

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

Toyota & Ogihara Launch R1.1 Billion JV in the Dube TradePort SEZ



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Through my eyes



by Kasia Yoko

Censorship, Advice, and the Search for Reality

In the world today, it seems like the walls are closing in, squeezing out voices that once thrived in the space between extremes. Censorship is no longer just a tool of authoritarian regimes; it's becoming a staple of everyday life. Whether it's online, in the media, or within our communities, the boundaries of acceptable discourse are tightening, forcing us into polarized corners. What was once a diverse marketplace of ideas is now a battleground where only the loudest and most extreme voices prevail.

As censorship tightens, ideologies are becoming increasingly radicalised. The middle ground—the place where people used to meet, exchange ideas, and maybe even agree to disagree—is disappearing. In its

place, we have a world where you're either for something or against it, with no room for nuance. Those who try to sit on the fence, who seek to understand both sides, or who simply don't want to take a side at all, are vilified and condemned. This new reality punishes neutrality as if it were a crime, as if the mere act of listening to both sides is an act of betrayal.

This shift in our collective consciousness is drastic. We're moving away from a society that values dialogue, questioning, and critical thinking, toward one that demands conformity to a particular ideology. The questions we used to ask ourselves—what is real? what is true?—are becoming increasingly difficult to answer. What is real, for real? In a world where information is filtered,

shaped, and manipulated to fit various agendas, the truth is becoming harder to discern. Every day, it feels like the ground beneath us is shifting, leaving us unsure of what to believe or who to trust.

Some people have taken this uncertainty to the extreme, suggesting that we're living in a metaverse simulation, where nothing is as it seems and everything is controlled by some unseen force. While this might sound like the stuff of science fiction, it's a symptom of the deeper disillusionment with our current reality. When the world around us becomes too confusing, too manipulated, and too polarized, it's no wonder that people start to question whether any of it is real.

Through my eyes, I see a world that is rapidly losing its

grip on reality, where censorship and radicalizations are pushing us further apart and leaving us more confused than ever. If we continue down this path, we risk losing not just our ability to communicate with one another, but our very sense of what is real. Now, more than ever, it's crucial that we find a way back to a place where open dialogue, critical thinking, and a genuine search for truth are valued above all else. If we don't, we may wake up one day to find ourselves trapped in a reality that we no longer recognize, unable to escape the confines of the extremes that we ourselves have created.

We have no choice but to trust and have faith. Faith in the power higher than any ideology. Faith in the supreme authority. True faith is our only saviour...

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Dear Ed,

**Re: Monster Serial Rapist AG
Mahomed**

Andre Gregory Mahomed (54) is a serial rapist who brazenly raped 43 young innocent women earlier in the Ethekwini (Durban) area and later in the Tshwane (Pretoria) region. This depraved monster was apprehended, tried and found guilty and sentenced for an indefinite period in the early 2000s. He has made a fresh application for parole in August 2024. In Durban magistrate Sharon Marks adjourned the matter to September 2024. The psychopath Mahomed at times used a firearm to threaten victims, escaped from Durban Central prison when he was to face an identity parade and also committed acts of housebreaking in his dastardly spree.

On various occasions when he made application for parole previously he was deemed to be a dangerous criminal. Unbelievably the Department of Correctional Services supports Mahomed's parole – what an insult and utter nonsense. I strongly suspect that some illicit monies must have changed hands for this absurdity to prevail, Mzansi being a fertile ground for bribery and corruption.

One has little or no faith in the parole system. Over a year ago I then wrote imploring a review of the parole system and asked that some or all members of the parole boards needed to be fired as parolees at that time had committed hundreds of heinous crimes while on parole, primarily murders and rapes. Obviously such delinquents needed to remain behind bars as they were a threat to society, a menace and grave danger because of their propensity to re-offend. Yet the parole boards in their wisdom - actually lack of wisdom- saw fit to grant these barbarians parole. The system needed to be reviewed and improved to avoid such travesty and injustice.

Every person has the right to forsake his/her dark past by acknowledging wrongdoing, taking responsibility for same, repenting and making concerted efforts to turn a new leaf by undergoing counselling, therapy and other legally-

accepted interventions, including rehabilitation.

Why are suspended sentences so easily and readily granted these days? This only benefits the accused. Why is it in present times and for a while now that criminals and fraudsters appear to have more legal rights than ordinary law abiding citizens, who make up the majority of the population. When determining sentences, presiding officers (judges and magistrates) must consider the nature of the offence and circumstances associated therewith and must take into account the interests of the victim, the perpetrator and society in general so that an appropriate and just sentence is meted out.

The classic case of convicted fraudster Schabir Sheik - a Jacob Zuma butt kisser - comes to mind. His medical board was contrived on some dubious medical condition and he roams free after serving just a small portion of his sentence in jail the medical parole of the tainted and corrupt geriatric from Nkandla also refers.

Is it then any wonder that the public generally has little or no faith in the parole, policing and justice systems? In the latter connection justice delayed is justice denied. Remember errant judges N Motata and John Hlope's cases took so many years to reach finality. The latter became the first person to be impeached in the present constitutional dispensation for attempting to influence issues in favour of J Zuma in cases he (Msholozzi) was involved in. Then Western Cape Judge President Hlope had the gall and nerve to attempt to coerce fellow judges hereon.

The rape of just one person is bad enough and has disastrous consequences not only for the victim but also for his/her families. Unbelievably 43 innocent young ladies had their constitutional rights violated by Mahomed. Their lives were adversely affected and their worlds turned upside down by the acts of a deranged psychopath who has shown no remorse. Magistrate Sharon Marks, who some years back was a competent magistrate in Verulam (my hometown), must please ensure that Mahomed remains behind bars for the rest of his miserable life in

maximum security as he is a danger to society and a menace. He should never come close to a girl or lady. The lives of the various victims have been marred and scarred and will never be the same again. Nothing will ever be able to return them to the normal state they were in prior to the horrific acts being committed. Surely their views must be solicited on the present parole application. It can be safely assumed that most, if not all, victims will not support the matter and will ask that Mahomed rots in jail until he breathes his last breath.

