

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

DURBAN'S GOLDEN MILE: A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE CITY



Durban's iconic Golden Mile is poised for a new era as major beachfront developments gather momentum, including a proposed R980 million amusement park and fresh private-sector investment along Lower Marine Parade. With millions of pedestrian visits recorded annually, the promenade remains central to the city's tourism appeal and economic revival. But beyond the promise of new attractions and jobs lies a bigger question: can renewed investment deliver lasting benefits for local businesses, residents and Durban's coastal identity?

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THROUGH MY EYES

by Kasia Yoko

Goodbye, Sister

The woman who stops the bleeding



Sasha and I standing outside Flexibus

I woke up early this morning. The clocks have turned back an hour. My phone says five o'clock; my wristwatch insists it is six. Somewhere between the two, I lie awake thinking about a woman I met on a bus in Europe, wondering whether she is still alive.

We are here tying up loose ends and holding close to family fractured by my father's passing. We travelled across Europe to spend time with our second-born son, who lives in Toulon, a beautiful Mediterranean town of olive trees, coastal walks and sea air.

With time on our hands, we decided to take a twenty-six-hour bus journey from Toulon to Katowice, crossing six countries and passing through the magic of Monte Carlo, Milan, Venice and so many other cities.

But the greatest adventure was not the scenery. It was the strangers who climbed aboard and, for a few hours, became part of our lives.

That is how I met Alexandra, known affectionately as Sasha.

Sasha is a Ukrainian-French combat medic heading to Kostiantynivka, back towards the war in Ukraine.

As night settled over Europe and the seats around us emptied, we found ourselves at the back of the bus, talking like schoolgirls. We shared stories of life, love and disappointment. Eventually, we spoke about grief.

Sasha is only a few years younger than me. Like me, she is a mother. Her thirty-one-year-old son was killed in a drone attack in Ukraine in August. She had buried him in his homeland.

There are no words adequate to describe the burial of your child. You can lay your son in the earth, but you cannot bury the love that made him yours. You cannot silence the instinct to protect him. You cannot make your heart understand why you must leave him behind.

And yet Sasha was returning to war. She is a Christian, a woman of strong convictions and courage. She believes Russia must be stopped, yet her faith wrestles with the question of forgiveness.

"When did Russia become our enemy?" I asked.

She looked deeply into my eyes.

"If you had seen what I have seen, it would be difficult for you to forgive Russia for its indefensible atrocities."

I tried to persuade her not to go. I urged her to get off the bus in Kraków, book herself into a beautiful hotel and return to France, where the weather was milder and life offered some semblance of peace.

Sasha in another role of the combat medic

By morning, we were sisters.

We looked alike. We could almost have been related. Yet here we were, two women with different perspectives, sharing Polish chocolates in the warmth of a dark bus while a continent slept around us.

Sasha spoke about the soldiers she cared for, the men on the frontline who had become her family.

"They know their lives are in my hands, so they are good to me, even though they themselves are killers."

I asked her what a combat medic does.

"I'm the one that stops the bleeding," she said.



Sasha in another role of the combat medic

I have not forgotten those words.

Here I was, from the comparatively sheltered life of Ballito, sitting beside a woman who had buried her son and was going back to care for somebody else's.

What do you say to a mother like that? What comfort can you offer when the person who most needed her care is gone?

When we parted, we held each other tightly.

"I'm going to die," she whispered.

"I will pray for you," I replied.

"Goodbye, sister!" she called as I walked away.

And I kept walking, carrying a stranger in my heart.

I do not know where Sasha is as I write this. I do not know what awaits her in Kostiantynivka. I only know that somewhere, a mother is preparing to put herself between the wounded and death, while another mother is praying for her from afar.

So today, I pray for Sasha. For Ukraine. For every medic, every soldier and every family waiting for news they dread.

We live in troubled times. Our governments fail us, corruption flourishes, and ordinary people pay the price for the decisions of the powerful. Perhaps we should all pray a little harder, love a little more generously and stop assuming that peace is something we are guaranteed.

If your children are safe today, hold them a little longer. If your mother is still here, call her. If someone you love is sitting beside you, do not wait for tomorrow to tell them what they mean to you.

Because on a bus travelling through Europe, I met a mother who had lost her son and was going back to save someone else's.

And I understood, for one extraordinary night, that strangers can become family, that grief can cross every border, and that love does not stop at the edge of a battlefield.

Dear God, please let Sasha live.

Let her hands keep stopping the bleeding.

Let the men she cares for return to their mothers. And let this brave woman find her way home.

Goodbye, sister.

Until we meet again.

