

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

King William's Town

FREE

The Bugle

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Dimbaza model is a finalist at Miss Charm SA 2025 pageant

Cuma Sande Somazembe, a 27-year-old woman and model is proudly representing the Eastern Cape at the Miss Charm SA 2025 pageant.

Somazembe grew up in Dimbaza, attended Kuyasa Senior Secondary School where she matriculated in 2015.

During an interview she said: "At Kuyasa, I was known for my love of modeling and for winning my school's beauty pageants and trophies. These moments sparked my passion for pageantry and self-expression."

Somazembe went on to graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and is currently pursuing an advanced qualification in the same field.

"I chose engineering not to

blend in but to stand out, to show that technical excellence and unapologetic femininity can coexist," said Somazembe.

Alongside her studies, she founded the Inyembezana Foundation, which empowers children through education and builds confidence among the youth.

"I also advocate for youth employment and celebrate the rich culture, tourism and heritage of South Africa."

She said her passion for pageantry began in high school where she competed and won at Kuyasa which taught her the power of confidence and community support.

"Seeing South African queens such as Demi-Lee and Rolene Strauss use their



GORGEOUS: Cuma Sande Somazembe of Dimbaza near Qonce is a finalist representing the Eastern Cape at Miss Charm SA 2025.

platforms to inspire change, motivated me to do the very same and pageantry for me is not only about beauty, it is about influence, service and leadership."

Speaking about Miss Charm SA and how she became finalist representing the EC, THE GORGEOUS Somazembe said she entered the pageant to amplify her advocacy on a national stage. "After a rigorous selection process, my academic background, community work and authentic charm earned me a finalist spot representing my province. I bring a blend of intelligence, compassion and cultural pride to the competition."

Continued on Pg. 2...

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Continued from Pg. 1...

When asked who her role model is and why, she responded: "I do not have a single specific role model because my inspiration comes from all walks of life. Even the Bible reminds us that if we listen we become wise and if we pay attention, we gain knowledge."

She added that she draws lessons from everyday people from mothers raising families to leaders breaking barriers to young girls daring to dream.

"Other than Basetsana Khumalo who showed how pagantry can be a springboard to business and philanthropy, my role model is any woman who challenges stereotypes

that say women are not enough and who strives to be successful on her own terms."

Her message to the youth is: "You are not defined by where you start. Believe in your dreams, work hard and stay authentic, Education, resilience and community upliftment are your tools to break any barrier. You belong in every space you choose to enter, whether that is a classroom, a boardroom or a stage."

Anyone wishing to see the Dimbaza model realizing her dream can vote through a contribution made at Capitec Bank in Account No: 2420773612 using the reference voting code – MCSA 11.

Newly formed EC civic movement promises to inspire people



A newly formed civic movement aims to inspire people to hold government accountable for its inefficiencies and wasting taxpayers' money.

The Phakama Eastern Cape civic movement held its launch in Bhisho over the weekend after the venue in Qonce was allegedly locked due to the ongoing SAMWU strike.

It has highlighted concerns over failing governance and economic development in the province.

The movement's organizer Phikolonzi Adonis, says they are not intending to become a political party yet.

"For now, we are not focusing on elections because people have told us they are tired of

elections and political parties that come to people and making promises that sometimes are not even feasible," Adonis said.

"We are saying, no; let us not be too ambitious about being voted for and being on the ballot because that is seen as an opportunistic type of approach. We said we need to go to the people and to engage with them, to give them workshops, training and let them develop themselves."

Phakama are a civic movement driven by the people of the Eastern Cape, demanding safety, accountability, and opportunity from safer communities and stronger governance to youth empowerment and rural development.

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BREIDBACH MODIFIED HOCKEY HUB presents training sessions at the Breidbach Primary School Astro turf every Saturday starting from 9am. All welcome. Free entry. For more info, contact Hubert Oliphant on 073 717 0829.

SA TWINS FESTIVAL will be staged at Baby Swag in Zwelitsha on 27 September 2025 starting from 10am till 5pm featuring Nathi B, Chad The DJ, dj Lugasiin, DJ Nobody, Endi Endi, Black Ivory, Cattalina The DJ, ReggiexCatter, Siggibo Uzwikantu. Tickets are R50 and R60 at the gate. For more info, contact 060 338 9267 or 063 286 1551.

AFRICANS SPORTS CLUB LEGENDS PRESENTS a Heritage Tournament at Breidbach and Zwelitsha Sports Grounds on 27 September 2025 from 9am. Rugby - R15 000 with R1000 affiliation fee; Netball - R5 000 with R6 00 affiliation fee; Legends - Medals (Free Registration); Juniors - Medals (Free Registration). Live screening of Springboks versus Argentina at 5pm. Gate Fees - R20 per vehicle and R10 per person. For more info, contact Sean Carelse on 078 326 1520.

