

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

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SPARKS FLY IN UMHLANGA

Jameel Motors South Africa officially opens the Changan Umhlanga flagship dealership at 60 Meridian Drive, marking a landmark moment for Chinese automotive ambition on the KZN North Coast. Present at the ribbon cutting ceremony was a large delegation from Changan Motors as well as Jameel motors including Hasan S. Al-Alami, Senior Managing Director, Jameel Motors Africa and Jasmine Wong, CEO, Jameel Motors

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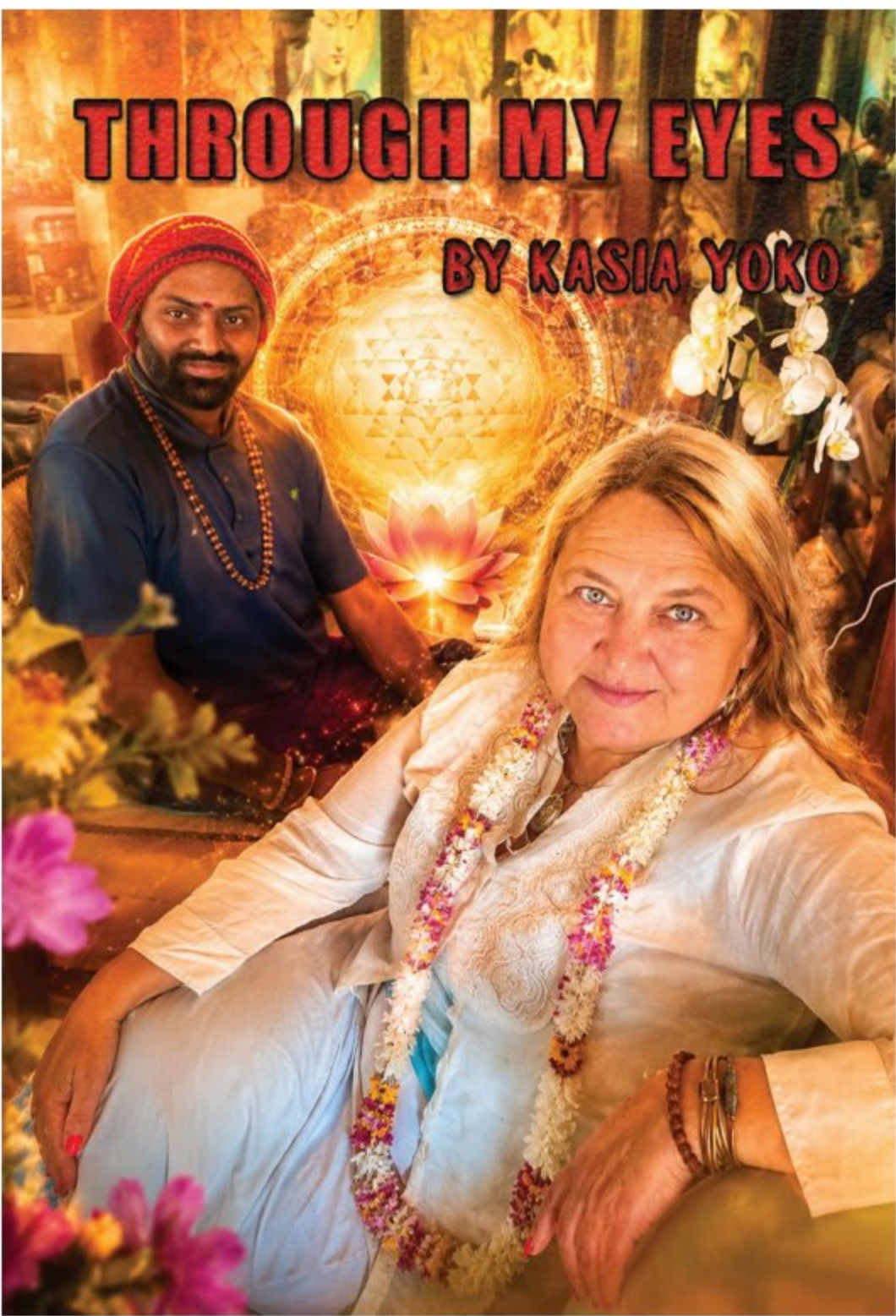
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The Man with the Dreadlocks Who Read My Soul

I have had my cards read. I have had my palm traced by strangers at markets. I have sat across from women who burned incense and spoke in hushed, theatrical tones about what the universe had to say about me. And I left each time feeling vaguely entertained, mildly curious, and ultimately - unchanged.

Then I met Guru Jay.

He is from Verulam, and he is not what you expect. There is no theatre with this man. What draws you first is the physical - those floor-length dreadlocks, gathered up into a magnificent bun at the back of his head, unhurried and unassuming, like he has been carrying them - and the wisdom inside them - for lifetimes. There is a stillness about him that you feel before he has even opened his mouth.

He prepared an astrological

chart for me. Not just a Western birth chart - a full soul map. Western astrology, Vedic astrology, Chinese astrology, numerology, house-by-house, planet-by-planet, past-life indicators and all. I am a Scorpio Sun, Pisces Moon, Aries Rising. I have known this for years. What I did not know - what nobody had ever told me - is what it actually means to carry all of that together, at once, in one body, in one life.

Guru Jay's reading did not flatter me. It told me the truth. It said I have spent a lifetime building armour over a heart that feels everything, that I have a recurring wound around my own worth and my right to simply be without justifying my existence through productivity. It named the financial struggles. It named the intensity in love that terrifies even me sometimes. It said, without

flinching, that I was born in a place - Oswiecim - that carries collective grief in its very soil, and that this is not coincidental for a soul like mine.

I sat with that for a long time.

But here is the thing about Guru Jay's gift - and it is a genuine gift, not a performance - he does not leave you in the wound. He shows you where the gold is buried inside it. My Moon in Pisces in the 12th house, conjunct my North Node, means my sensitivity is not my weakness. It is the instrument my soul chose for this work. My Life Path 11, the Illuminator. My Mercury conjunct Neptune, the visionary mind that knows before it knows why it knows.

For the first time in my 56 years, I did not read my intensity as a problem to be managed. I read it as a design.

This is what Guru Jay does. He does not just read planets. He reads the architecture of a soul and hands you back a version of yourself that makes sense - not in a comfortable, easy way, but in the way that truth is always more comforting than a flattering lie.

I walked away from that reading lighter. Clearer. Anchored in something I cannot fully name but can absolutely feel.

If you have ever looked at your life and thought there must be a pattern here, there must be a reason - go find this man. Go sit with Guru Jay from Verulam, watch him untie that bun, and let him show you what the stars have always known about you.

Some people read the sky. Guru Jay reads you. WhatsApp for an appointment or remote reading, 079 762 5985.

Dear Editor,

Re: Is Xenophobia Really the Answer to Durban's Economic and Social Decline?

As Durban once again finds itself in the headlines for all the wrong reasons, one must ask a simple question: how exactly does blaming foreigners solve any of South Africa's problems?

Recent media reports have

highlighted growing tensions, protests, violence, looting, and the displacement of migrant families in Durban and elsewhere. Foreign nationals are increasingly being blamed for unemployment, crime, poor service delivery, and economic hardship. Yet these are challenges that existed long before the latest wave of anti-immigrant sentiment.

The reality is that South Africa's economic struggles stem from decades of corruption, failing infrastructure,

poor governance, and a lack of sustainable economic growth. Driving out immigrants will not repair potholes, keep the lights on, create jobs, or improve municipal services.

History has repeatedly shown that xenophobia comes at a heavy cost. Businesses are destroyed, investors lose confidence, tourism suffers, and South Africa's reputation across the continent is damaged. Several neighbouring countries have already begun repatriating their citizens due

to safety concerns, while reports suggest that South African businesses and artists are facing backlash elsewhere in Africa.

Many foreign nationals operate small businesses, employ local people, pay rent, buy goods, and contribute to economic activity. Studies of previous outbreaks of xenophobic violence in Durban found that the resulting fear and instability harmed both formal and informal sectors of the economy.

