

The Bugle

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

MAGAZINE

Festive Joy and the Magic of a Shoebox



Long before carols play, the Santa Shoebox Project brings true festive magic. Since its launch, it has delivered over 1.3 million shoeboxes to children in South Africa and Namibia—each packed with essentials, treats, and love. Every pledge is personal, every box a message of hope: you are seen, you matter. Pledges for 2025 open 1 September at www.santashoebox.org.za. A small box, the biggest gift—joy. Seen above A festive capture of volunteers holding up stacks of colourfully wrapped shoeboxes, celebrating the collective spirit of giving

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Through my eyes



by Kasia Yoko

“In a world where the clock measures outcomes more than connections, the true cost of care is not counted in beds or bandages, but in abandoned words, unshared stories, and silences that grow louder than any machine. If our elders built the world we walk in, how small we become when we allow their days to pass in quiet isolation. To care is not only to heal the body, but to hold a memory, hear a fear, share a laugh—this is what it means to honour a life that has carried us. The measure of our compassion is what we say when no one’s listening.” By Wayne Pollock

The saddest story I read this week comes from Sweden. An ambulance was called to a frail-care home, and the paramedics discovered something heartbreaking — not a single staff member could speak Swedish. The residents, many with dementia, had no way of communicating. No way to say “I’m afraid.” No way to say “I’m in pain.” No way to say anything at all. Authorities called it a disgrace. I call it a tragedy. A tragedy of disconnection — because what the elderly need most in their final chapter is not only care, but

understanding, comfort, and the sound of a familiar voice. This is not just Sweden’s story. It’s all of ours. Around the world, families are stretched thin. Many cannot give the care they wish they could, no matter how much love they carry in their hearts. Life today leaves so many of us caught between raising children, working, and trying to survive ourselves. That is not failure. It is reality. But the truth is, a clean bed and a TV are not enough. Real care needs connection. It needs presence. It needs someone to truly see them.

This hits me deeply, because my own parents are moving closer to that stage of life. Soon, I’ll have to make choices about frail care — choices I never imagined I would face. My only prayer is that whatever road we walk, it will be filled with dignity, love, and humanity. Because our elders deserve nothing less. What has happened to us is not cruelty, but forgetting. Forgetting that the very people who gave us life still need us in ways that no institution can fully provide. Forgetting that listening, holding a hand, speaking gently — these things cost nothing,

yet mean everything. The measure of a nation is not in its skyscrapers or its GDP. It is in how we care for our children and our old people. And this care is not only the duty of governments or facilities. It is ours too — in the visits we make, the phone calls, the time spent, the love given. We may not always be able to do everything. But we can always do something. And that something might be the difference between loneliness and belonging, between silence and being heard, between despair and dignity.

Dear Ed,

Re: No Excuses, No Compromise

“When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of people in a society, over the course of time they create for themselves a legal system that authorises it and a moral code that justifies it.” — Frédéric Bastiat

South Africa is broken—and everyone knows it. Roads collapse, hospitals groan under impossible loads, electricity fails at the worst possible moment. Meanwhile, those in power keep feasting as if nothing’s wrong. “You scratch my back, I scratch yours,” is the unwritten rule, and the rest of us? We dodge potholes, dodge bills, dodge despair.
Then comes a story like Pieter-Louis Myburgh’s expose. An IDT official tries to bribe him with R60,000 and promises of fat contracts to bury the truth. R60,000! Journalism for sale like a cup of coffee at a corner shop. The audacity is staggering, the brazenness criminal, and yet—so typical.
Greed masquerades as authority. Incompetence parades as policy. Moral

compromise is marketed as necessity. Enough is enough. But hope, stubborn and raw, refuses to die. It’s not in grand speeches or flashy gestures—it’s in refusal. Refusing to accept the madness. Refusing to stay silent. Refusing to normalize theft and corruption.
One journalist. One whistleblower. One citizen daring to speak truth at a time. Tiny acts, maybe, but powerful. Ripples that can bend the scales back toward justice.
South Africa is raw, messy, infuriating—but extraordinary. Courage, integrity, humour, and defiance are the tools we have. Stop making excuses. Stop compromising your values. Insist on honesty, accountability, decency. That is where change begins.
One sharp laugh at injustice. One “enough is enough” at corruption. One act of defiance at a time. That’s how we rise above. That’s how we reclaim our country. And maybe, just maybe, we build a South Africa that works for all of us—not just the ones at the top.

Regards
Wayne Prinsloo
Waterfall

Dear Ed,

Re: State Health Care Debacle

The recent high-handed and self-authorised diabolical actions of Operation Dudula and March On March with members manning access points to state hospitals and clinics, requiring persons to provide identification and denying access to foreigners for health care refer.
Why are the police that are present generally in the aforesaid areas standing by idly and allowing this illegality to prevail, like in many instances in the 2021 unrest with criminality of diverse sorts. Pertinent tenets of the RSA Constitution, especially Chapter 2, are being flagrantly violated.

Government, especially police and health ministries, must act without further delay, to take decisive action hereon so that good sense will prevail and this abomination is attended to.
The actions of the aforesaid bodies practicing xenophobia are reprehensible and divisive. They cause one to believe that we have reverted to the jungle and law and order no longer exist in Mzansi. Have these over-zealous organizations forgotten which countries, mainly African, helped us in the dark days of apartheid, offered refuge to our persecuted and oppressed peoples and supported us generally?
Yes there are challenges with state health care and good interventions must be made so that tangible improvements result. For a start the state in all 3 tiers

must prioritise issues, cut down on wasteful fruitless and unnecessary expenditure and allocate additional funds for healthcare generally with additional personnel employed. Health care for foreigners must of necessity be regulated but outright refusal is both inhumane and deplorable.
It would be of benefit to the country if Operation Dudula and March On March “volunteer” its services to the Border Management Authority, which would benefit from additional person power at no cost. Both entities have sadly caused ubunu to die prematurely by their misdeeds. Their so-called patriotism is hypocritical.