Reverting to the thorny parole saga, how can one have faith in some of the professionals such as Parole Officers, Criminologists, Social Workers, Psychiatrists and Probation Officers in the light of the all that has transpired, particularly the commission of hundreds of serious crimes by parolees, as indicated above, that should never be allowed to occur.

Justice must prevail and crime fraud and other misdeeds must not go unpunished, as there are consequences for all actions. In this way our legal, parole and policing systems can have some semblance of credibility. It must be noted, with concern, that a great many crimes are not reported as many people have little or no faith in the justice and policing systems in their present forms. It is incumbent on new Ministers Simelane (Justice) and Mchunu (Police) to make serious interventions - starting early - so that improvements and positive mechanisms and strategies are introduced to vastly improve the justice and policing systems.

Sadly women are at a big disadvantage in life with discrimination, injustice, stereotypes and other negatives in place such as denial of equal opportunities, earnings disparity, limited opportunity to occupy executive positions and denial of access to education. Men and women must co-exist and complement each other. Neither must dominate the other or be dominated so that a fair and just society can exist for the betterment of all and sundry.

Simon T Dehal
Verulam



WRITE TO US...

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The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward." Amelia Earhart

ZYN Nicotine Pouches Launch in Johannesburg: A Step Towards a Smoke-Free Future

By Kasia Yoko

Johannesburg, recently played host to a landmark event in the nicotine industry—the launch of ZYN nicotine pouches by Philip Morris International (PMI). The event, held at an upscale venue in Sandton, drew journalists, health experts, and industry insiders from across the country, all eager to witness what could be a transformative step towards a smoke-free future.

The ZYN launch is part of PMI's broader mission to offer better alternatives to smoking, targeting nicotine users who seek a cleaner, more discreet way to enjoy their habit. Unlike traditional tobacco products, ZYN pouches are smokeless, tobacco-free, and come in a variety of flavours and strengths, catering to different preferences. These small, white pouches are designed to fit neatly under the upper lip, delivering a steady dose of nicotine without the harmful chemicals associated with burning tobacco.

The launch event was not just about unveiling a new product but was also a platform to discuss the implications of such innovations on public

health. In his keynote address, a senior PMI representative emphasized the company's commitment to reducing the harm caused by smoking. He highlighted how products like ZYN could play a crucial role in reducing the health burden associated with traditional tobacco products, potentially saving millions of lives.

Journalists and local influencers had the opportunity to sample the product and speak with experts about the science behind ZYN. The event also featured panel discussions on the future of nicotine, with a focus on how products like ZYN could reshape the industry and public perceptions around nicotine consumption.

For Johannesburg, a city at the forefront of many technological and lifestyle innovations in Africa, the ZYN launch was yet another step towards embracing global trends in health and wellness. As the day came to a close, it was clear that PMI's vision of a smoke-free future had resonated with the audience, marking the beginning of what could be a new era for nicotine lovers across the continent.



Seen at the launch Sli Mlambo-Kheswa, Noluthando Baloyi, Zamokuhle Nkosi with Kasia Yoko and Buhle Binta



Andrew Kirby, CEO and President of Toyota South Africa Motors, said, "Toyota's efforts are aligned with the South African Automotive Masterplan, which is supported by the successful Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP), and emphasises the importance of localising vehicle parts to build a sustainable and competitive supplier base."

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Ogihara SA's 32 000 m2 site at DTP'S TradeZone 2 will include a manufacturing and assembly plant relocated from Thailand that will produce pressed steel components for supply to Toyota South Africa

Manufacturing.

Construction of the facility has commenced and the company aims to resume its manufacturing operations in June 2025. Ogihara SA is the single largest investment secured by DTP since its inception, alongside Durban's King Shaka International Airport.

Speaking at the event, Andrew Kirby, CEO and President of Toyota South Africa Motors, says, "This joint venture marks a significant step towards our Local Value Addition (LVA) improvement strategy by localising the production of these critical components. The inclusion of Ogihara SA in our local manufacturing ecosystem will not

only create new job opportunities but also enhance our capabilities in producing high-quality body parts for the automotive industry. This collaboration exemplifies our commitment to localisation and underscores the possibilities for growth and development in the KZN province."

The automotive industry is South Africa's largest manufacturing sector. Currently, KZN's automotive manufacturing sector is concentrated in the south of Durban, contributes about R21 billion to the local economy per year, and employs some 20 000 people.