South Africans have every right to

demand effective border management and lawful immigration processes. However, frustration must be directed towards finding solutions, not creating new victims.

Xenophobia is not an economic strategy. It is a distraction from the real issues that require courage, leadership, accountability, and meaningful reform.

**Dave Weiss
Durban North**

Dear Editor,

Re: The fight is not over

The ongoing debate around the Beachwood Coastal Estate development highlights a challenge facing many communities across South Africa: how do we balance economic growth with environmental protection and the interests of existing

residents?

No one can deny that Durban needs investment, job creation and renewed confidence in our local economy. Large-scale developments have the potential to attract investors, improve infrastructure and contribute significantly to municipal revenue. At a time when many South Africans are struggling, these opportunities cannot simply be ignored.

However, the concerns raised by Durban North residents deserve equal consideration. Thousands of objections have reportedly been lodged over fears of environmental degradation, increased traffic, pressure on infrastructure, loss of green space and the gradual exclusion of ordinary residents from an area they have long called home.

What troubles many people is the growing perception that public participation processes are becoming little more than

administrative exercises. When residents invest time and energy in voicing concerns, they need to feel that they are genuinely being heard, even if final decisions do not go their way. Trust in local government depends on transparency and meaningful engagement.

Durban's future should not be framed as a choice between development and conservation. A world-class city can achieve both. Sustainable development should protect sensitive ecosystems, preserve

public spaces and ensure that economic benefits extend beyond a privileged few.

As the court process unfolds, one hopes that all parties will remember that the real issue is not simply a golf course or a luxury estate. It is about the kind of city we want to leave for future generations - one that values progress, but not at any cost.

**Yours sincerely,
Mark Dlamini
Durban North**

Dear Editor,

Re: On-going eThekweni Municipality Woes

Recently, as in various dark periods in the past - but during democracy-photocopiers in eThekweni Municipality libraries have regrettably become 'ornamental'. They are non-functional due to non-availability of paper and/or toner. This has negatively impacted the public, notably learners in all 3 tiers re printing and photocopying etc. Note there are scores of such libraries metro-wide and many have been affected by this shortcoming.

Durban's mayor C Xaba and City Manager TB Mbhele, as political and administrative heads respectively, are overall accountable for this debacle. The matter must be urgently attended to by rectifying supply chain processes and shaking up relevant staff so that this sad state of affairs does not repeat itself. Where sirs are consequence management? Who then is fooling whom at eThekweni?

The municipality's prime

constitutional obligation is the provision of effective and timeous service delivery. Time and again the city has failed miserably in this regard so that this 'abnormal normal' has become the normal. The on-going water crises over many years and to date, constant power outages, faulty traffic signals, countless potholes, filth, litter, overgrowth and illegal trading, inter alia, speak volumes for the city's gross incompetence. Furthermore arrogance abounds as the pleas of the ratepayers, business and others fall on deaf ears. Even some court orders not have been complied with.

The Mayor and City Manager have proved to be serial underperformers.

They have an obligation to ensure that both councillors - elected and non elected- and staff from the highest to the lowest levels perform required functions capably. We don't seek favours but request and require acceptable, effective and timeous service delivery. Staff and councillors have lucrative market related and above remuneration packages and must in return capably fulfil their job descriptions and requirements.

Thankfully there will be local government elections nationally on

2026-11-04. Please electorate make your valuable marks wisely. Learn from bitter lessons of the past 30 years. By voting prudently long overdue change will become a reality and a new era of competence credibility and positivity can be ushered in.

Then incompetence, lies, corruption, nepotism and false promises etc will be a thing of the past. The Durban metro has been led by the ANC for 3 decades and the party has proven to be dismal failures for most of the time. It has had some political giants and genuine peoples' people who graced the councils.

Durban must be restored to its pristine former glory. Mayor and City Manager are respectfully reminded that recently the council passed a record R75,3 billion budget. This demands that they and all under them must act in a professional and capable manner, with good example displayed by the leadership and executives, so that the city is properly managed and people are held accountable. Running the city, the only metro in KZN, as if they are operating a spaza shop or cheap flea market is not on.

**Simon T Dehal
Verulam**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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THE BAKKIE THAT REWROTE THE RULES

South Africans have a relationship with the double cab that borders on spiritual. It is identity, utility, and weekend adventure rolled into one rugged package. Which is precisely why the Changan Hunter REEV K50 is such an interesting proposition. It doesn't ask you to compromise any of that. It simply adds something nobody saw coming.

The Hunter REEV pairs dual electric motors, fed by a 31.18 kWh lithium-iron phosphate battery, with a 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol engine that functions purely as an onboard generator. Total system output is 200 kW and 470 Newton metres. In a bakkie. Let that settle for a moment.

Out on the dirt, the K50 brings a 220-millimetre ground clearance, an approach angle of 29 degrees, a departure angle of 26 degrees, a water wading depth of 600 millimetres, three locking differentials, and ten driving modes. It is, by any honest measure, properly equipped for the rough stuff.

But here is where it gets genuinely exciting. When you put your foot down off-road, the electric motors deliver their torque instantly, completely, and without drama. No waiting for a turbo, no hunting for gears. Just immediate, authoritative pull out of the mud, sand, or whatever the trail throws at you. The 0 to 100 kilometre per hour sprint takes 7.8 seconds, which is brisk for something this size and this capable. It is nimble as.

A claimed electric-only range of 145 kilometres and a combined range of 1,000 kilometres mean range anxiety simply is not part of this conversation.

The Hunter K50 REEV needs to be driven to be understood. Fortunately, Changan Umhlanga, the newly opened dealership bringing this bold Chinese-European engineering collaboration to the North Coast, is ready and waiting.

Go and drive one. You will not regret it. Changan Umhlanga, Jameel Motors, 60 Meridian Drive. Contact them on 031 822 8980 to book your test drive.



More than a pretty face, the Changan Hunter K50 Reev is a formidable contender in the double cab arena. That electric acceleration is something to experience, take one for a test drive at your earliest convenience

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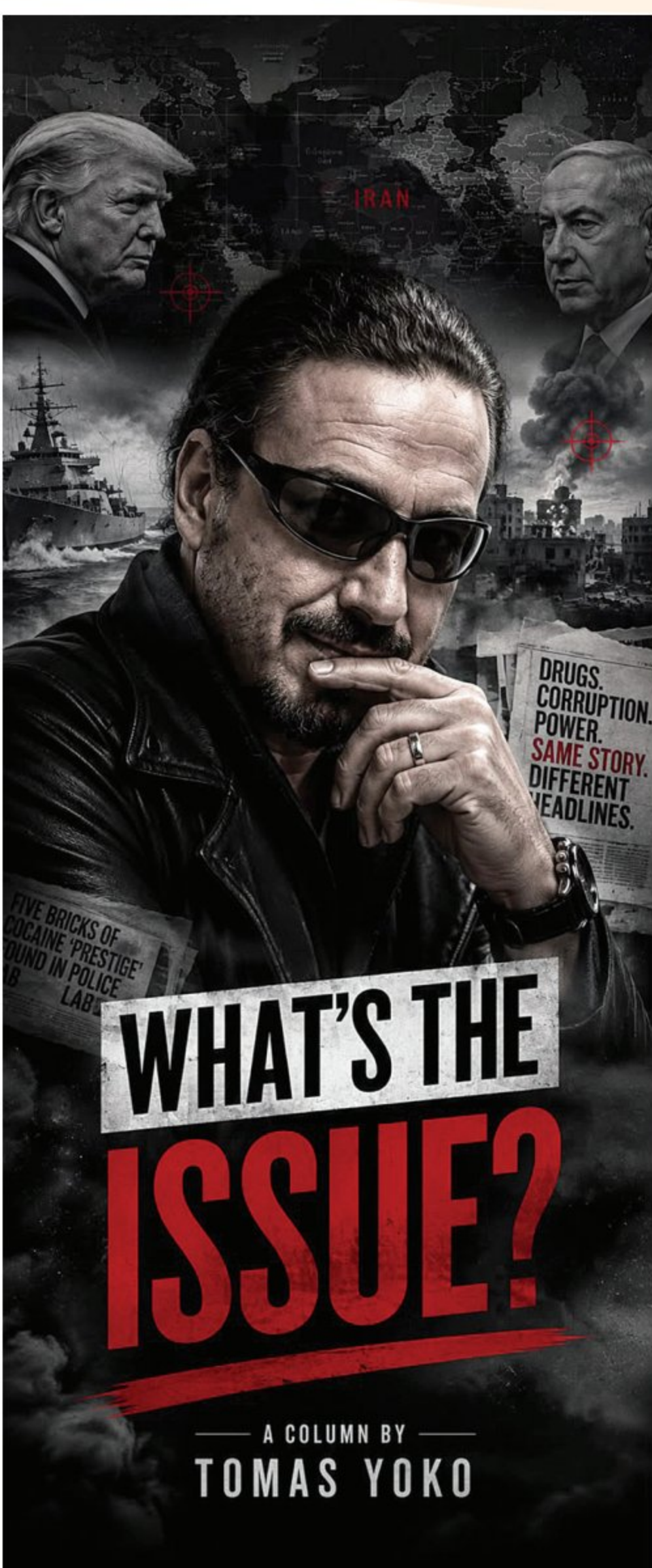
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"We are shaped by our thoughts; we become what we think. When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves." By Buddha