Simon T Dehal Verulam

much outcry, do we still find ourselves driving through filth as if this is normal?
South Africans deserve better. Visitors deserve better. And our children, who see this mess daily, deserve to know that neglect and decay are not acceptable standards of public service.
Until the responsible authorities take meaningful action, the M4 will remain a national embarrassment.

Dear Ed,

Re: M4 - a common disgrace

I write with deep frustration regarding the shameful state of the M4 on the North Coast. Recently, contractors came through and hacked away the foliage, but instead of restoring dignity to one of our province’s most vital roads, they exposed years of filth. Mountains of plastic, cans, bottles, and raw litter now line the roadside, a disgraceful monument to neglect.

For years, our local communities have been protesting this very issue — pleading for authorities to act, to clean up, to show even a shred of pride in the spaces we all share. Instead, we are left with a highway that resembles a dumping ground, a scene more fitting of a neglected slum than a country that still calls itself a tourist destination.
The M4 should be a showcase route along our beautiful coastline. Instead, it shouts failure. Where is the accountability? Where are the basic municipal services? And why, after so

Sincerely,
Wendy Whinings



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Upcoming Western Cape events in 2025

BOLAND SUCCULENT FESTIVAL

14 September 09:00 – 16:00

De Vines Pub & Grill, Paarl

Free entry to plant sale



CALITZDORP SUCCULENT FESTIVAL

19 – 21 September 09:00 - 17:00

Calitzdorp Station

Free entry to plant sale



TOKARA RARE PLANT FAIR

8 November 08:00 – 16:00

Tokara Wine Estate, Stellenbosch

R60 per person (kids under 10 free)



GARDEN ROUTE RARE PLANT FAIR

13 – 14 December 09:00 – 15:00

Garden Route Botanical Garden, George

Free entry to plant sale



Bravery Award For Helicopter Pilot

Helicopter Pilot and Head of Reaction Unit South Africa (RUSA) Prem Balram received the prestigious Cross Bravery Award at the Gender Based Violence 2025 KZN Gala held in Umhlanga earlier this month.
Balram spearheads a team of skilled Reaction Officers and Paramedics who respond to emergency situations utilizing Helicopters, Medical Rescue and Response vehicles, providing critical assistance to individuals in dire situations.
Recent successes include the rescue of kidnapped victims, apprehension of rape and

murder suspects and exposure of sexual abuse in GBV related cases. The team's efforts have led to numerous arrests, resulting in life sentences or lengthy prison terms for perpetrators.
The DSK Group conferred the award upon Balram in recognition of his exceptional dedication, leadership, and impactful contribution to combating Gender-Based Violence.
The Cross Bravery Award honours individuals who demonstrate exceptional acts of braver.



Prem Balram, a Helicopter Pilot and Head of Reaction Unit South Africa (RUSA) with his Bravery Award

“I’m selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can’t handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don’t deserve me at my best.” By Marilyn Monroe

McCarthy Volkswagen Durban - Price Beat Guarantee

Volkswagen has a brand-new home in Durban, and it's a beauty. The well-known and much loved McCarthy Volkswagen Durban has moved to their new showroom at 200 Stalwart Simelane Road, right opposite the ICC. It's the perfect location to showcase the future of Volkswagen in Durban – modern,

accessible, and bursting with excitement.

To celebrate their new home they are offering to beat any price on any new Volkswagen model in their range. Their Sales Manager Angelo Valayatham invites you saying, "Come and browse through the widest range of new Volkswagen models on our

showroom floor." It's an invitation that's hard to resist, especially when backed by a team eager to make your next motoring chapter an exciting experience.

At the heart of the buzz is the stylish and practical Volkswagen T-Cross, a compact SUV that continues to win South African hearts with its blend of space, comfort, and character. I had the pleasure of test driving the T-Cross and it was obvious why this model is so loved

by south Africans. Solid, horizon expanding off road capabilities with slick street cred looks. This is a compact SUV with character, versatile and spacious, exactly where you need to be.

With trade-in options, flexible finance solutions, and expert advice, buying a new car from McCarthy Volkswagen Durban is more than just a transaction – it's a genuine pleasure.

