

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za



The exclusive Pencil Club in Umhlanga was the site of a business breakfast hosted by Araujo Attorneys and RE/MAX Dolphin Coast. The event drew an enthusiastic crowd, eager to gain insights and inspiration from the impressive line-up of speakers. Headlining the event was the Internationally renowned Wellness Guru, Brett Shuttleworth who is visiting South Africa giving workshops around the country. The breakfast served not only as a networking opportunity but also as a platform for motivation and learning, making it a standout event in the North Coast business community. Seen above; Left to right, Frances Park-Ross, Stephanie Lopes, Kim Peacock, Marco Araujo, Sarah Araujo, Brett Shuttleworth, Ralph Schroder and Daniela Boonzaier. See story on page 3

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Through my eyes

Riding the Waves of Thought



by Kasia Yoko

“When we let our mind relax, a moment will come when we rest without thoughts. This stable state is like an ocean without waves. Within this stability, a thought arises. This thought is like a wave which forms on the surface of the ocean. When we leave this thought alone, do nothing with it, not 'seizing' it, it subsides by itself into the mind where it came from.” ~ Bokar Rinpoche

What would life be without challenges? How would our lives be if everything was perfectly designed and delivered? It's impossible to imagine a perfect life in a soulless world. But for the few who believe and have faith, the world is bearable and sometimes even magnificently fantastic.

There is a profound beauty in our struggles and its imperfections. Challenges shape us, mould our character, and bring out our resilience. They remind us that we are alive, pushing us to grow and evolve. Without challenges life would be a boring monotonous journey, without any of the rich experiences that define our uniqueness.

Faith plays a pivotal role in navigating our journey. It offers a sanctuary amidst the chaos, a place to anchor our hopes and dreams. Faith is the invisible thread that connects us to something greater, giving our lives meaning and purpose.

Through devotion to our maker, we find strength and solace, a daily dose of blessings that empower us

to face the world with a renewed vigour. In order to make the world a better place, we must embody the change we wish to see. It starts with us, rising above the lies and deception that often cloud our vision.

Authenticity and integrity are our guiding lights, illuminating the path to becoming the best version of ourselves. Life is fleeting, a brief interlude in the vastness of time, and we must make every moment count. In the midst of life's turmoil, I find



solace in the wisdom of Bokar Rinpoche. His words remind me of the ocean of thoughts within us constantly in flux.

When we allow ourselves to relax, we can find moments of stillness, free from the clamour of incessant thoughts. In these moments, we glimpse the tranquility that lies beneath the surface, a state of being that is both peaceful and profound.

And when thoughts arise, like waves on the ocean, we need not cling to them. By letting them pass, we return to our natural state of calm. This practice of non-attachment teaches us to navigate the ups and downs of life with grace and equanimity. It is a reminder that we are not our thoughts; we are the vast, unchanging ocean that holds them.

As I reflect on these ideas, I am reminded of the impermanence of everything. Life is a series of moments, each precious and unique. By embracing our challenges, nurturing our faith, and striving to be our best selves, we can create a life that is not just bearable but magnificently fantastic.

Hello Kasia.

Re: Through my eyes June 2024

I am a retired resident who lives in Umhlanga Rocks. I just want to thank you for your excellent article that I read in the 28th June copy of The Bugle. It was so refreshing to read an encouraging article sharing with your many readers the only hope for this world, 'a faith in God who is the only One who can guide us

through these hard, unpredictable times.'

One never gets to read positive encouraging articles in newspapers these days. I admire you for spreading the only truth that can help us in our daily walk.

May God continue to use you and your articles for Him, to spread His hope and guidance for us folk in SA.

Kind regards,
Mrs Irene Muris

Dear Ed,

Re: NEW ETHEKWINI MAYOR

Goodbye and good riddance now that Mxolisi Kaunda is no longer Mayor of Ethekwini. He was a dismal under-achiever and failed miserably as first citizen, yet always maintained an air of arrogance. Unfortunately, as is the warped logic and bad practice of the dubious ANC, Kaunda has in a sense been rewarded, not put out to the political wilderness as a just due, as he is now redeployed to the NCOP -what a grave miscarriage.

As is usual with jockeying for positions, manipulating and posturing, the announcement of the new mayor has been delayed. The names of Bheki Cele (Ndosi), Cyril Xaba and Nomusa Dube-Ncube have been bandied about for the pristine position. GOD forbids that the useless and clueless Cele should wear the mayoral chain. The tepid retiring Min of Police should enjoy his pension and not become mayor as he has proved to be a bumbling buffoon under whose watch crime and allied misdeeds have actually increased. He was in the past the chairperson of the ANC Ethekwini Region. This is the biggest constituency in SA and carries immense power and a multitude of votes of members. It was this reason alone that the equally incompetent and shady ANC President Cyril M Ramaphosa had kept Cele on his dubious cabinet. Note the infamous Phala saga (... dollars hidden under mattresses) and Marikana atrocity (... Ramaphosa's email assenting to the police moving in to confront the miners) hang as swords of Damocles over Ramaphosa... but he doggedly maintains his innocence. Even the present Public Protector's (Adv Gcaleka) report on Phala has proved to be a travesty of justice. This is especially as she willingly failed to investigate some key aspects, which would ensure an outcome far different to that she appended, all in taking an inordinate amount of time to reach this flawed conclusion. I believe the MKP are soon set to resurrect this nightmare for our president.

Cele previously served as National Police Commissioner but had to be removed from office prematurely. His undoing then was not to heed sound legal

advice on SAPS property letting amounting to millions of Rands. Imagine this "genius with a "Bantustan education diploma" thinking that he could outsmart senior legal advisers!

I have not worked with C Xaba and B Cele but am aware of them. Xaba has been on the KZN Legislature and his portfolio was Agriculture. He was touted as the City Manager some 10 to 15 years back. I had worked with Dube -Ncube especially when she was eThekweni's first Speaker. She chaired some of the committees I serviced, especially Unicity. The latter was an interim sort of special Council comprising key politicians from the 8 municipalities that existed in Durban and also included the Town Clerks and their deputies. Unicity had various sub-committees to assist in its prime task, which was to see to it that a new metro was created as a single local authority. This took a decade to come to fruition. I serviced such fora, in addition to my diverse primary chores, on extended periods when the 2 of the 3 designated senior officials servicing these special fora were absent for long periods.