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

THE WORLD IS ON FIRE. LITERALLY, FIGURATIVELY, AND IN A FEW CASES, GEOPOLITICALLY. GRAB A CHAIR. THIS ONE HAS LAYERS.

Let us begin with the most insidious couple of our age, Donald and Bibi. One runs the most powerful nation on earth. The other runs what remains of international law's credibility, which at this point fits comfortably in a carry-on bag. Benjamin Netanyahu has redefined the term cease fire as something that happens to other people, while the UN Security Council, the G7, the Human Rights Council, and every acronym in between watch with the paralysed horror of a bystander, or the knowing silence of an enabler, who has convinced himself it is not his problem. History will not be kind. History rarely is, when the photographs exist.

Meanwhile, Trump's war with Iran persists with devastating effects on the

world's economy. Bibi doing everything in his power to show Donald that he is the lap dog in the relationship. Donald keeping the illusion going that he can control Bibi at all, the Iranian leadership exercising unbearable constraint ad Bibi bombs Lebanon on and on and on. Donald could put a stop to it, but he is not in control, so he can't. Same problem in Ukraine, Donald doesn't have the power to stop the war Joe Biden started, the mad German Chancellor, abused Macron and whomever it is that leads England now, think that NATO can overcome Russia, they are pushing for war like addicts looking for a desperate fix.

Keir Starmer finally resigned as British Prime Minister yesterday, what a blessing, becoming the sixth occupant of

Downing Street to exit through the back door in seven years. A man who won a landslide in 2024 and lasted less than two years has to beg some questions.

The new guy, Andy, promises renewal but after his comments on Israel, it looks like they will get what RT calls "Stamerism without Starmer". I wonder if the rape gangs will be slowed or the boats stopped?

Back home, the Madlanga Commission is providing South Africans with the kind of theatre no streaming platform could manufacture. Five bricks of cocaine, branded "Prestige" with a crown symbol, being weighed on camera, with a WhatsApp message attached reading "get me a good price." The respondent in question is connected to our senior police structures. The suspended

national police commissioner faces criminal charges alongside a suspected cartel member, and R55 million worth of cocaine has gone missing from a forensic science laboratory where it was supposedly being securely stored.

Prestige. Crown symbol. In a country where Cyril Ramaphosa continues to dodge an impeachment process while Jacob and Julius quietly measure him up for an orange jump suit.

The pattern, if you are looking for one, is straightforward. The people entrusted to uphold the law are running the drugs. The people trusted to stop the wars are profiting from them. The people elected to serve are serving themselves.

Same issue. Different month. Different continent. Same result.

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

"Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognize how good things really are," By Marianne Williamson

By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban



It's Saturday morning. I'm in the kitchen making oat biscuits for the week. As the price of food escalates, I am increasingly drawn to making my own goodies at home. Juices. Quiche. Cakes. I tried to make rotis but they emerged from the pan harder than a discus.

As I gently caress the butter and flour and roll the oats, Proust like, it stirs an instinctive memory of my childhood. 26 Redcross Street, a redbrick, terraced house, where my grandparents lived. I jog my mum's memory. At age 92, the whatsapp starts to rattle into life, reeling off the delicious fare held in all our memories.

Grandma Rushby's pantry was like entering a wonderland – shelves stacked. On the left were all the savoury treats, shepherd's pie, meat loaves, on the other, sweet things like queen of puddings, fruit sponges, rhubarb and apple crumble. So many cakes. Every child's dream.

Cured hams hung on hooks from the ceiling. Patience and time would turn these into ham and egg loaves, pies, sandwiches on thick brown bread.

Grandad was a prolific gardener so the bounty was endless. It was the art of preserving though which was truly the miracle of their joint union. He would bring home baskets of seasonal fruits. Blackcurrants were everyone's favourite. Grandma, her purple stained fingers

would turn these most precious globes into jams and jellies. The aroma of sweet bubbling fruits, the rows of empty jam jars gaping to be filled, sealed with a round disc of paper, then clamped shut. Like a time capsule.

We have our own Grandma up the road here in Umhlali. The wondrous Cindy, who is pickling and preserving traditions. With her husband Bala, they brought their love of fresh produce into the world. Mango atchaar, Peanut and mint chutney, pickled garlic, that most wondrous of delights. Her website says "From very humble beginnings, they built something truly extraordinary. And every jar, every bottle, every packet carries a little piece of that story."

We hardly work in the kitchen with our hands. The touch and feel of pastry, the peeling of peas, the squeezing of an orange. How can we when nails are longer than an eagles talons and palms smoother than a baby's bum.

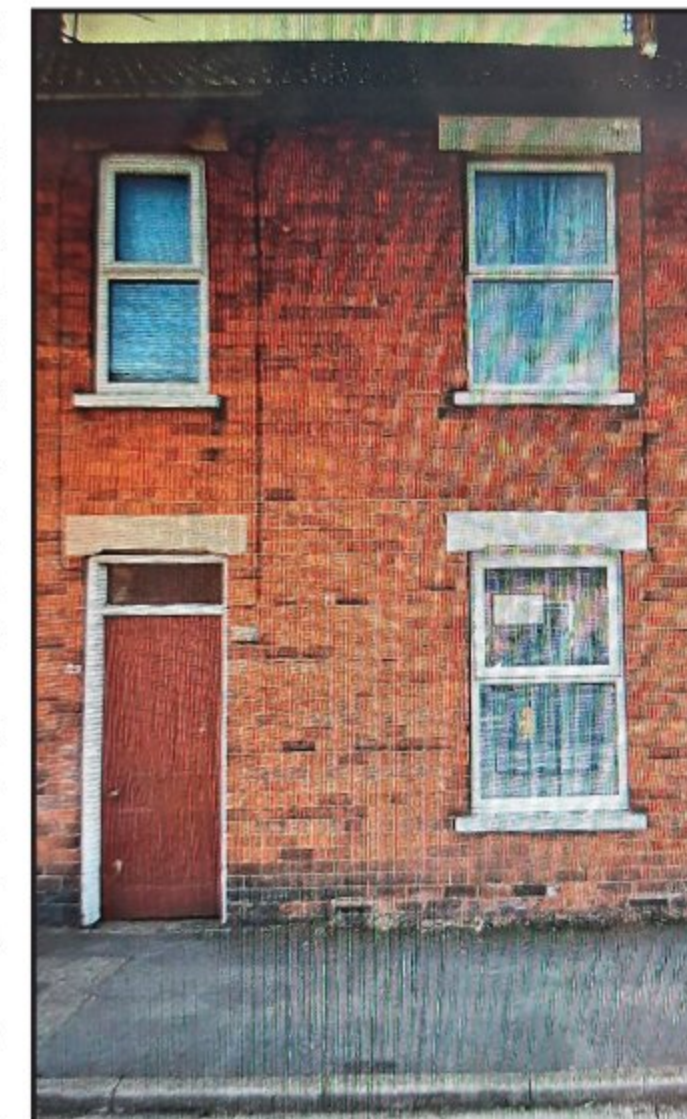
There are those who still hold on. But every generation loses something as kitchens become depersonalised, more like hospital operating theatres, than places in which you can conjure a home cooked meal like grandma used to do.