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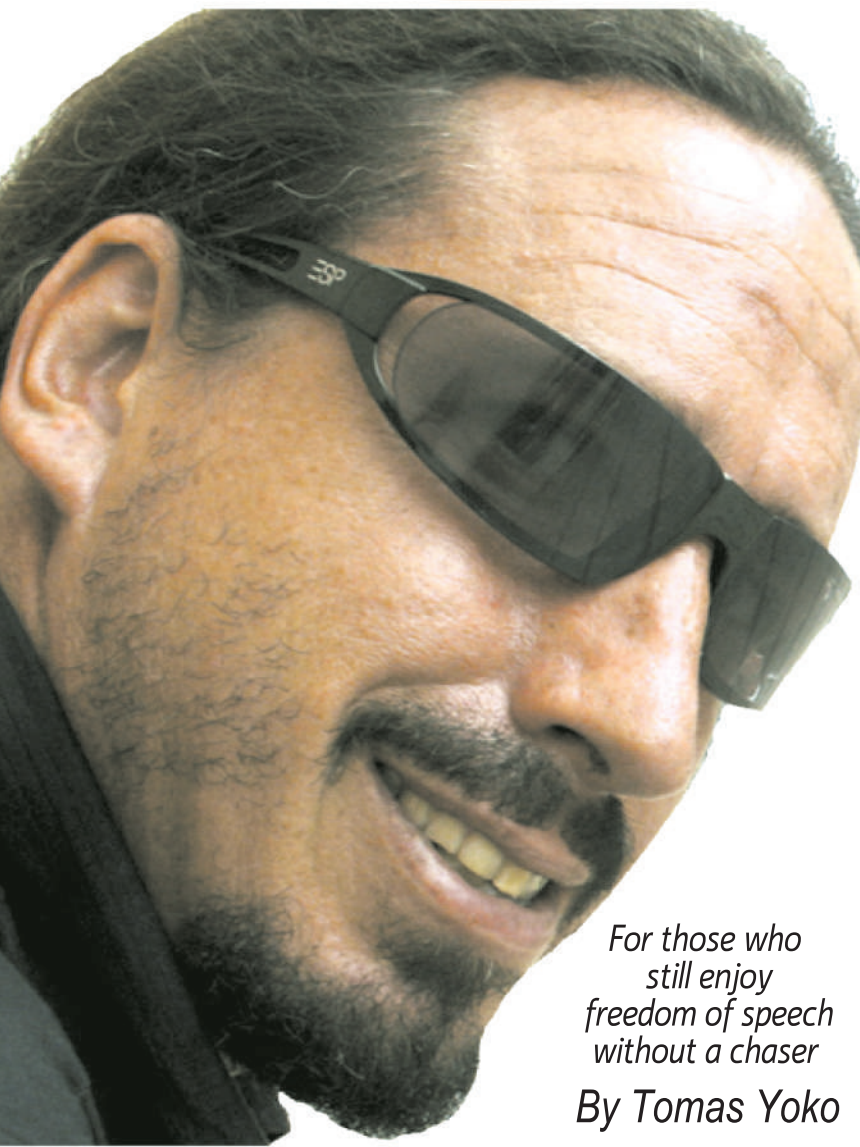
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For those who
still enjoy
freedom of speech
without a chaser
By Tomas Yoko

Benjamin “Oopsie” Netanyahu is back on stage, this time with his latest tragicomedy: The Hospital Was in the Way. Another five journalists dead, dozens more civilians erased in seconds, and the Israeli president (yes, let’s call him president, since “prime minister” no longer fits the size of his ego) waves his blood soaked hands and mutters, “tragic mishap.” That’s not an apology, it’s a smirk. The tragedy is not the mishap, the oops. The tragedy is that we live in a world where this explanation flies, where the global audience yawns and turns back to TikTok.

The numbers are staggering. One hundred and ninety-three Palestinian journalists killed since October. That’s more than the number of journalists killed in the rest of the world in the last three years combined. The Committee to Protect Journalists may as well rename itself the Committee to Count Journalist Deaths, because protection is clearly off the table.

The West wrings its hands. Macron says the hospital bombing is “intolerable.” Trump says he’s “not happy about it.” That’s the vocabulary of spoiled children, not leaders of nations. Intolerable? Not happy? A hospital reduced to ash and twenty corpses lined in plastic bags is not an undercooked steak. Yet here we are, stuck in the theatre of polite disapproval while Netanyahu test-drives his next “oopsie.” Tell me they are not both captured, the US and the EU. major conflict, the most disingenuous president ever to be appointed by an American coup, the short guy with the olive green tee shirt, has struck out at Russia in the most inopportune moment. One minute his constitution is sacrosanct and the next it is suspended, like he has a pause button on a remote control. Driven by the warmongers of the EU, their political positions coupled to the deaths of Christian soldiers on the battlefield. But keep peeling away the onion layers of deceit and soon the lure of the bankers will be discernible.

Closer to home, Gayton McKenzie is discovering the internet never forgets — even if he does. Our Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture (though he seems allergic to culture and indifferent to sport) is under investigation for using apartheid’s favourite racial slur in old social media posts. The Human Rights Commission calls it hate speech; McKenzie calls it politics. He won’t apologize, won’t delete, won’t acknowledge. Instead, he accuses the watchdog of defamation, as though pointing out the slur is somehow slander. Picture a burglar suing the homeowner for noticing the broken window. That’s where we are. We won’t even talk about the Madlanga Enquiry. Add



expletive here . . .

Meanwhile, the circus in Washington continues. Donald Trump, back in the Oval Office, is reviving his greatest hits: Dinner Dates with Dictators. He wants another photo-op with Little Rocket Man, preferably this year. The language is almost romantic — “I look forward to meeting him in the appropriate future.” You can practically hear the violins. At the same time, Trump waves his tiny stick at Putin and Zelenskyy, warning of “very big consequences” if they don’t meet. No details, no plan, just vibes. He’s like a substitute teacher threatening detention while the classroom burns. And the bombs rain down on the starving Palestinians. Pass the remote.

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

		4			9			
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	2		7		1	4		
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		6					3	5
				1				

"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth." By William W. Purkey



By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

Love and the doll's house

"Sometimes the things we think are lost are only hidden, waiting to be discovered"
(Anthony Doerr, Cloud Cuckoo Land)



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What is it about memory that the most recent of events are forgotten and those more than half a century ago, shine as yesterday? Recently, I found a knitted doll in a charity shop, so lovingly made with curly red hair and colourful stripey clothes. She was soft and squishy, her legs flopped, lips smiled. As I moved away, I had a sense that she wanted a hug. To be given a home, some love and care.

In that moment, there was a flash. My father. A man who loved to make things. Pottering about in a wooden shed. And when I was four turning five, he came out of the shed bearing a doll's house. Jesus might have been a carpenter; my father was an artist with wood.

