordballito.co.za

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure." By Unknown

The KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board Maritime Centre of Excellence (KZNSB) was established in 1964, strives to be a leader in environmentally sensitive protection of bathers against sharks and capacity building in the maritime sector.

KZNSB safeguards 37 beaches on the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) coastline with shark safety gear owned and maintained by the KZNSB. The organisation positions itself as “The Only Organisation of its Kind in the World. The organisation has achieved distinguished accomplishments in its existence, defining the organisations successes towards achieving its’ mission.

SHARK DISSECTION AND AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION

KZNSB offers a dynamic audio-visual presentation. Although the 26 minutes presentation is designed to entertain, it is also educational, providing information on subjects such as the sensory biology of sharks and their role as top predators in the marine environment. The show is followed by a shark dissection where you can see the internal anatomy of one of the ocean’s most feared predators, “SHARK”

SHOW TIMES Tuesday to Thursday: 09:00am and 04:00pm. First Sunday of the month at 14:00pm.

BOAT TRIPS

There are also boat trips to venture out to sea to watch the shark safety gear off Durban’s Golden Mile. Boat trips lasting for an estimated two hours. We leave Wilson’s Wharf at 06:30 and this includes opportunistic viewing of marine life including seabirds and get to see the beautiful, magnificent Moses Mabhida Stadium.

SHARK MUSEUM Get a chance to view the large variety of life-like replicas of sharks, as well as other marine animals.

CURIO SHOP You can browse around the Curio Shop where a treasure chest of unusual and stylish gifts awaits you, including handcrafted ornaments, T-shirts, Caps, leather goods and jewellery and shark tooth necklaces etc.

VENUE HIRE

The KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board Maritime Centre of Excellence is in the affluent residential, commercial and resort town of Umhlanga in the north of Durban. The Venue is not too far from the King Shaka International Airport. The venue offers a versatile auditorium of 19m x 19m that can accommodate reception/party seating of minimum 160 guests and maximum 300 guests. Presentation: Seating cinema style up to 300 people. The hall hire comes standard with:

Exclusive use of the venue and an exquisite outside location to consider for use at no extra costs

- Armless chairs
- Tables
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Secure parking
- Cleaning staff
- Security
- We are ideally situated close to the freeway: with access to and from the N2 and M4

Bookings: (031) 566 0435 for Dissection Shows, 082 403 9206 for Boat Trips, (031) 566 0462 for Hall Hire or visit our website: www.shark.co.za