2. City Manager Musa Mbhele is such an incompetent executive. I had worked with Mbhele for a while and with Kaunda in the early 2000s. On his appointment, which shocked me, Mbhele intimidated that he was "a well-oiled machine" and was ready for the mammoth task ahead. I then wrote (grudgingly) congratulating him and expressed the wish that he would not prove to be a damp squib that his predecessor the useless and corrupt then City Manager Siphon Nzuza (Mshazi) was. Note Nzuza, his wife and shady ex Mayor Z Gumede (I also worked with Nzuza and Gumede) are co-accused, with others, in the R230 plus million DSW tender fraud. Well Mbhele proved to be totally inept and struggles to achieve excellence and out of the box and innovative thinking, mediocrity and lukewarmness being the best he can muster.

Kaunda, Cele and Mbhele are in the same vein of the fired and abysmal failure past Public Protector B Mkwane -now this reject is an EFF MP- and have done the city/ country a great disservice as they have and proved to be incompetent and a serious waste of the city/country coffers.

Both Xaba and Dube-Ncube are competent and worthy persons who will

do a sterling job as Mayor, provided they are not burdened by unnecessary political interference and become the slaves of the ANC caucuses, because the latter are in effect (de facto) the real seat of power, as opposed to the legal seat of power (de iure).

I know for sure what I am writing about re all the above as I had worked for 18 years, under democracy, at City Hall as a competent City Admin/ Secretariat official. In addition, I worked also for this duration as the City's Bylaws and Tariffs Officer post apartheid. I also had the benefit of working at City Hall pre - apartheid for less than 3 years under highly competent political and admin executives. Re post apartheid, top ex City Manager Mike Sutcliffe can attest to my prowess and competence.

Dear GOD please save Ethekwini, I humbly pray. Can the City get any worse? May the new mayor bring dynamism and excellence to our beloved city? A new superbly performing City Manager would indeed be a bonus. I repeat, and will do so, ad nauseam, that there must be accountability, coupled with vision, innovation and dynamic strategies. Consequence management is a key management principle. It has been sorely absent at Ethekwini. It must be implemented so that the shirkers and non-performers are rooted out, especially the highly paid executives who hold office solely on account of them being ANC lackeys, cronies and inefficient and incompetent employees. It is a proven fact that cadre deployment of the ANC has been the primary cause of ineffective, poor and non-timeous service delivery and in tandem corruption; mismanagement and fruitless and wasteful expenditure have spiraled. The Auditor-General has corroborated this sad state of affairs that need to come to an end - sooner rather than later. One cant wait for 2026 to usher a new chapter in local government when the GNU principle is highly likely to come to the fore when coalitions would be to the betterment of the local authorities and its peoples, which under ANC majority rule have 3. Proven to be disasters, except for the Western Cape, which is in a league of its own - for good reasons.

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Celebrated as a spiritual teacher, transformational coach, and founder of Smiling Soul Creations, Shuttleworth has dedicated his life to sharing his wisdom on intentional living and spiritual growth



Human connection, learning, and inspiration were the names of the game today

Wellness Guru Sharing Miracles with North Coast Business Community

By Kasia Yoko

The exclusive Pencil Club in Umhlanga was the site of a business breakfast hosted by Araujo Attorneys and RE/MAX Dolphin Coast estate agency. The event drew an enthusiastic crowd, eager to gain insights and inspiration from the impressive line-up of speakers. The breakfast served not only as a networking opportunity but also as a platform for motivation and learning, making it a standout event in the North Coast business community.

The event featured notable speakers including Wendy Hind from Currency Direct and Jay Pillay from FNB. Ralph Schroder, the director of Araujo Attorneys, engaged as Master of Ceremonies, ensuring the event ran smoothly. The highlight of the morning was an inspirational talk delivered by renowned international wellness guru Brett Shuttleworth, who shared his insights on the seven fundamentals to wealth and freedom.

Shuttleworth's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and passion. From his humble beginnings as a farm boy in KwaZulu-Natal, Brett has risen to success as a professional sportsman, supermodel, Hollywood actor, and entrepreneur. Recently Brett was accredited as an international best selling author in personal transformation and spirituality; Shuttleworth's life story is an inspiring example of what can be achieved by following one's passions and embracing one's true self.

Celebrated as a spiritual teacher, transformational coach, and founder of Smiling Soul Creations, Shuttleworth has dedicated his life to sharing his wisdom on intentional living and spiritual growth.

During his talk, he emphasized the importance of living consciously, embracing love and gratitude, and pursuing joy and well being in all aspects of life. His message resonated deeply with the audience, inspiring many to reflect on their own paths and the importance of aligning with their true purpose.

"People do business with people," said Sarah Araujo, owner and founder of Araujo Attorneys Inc. "At Araujo Attorneys, we live by this mantra, with relationships being the cornerstone of our business. We specialize in property transfers, and one of our key partners in this industry is an estate agent. Today, we hosted one of the biggest agencies on the KZN North Coast RE/MAX Dolphin Coast headed up by broker owners Kim and Simon Peacock, at the prestigious Pencil Club. This post-COVID era has been an interesting one where meetings can happen online now, but the power of in-person get-togethers cannot be underestimated. Human connection, learning, and inspiration were the names of the game today, and the outlook for the North Coast, especially the property market, is very bright!"

The event underscored the importance of personal connections in business and the powerful impact of motivational gatherings. Attendees left with not only valuable business insights but also a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration to apply to their personal and professional lives. With the Pencil Club providing an elegant backdrop, "Breakfast with the Stars" was a resounding success, setting a high standard for future events in the region.

The Print Shop Is On Top!

Yash Panday, the visionary behind The Print Shop in Durban North, South Africa, has transformed his business into a beacon of excellence in the local print and signage industry. With a keen focus on customer service, Yash has cultivated a loyal clientele by prioritizing convenience, quality, and personalized support. His dedication to understanding each client's unique needs has set The Print Shop apart, fostering a reputation for reliability and innovation.