The house was bright red, the whole front opened on hinges to reveal a wonderland of magic. You see my father had an eye for detail. He not only made the house, with its chimney pot and bold green door, but the contents too. Beds, a cooker,

a dining table and chairs. These could be moved around so the bed ended up in the kitchen and the chairs outside on the lawn. It was a world of make believe, imagination, pieces essential in a child's life. That and the fact my older brothers taught me to climb trees and play with dinky cars, life was a balance.

It was what my Dad built, like many other things in our house and beyond. But then he was gone. Dead. When I was barely ten.

There was a jingle as the door of the Hospice shop opened. By now, Daisy the doll was clasped to my chest.

In this world of robots and intelligence that is artificial, will fathers continue to craft doll houses, daughters open wooden doors into magical worlds.

What then is the future of touch if there is no feel?

What then the future of memory, if there is no past?

What then the future of craftsmanship, if there is a China Mall down the road?

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FESTIVE JOY: The Magic of a Shoebox

There's a kind of magic that arrives long before the fairy lights are untangled or the Christmas carols play on repeat. It's the magic that begins the moment Santa Shoebox pledges open. Not the sugar-high kind of festive frenzy, though there's always plenty of sweets involved, but something deeper—the joy of knowing that, somewhere out there, a little pair of hands will soon untie a ribbon, lift a lid, and discover a box filled with love.

For years, the Santa Shoebox Project has been part of South Africa's festive heartbeat. Since its humble beginnings, it has reached over 1.3 million children in South Africa and Namibia—children who may never otherwise know the delight of opening a gift chosen just for them. Within hours of pledges opening each year, names are snapped up by generous supporters. These aren't just names on a list—they are real children, each with their own dreams, challenges, and quiet hopes for the season.

What makes the project so special is how personal it feels. When you pledge, you don't just tick off a shopping list. You choose a child by name and age. Suddenly, that toothbrush, that outfit, that toy—it isn't generic anymore. It's theirs. And as you pack the box, you can't help but imagine the sparkle in their eyes when they discover it.

Each shoebox is filled with eight essentials: a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bar of soap, a washcloth, an outfit, school supplies, sweets, and a toy. But the real magic lies in the extras—the way a box is decorated, a handwritten note slipped between the layers, or a small surprise that says: you are seen, you are loved, you matter.

As drop-off season rolls around in October and November, the energy is electric. Volunteers and donors gather at collection points, arms full of colourfully wrapped boxes, hearts full of anticipation. There's laughter, chatter, and sometimes even tears—because everyone knows that behind every box is a story of kindness.

And for the children who receive them, the impact stretches far beyond the festive season. For many, it's the only gift they will receive all year. A simple box becomes a powerful message: You are not forgotten. Someone out there cares about you.

This year, the call is the same as always: to be part of something bigger than ourselves. To spread joy, one shoebox at a time.

Pledges for 2025 open on 1 September. If you'd like to join the magic, visit www.santashoebox.org.za.



A festive capture of volunteers holding up stacks of colourfully wrapped shoeboxes, celebrating the collective spirit of giving

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"When your heart is broken, you plant seeds in the cracks and pray for rain." By Pamela Gibson

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"The sweetness of strawberries and the softness of cream remind us that joy doesn't need to be



By Kasia Yoko

"Strawberries and cream are proof that happiness can be served in a bowl."

Crispy Peanut Thins with Strawberries &



"The red and white of strawberries and cream is the colour of celebration fresh, bright, and full of life."

Some desserts don't need Michelin-star drama — they just need butter, sugar, and a little cheek. Enter my crispy peanut thins: golden, lacy bites that behave like brandy snaps but with more character. They're part biscuit, part toffee, and when coaxed into a little curve, they become edible boats ready to ferry strawberries and whipped cream straight to your lips.

YOU'LL NEED:

- 1 cup Butter
- 1 cup Sugar
- 1/3 cup Honey
- 1 cup Flour
- 1 cup Chopped peanuts
- A whisper of cinnamon
- A pinch of nutmeg

HOW IT GOES:

1. Preheat the oven 180°C.
2. Melt the butter, sugar, and honey slowly — patience here, about 30 minutes on the gentlest heat.
3. Let the molten toffee rest for 10 minutes (you don't want scrambled flour).



"Eating strawberries and cream feels like laughter on your tongue—light, sweet, and unforgettable."

4. Stir in the flour, peanuts, and your spice perfume.
5. Drop small spoonfuls on a lined tray, leaving breathing

room — they spread like gossip.

6. Bake at 180°C for 5–8 minutes until just blushing golden.

7. Once they've cooled slightly, drape them over walking sticks, wooden spoons, or anything with a curve to get that playful taco shape. Let them set.

THE FILLING:

Whip cream with a drizzle of honey and a sigh of vanilla. Slice up fresh strawberries — sweet, tart, in season and begging for this stage.

TO SERVE:

Load up the cooled peanut thins with cream and berries. Bite. Expect crunch, cream, and strawberry juice making polite introductions on your tongue.

It's simple, it's naughty, and it's summer on a plate. Think of it as brandy snaps gone on holiday with peanuts and coming back with a tan.

"Raspberry bushes whose thorns were my very first heroes because they did nothing with their life but protect the sweet" By Pamela Gibson

Prison Reform, From Punishment to Productivity

By Independent Bugle Journalist



Cap: Dr Pieter Groenewald, the Minister of Correctional Services opening a Prison Bakery in Durban Westville Prison in KwaZulu-Natal at a cost of R7 million. He wants to roll-out the same in different prisons to allow prisoners to make their own food and save our tax monies. He wants them to grow their own food, make clothing and also work in factories to promote rehabilitation and save the money.