AN EVENING OF SONG is presented by the Belstone Congregational Church Choir at the Belstone Church Hall in Breidbach on Saturday 27th September 2025 starting from 6pm. Entry - R50 per person. For more info, kindly contact Bernito Gosling on 079 195 7817.

Seniors participate in Gonubie Glen Annual 5km Spring Walk



FOREVER YOUNG: Gonubie Glen Retirement Village seniors participate in the Annual 5km Spring Walk which started and finished at the Gonubie Glen Centre hall in East London recently.

Residents of the Gonubie Glen Retirement Village in East London participate in the Gonubie Glen Annual 5km Spring Walk as a form of social activity and exercise to promote an active lifestyle and well-being over the weekend.

The event was attended by residents, family members, friends and grandchildren amounted to a total of 97 participants who all enjoyed a morning of fun at the Gonubie Glen Retirement Centre. The 5km fun walk around the complex saw some of the participants in wheelchairs, with others using walkers and walking sticks, and some just able to step it out with their dogs.

Dressed in bright colours in welcoming the beautiful sea-

son of Spring, and with clowns Belinda Roberson and Patrick Stevens making the event more fun filled, the event was more than just a fun walk.

Event coordinator Marie Mauer said fun walks provide an opportunity for residents to socialize, build friendships, and combat potential feelings of isolation.

"Walking outdoors in fresh air and natural surroundings has many benefits for mental and physical well-being as group walks help foster a strong sense of community within the retirement village, with residents sharing a common interest," Mauer said.

"There was also a participant attending with a concertina and playing music from the starting point to the finishing

line, and there was a water point where participants were handed drinks."

Mauer added that an ambulance was also on standby at the centre and that there were many prizes up for grabs for participants.

"Some of the prizes went to King Protea, Queen Bee, Royal Iris, Pretty pansy, Beautiful Buttercup and many more, said Mauer."

She added that there were also lots of lucky draws and that the morning was filled with lots of fun and laughter from the clown who really entertained them.

In conclusion Mauer said: "It was a wonderful, fun-filled morning that went to plan and I am grateful to all those who participated and donated towards this annual event."

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In an EC operation, a kidnapped Filipino woman was saved

Hawks in the Eastern Cape have successfully arrested three suspects and rescued a 35-year-old woman from the Philippines who had been kidnapped for ransom at the end of August.

According to Provincial spokesperson, Lieutenant-Colonel Avele Fumba, the woman was abducted by three men from a factory shop in Dimbaza, East London on 28 August. Following the abduction, a ransom demand was made, prompting an immediate and urgent investigation.

In a statement released on Friday, Fumba detailed the collaborative effort between the Kidnapping Task Team, the East London Tactical Response Team, and private security partner Guardian Defence, highlighting their meticulous approach to tracing every lead.

"Their persistence paid off when intelligence pinpointed

a shack where the victim was being held," he said.

Fumba further explained that the team executed a carefully planned operation to rescue the woman from a shack in Mdantsane, where she was being held captive. The suspects, whose ages range between 30 and 40, are expected to appear in court soon, facing charges of kidnapping and related offences.

Major-General Mboiki Obed Ngwenya, the Provincial Head of the Hawks, lauded the breakthrough, commending the collaborative effort and dedication of the teams involved in ensuring the safe return of the victim and the apprehension of the suspects. The case remains under investigation, and authorities are working to uncover any further details related to the kidnapping.

Investigating claims of corruption amongst judges and attorneys through the Scopa RAF inquiry

Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) is set to investigate allegations of potential corruption within the judiciary regarding Road Accident Fund (RAF) claims and collusion with lawyers.

Scopa chairperson Songezo Zibi confirmed the investigation on Friday during a committee meeting focused on the inquiry into maladministration, financial mismanagement, and related misconduct at the RAF.

Zibi stated that Scopa has requested the RAF to provide any correspondence sent to the Chief Justice or the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) concerning instances of suspected corruption, specifying requests for details on particular cases.

The investigation aims to examine allegations from all sides, with Scopa seeking information from both the RAF and relevant authorities to gain a comprehensive understanding. They have also requested information from the RAF on complaints lodged against specific judges and are awaiting a response.

In addition to judicial corruption, Scopa will investigate alleged collusion between judges and lawyers, tasking the RAF with quantifying the financial losses resulting from such activities. Zibi assured members that these serious allegations made in Parliament would be thoroughly investigated. The probe will extend to lawyers, with the Legal Practice Council (LPC) potentially being called to account for any misconduct.

The inquiry's scope includes examining double payments made by the RAF, which have resulted in financial losses for the fund and taxpayers. These double payments reportedly affect not only lawyers but also medical

experts, with an unknown amount of money involved. Zibi noted that numerous medical experts have either not been paid or have had their payments incorrectly directed to other individuals or attorneys.