Switch off, turn on the oven, and create your own capsules of magic.

I must go now. Going to try and make my own samoosas from scratch. The problem is my maths is hopeless.

The Pantry of Time

By Jo Rushby



My ancestral home, where memories smell like marmalade



Grandma's trusted recipes I use to this day

Godfather of the Waves – The Life and Times of a Surfing Trailblazer

By Kasia Yoko

Some books tell a story while others capture the spirit of an era. Godfather of the Waves by Mike Larmont, which was penned with Graham Spence, does both with remarkable honesty and heart.

For many South Africans, surfing is more than a sport. It is a way of life, a connection to the ocean, freedom and adventure. Mike Larmont embodies all of that. His memoir takes readers from the golden beaches of Durban to some of the most legendary waves on the planet, while offering a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of South African surfing over the past five decades.

What makes this book such an engaging read is not only the incredible adventures, the famous personalities and the larger-than-life stories, but the humility of the man at its centre. Larmont shares his triumphs and setbacks with equal sincerity. His journey from a young dreamer shaping surfboards on the South Coast to becoming one of South Africa's most respected

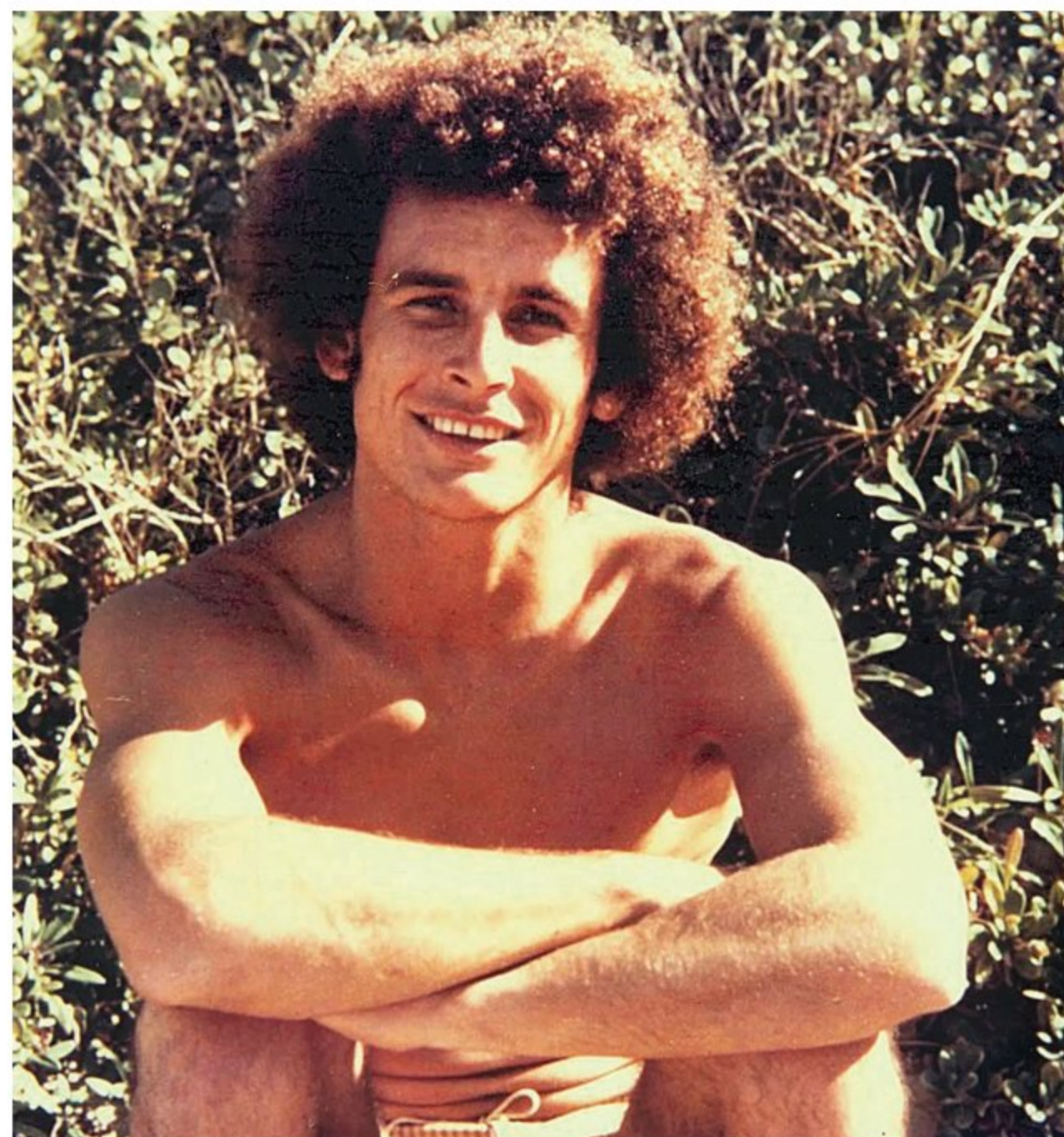
surfing pioneers is inspiring without ever feeling boastful.

The book is also a love letter to Durban and the ocean culture that shaped generations of wave riders. Readers who have never stood on a surfboard will still find themselves drawn into a world of courage, innovation, friendship and perseverance.

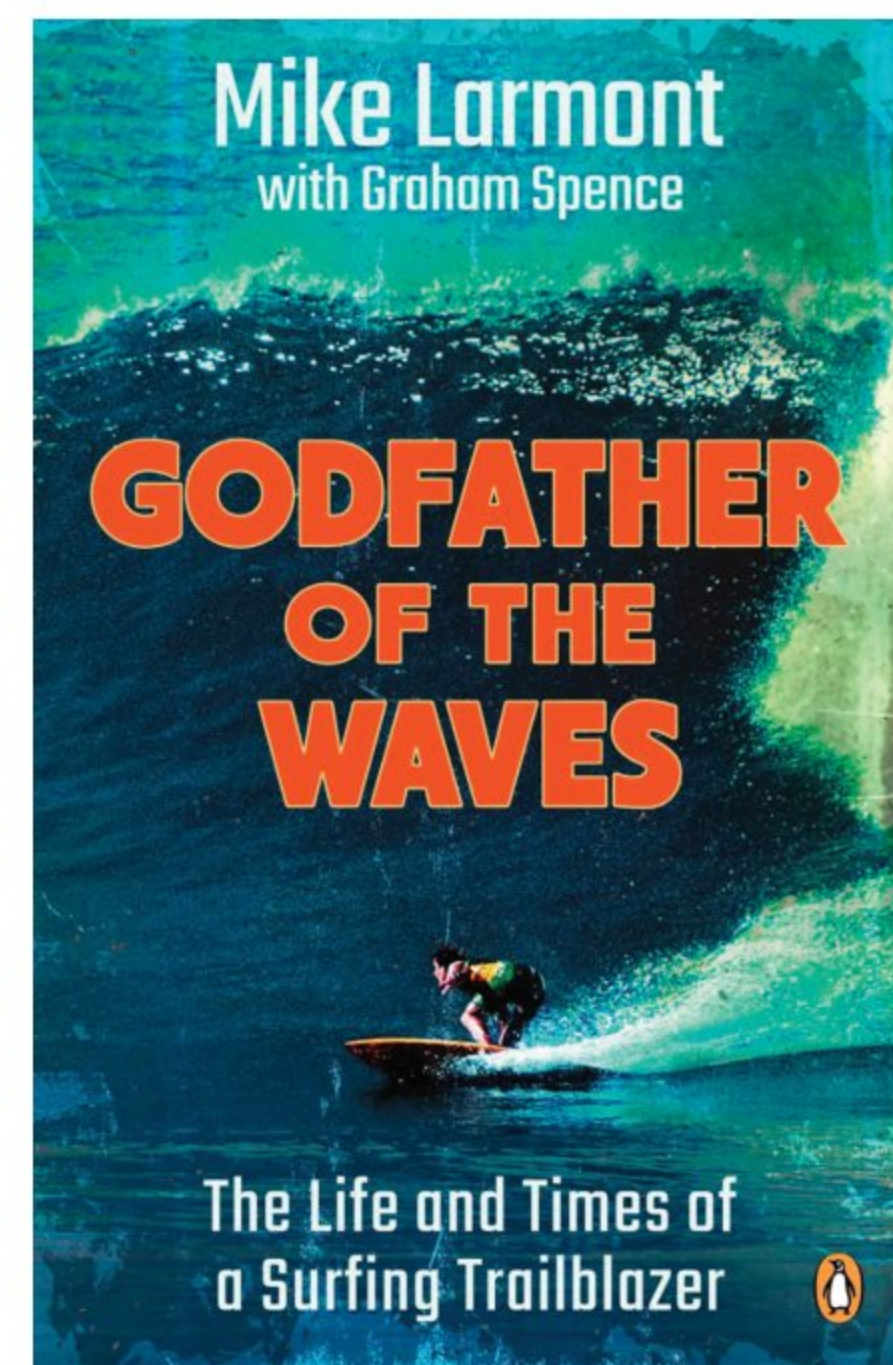
As I turned the pages, I was reminded that life itself is much like the sea. There are calm days and storms, wipeouts and victories. The secret is to keep paddling, keep learning and never stop chasing the next horizon.