Under Yash's leadership, The Print Shop has not only expanded its range of services but has also continuously invested in the latest technology, machinery and training, ensuring top-tier product quality. This commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed, as The Print Shop recently was voted in the prestigious "Best of Durban" award for Best Branding & Signage Company. This accolade is a testament to the company's outstanding work and its unwavering dedication to customer satisfaction.

For businesses and individuals seeking impeccable printing solutions, The Print Shop is the destination of choice. Yash Panday and his team are ready to bring your vision to life, offering everything from eye-catching signage to bespoke branding materials. They have a wide range of products from business cards, custom signage, wallpaper, vehicle branding, promotional gifting to web design and social media marketing. They have the experience to be the custodians of your brand from inception to print to digital marketing. With a proven track



The Print Shop Owner Yash Panday celebrated the win saying, "What a great way to celebrate our 10 year Anniversary, with producing over 1 million orders to date! Thank you for selecting us as your Print & Design Partner! We have been evolving and adapting in order to maintain our commitment to delivering exceptional quality, unparalleled customer service and innovative printing solutions!" Get it printed at www.theprintshop.co.za

record and a customer-first approach, The Print Shop is not just a service provider but a partner in your journey. Trust The Print Shop for all your print needs and experience the difference that passion and expertise can make.

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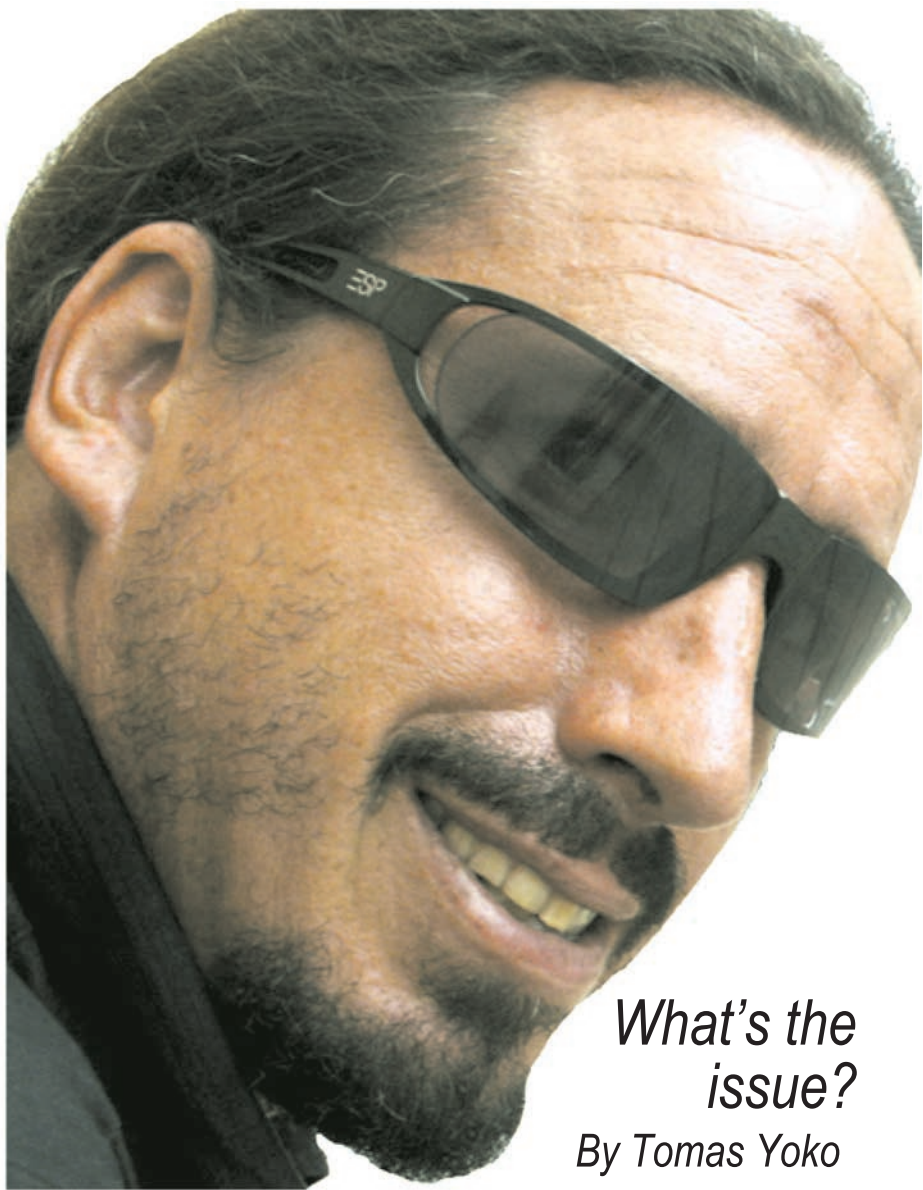
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"It is never too late to be what you might have been," by George Eliot



What's the issue?
By Tomas Yoko

“The US-led NATO allies keep fuelling the fire and profiteering from the war...”

Wow! That escalated really quick. Donald Trump dodging bullets with what everybody is claiming is divine intervention. Well maybe not everyone, there are some amongst us who believe that the assassination attempt was staged. Then Biden dropped out of the race and out of site for a few days only to hand the baton over to cackling Kamala.