Dr Pieter Groenewald, the Minister of Correctional Services, has opened a state-of-the-art bakery inside Durban's Westville Prison, a project valued at R7 million. But this is not just about bread. It signals a broader shift in how South Africa may soon rethink incarceration — from locking people away to giving them tools to become productive, rehabilitated members of society.

The initiative, which the Minister intends to roll out in other prisons, forms part of a larger plan: teaching inmates to grow their own food, bake their own bread, make their own clothing, and work in prison-based factories. The goal is twofold — to reduce the financial burden on taxpayers and to transform prisons into centers of skills training and self-sufficiency.

Globally, prison systems have long experimented with similar reforms. In Norway, often cited as the gold standard of rehabilitation, inmates cook their meals, receive vocational training, and live in environments structured to prepare them for re-entry into society. The result? Norway boasts one of the lowest recidivism rates in the world, at around 20%. By contrast, countries that focus purely on punitive incarceration, such as the United States, see far higher repeat-offender rates, with nearly 70% of former prisoners re-arrested within five years.

Closer to home, Kenya and Rwanda have already

introduced agricultural self-sufficiency in their prisons, with inmates working on farms that supply food both for themselves and for local communities. These projects cut costs while creating dignity and discipline through work.

South Africa's prison system currently consumes billions annually, with overcrowding and repeat offending weighing heavily on both budgets and society. If Groenewald's initiative is implemented effectively, it could reshape correctional services from being a drain on national resources into an engine for rehabilitation and cost-saving. The bakery in Durban is just the beginning.

Critics will argue that prisoners should not benefit from modern facilities while law-abiding citizens struggle. Yet the counterpoint is powerful: a prisoner who learns skills, discipline, and responsibility behind bars is far less likely to reoffend, meaning fewer victims, safer communities, and ultimately less strain on the justice system.

Prison bakeries, vegetable gardens, clothing workshops, and factory floors may not solve South Africa's wider crime crisis overnight. But they represent a decisive step away from the cycle of punishment without progress. If South Africa can learn from global best practice and follow through on Groenewald's vision, its prisons may one day be known less for overcrowding and violence — and more for bread, dignity, and second chances.

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John Hume, The False Prophet of Rhino Conservation

By Independent Bugle Journalist

For decades, John Hume styled himself as the South African conservationist who would rescue the rhino from extinction. He bred the largest private herd in the world on his farm in North West, poured millions into his operation, and built his reputation on the claim that he loved rhinos more than anyone else. Politicians, business leaders, and even some conservationists nodded in approval, dazzled by his empire and persuaded by his rhetoric: legal trade in horn, he argued, would secure the future of the species.

On paper, it sounded plausible. A visionary breeder, investing his fortune, carrying the weight of rhino survival on his shoulders. The man who could turn blood into balance sheets and save Africa's most ancient giant from the poacher's gun. But behind the myth, there was rot.

This week, Hume stands accused not as the "savior" he long proclaimed to be, but as a smuggler. Nearly 1,000 horns — worth around \$14 million (R247 029 035,40) — are alleged to have slipped into Asia's black markets, laundered through fraudulent permits, staged hunts, and shameless exploitation of loopholes. The very horns he said would protect rhinos were feeding the same illicit trade he claimed he could defeat.

And so the mask falls. Hume was no

saint. He was a businessman — a shrewd one — who built a kingdom on the backs of rhinos while convincing the world he was their champion.

This is not just about one man. It is about the dangerous idea he embodied, and the chorus of supporters who rallied to him. Former ministers, pro-trade lobbyists, even some conservationists stood shoulder to shoulder with Hume, insisting that commodifying rhinos would end the crisis. They ignored the obvious:

- Corruption thrives in legal grey zones. Where there are loopholes, syndicates move in. Hume's "legal" farm, his auctions, his paperwork became conduits for crime. Pseudo-hunts, fake certificates, bribed officials — these weren't slip-ups, they were the business model.
- Profits rarely reach protection. Hume's millions didn't fortify ranger posts or uplift rural communities living alongside rhinos. The wealth flowed into vaults, investors' pockets, and illicit channels. Trophy hunting carries the same

stain: the money seldom trickles to those truly holding the conservation line.

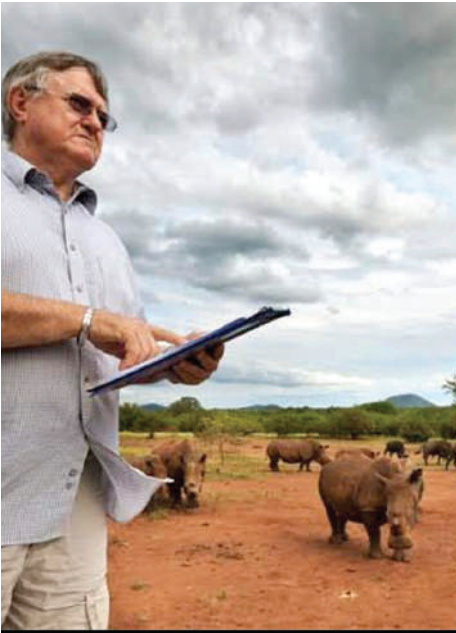
- Trade inflames demand. Rhino horn is not a need; it is status, speculation, superstition. Legalising supply doesn't shrink demand, it validates it — making laundering smoother, syndicates richer, and the killing fields wider.

This is why rhino horn trade was banned worldwide in 1977 — because history already showed that greed always outweighs sustainability. Hume's empire was simply the loudest warning bell yet.