Beautifully written and rich with nostalgia, Godfather of the Waves is more than a surfing memoir. It is a story about passion, resilience and staying true to the call of your soul.

Whether you are a surfer, a dreamer or simply someone who appreciates a life well lived, this book deserves a place on your bookshelf. Mike Larmont's story is proof that some legends are not made on land — they are born in the waves.



Young Mike Larmont's, as he will always be remembered



Mike Larmont's story

St Cyprian's Church Fete



St Cyprian's Church Fete on Saturday morning, 27 June on the church grounds in Umbilo

One of the city's most anticipated market events: the annual St Cyprian's church fete takes place on Saturday morning, 27 June on the church grounds in Umbilo.

Enjoy a fun morning of market stalls, family activities, food and drink, and a beer garden with live music, while supporting one of the city's most hardworking, community spirited churches.

The fete has an extensive white elephant stand; tables of book and music; jewellery; pre-loved garments and accessories; jams and preserves; crafts and homemade goods.

A key element of the fete is support for Kerr House, which celebrate 75 years of service this year. The Durban Hospice for

Women established in 1951 as a shelter for "Women in Crises." Kerr House accommodates up to 15 women and children who are mostly victims of Gender Based Violence. They receive professional help from a full-time social worker while house mothers ensure the smooth running of Kerr House.

The residents are taught skills and the craft items made are sold at the St Cyprian's annual fete.

St Cyprians is at 603 Umbilo Road and the fete takes place on Saturday 27 June from 8.00 am until 2pm.

Contact details are saintcyprian@telkomsa.net.Tel: 031 2053710



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Sunrise, the best time in my kitchen



Cooking with love and sharing with love

A green winter warmer that's as good for your soul as it is for your body. Five a day? Consider it done, deliciously.

By Kasia Yoko

Ingredients:

3 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 medium brinjal (eggplant), cubed
3 cups fresh spinach, roughly chopped
1 cup fresh if possible or frozen peas
1 medium onion, finely chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 tbsp fresh ginger, grated
400g chopped tomatoes
400ml coconut milk
2 tbsp mild curry powder
1 tsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp turmeric
2 tbsp olive oil or coconut oil
Salt and pepper to taste
Fresh coriander to serve

Method:

Step 1 Salt the brinjal. Toss your cubed brinjal in a little salt and leave it in a colander for 10 minutes this draws out any bitterness. Give it a quick rinse and pat dry. Trust the process!

Step 2 Soften the aromatics. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until soft and golden. Add the garlic and ginger and stir for another minute until fragrant. Your kitchen should be smelling incredible right about now.

Step 3 Bloom the spices. Add the curry powder, cumin, and turmeric to the pot. Stir everything together for about 1 minute so the spices cook in the oil and really wake up. This step is the secret to a curry that tastes like it took all

day.

Step 4 Build the base. Add the tinned tomatoes and coconut milk, stir well, then add the potatoes and brinjal. Bring to a gentle simmer.

Step 5 Simmer until tender. Cover and cook for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the potatoes and brinjal are completely tender. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Step 6 Add the greens. Stir in the peas and spinach. Cook for 3-4 minutes until the spinach has wilted and the peas are bright and tender. Don't overcook you want that gorgeous green colour!

Step 7 Serve and celebrate. Ladle into bowls and scatter over fresh coriander. Serve with warm roti, fluffy basmati rice, or crusty bread. Dinner is done and it counts as five a day. You're basically a wellness guru.

A Note From Kasia: This curry is everything a winter meal should be: warming, vibrant, and stupidly easy. But here's the thing a recipe is only as good as what goes into it. Those beautiful vegetables on your plate? Find out where they came from. A recent US study found that health-conscious people gym-goers, salad-lovers, the works were developing serious illnesses because their "healthy" produce was being sprayed with carcinogenic chemicals. All those good habits, quietly undone by not asking the right questions. So before you shop, ask your grocer or farmer: How was this grown? What was sprayed on it? Choose locally sourced, organically grown produce whenever you can. Visit your nearest farmers' market, join a veggie box scheme, or grow a pot of herbs on your windowsill. Every small choice adds up. Eating your five a day is non-negotiable but knowing who grew your five a day? That's the real power move.

"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude." By Karl Barth

Seven Seats, Zero Apologies



Good looks and greater versatility, the seven seater Suzuki Ertiga makes so much sense and CMH Suzuki will turn it into Rands with their amazing deals

There's a certain kind of vehicle buyer who walks into a showroom knowing exactly what they need. Not the flashiest option on the floor, not the one that turns heads at the traffic light. The practical one. The smart one. The one that makes the budget, the family, and the daily grind all add up correctly. That buyer deserves the Ertiga.

Seven seats, a punchy 1.5-litre engine, and enough storage compartments to swallow a week's worth of shopping bags without complaint. It is, in the most honest automotive sense, exactly what it claims to be. In an era when every hatchback pretends to be an adventure vehicle, that kind of straight-talking is almost revolutionary.

The 1.5-litre motor produces 77 kW and 138 Newton metres, paired to either a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic, with a claimed consumption of 6.2 litres per 100 kilometres. On

a long highway run, that figure alone justifies the purchase decision.

The GL derivative adds a 7-inch infotainment system, rear AC vents, a rearview camera, and Type-C USB ports in the second row, keeping passengers connected and, crucially, quiet. A five-year, 200,000-kilometre warranty and four-year service plan seal the deal with the kind of confidence that only comes from a manufacturer who actually believes in their product.

The Ertiga won't win drag races. It wasn't meant to. It will, however, fit the whole family, the cooler box, and whatever the mother-in-law insists on bringing.

Sensible never felt so good. Visit CMH Suzuki Ballito, 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito, and ask about the Ertiga today. Call them on 031 001 9965.

Umgeni Steam Railway Train Trips this Sunday



Why not take a trip behind an 85-year-old Steam Engine as we meander along the Valley of 1000 Hills

Looking for something fun to do with the family this weekend? Why not take a trip behind an 85-year-old Steam Engine as we meander along the Valley of 1000 Hills.

There are trips this Sunday 28 June at 9am, 11.30am and 2pm.

This roughly 75 minutes trip departs from Inchanga Railway Station, meandering along the rolling hills of KZN, through one of the oldest operating tunnels in South Africa, with the sights of the Valley of 1000 Hills in the distance, before turning around at Botha's Hill for the return to Inchanga.

Before or after your trip, you can browse

through the Inchanga Station Craft Market where there are various treasures on sale, food to suit most tastes & activities for the whole family.