It's no wonder the Chinese Defense Ministry's spokesperson, Zhang Xiaogang said that the US

long ago became an “empire of lies” as it continues to push false narratives about China and other countries to secure its position globally. Zhang went on to lambaste America's Ukraine war saying, “The US-led NATO allies keep fuelling the fire and profiteering from the war. NATO needs to reflect on itself, instead of deflecting blame onto China,” Zhang escalated the narrative adding, “From Ukraine to Afghanistan, from Iraq to Libya,

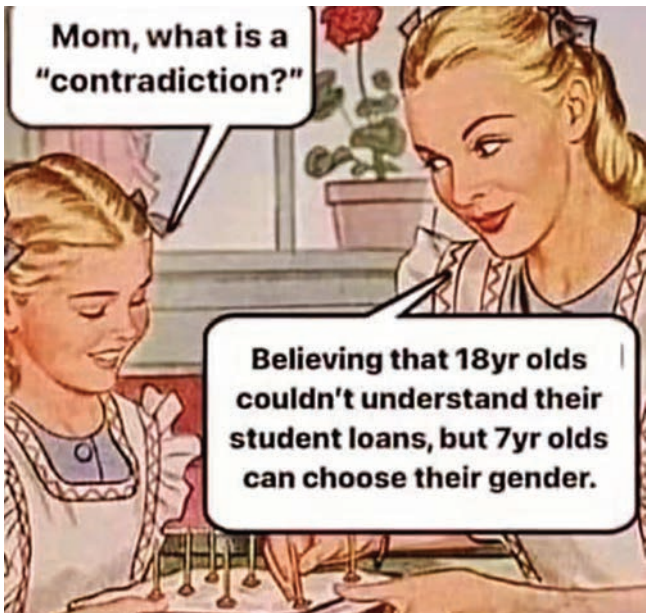
it has brought war and disaster to these regions and their people.”

Bibi addressing the American congress is a veritable window in to the power structures that own and run the USA. No doubt he walked away with massive amounts of Taxpayers Dollars to continue his genocide. The warmongers tearing at the coffers in a frantic panic before Trump gets back into power.

Until then NATO is scrambling to hold onto the slither of relevance the Ukraine conflict allowed this obsolete white elephant, holding conferences to confirm funding. I suppose, with a military industrial complex worth trillions of Dollars and Euro, war becomes a necessity.

Ukraine's soldiers are reportedly very low in morale and don't want to fight, the Palestinians in Gaza must surely have had enough bombs dropped on them and nobody really wants a nuclear conflict to break out anywhere, not even in the South China sea.

Little Rocket Man is sending off more missiles and the Russian military initiated their second round of nuclear deployment drills. The European Union unfortunately voted Ursula fond of lying back into her top job spot where she proceeded to poke the angry wasps nest again when she threatened on Twitter / X, to transfer 1.5 billion Euros from frozen Russian funds to Ukraine.





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Here at home our Government of National Unity is trying real hard to break from its past and move forward. Disgraced judges are being reinstated, or at least trying to be.

On our beloved continent of Africa a rebirth of nations that care for their people is being seen with Gabon, Niger, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Guinea, Chad and Mali all rejected their colonialist oppressors and seem to earnestly trying to restructure the countries wealth in a fashion that benefits the people a lot better than under the boot of the colonialists. Now reports of human rights being in free fall and the cycle begins. Ripe for regime change and sitting on mineral wealth is not a comfortable position to be in, historically speaking. With the western military forces ousted and the Russian replacements taking up position it can only get even more interesting.

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

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

"Happiness is not by chance, but by choice," by Jim Rohn



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The enigmatic Mitsubishi Pajero Sport is as comfortable in the bush as it is in the business district. Take one for a spin with Mbulelo – Call 072 306 9168 now

The Mitsubishi Pajero Sport is a well-rounded SUV that blends robust off-road capabilities with everyday practicality. A legend for its ruggedness and reliability, the Pajero Sport has earned a solid reputation among adventure enthusiasts and families alike.

Under the hood, the Pajero Sport is powered by a capable

2.4L MIVEC turbo diesel engine, delivering 133kW torque and 430Nm power to handle a variety of driving conditions. Its advanced four-wheel-drive system, complemented by a high ground clearance and durable suspension, ensures that the vehicle can tackle rough terrains with confidence. The Super Select 4WD-II system allows for

seamless transitions between driving modes, making it versatile for both off-road adventures and urban commutes.

Inside, the Pajero Sport offers a spacious and comfortable cabin, designed with high-quality materials and thoughtful features. The infotainment system is user-

friendly, with comprehensive connectivity options to keep passengers entertained and informed. Safety is also a priority, with features such as multiple airbags, stability control, and advanced driver assistance systems providing peace of mind on the road.

Overall, the Mitsubishi Pajero Sport is a reliable and versatile

SUV that excels in both off-road and everyday settings. Its blend of performance, comfort, and safety makes it a strong contender in its segment, appealing to those who seek adventure and practicality in one package.

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“Pull up a chair. Take a taste. Come join us. Life is so endlessly delicious.” by Ruth Reichl



“Life is too short for self-hatred and celery sticks.” by Marilyn Wann



A beloved local legend Cindy Valayadam from Cindy’s in Umhlali

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“O you who believe! Eat of the pure, wholesome things that we have provided for you, and (in return) give thanks to God, if you worship Him alone.”
Quran (2:172)

In my native language, which is Polish, there is a saying “Gosc w dom. Bog w dom”, which translates to, “A guest in the house is like having God in the house”. My mom would often tell it to me explaining how important it is to always be hospitable to the people who visit our home.

Today, it is my privilege to prepare special offerings for friends and family who visit my home. What an honour to serve and feed the ones I love with food that not only nourishes their bodies, but it also feeds their soul.

This month I have prepared a simple spinach dish, it’s a crustless, eggless spinach pie. Delicious and light and so good for you. With spinach in full swing and so affordable, there truly is no reason not to include it in your daily nourishment regime.

One thing that we have to be mindful of when preparing consciousness food, is to know where exactly your food comes from. So normally my spinach comes from Gita at the Verulam Market’ however due to unforeseen circumstance that was out of my reach. Cindy’s in Umhlali was my second go to place to get spinach that is grown by Cindy just 2km from my home.

What a blessing Cindy has been to me and the community. It is so good to see Cindy strong and still fully active in her kitchen, preparing delicious traditional South African Indian dishes that people drive for miles to enjoy. Thank you, Cindy, for your contribution to our healthy eating.