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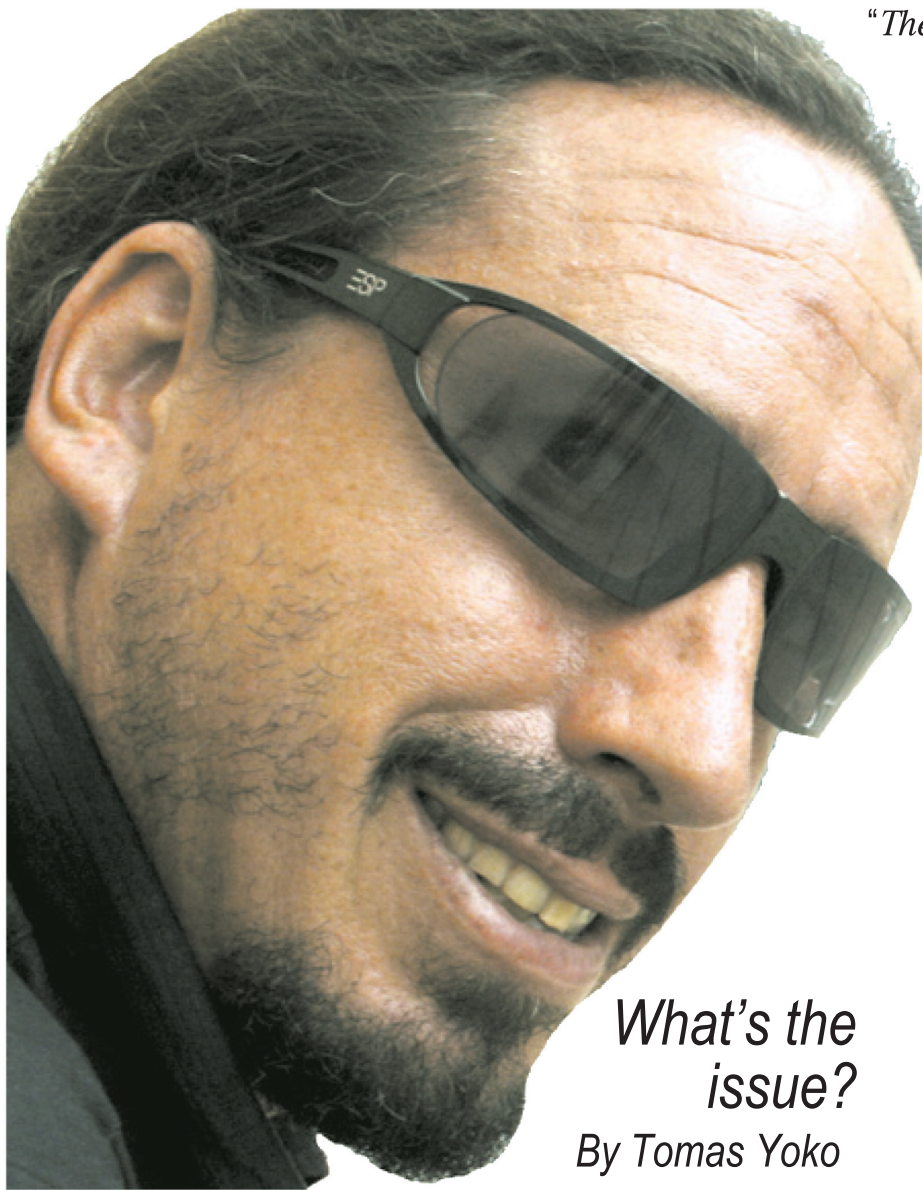
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What's the issue?
By Tomas Yoko

"The desire to be a politician should bar you for life from ever becoming one. Don't vote. It just encourages them..." by Billy Connolly

"TWENTY YEARS AGO WE HAD JOHNNY CASH, BOB HOPE, AND STEVE JOBS. NOW WE HAVE NO CASH, NO HOPE, AND NO JOBS. PLEASE DON'T LET KEVIN BACON DIE."

- BILL MURRAY

The rockets are flying around Israel, massive amounts of money finding its purpose in destruction, clouds of smoke, dust and fire, the wounds so deep it seems to have no bottom, and the senile leader of the not so free World nagging for a cease fire while delivering more bombs. How does that work? Well as we can see it doesn't, it just leads to more rockets flying through the air and in so doing, more bundles of money changing hands.

Amerian podcaster, Alex Jones called out the current deep state and named a list of countries that were receiving a certain type of attention from the so called "Western Powers" and if I remember correctly the list ended with Lybia and Iran and had something to do with the WEF or the World Bank or something, my memory is not

what it used to be.

I do remember last month when the Democratic party in the American elections orchestrated a political bloodless coup, installing Kamala Harris with no democratic process to speak of in sight. The American elections are much more entertaining than even the Olympic Games. The head spinning move of RFK Junior endorsing Trump just after the Democrats congress and Trump accepting with rumours that RFK will head up health issues, big pharma must be quivering.

That short uncouth Zelensky guy who has such a bad sense of dress code attacked Russian soil, blowing up bridges and taking prisoners of war, he's kicking it inside Russia. I'm nervous. The Americans are rumoured to not be in the mood to sanction long

range strikes inside Russia using their missiles, but Russian sentiment and a long history of dealing with the Americans, makes it no wonder that they don't trust them. Russian Envoy Anatoli Antonov said, "seem to be constantly teasing us by saying that today it is allegedly not allowed to use long-range systems to strike at Russian territory. But in reality, they are essentially preparing the ground to simply remove all existing restrictions, at a certain point," and that is a point we all want to avoid. Well all of us sane people, some crazies are hell bent on ensuring that that actually happens.

French police arrest the Russian tech entrepreneur and founder of Telegram, Pavel Durov, as he landed at Paris-Le Bourget Airport. Now I wonder what that is all about, the French say it is because his platform's encryption tools and lack of co-operation with the police makes him complicit in drug trafficking and pedophilia offences. Need to scratch a little deeper on that one.

Here at home we are legislating our new Government of National Unity into a grotesque image that looks nothing like what the outcome of the elections looked like on the day. We are changing the constitution for the sake of changing the constitution and in so doing we run the risk of diluting our democracy into a toothless puppet show that is ineffectual and borderline redundant. Stay alert, read the fine print and pray for peace.