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Dear Ed,

Re: 2026 Local Government Elections

Local government elections will take place nationally on Wednesday, 4 November. It's as easy as A-B-C to participate in this important matter. Please permit me to elaborate hereon.

A represents ACTION. Eligible voters must be stirred to action ie. to vote please and not to forfeit one's democratic right. Resist the temptation not to vote due to past issues, primarily disappointment and disillusionment. In fact, poor or no service delivery should be a motivating factor to vote so as to bring about positive action and meaningful change. Should an eligible person choose not to vote, then he/she cannot complain about local government problems and shortcomings.

B represents BE, of various sorts. Be aware of crooks, chancers and deadwood, both persons and parties. Be positive, determined, diligent, decisive and discerning. Be aware of past persons and parties making false and empty promises and misleading voters. Be alert to he antics

outstanding statistics regarding the fairer sex:

- This year aged Canadian poet Annie Carson won the prize for literature
- In 1991 Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar won the prize
- In 2014 Pakistani girl Malala Yousafza at age 17 was the youngest prize winner
- French genius Madam Curie was the first lady laureate and also the only person to win the prize twice, 8 years apart, in Physics and Chemistry in 1903 and 1911 respectively

At age 97 John Goodenough was the oldest winner and won the Chemistry prize in 2019.

Following Chief Albert Luthuli, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk, Judge Pillay is the 5th South African recipient of the Nobel Prize. Well done revered judge.

Dear Ed,

Re : Judge Navey Pillay

Heartiest congratulations to Judge Navey Pillay on receiving the prestigious 2026 Nobel Peace prize. This brilliant legal person has achieved a string of accolades, including first black lady lawyer in KZN and first black lady judge in the country. The octogenarian, who hails from Clairwood, Durban, is both humble and outstanding, with war crimes and resolution of international conflicts amongst warring factions and brokering peace her speciality.

Judge Pillay has done Durban, KZN and South Africa proud and is to be commended for her many decades of excellent service in the international arena. May she be a shining example to many who would aspire to distinction and excellence.

While ladies make up only just about 10 % of all prize recipients since inception in 1901, below are

Simon T Dehal Verulam

‘The quieter you become, the more you are able to hear.’ Rumi

Durban’s Golden Mile gains momentum as beachfront investment advances

By an Independent Correspondent

A proposed R980 million amusement park, more than R70 million already secured for a Lower Marine Parade redevelopment and nearly R100 million in anticipated private-sector investment are set to reshape parts of Durban’s beachfront, with construction timelines and employment projections now coming into sharper focus.

The proposed Durban Amusement Park received project-development funding approval on 21 October 2026, according to eThekweni Municipality. The family entertainment and leisure attraction has also been supported by the National Department of Tourism as a key tourism infrastructure project.

Design work has been completed, while technical planning is under way. Statutory development processes are expected to continue until the end of the first quarter of 2027, with construction anticipated thereafter. The project is expected to create approximately 1,400 jobs across construction and operations, while local small businesses could benefit through the supply chain.

At 137 Lower Marine Parade, preferred bidder Invusa (Pty) Ltd has secured more than R70 million for a separate commercial redevelopment. Total private-sector investment is expected to approach R100 million once tenant fit-outs are completed. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2027, subject to the completion of statutory processes and lease arrangements.

The Lower Marine Parade project will

expand the commercial space from approximately 1,700 to 4,000 square metres. According to the municipality, permanent employment is expected to rise from 85 to around 170 positions, with a further 80 construction jobs anticipated.

Together, the two developments represent a significant new phase in efforts to strengthen Durban’s beachfront economy and improve the visitor experience along the Golden Mile.

The proposed amusement park is planned to include multiple rides, an extended-reality and digital zone, curated retail facilities and an upgraded amphitheatre for events. Its combination of indoor and outdoor entertainment is intended to attract visitors throughout the year, including during wet weather and evening hours.

The project forms part of more than R2 billion in investment already spent or committed to Durban’s beachfront, according to the City. The Golden Mile recorded 17.45 million pedestrian movements during 2025, highlighting its importance as both a tourism destination and a public recreational space.

The developments are expected to support a broader strategy of encouraging visitors to spend more time on the beachfront while creating opportunities for hospitality, retail, entertainment and tourism businesses.

However, the announcements and funding approvals mark the beginning of the process rather than its conclusion. The key tests will be whether the projects

proceed within the stated timelines, whether projected jobs become sustainable positions and whether local enterprises secure meaningful opportunities in construction, supply and operations.

For Durban, the Golden Mile is more than a commercial precinct. It is part of

the city’s identity and a shared coastal asset used by residents, visitors and businesses alike. Redevelopment must therefore balance commercial ambition with accessibility, sound planning, responsible management and benefits that extend beyond investors.