Visit the Inchanga Railway Museum situated in the Old Station Master's House or find Thomas & Friends in the Modeller's Shed on the platform.

Please ensure you bring cash or use Zapper as there are no card facilities nor ATMS. Please arrive half an hour prior to departure to collect your tickets.

Book & pay within 48 hours to guarantee seats - spaces limited!

For more information & bookings visit www.umgenisteamrailway.com

Most of us share the same quiet dread about servicing the car. Not because anything is wrong with it, necessarily, but because a day without your vehicle on the KZN North Coast is a day spent rearranging your entire life around a courtesy lift and an optimistic "it'll be ready by three."

Alison Davies, Workshop Service Manager at CMH Ford Ballito, has a better idea.

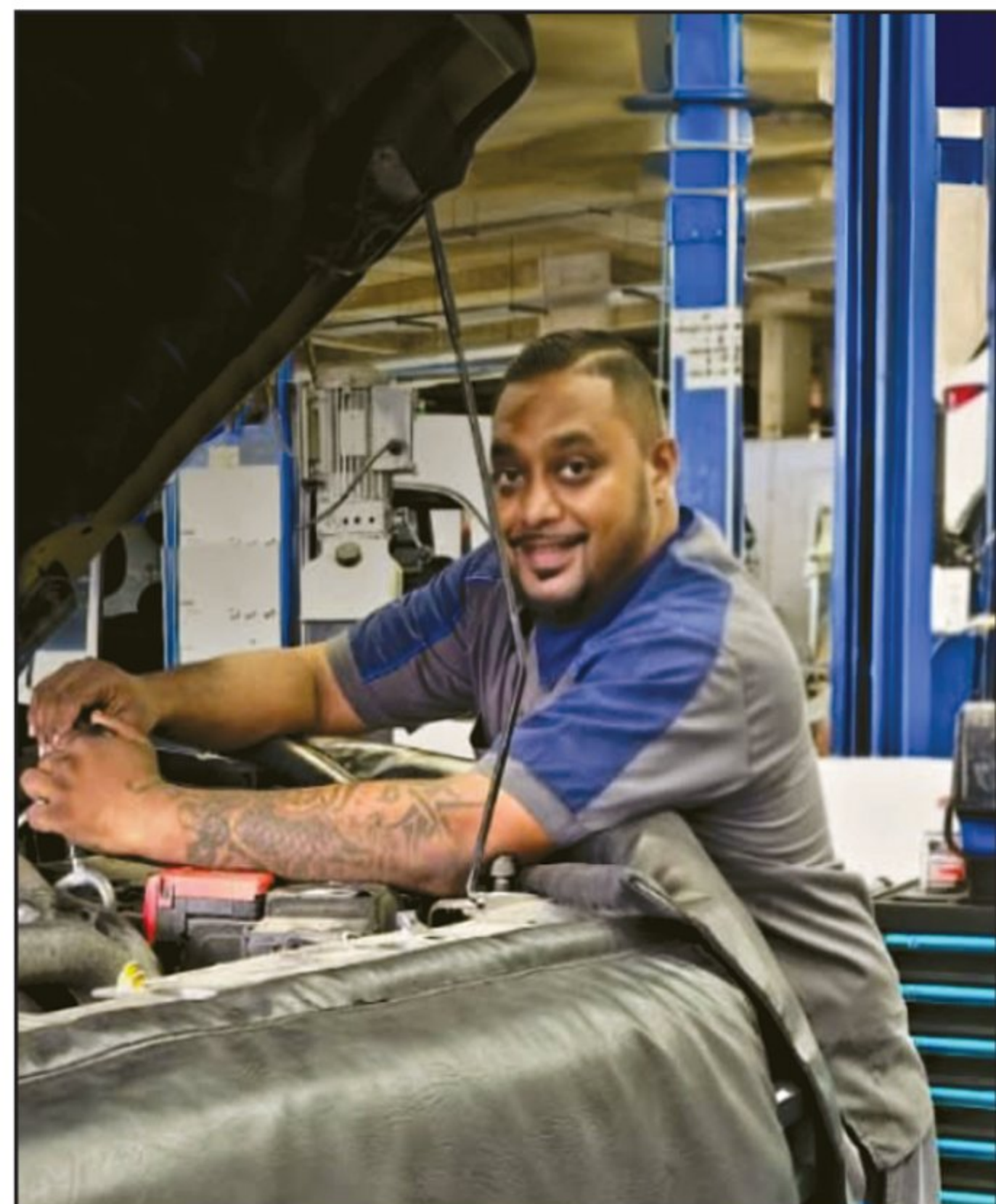
The department now offers a night servicing programme on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Drop your Ford off before 16:30, go home, have dinner, sleep soundly, and collect your freshly serviced vehicle from 07:00 the following morning. Your day, entirely undisrupted. Or you can wait at the dealership while they service your car and drive it home, serviced, that same night.

It is a genuinely clever solution to one of motoring's most persistent inconveniences, and the logistics are straightforward. Bookings are made via WhatsApp only, directly with Allison on 082 051 5346. When booking, have your VIN, registration number, and service interval details ready. Night service covers standard servicing only, with no additional repairs or vehicle wash included, and walk-ins are not accepted. Bookings are essential.

For June and July, there is an added incentive to get that service done. Every qualifying service earns an entry into a draw for fuel vouchers worth up to R25,000. Genuine Ford parts, factory-trained technicians, competitive pricing, and a shot at serious prize money. That is a compelling combination by anyone's measure.

CMH Ford Ballito is at 35-37 Moffat Drive, Ballito Business Park. Call 087 723 9278 or visit www.fordballito.co.za to find out more. Your Ford deserves the best. So does your day.

The Night Shift That Works For You



CMH Ford Ballito now offering Night Servicing with genuine Ford service with genuine parts, factory trained technicians, competitive pricing with exceptional customer service and you get to stand a chance to win up to R25 000 worth of fuel. I'd book now

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AND NOW

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ONLY AT CMH FORD BALLITO

BOOKING PROCESS: All Night Service bookings must be made by WhatsApp only with Alison (Workshop Service Manager) on 082 051 5346

Important Booking Information
When making your booking please provide:
Vehicle details (Vin, registration, service interval required) - Type of service required.
Service conditions.
Vehicle drop off: Before 16H30 PM - Vehicle collection: 07H00 AM the following morning
No walk-ins allowed - bookings are essential - Night service includes standard servicing only.
No additional repairs will be carried out. Vehicle wash is not included
Key Notes: This service is designed for customers who prefer overnight servicing for convenience and minimal disruption to their day

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Property Talk

By:
Andreas
Wassenaar

Economic Data Points South – What do rational Sellers do?



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



R1 250 000

BALLITO GROVES

2 Beds | 1 Baths | 1 Parking

MODERN SECURE LIVING IN BALLITO

This first-floor apartment offers two well-proportioned bedrooms with fitted cupboards and a full bathroom complete with a basin, shower, and bathtub. The modern kitchen flows seamlessly into the open-plan lounge and dining area, leading out to a private balcony overlooking the entrance and sparkling communal swimming pool. Designed for comfortable, low-maintenance living, this apartment is ideal for first-time buyers, professionals, or investors.

Indrin Chetty

083 707 2076

indrin.chetty@seeff.com

WEB REF: RLS983971

northcoast.seeff.com

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The SARB's April 2026 Leading Business Cycle Indicator fell from 5.8% to 4.1% year-on-year and slipped into negative month-on-month territory at -1.78%, the steepest monthly drop since March 2023. This national signal of slowing momentum has direct implications for North Coast property owners: buyer behaviour is likely to become more price-sensitive, sales timelines may lengthen, and strategic adjustments will win listings the attention they need in a quieter market.

The Leading Indicator is a composite of factors that typically dictate near-term economic direction. Independent economist John Loos highlights weaker exports, an eight-point fall in the RMB-BER Business Confidence Index, fewer residential building plans passed, softer new vehicle sales, and reduced factory hours as key contributors to the decline. Each of these inputs filters through to consumer confidence, disposable income and credit appetite, the fundamentals that determine how quickly and at what price buyers commit to a home. For sellers on the North Coast the message is not panic but preparation.