Zibi also revealed that he has increased his personal security following a threat assessment commissioned by the National Commissioner of the SA Police Services (SAPS). The assessment indicated that he was being followed and photographed, along with the people he met.

He recounted an incident where he received a file concerning overpayments to medical experts employed by the RAF, after which he was informed about the threat assessment. Zibi stated that he knew the car that had been following him and had passed the information on to the police.

Zibi emphasized the importance of protecting whistleblowers, especially former RAF employees who fear reprisal. He cited the assassinations of individuals like Babita Deokaran and others as reasons for these fears.

Parliamentary legal advisor Fatima Ebrahim acknowledged the serious concern for whistleblower protection but admitted that Parliament lacks the resources and legal framework to provide adequate protection. She urged potential whistleblowers to come forward while recognizing the limitations in ensuring their safety.

Zibi stressed the need for Scopa to handle whistleblower submissions with care to avoid further endangering them, noting that one whistleblower had expressed reluctance to leave their house due to safety concerns.

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Ford has recalled some Ranger models



Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa (FMCSA) has initiated a safety recall for specific 2025 and 2026 Ranger vehicles, the company announced on Friday. The recall addresses a potential issue where drivers might experience altered brake pedal feel or increased effort required for braking due to a loss of brake boost functionality.

According to Ford, affected vehicles will exhibit several warning signs. These include illumination of the Anti-lock Brake System (ABS), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), and brake warning signals, accompanied by informational messages displayed in the instrument cluster and an audible alert. The primary concern is the potential for extended stopping distances resulting from the loss of brake boost, which could elevate the risk of accidents.

The recall impacts a total of 5,676 vehicles within the Southern African region. The breakdown by country is as follows: South Africa (5,387 vehicles), Botswana (113 vehicles), Namibia (157 vehicles), and Eswatini/Swaziland (19 vehicles).

FMCSA is actively reaching out to affected customers, advising them to get in touch with their preferred Ford dealer to arrange an appointment for inspection and necessary repairs. The required software update will be performed on all affected vehicles free of charge to the customer. This initiative underscores FMCSA's commitment, in collaboration with its dealer partners, to deliver exceptional service and support to its customers.

For customers who wish to ascertain if their Ford vehicle is subject to this or any other recall, FMCSA has provided a convenient online resource. By visiting www.ford.co.za/owner/recalls/ and entering their Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) in the search bar, cus-

tomers can quickly determine their vehicle's recall status. In addition to the online VIN checker,

FMCSA has established a dedicated Customer Relationship Resolution Centre to address any queries or concerns related to this customer service action. Customers can reach the centre by dialing 0860 011 022 or +27 12 843 5824 for international callers. Alternatively, inquiries can be submitted via email to CRC3@ford.com.

This proactive safety recall demonstrates Ford's dedication to prioritizing customer safety and addressing potential vehicle issues promptly and effectively. By providing multiple channels for customers to access information and schedule necessary repairs, FMCSA aims to minimize inconvenience and ensure the continued safety and reliability of its vehicles.



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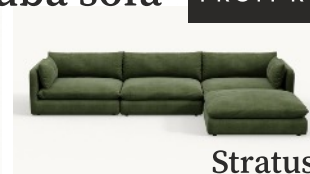
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East Londoners win Barcelona FC 25th anniversary senior tournament in Breidbach

East London based Swaraj Football Club has pulled out all stops to emerge the champions of the Acorn Valley outfit Barcelona Football Club 25th anniversary senior club football tournament in Qonce over the weekend.

The 3-day tournament attracted football enthusiasts in their hundreds from all corners of Qonce to the Breidbach and Acorn Valley Sports Grounds where a total of 16 clubs competed for the incentives at stake.

The East Londoners produced a dominant performance in the final after silenced Brightons "Willie Hoorie" with a 3-0 hiding to claim winnings.

For their efforts Swaraj were rewarded with the floating trophy, gold medals and a whopping R4 000 as prize money whilst the Breidbach hopefuls Brightons walked away with silver medals and R2 000 in cash. Swaraj also clinched two individual awards after wing Jaden Swartbooi was voted Player-of-



CHAMPIONS: Swaraj Football Club of East London crowned winners of Barcelona FC 25th Anniversary Senior Club Football Tournament at the Breidbach Sports Grounds over the weekend.

the- Tournament and Christopher Koopman been named Best Goalkeeper.

Barcelona club chairperson Raudrick 'Blom' Douglas has described the tournament a phenomenal success and added that they only experienced one challenge of time wasting with the interference of SAFA Buffalo City president Mxolisi Prince Sibam.

"Sibam wanted to force matters and stop our tournament to al-

low SAFA BC affiliated FC Chox and Seagulls to proceed with their scheduled Hollywoodbets Regional League game after we have booked the Breidbach Sports Grounds long ago," Douglas said.