As technical planning, statutory approvals and lease arrangements progress, attention will turn to delivery. The promise is renewed energy for the beachfront; the challenge is ensuring that investment translates into visible, lasting progress for Durban and its people.



A proposed R980 million amusement park, more than R70 million already secured for a Lower Marine Parade redevelopment and nearly R100 million in anticipated private-sector investment are set to reshape parts of Durban’s beachfront

CHERY Q: Electric Motoring With Attitude

By Tomas Yoko



Stealing the limelight again, Chery Ballito showcases the new Chery Q, breaking boundaries and appealing to motorists across the spectrum. Check out Chery Ballito and the all electric Q

There is something rather refreshing about a car that dares to be different. The all-new Chery Q arrives with distinctive styling, cutting-edge electric propulsion and a price tag that could persuade even the most committed petrolhead to take a serious look at the future of motoring.

Available through Chery Ballito, the Q starts at R349 900, bringing electric driving within reach of a considerably wider audience. And no, you don't need to be a technology fanatic or an environmental evangelist to appreciate the appeal. Sometimes, a car simply has to make sense — and this newcomer has plenty going for it.

Its compact dimensions make it ideally suited to urban life, where parking spaces seem to shrink by the month and fuel bills have developed an unhealthy appetite for our wallets. Yet the Q's confident design ensures it won't disappear into a supermarket car park unnoticed.

Power comes from a 90 kW electric motor driving the rear wheels, supplied by a 42.7 kWh battery. Chery quotes a range of up to 400 km on the NEDC cycle, although real-world distance will depend on traffic, weather, speed and driving

habits. As with any electric vehicle, sensible planning remains part of the package.

Inside, the Q makes good use of its space, offering a modern cabin, digital displays, smartphone connectivity and useful storage. The boot provides 375 litres, expanding to 1 450 litres with the rear seats folded, while a 70-litre front storage compartment adds another practical touch.

Buyers can choose between the Q Comfort, from R349 900, and the better-equipped Q Elite, from R389 900. For Chery Ballito, the Q represents an exciting new chapter in making electric motoring accessible without sacrificing style or everyday usability. It brings together modern design, genuine practicality and the instant response that makes electric driving such a compelling experience.

The future of motoring is moving fast — and the Chery Q is moving with it. Ready to experience the difference for yourself? Make your way to Chery Ballito on Salt Rock Road and get behind the wheel of the all-new Chery Q. Your next great drive could be electric. Call 032 648 0090 to arrange a test drive.

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“In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.” Anne Frank



...interrupt the warpath and let sanity sneak back in...

Let's start in Ukraine, where the world appears to be waking up, groggily, to what many of us suspected from the first standing ovation. Four and a half years, billions in borrowed weaponry and a mountain of dead conscripts later, Volodymyr Zelensky's presidency has become the most expensive one-man show in history. Even Donald Trump, a connoisseur of costly productions, now calls him an obstacle to peace.

Yet, for the first time in years, there is something resembling hope. A local ceasefire has taken hold in occupied Oleshky so aid can finally reach its stranded residents, and both sides are pencilling in talks in Abu Dhabi next month. It is a glimmer, not a sunrise, but for ordinary Ukrainians and Russians feeding this meat grinder with their sons, a glimmer is a miracle.

Then there is the other atrocity we humans have allowed. This month, Israel's own army chief, Eyal Zamir, reportedly refused to play pawn in Benjamin Netanyahu's pre-election chess game, resisting a push for fresh military action against Iran and demanding the order in writing. Imagine that. A general asking for a signature before starting a war. Somewhere, a lawyer wept with joy.

Israelis went to the polls this week with Gadi Eisenkot, another former army chief, running neck and neck with Likud. Whatever the count, the world is daring to hope that a nation exhausted by war might choose a leader more interested in governing than in staying out of court.

That same hope crosses the Atlantic. America votes in its midterms on 3

November, and Trump has generously promised not to bomb Iran before then, which is rather like a burglar promising not to rob you until after the neighbourhood watch meeting. Eight months into this war, with the Strait of Hormuz still choked, much of the planet is holding thumbs that voters interrupt the warpath and let sanity sneak back in.

Speaking of sanity, we have our own shortages at home. The Presidency has lost its clean audit over R1.7 million spent on groceries, which must have been some braai. National Treasury found 4,323 suspicious individuals on the state payroll, ghost employees presumably clocking in from the same afterlife as our service delivery. In Moretele, the municipality pays R15 million a month for water its residents never receive, a business model Eskom must envy.