Every property will sell; the variable is how it is positioned relative to buyer expectations. Pricing is the first and most decisive lever. Properties attract meaningful buyer interest at specific price thresholds, and overvaluing a home due to emotional attachment will extend days on the market and often force larger future reductions. Objective comparables from registered sales within the past two years and a close review of active listings within similar schemes, suburbs or estates give the clearest indicator of a competitive asking price. In a softer market, an initial strategic price drop can stimulate interest and shorten the sales cycle.

Presentation is the second determinant of outcome. Buyers in our market increasingly favour turnkey homes; the majority are not seeking a remedial project. Simple, cost-effective interventions lift perceived value: fresh neutral paint, attention to minor repairs, decluttering and professional cleaning, staged key rooms and neat landscaping convey care and reduce buyer friction. Remember the three R's — repaint, repair, remove — and aim for showroom condition before on-site viewings.

Marketing remains the third and equally critical component. High-quality online presentation is non-negotiable: professional imagery, a twilight exterior shot where appropriate, accurate floor plans and stats on the home, and an impressive YouTube video broaden reach and boost interest. Local expertise matters; an agent actively working the North Coast market daily, leveraging a buyer database, targeted marketing campaigns with featured listings and a selection of media channels significantly raises the probability of a sale.

Typical local timelines reflect these dynamics: homes under R5m often transact within roughly 90 days when priced and presented correctly, properties between R5m and R10m may take around 180 days, and upper bracket homes can require considerably more time. In a changing cycle, the best defence is preparation and partnership. If you are considering selling, a current market assessment and a focused 180-day sales plan tailored to your North Coast property will position you to capitalise on buyer demand when it appears.

Planning the Wedding Is Easy. Planning the Marriage Matters More

By Fawzia Khan

On 31 May 2026, I had the privilege of presenting at "The Wedding Expo" held at the Umhlanga Apart- Hotel, where I addressed one of the most overlooked aspects of marriage: the legal consequences that arise the moment a couple says "I do."

"While weddings are often planned with romance, excitement, and optimism, in my professional experience, very few couples spend enough time discussing the legal and financial realities that accompany marriage. Yet marriage is one of the most significant legal contracts a person will ever enter into."

I unpack some of the key points of the presentation. There are three matrimonial property systems recognised in South Africa: marriage in community of property, marriage out of community of property with accrual, and marriage out of community of property without accrual. Many people are surprised to learn that if no Ante-Nuptial Contract (ANC) is signed before marriage, the default position is marriage in community of property, meaning both assets and debts form part of a joint estate.

One of the strongest messages of the presentation was that an ANC is not a plan for divorce—it is a plan for responsible financial management. It creates certainty, encourages financial transparency, and protects both spouses against unforeseen risks. This is particularly important for professionals, entrepreneurs, business owners, and those entering second marriages or blended family arrangements.

Contrary to popular belief, Ante-Nuptial Contracts are not only for wealthy individuals. They are practical tools that assist ordinary couples in managing debt exposure, protecting inheritances, preserving family wealth, and avoiding costly disputes later.

On the issue of maintenance, it's important to know that apart from maintenance of the children, each spouse has a legal duty to maintain the other spouse [in accordance with their means]. Many people incorrectly believed that maintenance obligations end when a child turns 18, or that only fathers are responsible for paying



maintenance.

South African law imposes a duty of support on both parents according to their means and the needs of the child. There is also growing legal responsibilities which could arise for step-parents and grandparents, under certain circumstances.

The presentation also looked at the realities of modern relationships in the digital age. Social media, WhatsApp messages, screenshots, and electronic communications increasingly feature as evidence in divorce litigation.

As I remarked during the presentation, "the cellphone is often the most important witness in the room." Estate planning and wills formed another critical part of the discussion. Many people assume their spouse will automatically inherit everything when they die. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Dying without a valid will can result in family disputes, delays in estate administration, frozen bank accounts, and uncertainty regarding the care of minor children. The overarching theme of the presentation was simple: preparation is not pessimism. We buy insurance, draft wills, and structure our businesses not because we expect disaster, but because life is unpredictable. The same principle applies to marriage.

Love, trust, and commitment remain the foundation of every successful marriage. However, informed decision-making, proper legal planning, and honest financial conversations provide the protection that allows couples to build their futures with confidence. Marriage is emotional—but it is also legal, financial, and practical. The best time to plan is before you need the protection.

Know your rights! The Law Desk of Fawzia Khan and Associates. Giving YOU the Power of Attorney. Email fawzia@thelawdesk.co.za or call 031-5025670 for legal assistance at competitive rates.



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A Celebration of Cars, Community and Connection

By Kasia Yoko

Some events remind us that joy can still be found in the simple things. Last Saturday, Tomas and I spent a delightful morning at the Ballito Auto Body Car Fun Day at the New Salt Rock City Shopping Centre, and what a treat it was. From the moment we arrived, we were swept into a world of gleaming chrome, polished paintwork, and the unmistakable sound of passionate car enthusiasts sharing stories about their prized machines. Whether it was a beautifully restored vintage classic, an exotic supercar, or a much-loved collector's vehicle, every car seemed to have a story to tell. For a few hours, Tomas and I happily got lost in the automotive world. We bumped into friends, shared plenty of laughs, admired the incredible craftsmanship on display, and enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere that made the event feel more like a community gathering than a car show. What impressed me most was not only the spectacular vehicles but the people behind them. Families strolled together, children marvelled at cars they had only seen in magazines, and enthusiasts eagerly shared their knowledge with anyone willing to listen. It was a wonderful reminder that shared passions have a unique way of bringing people together. Congratulations to Ballito Auto Body for creating an event that celebrated more than just cars. They created an opportunity for connection, friendship, and community spirit. In a world that often feels rushed and divided, days like these remind us of the value of slowing down, meeting old friends, making new ones, and simply enjoying the ride. Here's hoping the Car Fun Day becomes a cherished annual tradition on the North Coast calendar.



Presidential Charm



Local car collector Snow Cogan with The Bugle Motoring Journalist Tomas Yoko



Local Porsche lover and collector, Thiru Reddy



Cars, Cars, Cars on display

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	2022 CHERY Tiggo 8 Pro Executive 7DCT 1.6 TDGi R349 800		2025 HYUNDAI Tuscon 2.0 Premium Auto R465 800		2025 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2 GL R219 800
	2026 FORD Everest 2.0L Bi-Turbo Sport 4X2 10AT R769 900		2024 NISSAN NP200 1.6 Base + Safety Single Cab R199 900		2020 FORD Range XLT 2.0D 4X2 Automatic R385 800
	2023 FORD Everest PLATINUM 3.0L V6 4WD. 10AT R855 800		2025 FORD Ranger WILDTRAK Bi-Turbo 4X4 10AT R779 800		2025 FORD Territory 1.8L Ambiente 7AT R399 900

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The Legend That Never Left



Some bakkies come and go with the seasons. The Nissan Navara simply endures. It has been hauling loads, crossing rivers, and outlasting its owners' expectations on South African soil for decades, and with every generation it gets a little sharper, a little tougher, and a little harder to deny.

The current double cab is the most complete Navara yet. Under the bonnet lurks a 2.5-litre intercooled turbo diesel delivering 140 kilowatts and 450 Newton metres of torque, which is a serious number in any company. A shift-on-the-fly 4x4 system lets you switch between two-

wheel and four-wheel drive at speeds up to 100 kilometres per hour, so when the tar ends and the adventure begins, you are never caught unprepared.

The PRO-4X is the one derivative that earns the most admiring glances, and for good reason. It is the fully loaded, trail-ready, nothing-left-out version of an already excellent bakkie. Inside, recontoured rear seats with a new armrest, dual cupholders, rear seat ducts, and USB charging mean the passengers are as comfortable as the driver. It is a bakkie that does not ask you to choose between capability and comfort. It simply delivers both.

Every 2026 Navara comes standard with a six-year, 150,000-kilometre warranty and a six-year, 90,000-kilometre service plan, which is the kind of manufacturer confidence that speaks louder than any advert.