The tragedy is not only that one man chose profit over protection. It is that too many leaders, policymakers, and conservation figures legitimised his story. They called him a saviour while ignoring the evidence that he was fattening the very system driving rhinos to the edge.

The way forward lies not in auctions or trophy hunters posing as benefactors. It lies in protecting rhinos alive: dehorning where necessary, cutting demand in Asia, and building economies that celebrate living wildlife, not dead trophies.

John Hume was not the guardian of rhinos. He was their exploiter. He gambled away their survival on the altar of trade — and lost. And still, the rhinos pay the price.



John Hume, South African conservationist, stands accused of smuggling nearly 1000 horns worth nearly R250mil

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"Who are you to judge the life I live? I know I'm not perfect - and I don't live to be - but before you start pointing fingers... make sure your hands are clean!"
by Bob Marley



Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

The 7 Myths of Buying Privately – and Why a Professional Agent is Your Safest Bet



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After more than three decades at the coal face of high-end residential real estate sales, I've seen almost every type of transaction play out. In that time, one lesson has become abundantly clear: property deals are never as simple as they may seem. Here on the North Coast, particularly in Zimbali, Simbithi, Ballito, Sheffield, Salt Rock and the emerging new estates, demand is strong and values are significant. Yet, despite the stakes, some buyers still fall for the notion that purchasing privately – without the guidance of a professional estate agent – will save them money. The reality? It rarely does. In fact, it often costs buyers more in the long run. Let's look at the seven myths surrounding private sales and why using a professional is the wiser choice.

Myth 1: You'll save money by cutting out the agent
Sellers who avoid agents often inflate their asking prices, assuming "savings" on commission. Without professional valuations or intelligent comparatives, buyers run the risk of paying above true market value. At Seeff Zimbali & North Coast, our team ensures pricing reflects real market conditions, not wishful thinking.

Myth 2: The process is straightforward
Buying property involves layers of legal, financial, and compliance requirements. Miss one certificate or overlook a clause and you could face delays or penalties. An experienced agent navigates this maze daily, ensuring every detail is handled correctly. Professionals make the complicated appear seamless and easy.

Myth 3: Sellers will always disclose everything
Private transactions often lack the transparency buyers expect. Undisclosed structural defects, boundary issues, or even fraudulent activity are real risks. An agent provides a professional layer of protection, insisting on disclosure and safeguarding both parties to a property transaction.

Myth 4: Negotiation is easy
Buying a home is as emotional as it is financial. Direct negotiations between buyer and seller can quickly become personal, leading to costly outcomes. With 30 years of negotiating lessons learnt, I know the power of a skilled, neutral intermediary to achieve a fair outcome.

Myth 5: Agents only look after the seller
A good agent represents the transaction, not just one party. Our role is to guide, mediate, and protect everyone's interests, ensuring a deal that is ethical, balanced, and successful.

Myth 6: A conveyancer is enough
Attorneys step in once an agreement is signed. But who ensures that agreement is sound to begin with? That's the agent's role – to manage the journey from the first viewing through to handover, smoothing every step. The idea of a seller handing over a potential transaction to his attorneys is a sure way to make a deal fail.

Myth 7: Buying privately reduces stress
Quite the opposite. Managing admin, chasing paperwork, and worrying about unseen risks is stressful. An agent shoulders that responsibility, giving buyers peace of mind and freeing them to focus on their new home.

The Bottom Line
On the North Coast, property is more than bricks and mortar – it's about lifestyle, security, and future value. Entrusting your transaction to a seasoned professional is not an expense; it's an investment in peace of mind.

At Seeff Zimbali & North Coast, our team represents the very best in the industry. With deep market knowledge, a reputation built on results, and an unwavering commitment to our clients, we ensure that when you buy or sell, you do so with confidence.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



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Changes Underway In Our Divorce Laws For Non- Accrual Marriages Out Of Community

There are sweeping changes to be made to our existing divorce laws. The General Laws Amendment Bill 2025 is expected to be presented to Parliament shortly and the Minister of Justice will be calling for amendments to the Divorce Act 1979 for marriages out of community of property without accrual, to allow the court to grant a redistribution order of the assets to be made either on death or divorce, in such a way that it is considered to be fair and just.

An out of community of property without accrual means that the assets that accrued during the marriage are not shared or taken into consideration when the marriage ends. The changes arose as a result of a case that found its way to the Constitutional Court. In 2023 the Constitutional Court declared that section 7(3) of the Divorce Act 1979 to be invalid and unconstitutional. It gave Parliament 24 months to amend the offending provisions of the Divorce Act 1979. Section 7(3) of the Divorce Act allows the court, in certain instances, to grant a "redistribution order" of the assets of a couple who were married out of community of property.

However it only applied to couples who were married to each

other prior to 1 November 1984. The case above which landed at the Constitutional Court argued against section 7 (3) of the Divorce Act, saying that in limiting the court's power to grant a redistribution order only to couples married before 1 November 1984, the section was discriminating and unfair to those couples married after 1 November 1984.

The Constitutional Court agreed said declared section 7(3) it to be unconstitutional and invalid. What is the net effect of all of this? Well this means that once the Amendment of the Divorce Act comes into play, the courts would then be allowed to redistribute assets in marriages without accrual regardless of when the parties were married.

Where a woman opts to be a "stay at home" wife and/or mother, she is often seen as not making a financial contribution to the estate of her husband if the marriage fails, she's left completely vulnerable and financially weakened.

As women are mostly the ones who are prejudiced by the non-accrual marriages, they would now be given greater financial protection, should their marriage terminate either on death or divorce. This redresses the imbalance of the past

especially in cases where a wealthy husband who wielded financial control over the wife was able to walk away from the marriage with all the assets intact, leaving the other spouse with little if any assets.