Meanwhile, 5,000 rural schools wait for Starlink internet while government insists on 30% black ownership first, our Finance Minister dangles a dreamy R6.55 a litre petrol cut, and tourists at Cape Town airport are paying R25,000 for a fake Uber. Even our crooks have embraced the private sector.

Here in KwaZulu-Natal, as I write, the weather service has issued a Level 2 warning for thunderstorms, lightning and hail. I found it the most comforting headline all month. Out there, generals need signatures, presidents need groceries and peace needs an election calendar. Everyone else simply bombs first and explains later. Only the weather still has the decency to warn us before it strikes.



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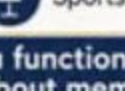
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2	3	9	6	7	4	8	5	1
4	1	2	9	5	7	6	8	3
3	6	8	4	1	2	5	7	9
9	5	7	3	6	8	1	2	4
5	2	3	7	9	6	4	1	8
8	7	6	2	4	1	9	3	5
1	9	4	5	8	3	7	6	2

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

"If you're going through hell, keep going." Commonly attributed to Winston Churchill

Reality Check

By Brad Nathanson - Private Investigator



When A Father Becomes His Children's Last Line Of Defense

There is something deeply disturbing about watching footage of a father sitting behind the steering wheel of his motor vehicle, his young daughter beside him, when their world is suddenly turned upside down by the threat of violent crime.

Recently, in the Pinetown area of KwaZulu-Natal, dashcam footage captured such an encounter. A vehicle pulls up in front of a family vehicle waiting outside a property. Two armed men appear to approach the driver's side.

The internal camera captures the driver drawing his firearm and returning fire. His firearm appears to malfunction, but he clears the stoppage and continues defending himself and his family.

But there is something else in that footage that deserves our attention. This was not simply a man defending himself. This was a father protecting his child. As the situation unfolded, he positioned himself away from the driver's window and used his own body to shield his daughter.

He had seconds to react. He had no opportunity to telephone the police or wait for assistance. The decisions he made could determine whether he and his daughter would live or die. So, he acted.

I know this man personally and have always held him in the highest regard. I will not disclose his identity because his privacy and security must be respected. Conflicting accounts are circulating, and the precise details are for the authorities to establish. My interest lies in the conduct of a father who, when confronted with what appears to be an armed attack, acted to protect his family.

As someone who has spent decades in law enforcement and private investigations, I watched the footage with considerable interest.

What stands out is the apparent composure with which this man responded under extraordinary pressure. His positioning, efforts to protect his daughter and response when his firearm appeared to malfunction are significant.

When I describe this as an example of a good shoot, I am not celebrating the deaths of the men involved. I am referring to the apparent circumstances of the confrontation and the manner in which the driver responded to an immediate threat.

Whether the use of lethal force was legally justified is for the relevant authorities to determine after considering all the evidence. The circumstances must be investigated, and the evidence must speak for itself.

And What About The Children?



Self defence or....?

This is the part of the story that troubles me most. There was a little girl in the passenger seat and a son who, according to circulating accounts, was outside the vehicle closing the gate. These children could have lost their father or been killed themselves. They were exposed to an experience no child should endure.

We can watch the footage from the safety of our homes, debate what happened and move on. But these children must live with what they witnessed. The sights, sounds, fear and realization that their family could have been torn apart may stay with them for a long time.

We should afford this father the same understanding and humanity we would hope others would afford us.

What Has Our Country Come To?

This is the uncomfortable reality facing South Africans. People leave home to work, visit friends, take children to school or simply go about their daily lives. They expect to return safely.

Yet some find themselves confronting armed attackers intent on taking possessions and potentially causing serious harm.

How have we reached a point where a father sitting in his vehicle with his children can suddenly find himself fighting for their lives? My Final Word

For me, the defining image is not a firearm being discharged. It is a father positioning himself to shield his daughter.

That is what stays with me. Behind every incident of violent crime are real people whose lives can change forever in an instant.

I do not celebrate the taking of human life. I celebrate the instinct to protect it. In this instance, I see a father doing everything he could to protect his children. For that, he has my respect.

Be vigilant, this man clocked these hijackers early because he was paying attention.

The arrow in the bottom photo indicates where his daughter was seated, shielded by her father during the attack.

Becoming a Brazilian Nut



By Jo Rushby from Ike's Books and Collectables

Toucans squawk and a glimpse of an orange beak in the trees, monkeys climb and stare. I am in the Tijuca national park in Rio de Janeiro, walking down through the forest from Christ the Redeemer. It's a welcome respite from the cell phones, the instagrab moments that seem to haunt sites like this around the world.