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

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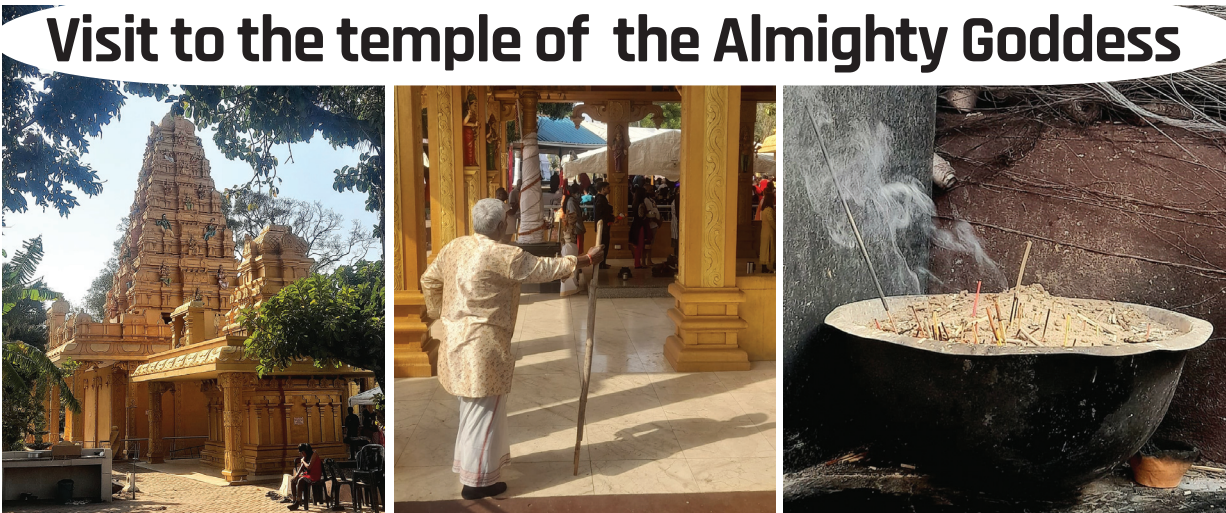


By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

They were not amateurs but believers...They did not have to psych themselves up to play their roles...They believed in the sacredness of the text...while I searched for some sense of loss..I was polluting the afternoon with doubt and with the patronage of admiration. I misread the event through a visual echo of History – the cane fields, indenture, the evocation of vanished armies, temples and trumpeting elephants – when all around me there was quite the opposite – a delight of conviction, not loss (Derek Walcott).

Friday 9th August. The priest gestured for me to come closer, offering me an armful of fruit. He smeared purple ash on my forehead and gently blessed me. I was transported, India, incense, chanting, bells, gods and goddesses. But this was Durban, the Shree Mariammen Temple in Mount Edgecombe, a towering golden edifice, filled with ancient trees holding the history of ancient beliefs. How appropriate that we should be at the temple of a mighty Goddess. A Goddess at once powerful and gentle.

I circled the temple three times, following in the steps of a ritual stretching back thousands of years. It was a balmy, morning in Durban. I had company. Monkeys were eyeing my fruit. Their timing was perfect. They darted in and out to snatch some breakfast at exactly the time devotees bowed their heads in prayer.



As the temple auntie said prayers, she held my arm and we rotated the lamp three times to the Goddess, she gently whispered what I should do next. I knelt, pressing my forehead to the earth and prayed. Layers upon layers of history, rituals handed down through the generations. A culture which refused to bow to the regime. Indentured labourers reduced to numbers, cogs in a machine. History beckoned. Time slowed to a standstill.

I was here to commemorate the life of Dr Goonam, who now has a statue in the temple grounds. As I listened to the speeches, I got to know a woman who dedicated her life to healing the sick and confronting oppression. It was not all serious. People chuckled as her daughter regaled us with stories of her driving a left-hand drive red Alfa Romeo through the throngs of Durban's casbah.

But somehow, the Goddess drew me back in. What is it about devotion that suspends all around you and moves you in ways that are impossible to grasp or explain. In a world of technological leaps and enveloping robotics, the Goddess looms more potent than anything humankind could ever contemplate.

Find Ikes at 48a Florida Road, Greyville, Durban, Tel: 031 3039214. www.ikesbooks.com

Book Launch

"The Story I Told Myself" by Arvashni Seeripat



Author Arvashni Seeripat (in the middle) seen with Prof. Ashin Desai (on the left) and Rajesh Gopie

"The Story I Told Myself" was launched officially in Durban on the 16th August at the Oyster Box. The event was attended by academics, acclaimed personalities, bookstores and media. Why Durban? The novel is set during the time of indenture and what better place to launch than in a UNESCO World City of Literature. This is a fictional story set in a contextual reality of Indenture during the late 1800s and early 1900s in Durban.

Shivali, a woman with a dark secret, is on the run. The year is 1887 in Ishapur, India. Remaining in her village isn't an option. She has followed society's rules—be a silent wife, keep your eyes down, and serve your husband—but that obedience has brought nothing but pain and anguish. When circumstances leave her no other choice, she

must escape by taking a harrowing three-month trip across the Kaala Paani to South Africa with her two children. The journey aboard the ship is fraught with danger—drunken men, violence, and lack of food. What will they have to deal with when they reach their new land?

In Port Natal, South Africa, Shivali attempts to build a new life for her family on a sugarcane farm owned by the Thompson family. There, they perform the backbreaking work of indentured labourers. Will they find safety, happiness, or new love? Over time, they forge strong connections, create a new family, and lay the foundations for a community, but will these relationships survive a second family secret that threatens to tear their community apart?

This novel runs the gambit of the coastline of KwaZulu Natal, bringing together the North and Coast coasts as they shape the story of this young family.

The Story I Told Myself has won an International Impact award and has received great reviews globally.

Arvashni Seeripat is a US based debut author who is from Chatsworth Durban, Arvashni schooled in Chatsworth and completed her university education at UDW. She currently resides in NJ, USA with her husband and two sons. Her family is in South Africa and her ties to SA are strong and deep.

The Story I Told Myself is available from Ikes Books in 48a Florida Road, Greyville, Durban Tel: 031 3039214 www.ikesbooks.com.

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My beautiful potato seller Fathima Mohamed

Pierogi with Irish Potatoes, Ricotta, and Fried Onion

This recipe is a nod to my Eastern European heritage, inspired by the comforting flavours of Irish potatoes from my beautiful potato seller Fathima Mohamed, who twice a month brings sacks of these perfect Irish potatoes from Malawi. It takes Fathima three days to get here but trust me; once you have tasted these organic delights, you will not want to eat our local bland variety.