Here is this month’s recipe. This recipe calls for patience as the pie needs to set in the oven for at least four hours before you reheat and serve;

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch Spinach
- 2 cup mash potato
- 1 cup chili tomato relish
- 1/2 cup Yoghurt
- 1/2 cup fried onion
- 1 TBSN garlic herb spice
- 1 cup fresh coriander



By Kasia Yoko

Directions:

1. Wash thoroughly and dry the spinach leaves
2. Cut the white main vein from the spinach leaf
3. Mix mash, tomato relish yoghurt, onion, coriander and spice and make a thick mush
4. Line a cake dish with broken spinach leaves, use the bigger pieces to stuff with mush and roll the leaves. Line the dish with rolled, stuffed spinach leaves.
5. Take the remaining spinach leaves and steam until wilted place on top of the rolled spinach and pour the remaining mush on top of wilted spinach. Press down with something heavy for an hour.
6. Sprinkle generously with grated mozzarella cheese
7. Wrap the baking dish with foil and place into a preheated oven 220 degrees Celsius for an hour
8. After an hour switch an oven off but keep your pie until it cools completely. Leave the foil and reheat when ready to serve.
9. Serve with bread and fresh salad.

There is also another famous Polish saying, which my mother never used; “Lepiej Goscia zabic, niz nie nakarmic” Which means, “It is better to kill a guest, rather than not to feed them well.”

Miss KZN Crowned



Melissa Landman, a 22-year-old from Ballito, was recently crowned Miss KwaZulu-Natal 2024, having just handed over her Crown as Miss Ballito. As an entrepreneur, Melissa runs Simply Models, a modeling school and agency that blends arts, fitness, and technology. This title enables her to further her mission of making a positive impact in the community, especially among the youth. Melissa enjoys being involved in community projects and networking, inspired by Princess Diana's philosophy of kindness. From fitness enthusiast to tech-savvy entrepreneur, her journey is just beginning, and she is excited to see where it will take her next! Seen above from left to right are 1st Princess Kshirja Maharaj, Miss KZN Melissa Landman and 2nd Princess Engela Jacobs



Mr. Glen Naidoo, is transforming his farm in the Inanda Tea Plantation into a haven for those eager to work the land and achieve self-sufficiency

Local Businessman's Dream to Transform Inanda farm into Haven for Self-sustainability

Inanda, KwaZulu-Natal - Amidst the backdrop of economic challenges and widespread poverty, a local businessman has taken a bold step towards creating a space of hope and renewal. Mr. Glen Naidoo, affectionately known as "Mr. G" within the community, is transforming his majestic farm in the Inanda Tea Plantation into a haven for those eager to work the land and achieve self-sufficiency.

Spanning an impressive 50,000 square meters, Mr. G's farm is situated on fertile and arable land, perfect for agriculture. His vision is to convert this expansive property into a shared space comprising self-sustainable units. The goal is to provide a platform for individuals who are fit, of sober habits, and willing to engage in farming activities to become self-reliant, while simultaneously empowering the broader community.

Having witnessed the dire conditions faced by many in the country, Mr. G is committed to making a tangible difference. "I've seen my share of poverty and misery," he shared. "It's time to take action and

create opportunities for people to thrive."

The project aims to foster unity and abundance through practical education and communal living. Residents of the farm will learn essential skills such as raising chickens, maintaining vegetable gardens, and practicing animal husbandry. By working together, they will cultivate a sustainable environment where everyone can benefit from the fruits of their labour.

Mr. G believes that this initiative will not only provide immediate relief to those in need but also equip them with the knowledge and skills to sustain themselves in the long run. "This is about more than just farming," he explained. "It's about teaching people how to live independently and build a future for themselves and their families."

The project has already garnered attention and support from various members of the community. Many see it as a beacon of hope in challenging times, offering a fresh start for those willing to embrace hard work and dedication.

If you are interested in this project or seeking a new beginning, Mr. G welcomes you to join his vision. "We are looking for individuals who are ready to roll up their sleeves and work towards a better tomorrow," he said. "Together, we can create a place of unity and abundance."

For more information or to express interest in becoming part of this transformative initiative, please contact Mr. G at 067 594 6697.

Inanda Farm Project is set to become a model of self-sufficiency and community spirit, thanks to the vision and generosity of Mr. G. His commitment to helping others and fostering a space where people can grow and thrive is a testament to the power of community and shared purpose.

As this remarkable project takes shape, it stands as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, there are opportunities for renewal and growth. Mr. G's farm is not just a piece of land; it is a symbol of hope, resilience, and the promise of a brighter future for all who choose to be part of it.

The Machine and the Mind

'Will we also have machines capable of conceiving and composing poems and novels?'
Italo Calvino

These prophetic words were written by Calvino in 1967 in an article entitled Cybernetics and Ghosts. Nearly six decades later, the world is awash with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Every day, we read of AI taking over tasks that seemed sacrosanct to the human mind. Poems can be manufactured and novels written by a machine. ChatGPT haunts the corridors of universities. Crusty professors who still use Tippex throw their fountain pens in the air as students write literature reviews without ever visiting a library or reading a book. We all ponder, as Calvino writes, "My place could perfectly well be occupied by a mechanical device."

Similarly, in EM Forster's short story, The Machine Stops, first published in 1909, the writer foresees a world where the machine is omnipotent, controlling air, light, space, and human interactions are limited to the screen. The main character Vashti cannot envisage a world outside her room, even to the point of visiting her son. 'There were buttons to call for food, for music, for clothing... There was the button that produced literature. And there were, of course, the buttons by which she communicated with her friends. The room, though it contained nothing, was in touch with all that she cared for in the world.'

Often changes in the world do not come from huge

momentous events. But by slow, incremental changes, that suddenly gather speed, overwhelm us, and become normalised into our everyday lives. It is hard for us to imagine life without cellphones or computers, but it's not so long ago that writers were hammering their thoughts on typewriters.

For someone like me sitting in a bookshop, is this the end of literature? Not by a long chalk. More and more as the world hems us in, seeks to capture our emotions into algorithms, dominate our passions, we rebel.

For the machine does not have an imagination. Morality. Italo Calvino senses that the machine might write. But what it cannot do is replace the reader. We bring our sensibility, our desires, our accumulated learning to the text. It is said that you can never cross the same river twice. The same applies to a book. For when you read a book again, you have already changed. A loved one has died, grief takes on new meaning, you fall for the neighbour, whose family feud has ensued for a century, and suddenly the text of Romeo and Juliet takes on new meaning.