The mountain and statue are astounding. A colossal 'hump' or as it is locally known, 'corcovado', 700 metres above sea level. An idea originating in the 1880s, the statue was finally built between 1926 and 1931, 38 metres high. From its platform, the city of Rio stretches and squeezes between the mountains, the forest and the sea. Favelas creep up the crevasses of the mountains. Rio is surrounded by the Tijuca national forest, a protected area, and alongside Johannesburg, is one of the world's largest urban forests. This is tropical delight. Trails snake down, with waterfalls, caves and abundant birdlife, winding down the mountain to a Lake park in the middle of the city. It is magical, humid, and reminds us of the need for trees. You can choose the hard way, a strenuous hike to go up as well, or take the rack railway. If you're feeling truly adventurous, you can hang-glide down from the top and land on Ipanema beach!

Rio de Janeiro. The city of gold. Frank Sinatra, Barry Manilow, Copacabana beach. They sing like a samba into your mind, and one day, you dream of going there. From the moment we set foot in the city, I am hooked. The wide stretch of beach, surrounded by mountains, a sugarloaf, and the redeemer on high. Along Copacabana beach, stretch kiosks selling coconut water, snacks and in the evening, there is a nightly flea market and live music. And this is not even tourist season!

The water is warm, and gannets swoop down, crashing into the water to retrieve fish. Boom, bang, shakalaka, Rio de Janeiro. Where my heart is going.

The Brazilian forests now can breathe a sigh of relief, the trees excitedly whispering Lula's name. Like its soccer, Brazilian politics switches play from Left to Right and back again.

But somehow through it all, the people still have a ball.



This is tropical delight. Trails snake down, with waterfalls, caves and abundant birdlife, winding down the mountain to a Lake park in the middle of the city



Rio is surrounded by the Tijuca national forest, a protected area



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“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” By Mother Teresa

Anyone for some crumpets?

Swedish Style, Insured Peace of Mind: The XC40 Has It All

Some cars simply look right standing still, and the Volvo XC40 at CMH Volvo Cars Umhlanga is one of them. Compact, confident and unmistakably Scandinavian, it has long been the quiet overachiever of the premium SUV class, and the latest version only sharpens its appeal.

On paper, the recipe is compelling. A mild hybrid petrol powertrain promises smooth, efficient progress, whether you are nipping between Gateway and Umhlanga Ridge or settling in for the sweep up the M4 towards Ballito. Adaptive cruise control and Lane Keeping Aid are designed to take the strain out of longer journeys, while Volvo’s celebrated safety engineering sits quietly in the background, as it always has.

Inside, the XC40 is a lesson in Swedish restraint. Clean lines, honest materials and Google services built right in give the cabin the feel of a thoughtfully curated Umhlanga apartment. Higher spec models add a panoramic sunroof to flood it with North Coast light, and a 360 degree camera that should make shopping centre parking a far more civilised affair.

Then there is peace of mind. Volvo Car Insurance, arranged in house through the dealership’s own F&I manager, is the clever piece of the puzzle. Owners enjoy preferential rates, repairs carried out only by Volvo experts using genuine parts, and original windscreens rather than lookalikes. Optional extras include Volvo Car Hire after an accident, theft or hijacking, Tyre Protect and an Excess Waiver. In a province where potholes and fender benders are practically a regional sport, that is no small comfort.

Yet insurance remains the supporting act. The star is a compact SUV of enigmatic charm, one that wears its formidable safety heritage lightly and its style effortlessly. Few rivals look this special without trying too hard.

The CMH Volvo Cars Umhlanga team know this brand intimately, and it shows in every handshake. For the discerning KZN buyer, this is the complete package: a sublime car, a revered Swedish marque, intelligent protection and a dealership that genuinely cares.

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“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.” By Oscar Wilde



Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

In a Market Full of Choices, Experience Still Matters

What should buyers and sellers look for when choosing a property practitioner



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The Ballito property market has grown considerably in recent years, bringing more agencies, practitioners and choices for consumers. Our recent review identified 556 property practitioners operating in the area, reflecting the competitive nature of the local industry.

While greater competition offers consumers more options, it also raises an important question: what should buyers and sellers consider when choosing someone to guide them through a property transaction?

Selling a home involves much more than placing an advert online or putting up a board. It requires an understanding of market conditions, realistic pricing, effective marketing, sound negotiation and the ability to manage the many details involved in bringing a transaction to completion.

Understanding the local market
The North Coast is a diverse property market, with areas such as Zimbali, Simbithi, Seaton, Zululami, Brettenwood and Dunkirk each offering distinct characteristics and lifestyles.

These differences influence buyer preferences, property values and the way homes should be marketed. Local knowledge can therefore play an important role in determining how a property is positioned and which prospective buyers are most likely to be interested.