Through these recipes, I do want to emphasise the need for all of us to practice conscious eating. By supporting Fathima, I support a fearless entrepreneur, a woman of virtue and valour, I support her hustle because I know how hard life is for women in this uncertain struggling economy. Here is my version of home made pierogi (dumplings) stuffed with Fathima's potatoes, my homemade ricotta and fried onion

Ingredients:

- For the Dough:
2 cups all-purpose flour
200ml water
1/2 tsp salt
- For the Filling:
2 cups mashed potato
1 cup ricotta cheese
1 onion, chopped and fried
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tbsp fresh dill, chopped (optional)

- For Cooking and Serving:
4 tbsp unsalted butter
1 small onion, thinly sliced (for topping)
Chopped fresh dill, for garnish

Directions:

1. Prepare the Dough:
 - In a bowl, combine the flour, water and salt.
 - Mix until the dough comes together, then knead on a floured surface for about 15 minutes until smooth and elastic.
 - Cover the dough with plastic wrap and let it rest for at least 2 hours.
2. Make the Filling:
Mix the sautéed onions into the mashed potatoes, then fold in the ricotta cheese. Season with salt, pepper, and fresh dill if using. Let the filling cool to room temperature.
3. Assemble the Pierogi:
 - Roll out the rested dough.
 - Use a round cutter (or a glass) to cut out 3-inch circles.

- Place a tablespoon of the filling in the centre of each circle. Fold the dough over to form a half-moon shape, pressing the edges together to seal. You can crimp the edges with a fork for a decorative touch.
4. Cook the Pierogi:
 - Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Drop the pierogi in batches, cooking until they float to the surface (about 3-4 minutes). Use a slotted spoon to transfer them to a plate.
 - In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat and sauté the sliced onion until caramelised. Add the cooked pierogi and fry until golden and crispy on both sides.
 5. Serve:
 - Serve the pierogi hot, topped with the caramelised onions, and a sprinkle of fresh dill.

Yum...



"I realized very early the power of food to evoke memory, to bring people together, to transport you to other places, and I wanted to be a part of that," by José Andrés Puerta

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Burrowed within the pristine confines of the Maputaland World Heritage site, Kosi Bay Casitas is a hidden gem where nature's beauty flourishes undisturbed. This enchanting destination is a haven for those seeking to immerse themselves in the wild splendour of South Africa.

Owned and lovingly managed by Ray and Johdi, Kosi Bay Casitas is not just a place to stay but an experience that embodies heartfelt hospitality. The couple, along with their dedicated staff and four friendly dogs, ensures that every guest feels at home while enjoying the untamed beauty of the surroundings.

Situated just four and a half hours from Ballito, Kosi Bay Casitas is an idyllic retreat for unwinding, resetting, and embracing an African adventure. The journey to this secluded paradise is well worth the effort, rewarding visitors with breath taking landscapes and an array of outdoor activities.

One of the highlights of a stay at Kosi Bay Casitas is the opportunity to explore the region through lake and mouth tours. These excursions

offer a glimpse into the vibrant ecosystem that defines Kosi Bay, from its intricate estuarine systems to the rich variety of wildlife that inhabits the area. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, bird watcher, or simply looking to soak in the scenic views, these tours provide unforgettable experiences.

In addition to the natural attractions, Kosi Bay Casitas offers a range of local entertainment options to enhance your stay. The Casitas' local chef, Zodwa, crafts delicious meals that showcase the flavours of the region. Her culinary expertise ensures that every meal is a delight, whether you're a

guest at the Casitas or a traveller passing by.

For those looking to experience the magic of Kosi Bay Casitas, booking is straightforward. You can email info@kosibaycasitas.co.za for more information or to make a reservation. Alternatively, visit their website at www.kosibaycasitas.co.za or call +27 60 988 4994.

Escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and discover the tranquil beauty of Kosi Bay Casitas, where adventure, relaxation, and nature's wonders await.



Nompilo's umemulo celebration was not only of her personal journey but also of the enduring traditions that bind the family and the community together

Nompilo's Coming of Age



The umemulo ceremony of Nompilo was a vivid reminder of the beauty and resilience of Zulu culture

The air was thick with anticipation in eKhaya eMandeni KwaNoyaka as preparations were underway for the umemulo ceremony of Kinati Nompilo Khoza, a revered Zulu tradition celebrating a young woman's transition into adulthood and her eligibility for marriage. The village buzzed with excitement, the sound of ululations and drums filling the air as friends and family gathered to honour this significant milestone.

Nompilo, a recent graduate with a degree in business management, had spent weeks preparing for this special day. The morning of the ceremony was filled with a flurry of activities, including the ritualistic slaughtering of a goat, a symbol of sacrifice and blessing. The scent of incense mingled with the earthy aroma of the animal, creating a sacred atmosphere.

As the sun rose higher in the sky, Nompilo was taken to a secluded area where a traditional healer awaited. Dressed in vibrant traditional attire,

Nompilo looked both nervous and elated. Here she was anointed her with the blood of the sacrificial goat, a powerful act meant to cleanse and fortify her spirit. The blood, warm and thick, ran down her skin, marking her transition from girlhood to womanhood.

The community had gathered in the nearby field. The air was electric with celebration. Nompilo emerged, her face glowing with the light of a thousand suns. She was accompanied by her closest female relatives, who guided her to the centre of the field. The crowd erupted into cheers and applause as she began the traditional umemulo dance, a graceful and rhythmic performance that showcased her readiness for womanhood and marriage.

Each step she took was deliberate, each movement a testament to her strength and grace. The beads around her neck and ankles jingled softly, punctuating the rhythm of the drums.

Her eyes sparkled with determination, a clear indication of her readiness to embrace the responsibilities that came with adulthood.

The local warriors stood guard around the field, their presence a reminder of the protective and supportive role they played in the community. They watched Nompilo with pride, their stoic faces breaking into smiles as she completed her dance.

As the ceremony drew to a close, Nompilo was showered with gifts and blessings from the elders and community members. These tokens of love and support symbolised the collective investment in her future. She was now a woman, ready to face the world with the wisdom of her ancestors and the strength of her community behind her.