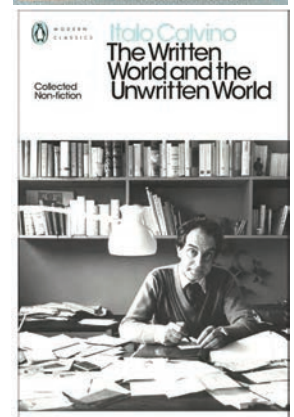
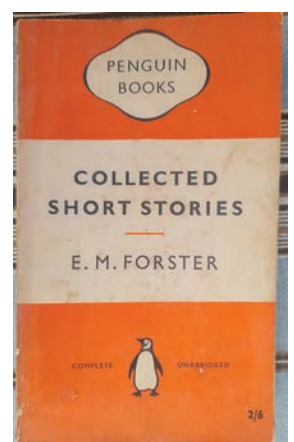
AI might be able to imitate the sound of someone playing the trumpet. But they can never create the bulging cheeks, the sweat, the ability to improvise, to lose ourselves in sheer virtuosity.

I must go now. My AI lover is on the buzzer.

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"Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring by Marilyn Monroe



Property Talk

By: Andreas Wassenaar

Fact! South Africans are feeling a lot better about the future



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



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With the dust largely settled post the general election results and the formation of coalitions and the Government of National Unity with its 32 ministers and 43 deputy ministers the stage has been set for recovery and a surge in economic growth. The improved business and consumer confidence is evident and South Africans as a whole are feeling a lot better about the future. This is excellent news for the property industry, which thrives on positive sentiment.

The last meeting of the Reserve Bank Monetary Policy Committee held on 18th July 2024 left the repo rate unchanged at 8,25% even with our current CPI inflation rate at 5,1% which sits firmly within the target range of 3-6% set by the Reserve Bank. The Producer Price Index (PPI) inflation rate is currently at 4,6% and being below the CPI indicates that further reductions in headline inflation can be expected. The prime overdraft rate charged on most mortgages remains at 11,75%. Our economic growth measured by GDP growth remains low with the last measured growth being -0.1% in Q1 2024. The Q2 figures will be interesting to see and Q3 would be expected to improve.

All property professionals are keeping an eye on interest rates and anticipating the first downward adjustment in rates as this will be the catalyst for the boost to demand for property in general. FNB's Property Barometer indicates that the two main reasons for selling remain downscaling due to financial pressure (21,5% of Sellers) and downscaling with lifestyle (21,7% of Sellers). Emigrating remains at 7,7% on average.

July has been a month of renewed activity with estate agents reporting increased enquiries and offers submitted. Smart money is currently flooding towards the under-valued quality real estate to take advantage of the best buys most people will experience within the decade. The high-end markets in top-end gated estates such as Zimbali and Simbithi are attracting both local and foreign interest. At our current exchange rate of 18,2 Rand per USD our local property prices remain outstanding value in general and especially in Zimbali which is undervalued by at least 30%. This is where the money is currently being made by buying older under-valued properties and modernizing these for a more discerning market of buyers.

As estate agents, we come across many properties and the same key aspects indicate whether a home will sell or not and the level of pricing it will achieve. It does not cost much to ensure a home is immaculately neat and clean which is the first step to realising your best market pricing. Repainting and fixing anything broken or non-functional is the next and well-advised. If you have a tenant in residence this will hamper a sale and it is a better strategy to allow a lease to terminate and the tenant to vacate before actively marketing a property. Presentation and ease of access for viewings are two important considerations when entering the market.

The second half of 2024 promises to be very different and significantly better than the first. Time to get selling!

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan





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A brief overview of restraints of trade agreements

Employers should be mindful of two cases which were heard in the Labour Courts recently involving restraints of trade. The one case dealt with the suspension of a restraint of trade court order, pending the finalization of an appeal. A company obtained a court order against its former employer, restraining the ex-employee from taking up employment with its competitor.

The ex-employee lodged an appeal against that order. The company immediately launched an urgent application to court saying it will be severely prejudiced if the existing court order was suspended pending the outcome of the appeal, as it was losing customers and business to the competitor.

The default position when there is an application for leave to appeal, is that the court order is suspended until the outcome of the appeal process is finalised. This means that the successful party cannot execute on or act upon that order. There are certain circumstances when the court can depart from this default position. One would need to show the existence of "exceptional circumstances", proof that you will suffer irreparable harm [if the order is not granted] and sufficient proof that the other party will not suffer irreparable harm. All three of these requirements have to be met or the application will fail.

The Labour Court refused to suspend the existing court order saying that the Company failed to meet all three requirements. In the other case, the Labour Appeal Court reiterated what requirements have to be met by an employer for the court to make an order enforcing a restraint of trade.

A restraint of trade agreements must be reasonable for it to be valid, binding and enforceable. If not, the court will not enforce it. The court will look at the competing interests of the right of parties to freely contract with each other and the right of an individual to freely engage in their chosen industry or occupation.

The test to determine whether a restraint of trade agreement is reasonable is to establish:

- (a) whether one party has an interest that deserves protection after termination of the agreement;
- (b) whether that interest is threatened or being prejudiced by the other party;
- (c) if so, whether that interest weighs qualitatively and quantitatively against the interest of the other party not to be economically inactive and unproductive; and
- (d) whether there is an aspect of public policy that requires that the restraint be maintained or rejected.

A company Ford Ermelo obtained an interdict in the Labour Court its former employees from being employed by or starting a business which competes with Ford Ermelo for a period of 12 months and within a 300 kilometre radius from the company's business premises.

The company said that the former employees had access to confidential information relating to their relationships with clients, banks, service providers and suppliers and strong profitable relationships with customers and had intimate knowledge of the business.

They claimed that if that information was shared with competitors, it would damage and erode their position and competitive advantage they enjoyed in the market. The court delivered its judgement in June 2024, saying that it was satisfied that there was sufficient evidence justifying the enforcement of the restraint of trade against the former employees.

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



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Spotted in its natural habitat, the Next-Gen Ford Everest Wildtrak makes easy work of soft white sand, long stretches of open highway and thrives in really rough terrain

Off The Beaten Track – Ford Next-Gen Everest Wildtrak

By: Tomas Yoko

The Ford Everest Wildtrak 4x4 is a formidable SUV, purpose built for rugged off-road capabilities, while still offering refined luxury. As part of Ford's Next-Generation Everest line-up, the Wildtrak variant stands out with distinctive styling and advanced features, making it a great choice for adventure enthusiasts and families alike.