Understanding comparable sales, current demand and the expectations of buyers helps practitioners provide informed advice to sellers. It also assists buyers in assessing their options and making decisions that reflect both their needs and the realities of the market.

Experience, reach and professional support

A property's potential market may extend well beyond Ballito. Buyers could be relocating from other parts of South Africa or considering a move from abroad. Access to a wider network can help broaden exposure, although successful marketing ultimately depends on reaching the right audience with the right proposition.

Experience can also prove valuable when negotiations become complicated or unexpected challenges arise. Property transactions involve numerous parties, including buyers, sellers, attorneys and financial institutions, and effective communication is essential throughout the process. An established agency may offer structured systems, broader support and a track record built over time. Well-established national brands with a heritage and track record for excellent quality of service delivered over an extensive period of time are attributes that provide a high probability of success for those looking to buy or sell.

Sellers should also ask practical questions about an agent's recent experience, proposed marketing strategy, communication and approach to negotiations.

Compliance is only part of the picture. A valid Fidelity Fund Certificate is an important requirement for lawful property practice. It is equally important, however, for consumers to understand that compliance alone does not establish a practitioner's level of experience or expertise. The quality of advice, understanding of the local market and ability to manage the transaction are all worth considering when selecting representation.

At Seeff North Coast, our perspective is shaped by the wider Seeff brand's more than six decades of history and our own experience in the North Coast market. These are useful reminders that property knowledge develops through time, relationships and practical involvement in the communities being served. In a market offering so much choice, making an informed decision about who represents you is an important first step towards a successful property transaction. Excellence matters in all industries and especially in the world of property transactions.

Want Your Spouse to Fund Your Divorce? The Court Needs Proof

A judgment delivered on 21 October 2026 dealt with the issue of a spouse asking the court for an order that her husband to pay a contribution of her legal costs in their divorce action.

The couple had been married for more than 20 years before separating in December 2016. The husband was a chartered accountant who ran his own practice, while the wife had largely devoted her time to raising their three children and managing the home. Their divorce proceedings were still ongoing, with the main issue being the wife's claim to a share of the accrual. She approached the court under Rule 43, asking her husband to contribute R750,000 towards her legal costs. Her argument was that she needed the money to properly pursue her claim, including paying for an attorney, counsel and a forensic accountant.

She suspected that her husband had not fully disclosed his financial affairs and believed there could be other assets or business interests that she knew nothing about. Her husband saw things differently.

He said his accounting practice had suffered a decline in business and that his financial position was not what it had once been. He said he simply could not afford the amount she was asking for. He also questioned whether the proposed legal costs were reasonable, considering the value of their estates.

In making its order the judge made it clear that needing financial assistance is only half the story. A spouse asking for a contribution towards legal costs must show both that they need the money and that the other spouse can afford to pay it. In this case, the judge accepted that the wife was at a financial disadvantage and that a forensic accountant would help to get to the bottom of her husband's financial affairs. However, on the evidence the court was not convinced that he could afford the full R750,000. His explanation about the decline of his business was considered credible. The court therefore ordered him to contribute R200,000 towards her legal costs, payable in installments. He was also ordered to pay the costs of the application.

In my decades of litigation especially in divorce actions, I have come across many clients who have faced a similar problem when they suspect that their spouse may be hiding assets. My advice is where a person has limited knowledge say of the family's finances, it's important to remember that suspicion is not proof. The court requires proof as this case clearly demonstrates. The court will not simply assume that someone has money because their spouse believes they do. All is not lost though, if financial information is missing, there are definitely ways to address the problem.

In my practice, we would consider getting the court to compel the production of relevant documents. This would be the better route rather than expect the court to guess what the other spouse might be worth. When it comes to legal costs, remember assumptions are no substitute for proof.

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“Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.” By Helen Keller

JETOUR X70 PLUS: THE FAMILIAR STRANGER

By Tomas Yoko

Some cars announce themselves with noise. The Jetour X70 Plus does something more interesting. It quietly earns your trust, then keeps surprising you, and by the end of my road test I had come to think of it as a pleasant enigma: an SUV that feels instantly familiar, yet never quite loses its sense of newness.

That familiarity begins the moment you settle in. Everything falls naturally to hand, the controls are logical, and

within minutes you drive it as though you have owned it for years. There is no learning curve to endure, only a cabin that welcomes you.

And what a cabin it is. Twin 10.25-inch screens, ambient lighting, an eight-speaker Sony sound system and wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto create an atmosphere well above its price point. Heated and ventilated front seats, a panoramic sunroof and dual-zone climate control complete a sense of

genuine luxury.