As these changes are about to become a reality, a spouse who previously had no claim of redistribution against the other spouse will now be entitled to convince the court of her/his right to share in certain assets of the other spouse. Unfortunately the amendment will not apply retrospectively.

The amendment will also allow the court to grant a redistribution order in instances where a marriage has ended on the death of a spouse. Consequently the proposed amendments will allow spouses married out of community of property without accrual and who have contributed directly or indirectly in enhancing and growing the other spouse's estate, to have a claim for a redistribution of assets to be granted on the basis that the distribution is just and equitable.

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.



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Audi Umhlanga Offers the Future with Style

By Tomas Yoko

Step into Audi Umhlanga, and you immediately sense that this is no ordinary dealership. It's a space that celebrates motoring passion, where cutting-edge design meets unwavering customer care. Right now, the buzz around the showroom is electric and for good reason. The new Audi A5 has arrived, and it is nothing short of breath taking. Sleek, sculpted, and dripping with sophistication, the A5 makes a statement before you've even touched the start button. It's the kind of car that turns heads in traffic and makes you look twice as you walk away from it. In every line and every angle, Audi's design language speaks of timeless elegance infused with modern flair.

But if the A5 sets your pulse racing, wait until you slide behind the wheel of the brand new Audi S-line A3 sedan. I had the privilege of road testing the S line A3, and let me tell you, it's the kind of drive that reminds you why Audi is revered worldwide. The acceleration is fierce, launching you forward with a force that borders on addictive. Zero to 100 km/h happens in just under five



Audi's design brilliance is on full display

seconds, and yet it does it all with such composure that you almost forget how fast you're going.

The braking is razor-sharp, the steering pin-point accurate, and the quattro all-wheel drive system keeps you glued to the tarmac even when you push it harder than you should. It's as though the car reads your inputs before you've made them, delivering confidence in every corner. But here's the real magic: despite its exhilarating pace and track-ready reflexes, the A3 sedan

doesn't punish you in everyday use. The ride is supple enough for daily commutes, the cabin quiet and refined, and fuel efficiency hovers around 5.8 to 6 litres per 100 km on mixed cycles if you're restrained.

Inside, Audi's design brilliance is on full display. You're met with a driver-focused cockpit, tactile finishes, cutting-edge infotainment, and digital displays that make you feel like you're in command of the future. The sports seats hug you in all the right places, yet remain comfortable enough for long-distance drives. It's performance dressed up in practicality, a rare balance that few competitors can claim.

At Audi Umhlanga, the A5 and A3 are more than just cars. They're experiences, each one designed to stir the senses, elevate your drive, and remind you what makes Audi one of the most aspirational badges on the road. If you haven't experienced them yet, perhaps it's time you booked that test drive — your heartbeat will thank you. Speak to the friendly professionals at Audi Umhlanga on 031 584 9600 or visit their showroom at 18 Meridian drive, Umhlanga.

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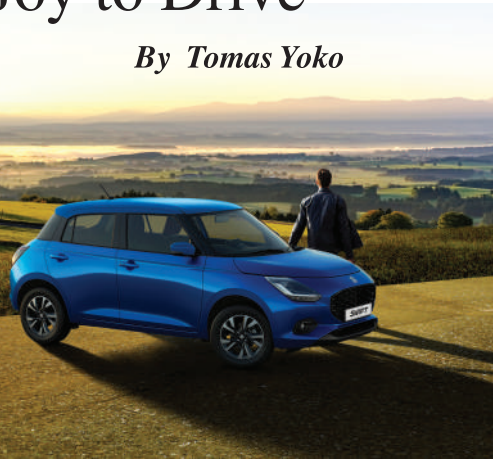
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From left to right, your Audi Umhlanga sales team are; Sales Executives Ashley Naicker, FNI Manager Rodney Reddy, Sales Manager Dineshin Odayar, Sales Executive Chantell Julie and FNI Viola Moonsamy with and Sales Executives Kershen Naidoo and Emmanuel Ramburon. This team will get you behind the wheel of your favourite Audi with the least amount of fuss

The Spirited Suzuki Swift – A Joy to Drive

By Tomas Yoko



CMH Suzuki Ballito has an awesome deal on the new Suzuki Swift, contact Nathi on 078 772 7968 and he will get you into the Suzuki of your dreams

Every so often, a car comes along that reminds me why I love driving. The Suzuki Swift is one of those cars. I recently test drove the automatic derivative fitted with a CVT gearbox, and from the moment I set off, I knew this was going to be fun. The Swift doesn't pretend to be something it isn't — instead, it thrives on simplicity and massive spirit.

What impressed me most is how the engine revs enthusiastically, delivering more than enough zest to keep you smiling as you gather speed. Paired with the CVT, it offers a smooth and relaxed drive, especially in stop-and-go traffic. The Swift is also available in manual, and that option will appeal to drivers who want a little more engagement.

The real winner, however, is its practicality. I managed around 4.9 litres per 100 km, which is exceptional in today's world of climbing fuel costs. Add in Suzuki's solid 5-year/200,000 km warranty and 2-year/30,000 km service plan, and suddenly it's clear why the Swift remains one of the most popular hatchbacks on South African roads.

It's affordable, reliable, and above all it is a joy to drive. If you're ready to experience the Swift spirit for yourself, CMH Suzuki Ballito is the place to start. Take it for a test drive and see why this little hatchback has captured so many hearts.