A big feast followed, local community, as well as friends and relatives, ate and drank until the late night, praising Nompilo's beauty and blessing her future.

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Property Talk

By: Andreas Wassenaar

Property ownership remains one of the best ways to build long-term wealth



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The rental market fits hand in glove with the greater property market and a valuable resource in analysing the South African rental market is the Payprop Rental Index Report. This outstanding analysis is published quarterly and as a long-standing Payprop client, we have direct access to these reports. The first and most important aspect is that rental growth has bounced back in Q2 of 2024 to record year-on-year growth in the rental rate growth of 4,9%, up from 3,6% in Q1. The average national monthly rental rate in South Africa is R8,785 p.m. The good news for Landlords is that June 2024 was also reported as being the first time that rental growth has outpaced inflation since September 2019. This is a relief for property owners who took a hit after COVID-19 and continue to experience a cost squeeze from higher municipal rates and ever-increasing sectional title and homeowners association levies.

On a provincial level, the Western Cape is the leader with rental growth of 9,7% and has also had the highest rents in South Africa since 2016. The average rent is R10,673 in the Western Cape with the Northern Cape in second place with an average rent of R9,412. The North West province was the fastest-growing province in the previous two quarters with rentals growing over 10% and now in second place in terms of quarterly growth of 6,3%. Limpopo has provided steady growth and at 6,1% for Q2 is in third place nationally. KZN recorded the lowest growth rate in Q2 at 1,5% but this was at least a turn-around from the -0,4% for Q1.

The payment behaviour of tenants is measured by the percentage of tenants in arrears and the average arrears percentage. The national average is 18,1% of tenants being in arrears and 76,8% average arrears meaning that the average arrear tenant owes 76,8% of one month's rental.

In Q2 2024 Payprop reported that the average tenant in South Africa spent 46,7% of their income on debt repayments and 30,3% on rent, leaving them with 23% of their income to cover all their other expenses. This metric does vary significantly depending on the rental rate bracket. For those in the R10k to R20k p.m. bracket, a tenant on average spends 53,8% of their income on debt repayments and 40% on rental leaving a mere 6,2% left to cover other expenses. For tenants in the R40k to R50k bracket, 40% of income is spent on debt repayments and 26,2% on rental, with 33,8% left for everything else. The challenge facing many South Africans is housing affordability with interest rates being the largest single determinant of that. The risk of a tenant not paying rental as measured by Payprop's risk distribution analysis indicates that within the R10k to R20k bracket, 39,8% of tenants are classified as "high risk" while in the R60k to R80k rental bracket only 18,7% of tenants are regarded as "high risk". Property ownership remains one of the best ways to build long-term wealth no matter where on the property ladder it is.

LEGAL TALK by Fawzia Khan



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Can a parent claim maintenance from their child?

With August being "Women's Month", the focus on many organisations is to shine a light on those societal issues impacting the lives of women by raising awareness and empowering women to do something about it. This year was no different. I was asked to deliver a talk to a group of women, covering the topics of child maintenance and the protection offered to women facing domestic abuse.

After my talk, an elderly woman approached me wanting to know about maintenance. I could sense she was greatly distressed. She told me that she was a widow who was going through an extremely tough time financially but that she received no support either emotional or financial from her family. She said she had an adult daughter who earned well but who refused to communicate with her or help her in alleviating her dire financial situation.

She said the pain she suffered from being abandoned and neglected by her very own child left her devastated. She was heartened to learn that she was eligible to claim maintenance from her daughter. Whilst it is a well-known principle that parents have a legal duty to support their children, many people

are unaware that a parent can also claim maintenance from their child.

Apart from the moral duty of support, the common law requires a child to take care of the needs of an indigent parent. In addition, the Maintenance Act 99 of 1998 talks of a reciprocal duty of support between parents and children. To successfully bring an application to the maintenance court, a claimant would need to satisfy to the court that he or she is in need of reasonable maintenance.

They would also need to prove that there is legal duty to do so in that there is a relationship which exists, whether it is a blood relationship, marriage or adoption, with the respondent. The respondent must have the means to provide such financial support. The parent will need to provide the requisite proof of income for example produce copies of his/her bank statements.

The court will take into account whether the parent is genuinely in need of such maintenance. The court will also see if there is a legal duty to maintain the parent and whether the child is financially able to maintain that parent. Hence the parent must prove his/her dependence on the child and must also prove that the

respondent has the means to do so.

The parent's right to claim maintenance would not extend to the son in law or daughter in law, but only with their child. The exception to that would be if the child is deceased and the parent would be able to claim from the child's deceased estate. Where there are many siblings, the duty to support an indigent parent sits with all the siblings equally. But the courts will look the factors such as means of the children to share the financial load of caring for the parent.

How much maintenance can be claimed would depend on the specific circumstances of the parent and child. There are differing judgments in this regard. The courts have a discretion and will exercise that discretion in the way they see fit. The basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter and medical assistance would most likely be granted by the court, if it believes it to be reasonable. Thus a parent who is indigent will certainly be a candidate for maintenance.

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



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“The OMODA C5 was developed as an experimental project under the Art in Motion concept, which draws inspiration from avant-garde art to explore new concepts, colours, and forms in automotive design.” take it for a test drive from their Umhlanga showroom, 2 Canegate Road, Umhlanga – Call 031 576 1400

The C5 Style From Omoda Umhlanga

By: Tomas Yoko

The Omoda C5 is not just another entry in South Africa’s competitive SUV market; it’s a statement of bravura, innovation, and forward-thinking design. With sleek, aerodynamic lines and a bold front grille, the Omoda C5 will turn heads, capturing the attention of those who value both aesthetics and functionality.

However, it isn’t all about looks—the Omoda C5 Style backs up its vogueish exterior with performance that’s as dynamic as its design. Under the hood, the Omoda C5 offers the 1.5T petrol engine with a 115kW powertrain that balances efficiency and power, ensuring a smooth and responsive drive.