Space is where the X70 Plus truly shines. Seven seats make it a natural partner for growing families, and with the rear rows folded the load area expands to a generous 1,680 litres, ready for school sports kit, holiday luggage or a weekend haul from the nurseries along the Old North Coast Road.

Under the bonnet, a 1.5-litre turbocharged engine delivers 125 kW and 270 Nm through a seven-speed dual-

clutch gearbox. On the climb up the N2 towards Ballito it pulls with quiet composure, while a 540-degree camera, blind spot monitoring and six airbags offer reassurance in busy Umhlanga traffic.

This is the full package, an SUV that covers every base without asking you to compromise. Add a five-year/150,000 km warranty, a five-year/60,000 km service plan and a 10-year/1,000,000 km engine warranty for

the first owner, and the value case becomes compelling. Pricing starts at R444 900.

My thanks to Darren Van Niekerk, Sales Manager at Jetour Umhlanga and genuinely one of the nicest people in the motor trade. Visit Darren and his team at 15 Meridian Drive, Umhlanga, call 087 008 2002 or email info@jetourumhlanga.co.za. Some cars you simply must experience for yourself, and this is most certainly one of them.



Familiar from the first minute, still fresh at the end of the week. Tomas Yoko road tests the Jetour X70 Plus, a seven-seat SUV with real luxury, generous space, clever tech and a 10-year engine warranty for the first owner. Discover the enigma at Jetour Umhlanga, 15 Meridian Drive, 087 008 2002.

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“It is not the length of life, but the depth of life.” By Ralph Waldo Emerson

MAHINDRA’S MOMENT HAS ARRIVED IN BALLITO

By Tomas Yoko



Small SUV, big ambition: the Mahindra XUV 3XO, from R259 999 at CMH Mahindra Ballito.

Few brands have captured South African hearts as quickly as Mahindra. In 2025 it recorded its best year ever locally, selling 18,097 vehicles. On the North Coast, CMH Mahindra Ballito is where that momentum comes to life. Leading the charge is the XUV 3XO, the compact SUV that has already found more than 10,000 South African homes. Its 1.2-litre turbo-petrol engine delivers 82 kW and 200 Nm, with a choice of manual or automatic gearboxes and a lively 4.6-second sprint to 60 km/h. Every model carries six airbags and stability control, while higher grades add a 10.25-inch touchscreen, a 360-degree camera, Level 2 driver assistance and a panoramic Skyroof. Prices start at R259 999, backed by a five-year/150,000 km warranty with roadside assistance.

Mahindra’s commitment goes beyond the showroom. Its 24-hour assured response promise means customer queries are answered quickly, and the new Lifestyler double cab bakkie is expected in South Africa during 2027. Yet the greatest asset at CMH Mahindra Ballito is its people. This friendly, knowledgeable team treats every visitor like a neighbour, because most of them are. Whether you need a city runabout, a family SUV or a hard-working Pik Up, they’ll find the right fit and make the numbers work. Pop in for a test drive at 35-37 Moffat Drive, Ballito, call 032 946 5820 or visit mahindraballito.co.za. With summer on the doorstep, there’s never been a better time to discover what the excitement is about.



School run, business run, holiday run. The new Nissan X-Trail does it all, now from R599 900 with a six-year warranty. Meet it at CMH Nissan Ballito, 35-37 Moffat Drive, 032 946 5820

The New Nissan X-Trail: Your Next Adventure Starts In Ballito

By Tomas Yoko

Some vehicles simply understand how North Coast families live: the school run, a meeting in Umhlanga, then a weekend escape to the Drakensberg. With over eight million sold worldwide, the Nissan X-Trail was built for exactly that life, and the latest version is now waiting at CMH Nissan Ballito. Fresh styling with LED lighting meets a noticeably upgraded interior, where a 12.3-inch touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto takes centre stage. An eight-point around-view monitor makes light work of tight parking on a busy Saturday. A 2.5-litre petrol engine delivers 135 kW and 244 Nm through a smooth CVT. Higher grades add heated seats and ProPILOT assisted driving, while

the flagship Acenta+ brings seven seats, a head-up display and a terrain selector for mud, snow and sand. But the real reason to visit CMH Nissan Ballito is the people. This is a dealership rooted in our community, with a team that takes time to understand how you live and how to make the numbers work. They’ll walk you through every derivative and arrange a test drive on roads you know. With the holidays around the corner, there’s no better time to plan your family’s next adventure. Visit the team at 35-37 Moffat Drive, Ballito, call 032 946 5820, or browse cmhnissan.co.za. Your next great road trip starts right here.