Under the hood, the Everest Wildtrak boasts their powerful 3.0L V6 engine that delivers robust performance both on and off the road. Its advanced 4x4 system, coupled with a high ground clearance, allowed for seamless navigation over challenging terrains. Whether tackling rocky trails or wading through rivers, the Everest Wildtrak is built to handle it all with ease. The vehicle's Terrain Management System further enhances its versatility, offering different driving modes to suit various conditions, from mud and sand to snow and gravel.

On the inside, the Everest Wildtrak offers a spacious and luxurious cabin, complete with premium materials and state-of-the-art technology. The intuitive infotainment system, along with advanced connectivity options, ensured that both driver and passengers were entertained and connected, no matter the journey. The SUV also features a host of safety technologies, including adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, and a comprehensive suite of airbags, providing peace of mind on every adventure.

The Ford Everest Wildtrak 4x4 is more than just a capable off-roader; it's a lifestyle vehicle that caters to those who crave adventure without compromising on comfort and style. Whether embarking on a cross-country expedition or simply navigating city streets, the Everest Wildtrak promises a thrilling and luxurious ride, making every trip an extraordinary experience.

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Adventure Will Find You

The new Mahindra Scorpio N SUV is kicking up dust and getting noticed for its rugged design and impressive off-road capabilities. Building on the legacy of its predecessors, the Scorpio N seamlessly combines strength and modern technology, making it the ideal vehicle for those seeking adventure. This prowess has not gone unnoticed, as the Scorpio N recently won the prestigious "Adventure SUV Of The Year" award at the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists (SAGMJ) annual competition.

At the core of the Scorpio N is the powerful 2.2L mHawk diesel engine complemented by a robust suspension system, designed to conquer even the toughest terrains. Whether navigating rocky paths or sandy dunes, the SUV's high ground clearance and advanced 4x4 system provide the confidence needed to tackle any landscape. This exceptional off-road capability makes the Scorpio N a standout choice for outdoor enthusiasts and adventure seekers.

The interior of the Scorpio N is just as impressive, offering a spacious and comfortable cabin equipped with the latest infotainment and connectivity features. Its design strikes a perfect balance between functionality and style, ensuring that every journey is enjoyable and safe. With advanced driver assistance systems and a suite of safety features, the Scorpio N is built to protect and inspire confidence on all roads.

For those looking to add excitement to their lives, the Mahindra Scorpio N is more than just a vehicle—it's an adventure on wheels. Whether you're planning a mountain getaway or a cross-country expedition, the Scorpio N is ready to turn every journey into an extraordinary experience, cementing its place as the ultimate choice for adventurers.



Another very attractive feature of the Mahindra Scorpio N is the price tag. Contact CMH Mahindra Ballito on 032 946 5820 to find out more ...

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Discover Mitsubishi's range of models, including the new Triton bakkie, the amazing Outlander, and other popular models like the Pajero Sport, ASX, and Eclipse Cross, with professional guidance. For an exceptional car-buying experience, contact Lungisani at 065 864 2242 to arrange a consultation, or visit him at CMH Mitsubishi showroom at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito.

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IN THE STARS



Aries March 21 - April 19
Aries will experience intense changes in their personal lives this month. Expect unexpected turns in the love field. Your energy will be high, which will have a positive effect on your work. Be open to new business opportunities, but carefully examine each offer.



Taurus April 20 - May 20
August will be a time for introspection and personal growth for Taurus. Focus on spiritual practice and meditation. You may have to make some difficult decisions, but your inner strength will help you overcome all obstacles.



Gemini May 21 - June 20
Gemini will feel an increased sociability and desire to connect with others this month. Your communication skills will be at their peak, which will help you resolve conflicts and strengthen relationships.



Cancer June 21 - July 22
For Cancers, August will be a time to focus on family and home. You may encounter challenges that will demand your attention, but your love for your loved ones will see you through the tough times.



Leo July 23 - August 22
August is the month of Leo, so your energy will be at its peak. Use this period to achieve personal goals and dreams. Your charm and confidence will bring you success in all areas of life.



Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22
Virgos will feel the need to tidy up and organize this month. This is a great time to clear out the old and introduce new routines that will help you in your personal development. Pay attention to details in the workplace.



Libra Sept 23 - October 22
August will be a time for Libras to explore creative projects and find harmony in life. You may find new hobbies or take up artistic activities. Look for balance in relationships and be ready to compromise.



Scorpio October 23 - Nov 21
Scorpios will experience strong emotional upheavals this month. Be prepared for deep conversations and truth-telling. Your intuition will be extremely strong, so trust it when making decisions. In the financial sphere, be careful with investments.



Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21
Sagittarians will spend August in search of new adventures and experiences. This is a great time to travel and learn about new cultures. Your curiosity will be irresistible, but be careful not to neglect your responsibilities.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
Capricorns will be focused on career and long-term goals this month. Your hard work and dedication will bring you recognition and rewards. Just make sure you don't forget about your personal life and take time to relax.



Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18
August will be a time for innovation and change for Aquarians. Your ideas will be revolutionary and will attract attention. Be open to working with others and don't be afraid to take risks. In the area of love, look for deeper connections.



Pisces Feb 19 - March 20
Pisces will feel a strong spiritual connection this month. This is the time for meditation, reflection and the search for inner peace. Your creativity will be at its peak, so take on art projects.

A Window Onto Nature's World



By Environmentalist and Green Campaigner Jill Theunissen

A new dawn is rising on the Global Horizon with the realization that the time is here to RESTORE and PROTECT our Natural Heritage; in turn reducing carbon and harmful emissions, reversing the climatic incidents of Flood and Fire with costly damage and loss of life. Throughout

See advert on page 7

A "TURNING POINT" IS HERE TO RESTORE OUR BIO-DIVSEITY

the ages man has enjoyed the four given elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water, which translate into the Soil to host the roots of all plant life, the fresh air for all living organisms to "breathe", the sun's rays to give warmth and growth, and Water to ensure survival for all life forms. We view our existence on a horizontal plane, but are linked to the life forms and cycles under the surface and in the depths of the oceans.