Inside, the cabin is a testament to modern

luxury, with high-quality materials and cutting-edge technology designed to enhance your driving experience. The infotainment system is intuitive, connecting you seamlessly to the digital world, with two high-resolution dual 10.25 inch screens.

In a market saturated with options, the Omoda C5 distinguishes itself not just by meeting expectations but by redefining them. It’s a vehicle for those who aspire to more—a car that promises to elevate your everyday journey into something extraordinary. With its competitive pricing and feature-rich offerings, the Omoda C5 is waiting for you to take it for a test drive from their Umhlanga showroom, 2 Canegate Road, Umhlanga –



The amazing new Haval P-Series 4X4 bakkie – the P500 is powered by a 135 kilowatt diesel engine giving forth 480Nm and drinking 8.6 litres per hundred for under eight hundred thousand Rands. Call them on 031 576 1500 or 072 306 9168 now

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state-of-the-art—it transcends it. With a 12.3 or 14.6-inch touchscreen and a 12.3-inch fully digital virtual cluster, experience a blend of technology and luxury that redefines elegance on the road. Superb Audio with a 10-Speaker Harman Infinity Sound System with Independent Amplifier. Relax in front seats with ventilation, 8 vibration massage settings, and heating.

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And when the going gets tough, the P500’s 4L mode and Front and Rear Electronically Controlled Differential Locks* give you the edge you need.

Enquire today and experience the pinnacle of adventure and refinement with the GWM P500 – built to take you anywhere with new levels of comfort and elegance. Visit GWM Haval Umhlanga at 2 Canegate Road, La Lucia Ridge or call them on 031 576 1500 or 072 306 9168

The Grand Vitara

The Suzuki Grand Vitara, priced from just under R370,000, is an incredible bargain for those seeking a reliable, feature-packed SUV. For this price, you’re getting a vehicle that offers more than just rugged good looks. The Grand Vitara is equipped with a host of modern features that make it stand out in its segment.

Under the hood, the Grand Vitara boasts a capable 1.5 litre engine that balances power and efficiency, ensuring a smooth and responsive drive whether you’re navigating city streets or venturing off-road. The SUV’s robust build quality and proven Suzuki reliability mean you can trust it to handle whatever your journey throws at you.

Inside, the Grand Vitara impresses with its spacious,

well-appointed cabin that includes tech features like a touchscreen infotainment system with smartphone connectivity, climate control, and advanced safety systems. The comfortable seating and ample cargo space make it perfect for family outings or long road trips.

Considering its blend of rugged capability, modern conveniences, and Suzuki’s legendary reliability, the Grand Vitara offers exceptional value for money. It’s not just an SUV—it’s a smart investment for those who want both adventure and peace of mind without breaking the bank.

Speak to CMH Suzuki Ballito on 031 001 9965 or 078 772 7968 or visit them at 35 Moffat Drive Ballito and experience the Grand Vitara.



The Suzuki Grand Vitara offer from CMH Suzuki Ballito represents amazing value for money and is available in 4WD and 2WD – Call 078 772 7968 to take advantage of the amazing deal

“You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.” By Indira Gandhi

Take Care Of Your Roof

In a quaint village nestled among rolling hills, old Albert was renowned for his love of tea and his perfectly maintained house. But what really caught everyone's attention was his immaculate roof. Made of hand-carved wooden shingles, it gleamed in the sun and kept the rain out completely.

One day, a young villager named Tom asked Albert why he spent so much time caring for his roof. Albert smiled and said, "A house is like life. The walls protect you from the wind, the garden brings joy, and the furniture adds comfort. But the roof, my boy, is what makes a house a home." Years later, Tom built his own

house, carefully crafting and maintaining the roof just as Albert had taught him. He realized that a well-kept roof was essential; it protected everything inside from the world outside. In that little village, Albert's wisdom was passed down through generations: while many things make a house, it's

the roof that truly makes it a home. Maintaining your roof is like taking care of life's priorities—without it, everything else could fall apart. Get hold of Roof Rats for free quotes on vacuuming the ceilings, waterproofing, insulation and everything else your roof needs. Call 031 109 2080 or cell 072 767 1999.



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A Window Onto Nature's World



By Environmentalist and Green Campaigner Jill Theunissen

"Saving Our Rhinos" Protect our Wildlife from Criminals

Through the natural stages of evolution there are three Key Initial Herbivores essential to Nature's balance within the Grasslands and Forests, these are the Buffalo, the Elephant and the Rhinoceros. Their existence and Protection as part of the Bio-Diversity within State Reserves, Private Game Parks and linked habitat is of paramount importance. These mammals of significant size create the SPACES for herds of Zebra, Wildebeest, and Impala to follow. The Elephant's strength enables collapse of a sturdy Acacia or Commiphora Tree. Whether in the forest or less dense habitat new grasslands may appear, or a coppice of new saplings such as Halleria lucida and Apodytes dimidata flourish.

The Black Rhino which is now endangered, enjoys bushland and forest margin browsing, while the White Rhino with its broad lip (Wide in Afrikaans!) finds territory in the Veld grasslands. The mammoth size, tough leathery skin and amazing Horn for display and attracting the female place the Rhinos high on the list for tourists and local holiday makers. How many Rhinos today? Record on your check list!

It is an extremely sad reflection on society that these magnificent mammals are now under threat of Extinction due to Poaching. To the rescue — "Project Rhino" which was launched on World Rhino Day, 22nd September 2011. This is a Provincial Association that brings together the Government Conservation initiatives, together with all levels of Community or privately owned Reserves and leading NGOs.

The Statistics illustrate this mission is critical with 1398 Rhino slaughtered between 2021 to 2023, with KwaZulu Natal bearing the highest death toll with the loss of 671 Rhino. By comparison only 36 Prosecution cases were brought to Court with 35 resulting in prosecution and 45 convictions..