Introducing Mbulelo Myeni – Master of Multitasking and Customer Focus

By Tomas Yoko



Mbulelo Myeni

I've observed few people who command a sales floor with the seamless grace of Mbulelo Myeni, Sales Manager at GWM Haval Umhlanga and Mitsubishi. From the moment he steps onto the showroom, his calm multitasking manner is a masterclass—coordinating calls, supervising test drives, and closing deals, all while managing his team with impressive composure.

What truly sets Mbulelo apart is how his razor-sharp focus switches on when engaging with customers. Whether it's understanding the needs of a first-time buyer, guiding someone through trade-in discussions, or walking a returning customer through new features, his full attention is unwavering—and his clients feel it.

Mbulelo leads from the front, embodying teamwork with every interaction. His management approach combines leadership with genuine care—he's not just steering his professional sales team; he's walking side by side with them, day in and day out. Mbulelo acknowledges his team for their dedication and hard work in winning two Dealer Of The Year awards for Haval in 2024 and one for Mitsubishi in 2025.

If you're in the market for a new Haval or Mitsubishi vehicle, rest easy knowing you're in capable hands. Mbulelo's experience in the motoring industry—though modestly stated—speaks volumes in how he handles every challenge with professionalism and poise.

Caption: Mbulelo Myeni, Sales Manager at GWM Haval Umhlanga and Mitsubishi, proudly celebrates with three awards in hand, a testament to his dedication, and teamwork.

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The Amazing Honda Amaze – Now at CMH Honda Umhlanga

When Honda names a car the Amaze, you know it's going to live up to expectations. And the all-new third-generation Honda Amaze, now available at CMH Honda Umhlanga, does exactly that – combining bold new styling, premium features, and outstanding practicality, all at a price that will leave you smiling. Starting from just R254 900, the new Amaze costs almost exactly the same as its predecessor, yet brings up to R80 000 worth of additional features and tech to the deal. That's unmatched value in today's market. Under the bonnet lies Honda's trusted 1.2L SOHC i-VTEC engine, delivering 66 kW and

110 Nm, paired with either a 5-speed manual gearbox or a refined CVT automatic. Efficiency is remarkable, with consumption as low as 5.5L/100km, making it as frugal as it is fun. Inside, the Amaze punches well above its class. An 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™, a 7-inch driver display, and even segment-first touches like Remote Engine Start (CVT derivative) bring big-car sophistication into a compact sedan. Add a 416L boot and improved cabin space, and practicality is at the forefront. Safety hasn't been forgotten either. With

up to six airbags, Vehicle Stability Assist, ABS, and a reverse camera with parking sensors, Honda has made sure every journey is secure. Backed by a 5-year/200 000km warranty, a 4-year/60 000km service plan, and 3 years AA Roadside Assistance, the new Amaze is peace of mind on four wheels. The Honda Amaze at CMH Honda Umhlanga isn't just a car – it's proof that innovation, value, and sophistication can exist in perfect harmony. Book your test drive today at CMH Honda Umhlanga, call them on 087 721 5304 or visit their awesome showroom at 89 Flanders Drive,

CMH Honda Umhlanga is the epitome of a car dealership and home to the new Honda Amaze, contact their sales team for more info and a date to test drive it



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CMH Ford Ballito Drives Community Spirit at Umhlali Prep



And they're off, the rush through the Ford arch as one category after another launched their best cyclists at the Umhlali Prep School track in the Cycle Lab KZN Schools MTB Series

There's something special about a dealership that doesn't just sell cars, but actively invests in the community it serves. CMH Ford Ballito, under the dynamic leadership of Dealer Principal Matthew Buck, once again proved that they are more than just a showroom. Today, the dealership proudly stood as a sponsor of the Cycle Lab KZN Schools MTB Series, held at Umhlali Prep, and the turnout was nothing short of inspiring. The program, which encourages healthy living and sparks a passion for cycling among learners, was met with enthusiasm from parents, students, and the wider KZN community. And right at the heart of it all, CMH Ford Ballito was there in full force, showcasing their impressive line-up of vehicles. From the versatile new Ford Territory to the rugged Ranger, the refined Everest, and the stylish Mondeo, the display

offered something for everyone — a perfect reflection of Ford's ability to meet diverse lifestyles. A popular installation at the CMH Ford Ballito stand was the wheelie competition, where contestants had their bikes strapped into a wheelie rig to see who could hold the wheelie position for the longest, while their DP Matthew Buck cooked breakfast rolls and by his and his team's actions, cultivated a culture that extends well beyond the forecourt, a culture of building connections and driving local initiatives forward. The community turned up, the energy was palpable, and the day reminded us of the importance of partnerships between schools, businesses, and residents. With events like these, CMH Ford Ballito continues to prove that they're not just driving Ford vehicles — they're driving community spirit too.



The competition was fierce, some contestants really looked comfortable in that position



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"Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results." By Narcotics Anonymous



KWAZULU-NATAL
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Maritime Centre of Excellence

VENUE HIRE

We are located in the affluent residential, commercial and resort town of Umhlanga in the north of Durban. Ideally situated close to freeway: with access to and from N2 and M4, about 15 drive from King Shaka International Airport. The Venue offers a versatile auditorium of 19m x 19m that can accommodate;
Reception/party seating and minimum 160 guests and maximum 300 guests.
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EDITORIAL

KZN SHARKS BOARD MARITIME CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE THE TOURISM DESTINATION AT UMLHANGA OFFERS EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES.



KWAZULU-NATAL
SHARKS BOARD
Maritime Centre of Excellence

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

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

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

SHOW TIMES Tuesday to Thursday: 09h00am and 14h00pm, First Sunday of the month: 14:00pm

BOAT TRIPS

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

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

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

VENUE HIRE

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

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