The Draft Bio-Diversity Act is currently under review and is an indication that we need "All hands on deck" the good Ship "Environmental Bounty" to ensure that South Africa is able to rapidly meet the challenges of sustainable RESTORATION together with the Global carbon reduction goal. A glaring priority is the urgent REMOVAL and ERADICATION of the Alien and Invasive species now highly evident along every roadway. Winter winds will spread the Triffid Weed seeds into Estates, Parks and gardens. In the hedgerows small birds enjoy a feast of berries from the Lantana with pink and orange flower heads twining amongst the

Castor Oil, Brazilian Pepper bushes and clumps of Mexican Sunflower. NEMBA lists record 399 plant species for removal to the roots.

The Exotic species which have arrived from outside our borders add further concern with Prof. Debra Roberts indicating a maximum 2% content only in any landscape. Permits for Import and Export of all species to be a requirement with strict controls in place. In turn this should stop the Rape of our Protected and medicinal plants and the on-going poaching of our Rhinos for their Horns. The horn composition is Keratin, the same as our hair, so one wonders at the form of "Muti" trade with high cost implication, in far off lands!

It is essential that there is NO VAT LEVY on all stages of our RESTORATION efforts, from Seed Collection to implementation of the Layout and including necessary "Continuity of Establishment". The era of Hunter Gatherers from the Drakensberg to the Sea, certainly did not pay VAT!



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Tänak snatches a last-gasp podium finish at Rally Latvia

At the end of 20 testing stages of Rally Latvia, the eventful eighth round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), Hyundai Motorsport now occupies first and second place in the drivers' standings. Ott Tänak was resurgent on Super Sunday to put his early Latvian troubles firmly behind him and claim maximum points on Sunday; the Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team driver also inherited third place overall to secure his third podium finish of the season. This has moved him into second in the drivers' standings, eight points behind team-mate Thierry Neuville.

Having provisionally secured fourth – and ten championship points – on Saturday, Tänak was once again on the

hunt for a Super Sunday sweep. The Estonian driver claimed back-to-back stage wins on SS18 Mazilmja 1 and SS19 Krogzenji 2, which saw him head into the Power Stage on level times with Sébastien Ogier in the standings.

Troubles for local driver Martin Sesks suddenly brought a podium finish back into contention, but Tänak was focused only on full points from the day. His superb run through SS20 saw him win his fourth stage of the weekend, full Power Stage and Super Sunday bonus points, as well as third place in the overall classification.

Neuville ends a frustrating weekend in Latvia scoring nine points to maintain a slender margin over Tänak in the drivers' championship. Much like the two previous

days, the Belgian gave the final four stages his all in a bid to best his early road position. His resilient efforts secured three Super Sunday and Power Stage points in addition to those scored with eighth place on Saturday.

A difficult weekend for Esapekka Lappi ended in heartbreak with an engine failure on the SS20 Mazilmja 2 Power Stage. The Finn was able to nurse his Hyundai i20 N Rally1 Hybrid to the finish line but was unable to secure his two provisional championship points from Saturday.

Only a short break separates Rally Latvia and the ninth round of the FIA WRC season, Rally Finland is taking place August 1-4.



Martin Jarveoja and Ott Tanak soaking up the glory after guiding their Hyundai i20 N Rally1 Hybrid over the line at Rally Latvia 2024

Fresh new Hyundai i20 hits the road in South Africa



Hyundai's new i20 has hit the road in South Africa with a refreshed, stylish design that is part of a well-rounded motoring package in the segment for hatchback cars, where it occupies a sizeable 10% share of this competitive part of the local car market.

The new i20 announces itself in three specification and trim levels and a mix of three engines and three transmissions that gives customers a range of options – from the entry-level Premium variants to the Executive versions, followed by the flagship, sporty N Line with its turbo-charged mill.

At entry level, the i20 Premium is equipped with either a 1.2-litre or a 1.4 litre 4-cylinder naturally aspirated petrol engine. The 1.2 Premium delivers power to the front wheels through a 5-speed manual gearbox, while the 1.4 Premium

uses a 6-speed automatic transmission.

One step up in terms of specification level and features, the Executive variants also come with the 1.2-litre engine and 5-speed manual gearbox combination, which delivers fuel consumption as low as 5.9 litres/100 km, or the 1.4-litre engine linked to the 6-speed automatic transmission, where overall fuel consumption of 6.9 litres/100 km has been recorded.

At the top of the range is the i20 N Line with its turbocharged 1-litre petrol engine and a 7-speed Dual Clutch transmission, also driving the car through the front wheels.

All i20s are sold with an industry-leading 7-years/200 000 km manufacturer's warranty, a 4-years/60 000 km service plan, and 7 years/150 000 km roadside assistance. The service interval is 15 000 km, or annual.

Seen on the left: The new Hyundai i20 offers a range of engines and drive trains with its streamline looks and comprehensive specification level. Take it for a test drive



An eye-catcher.

The new Hyundai i20.

Available from:

R 309 900

Sleek, modern, sporty. Several refinements make the elegant, modern lines of the new i20 even more eye-catching. Praised for its emotional and dynamic looks, the design harmonises proportion, architecture, styling and technology on the exterior and interior. To top it all, there is the motorsport-inspired N Line variant with an N Line steering wheel, gear knob, aluminium-look sports pedals, and ergonomically designed sport seats.

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Hyundai Ballito
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Tel. 087 035 5533



"I cannot express how important it is to believe that taking one tiny—and possibly very uncomfortable—step at a time can ultimately add up to a great distance." By Tig Notaro





KZN SHARKS BOARD NELSON MANDELA DAY INITIATIVES

KZN Sharks Board Mandela Day 67 minutes Initiative for 2024 was done in partnership with different stakeholders such as Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), Inkwazi Isu, Khanyi Textile, Kamalinee Primary school and Fly FM. This collaboration was done at Masibambane

Safety Net Children's Home with disability. The painting of the home, clean-up campaign and planting of vegetables and plants and donation of gifts such as food, clothing, sanitary materials such as pads, soaps and other staff, water tanks.

For more info, please contact KZN Sharks Board: 031 566 0400 / www.shark.co.za



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