Once again a HOLISTIC APPROACH has been established but not without on-going expertise, Community based co-operation, proven "methodology" and donations to off-set the staggering infrastructure costs. Here thanks and appreciation are due to Warrant Buffet and a now long list of Donors and regular "Supporters". A Cyclist group from Hillcrest took on a R10.000 bet for "Save the Rhino". Hillcrest to Hluhluwe before the Gates Close — well done those guys! Now let young and old, rural and urban dwellers, join through "Awareness" and Education. The Rhino Projects include dogs with their handlers, Horse patrols, regular Helicopter surveillance and many patrollers on foot. The Surveillance strategies are gradually paying dividends. Simultaneously, the on-going Capture and De-horning of the Rhino requires expertise, and dedication, together with professional Team-work. One operation may need up to twenty or thirty trained staff with their Supervisor, Transport, equipment and a qualified Veterinarian to ensure medical professionalism. The capture is humane with an eye band to reduce trauma, injections for sedation and permit the horn removal without pain or discomfort. A similar approach occurs when the Cattle farmer with his Vet inserts the ring in the Bulls nose for the first time, and then an Ear Tag!

Without the Horn the Rhino should not attract the Poachers as he has LOST HIS FUSION OF SPIKED HAIRS - the same composition as our finger nails and hair — KERATINE! In the past, the people of Africa have not been known to Kill their Own Rhino for its horn, but the external pressures with High financial rewards and demand from the Eastern market appear to reveal yet another sphere of corruption — "Criminal killing of our Rhinos" for their Horns.

We need to Welcome our Tourists without trace of a Rhino butchered for its horn. Ultimately, achieving Preservation and Conservation of the Black and White Rhinos in their Natural niche to fulfill Bio-Diversity is paramount.

Acknowledgements : "The Pyramids of Life" by John Reader & Harvey Croze "Project Rhino" — Annual Report 2023.

Neuville claims a podium in a drama-filled final day at Rally Finland

A monumental effort from Lappi ensured a 20-point extension in Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team's Manufacturers' lead. Hyundai Motorsport survived the rollercoaster weekend at Rally Finland, round nine of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), with another podium to add to its tally and an extension of its lead in the Drivers' and Manufacturers' championships. A solid drive from Thierry Neuville and Martijn Wydaeghe, allowed the Belgians to maintain their provisional third place across Sunday's first two stages – finishing in sixth on SS17 Sahloinen-Moksi 1 and third on SS18 Laajavuori.

Retirements for both Elfyn Evans and Kalle Rovanperä on the second loop of Sahloinen-Moksi meant Neuville could jump into second overall. A storming performance on the Power Stage, SS20 Laajavuori 2, cemented his podium finish and extended his drivers' championship lead to 168 points, a 27-point lead over closest rival Ogier. An overall frustrating weekend for Esapekka Lappi and Janne Ferm drew to a close with redemption in the form of Super Sunday. The Finns claimed maximum points in aid of Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team's manufacturers' championship charge

on the final day – ensuring the Korean outfit would remain the leader with 395 points, 20 points clear of Toyota. Five top three stage times and a stage win on SS15 Päijälä 2 reflected the confidence and pace the #4 crew had built in the car across the weekend – their fourth contention thus far in the 2024 FIA WRC season. An unpredictable weekend in the final of three back-to-back high-speed gravel rallies demonstrated the hard work and resilience of the team – never giving up in the face of adversity. The next rally is the legendary 'Acropolis Rally Greece' from September 5th to September 8th.



Flying their Hyundai i20 N Rally1 Hybrid, Janne Ferm and Esapekka Lappi had a frustrating time in the WRC Rally Finland 2024, but still helped the team stay in the lead



The complete package snuggled into a pocket rocket, the new Hyundai i20 N offers a lot of car, a high spec level and all the extra features you could wish for

The Hyundai i20 N Line - Tested Fine

So there I was, stuck behind a cane truck on the N2, thinking, "What better time to test the new Hyundai i20 N's patience?" This new pocket rocket is Hyundai's latest endeavour to inject some fun into our daily drive. And they have overachieved in that direction. First off, the i20 N's 1.0-liter turbocharged engine isn't messing around. It's a three-cylinder mill that packs 89.5 kW of power. Spirited performance is enhanced by the 7 speed DCT gearbox and an amazing exhaust sound. Hyundai promises fuel consumption around 6.9 liters per 100 km. I cruised through traffic and out on the open road without needing to empty my wallet at the pump. And of the design? Confident body lines and comfort rich interior is filled with all the N Line badges, sporty bumpers, a long list of safety features and

those twin exhaust pipes that scream, "I'm here to perform!" The interior is sophisticated, understated with discreetly N-branded seats, red stitching, and a Bose sound system that made even my questionable playlist sound epic. A sunroof as standard along with ESP, HAC and cruise control with a multi-function steering wheel. As usual, Hyundai backs it all up with a 7-year/200,000 km warranty, which is a long-term relationship even your mom would approve of. Add a 4-year/60,000 km service plan and 7 years of roadside assistance, and you're set for exciting motoring. If you're looking for a hatchback that's not just a pretty face but also delivers where it counts, the Hyundai i20 N is your go-to. Just be prepared for the occasional jealous glance from cane truck drivers.



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
24 Moffat Drive, Ballito
Tel. 087 035 5533



Book Your Boat Cruise



Boat leaves the harbour at 6:30am and the trip lasts for about 2hrs

The exciting early morning Boat tour is where you get to see the Operations Department servicing the shark safety gear off Durban's Golden Mile beaches. You get to experience and enjoy the sights of Durban which includes the Beautiful Moses Mabhida Stadium as you travel through the harbour and out to sea into the rising sun. The Boat leaves the harbour at 06h30 and the trip lasts for approximately 2 hours. Trips take

place from Monday to Friday. Normal fee: R350 per person (children under the ages of 6 are not permitted) – Boat tour fee includes complementary ticket to see the educational Audio Visual & Shark Dissection Show (Show days are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays, subject to a minimum number of people attending the show).

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