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“It always seems impossible until it’s done.” By Nelson Mandela

DONGFENG 007: ELECTRICITY NEVER FELT THIS EXCITING

There is nothing quite like pressing the accelerator of an electric car and discovering that physics has suddenly become your personal assistant. The Dongfeng 007 delivers precisely that experience, combining sports-car performance with comfort, sophistication and a price tag that deserves serious attention.

I collected the test car from Kreesson Govender, Sales Manager at Motor Barn, Ballito, and was immediately impressed by the E1 620's effortless acceleration. Its 200 kW electric motor and 320 Nm of torque provide instant response, making overtaking almost ridiculously easy. There is no gear-changing

drama, no engine noise and no waiting for power to arrive. You simply press and go.

Yet performance is only half the story. The suspension deserves special mention, delivering a remarkably smooth, almost floating sensation over the road. The 007 feels composed and confident through corners, while absorbing road imperfections with impressive refinement. It manages that rare trick of feeling sporty without punishing its occupants.

Inside, the cabin follows the increasingly appealing philosophy that less really can be more. The uncluttered layout feels modern and welcoming, while the comfortable seating accommodates five

adults without making anyone feel like they drew the short straw. It is a pleasant place to spend time, whether commuting or travelling farther a field.

Range is naturally a consideration when buying an electric vehicle. Dongfeng quotes a 620 km CLTC range for the E1 620, although real-world results will vary with speed, weather, terrain and driving style. A sensible planning estimate is approximately 400–500 km between charges.

The more powerful E2 540 AWD takes things to another level, producing 400 kW and 640 Nm. Its claimed sprint to 100 km/h in under 3.9 seconds puts it firmly in sports-car territory, although its quoted

540 km CLTC range should also be treated as an ideal-condition figure. Around 350–450 km is a more cautious real-world planning estimate.

The 007's appeal lies in its combination of acceleration, refinement, comfort and contemporary design. It feels special without demanding that you sacrifice everyday practicality.

For anyone considering the switch to electric motoring, this Dongfeng deserves a place on the shortlist. Arrange a test drive with the friendly sales team at Motor Barn, 032 583 0230 or 071 028 8534, 20 Moffat Drive Ballito, and discover just how exciting quiet motoring can be.



Press and go. The Dongfeng 007 pairs 200 kW of instant electric shove with a ride so smooth it almost floats, plus room for five and a quoted 620 km CLTC range. Want more? The 400 kW E2 540 AWD hits 100 km/h in under 3.9 seconds. Tomas Yoko finds out why electricity never felt this exciting. Test drive yours at Motor Barn Ballito, 20 Moffat Drive, 032 583 0230



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“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.” By Maya Angelou

FIFTY YEARS ON, AND STILL GOING THE DISTANCE

In 1976, a handful of KwaZulu-Natal dealerships joined forces under one banner. Fifty years later, CMH is one of the most respected names in South African motor retail, and still proudly calls KZN home. No small feat in an industry where brands come and go like summer storms. Their anniversary message boils down to one word: trust. CMH Ford Ballito promises to find you the right Ford, give you honest advice and deliver exceptional

service, from first enquiry to every journey after. Dealer Principal Matthew Buck and Sales Manager Glenn Clifton lead a team that gives back too, with their Feed A Child charity drive proving an amazing success. Which brings me to the vehicle I would happily park in my driveway this summer, the Ford Tourneo Custom. Call it a people carrier if you must, but that undersells it. With seating for up to eight and a clever track-mounted seat

system, the cabin reshapes itself around your life, whether that means the school run, a surf trip to Salt Rock or a Drakensberg getaway. Inside, it feels more executive lounge than minibus. Up front, a 2.0-litre turbodiesel and smooth eight-speed automatic deliver an effortless drive that makes the N2 feel shorter. Ford has packed it with adaptive cruise control, lane keeping assist, blind spot detection, evasive steering assist and six airbags,

protecting precious cargo. Build quality is typically Ford: solid and made for the long haul. Better still, it sips 7.4 litres per 100 km, giving a range of up to 946 km on a tank. Add a four year, 120,000 km warranty and the sums add up beautifully. Fifty years of trust, and a vehicle worthy of it. Visit CMH Ford Ballito at 35 – 37 Moffat Drive, Ballito, or call 087 723 9278. Plenty more summer specials are waiting.



Whether it is for Family, Business or Fleet, one Ford covers all three. The new Tourneo Custom Kombi replaces the Tourneo Trend and pairs a 2.0-litre SiT diesel with an eight-speed automatic. Inside, a 13-inch central touchscreen and an 8-inch digital cluster keep everyone connected. For more information contact CMH Ford Ballito 032 946 5600.



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