CMH Nissan Ballito is currently offering the Navara PRO-4X double cab at R699,900. For everything this bakkie brings to the table, that is a number worth paying very close attention to.

Go and see them at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito, you will not leave disappointed. Call them for more info on 032 946 5820.



Born Tough. Built for More.

There is a particular kind of South African who does not buy a bakkie for the image. They buy one because the farm needs feeding, the trail needs conquering, or the game reserve needs a vehicle that will still be running when everything else has given up. CMH Mahindra Ballito speaks directly to that buyer, and the range they carry makes a compelling case for India's most unstoppable workhorse.

At the heart of it all is the Pik Up, powered by Mahindra's legendary 2.2-litre mHawk turbo-diesel engine producing 103 kilowatts and 320 Newton metres, mated to a six-speed manual that puts you firmly in control.

The S4 single cab is the purist's choice. Honest, uncomplicated, and built to absorb punishment across farm tracks, construction sites, and everything in between. A maximum payload of 1,200 kilograms and a braked towing capacity of 2,500 kilograms mean it earns its keep every single day.

Then there is the Karoo Special Edition range, where Mahindra lets its hair down completely. Fitted with off-road front bumpers, roof racks, and rear overfenders, the Karoo is built to dive across dunes, climb steep hills, and push through mud and river crossings that would stop lesser vehicles cold. Available from single

cab 4x4 through to the double cab S11 Karoo Storm, these are bakkies that look the part and then back it up completely.

The Pik Up's versatility extends to game viewer conversions too, seating nine passengers with a fold-down windscreen and open cabin for the guide, making it the quiet favourite across KZN's private game reserves. Rugged, reliable, remarkably affordable. Visit CMH Mahindra Ballito, 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito, and find out which Pik Up suits your life best.

Call them today on 032 946 5920
to book a test drive.



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"Happiness is not something ready-made, it comes from your own actions." By Dalai Lama

VW Transporter - The Van That Made Me Question Everything

There is a moment, somewhere between Umhlanga Rocks Drive and the N2 on-ramp, when the penny dropped. I was sitting higher than any car I had driven that week, visibility was exceptional, the ride was composed, and the cabin was quieter than it had any right to be. And I thought: why have I been driving a bakkie all this time?

The Volkswagen T7 Transporter has that effect on people.

I tested the range-topping Kombi Style 4Motion, and from the moment I settled into the driver's seat it felt less like climbing into a van and more like boarding something purposeful. The 12-inch digital instrument cluster and 13-inch touchscreen infotainment greet you immediately, Apple CarPlay connects without fuss, and the standard safety suite, including lane assist, automatic emergency braking, and rain-sensing wipers, wraps around you like a well-organised co-driver. I never once

felt like I was roughing it. Under the bonnet sits the 125 kilowatt 2.0-litre TDI, mated to an eight-speed automatic and 4Motion all-wheel drive. Out on the open road it pulls with quiet authority, the kind of effortless pace that makes long-haul runs genuinely enjoyable rather than merely tolerable.

The size tells its own story. A 1,140-kilogram payload, 2.8-tonne towing capacity, and 170 kilograms on the roof. I kept thinking about the mountain bikes, the camping gear, the golf bags, and the week's groceries, all in one vehicle, all at once. My bakkie-driving colleagues would not want to hear this, but the T7 makes a compelling argument.

The Kombi is backed by a three-year, 120,000-kilometre warranty and a five-year maintenance plan, which speaks to a manufacturer that knows exactly what they have built.

Go and drive one at Bidvest McCarthy Volkswagen Umhlanga. I did, and I am still thinking about it.



Resplendent in the golden rays, the new Volkswagen Transporter proved itself as a people mover and did it with aplomb

Vive La Différence Citroën Basalt



Different, charming, absurdly comfortable, and priced to make you smile. The Basalt is proof that volcanic rock can be surprisingly smooth

Nobody asked Citroën to build a coupe-SUV for emerging markets, assembled in India, named after volcanic rock, and aimed squarely at South Africans who want to look interesting without spending interesting money. Nobody asked, and yet here we are. And honestly? We are not complaining.

The Basalt is Citroën doing what Citroën does best: ignoring convention and getting away with it. That sloping fastback roofline gives it a silhouette that turns heads in the Checkers parking lot, which is more than can be said for half its rivals. The 16-inch wheels do look a touch modest under those arches, like a man wearing smart shoes with shorts, but you forgive it quickly.

Inside, a 10-inch SmartCar HD touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay, seven-inch digital instrument cluster, automatic air conditioning, keyless entry, cruise

control, and six airbags greet you. For a vehicle starting at R354,900 that is not shabby. Not shabby at all.

The 1.2-litre turbocharged three-cylinder pulls with a responsive mid-range that makes highway overtaking effortless and city driving relaxed, and the ride quality is where the Basalt quietly humiliates its competition. Citroën's advanced comfort suspension soaked up our KZN potholes and dodgy road surfaces with a composure that many rivals simply cannot match. It glides. On our roads, that matters enormously.

Yes, there are some hard plastics inside. But everything feels well assembled, with panels fitting together neatly and very few rattles. The French are nothing if not precise about the things that matter. A five-year, 100,000-kilometre warranty and four-year service plan seal the deal.

CMH MULTIFRANCHISE BALLITO

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2025 FORD Ranger Wildtrak Bi-Turbo 4X4 10AT	2017 FORD FOCUS RS 2.3 EcoBoost AWD	2021 HAVAL H6 2.0T Luxury DCT
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2021 HYUNDAI Tucson Premium Automatic	2020 HYUNDAI Tucson Premium Automatic	2024 CHERY Tiggo 4 Pro 1.5 Elite CVT
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"There is no path to happiness; happiness is the path." By Thich Nhat Hanh

EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY



Ricardo Mohan as proud as Punch in front of the CMH Ford Ballito display with the show stopping Ford Mustang 5.0 GT, see this and other awesome models on their showroom floor in Ballito

There are dealerships, and then there are destinations. CMH Ford Ballito, at 35-37 Moffat Drive in the Ballito Business Park, falls firmly into the second category. World-class facilities, a team that greets you like a person rather than a prospect, and a showroom floor that makes it genuinely difficult to leave without signing something.

Which is perhaps why the accolades are starting to stack up.

At the recent CMH Regional Awards, Principal Matthew Buck and the entire CMH Ford Ballito team were honoured with the inaugural Most Improved Dealer Award, recognising the dealership that demonstrated the greatest all-round improvement across the 2026 financial year, while embodying the spirit of teamwork and collaboration the CMH Group is built on. Richly deserved, and anyone who has walked through those doors will not be remotely surprised.

I recently attended the car show at New Salt Rock City, where CMH Ford Ballito had a Ford Mustang 5.0 GT on display. It stopped the crowd cold. Enough said.

But if you're shopping with your head as much as your heart, the current Winter Savings deals at CMH Ford Ballito deserve your full attention. The Ford Ranger, South Africa's best-loved bakkie and the undisputed king of the double cab segment, is available right now with savings that are genuinely hard to ignore. The Ranger 3.0L V6 DC Wildtrak 4x4 is on offer at R979,500, a saving of R90,500. The V6 Platinum 4WD comes in at R1,059,500, saving you R120,000. Entry-level Ranger derivatives start from R565,900, with savings of up to R85,600 across the range. The Ford Everest Platinum 4WD carries a saving of R259,500.

These are real numbers on real vehicles, backed by a team that knows their product and looks after their customers long after the keys change hands.

CMH Ford Ballito, 35-37 Moffat Drive, Ballito Business Park. Call 087 723 9278 or visit www.fordballito.co.za.



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SAVE R90 500
WAS R1 070 000



FORD EVEREST
2.0L BIT XLT 4X2 10AT

NOW R849 500

SAVE R103 500
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FORD EVEREST
3.0L V6 PLATINUM 4WD 10AT

NOW R1 064 500

SAVE R259 500



FORD RANGER
2.0L SIT XLT 4X2 10AT

NOW R619 500

SAVE R80 000



FORD RANGER
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NOW R565 900

SAVE R85 600

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