"Law Enforcement officials were summoned and the dust settled only after Sibam with the two teams was removed from the field of play to allow us to continue with the tournament."

Blom said the tournament was play in a round robin format with four teams grouped into four groups.

"The top two teams of each group advanced to the quarter-final stages followed by the semifinals and final," said Douglas.

He commended his executive for working tirelessly behind the scenes in securing the success of the tournament.

"I am extremely proud of my executive for going the extra mile for the team and this has motivated me to go big next year with this event," Douglas said.

"A big thank you also needs to go to the football enthusiasts from Qonce and surrounding areas for filling the fields to its capacity.

In conclusion Douglas extended a word of thanks to sponsors Astron Energy, Msamo Attorneys and Superspar Nick's Foods King William's Town for their much needed contributions.

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Local boxer wins gold at EC Boxing Organization Championships



GOLDENGIRL: Ace Mates Academy of Sports boxer Amahle 'Hands of Thunder' Kundulu has won gold at the Eastern Cape Boxing Organisation 2025 Cadet and Junior Championships hosted at Komani Indoor Sports Centre over the weekend.

An aspiring female boxer has produced a spirited performance and pulled out all stops to fly the flag high for her club, village and region at the Eastern Cape Boxing Organisation 2025 Cadet and Junior Championships staged at the Komani Indoor Sports Centre in Chris Hani District over the weekend.

Amahle Kundulu aka 'Hands of Thunder' is an athlete of the Tolofiyeni Village based Ace Mates Academy of Sports just outside Qonce and became the darling at the event after punching her way, round after round to emerge the winner at her respective category.

For her efforts Kundulu was rewarded with a gold medal and another chance to represent her province at the upcoming national championships to be hosted in the Northern Cape province later this year.

An elated Ace Mates owner Andile "Ace" Mofu was ecstatic and over the moon after the performance of his boxer and commended her for giving it her best at the showpiece.

"This year Qonce had two boxers representing Buffalo City Metro at the provincial championships in Emihle Funani and Kundulu which is a clear indication of ensuring that the sub-district continues with its goal to promote and develop boxers for the future," Mofu said.

"Funani was the 2024 SANABO champion in the Cadets category and was vying for the national championships for the first time as Junior but unfortunately our quest fell short as she bagged only bronze at this year's provincial championships."

Kundulu on the other hand was the first National champion to be produced by the Academy in 2023 and the following year could not be part of the provincial team due to other commitments.

"We are happy as an Academy to once again have her going to the national championships as she will be the lone soldier representing us as the Academy," said Mofu. In conclusion Mofu said: "We are proud of her and wish her all the luck. Go there and make us all proud again!"

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Lovedale hosts thrilling provincial ball games



The 2022 CoSACSA Provincial Ball Games hosted at Lovedale TVET College in Qonce, proved to be a showcase of resilience, talent, and unity as eight colleges from across the Eastern Cape province came together in true spirited competition. Over the course of three days, athletes competed fiercely across basketball, volleyball, table tennis, netball, rugby, and soccer, drawing crowds of students, staff, family members, and supporters. Despite cold and rainy weather conditions on Saturday, the players gave it their all, showing determination and teamwork that inspired a well-attended crowd.

Lovedale took home ground to their advantage and with a stadium packed to its capacity of their supporters emerged tops at most of the ball games.

The winning colleges will now have the opportunity to represent the Eastern Cape Province at the national CoSACSA Games in October 2025, carrying with them the hopes and pride of the province.

The 2025 Provincial Ball Games were not only a sporting triumph but also a celebration of resilience, teamwork, and the boundless potential of TVET students.

Lovedale TVET College extended its heartfelt gratitude to all participating colleges, recognizing the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) for making the event possible for students to pursue sport while studying, and CoSACSA for providing a platform that promotes sport, arts, and culture within the TVET sector.

Appreciation was also extended to the hard working staff members, SRC representatives, and volunteers for their commitment, dedication as well as to the student entrepreneurs whose stalls brought vibrancy and a sense of community to the tournament.

Speaking on behalf of the College, Deputy Principal – Registrar Zandisile Ntswanti, emphasized the importance of sport in shaping students' minds and character. He furthermore emphasized that sports not only promote discipline, teamwork, and

leadership but also play a crucial role in reducing substance abuse among young people.

Ntswanti encouraged students to continue participating in these activities, highlighting how they contribute to healthier lifestyles, personal growth, and academic success.

Official Results are:

Table Tennis – Female: 3rd Lovedale, 2nd Ingwe, 1st BCC; Male: 3rd KSD, 2nd Lovedale, 1st BCC;

Basketball – Female: 2nd KSD, 1st Lovedale; Male: 2nd KSD, 1st Lovedale.

Volleyball – Female: 3rd Ingwe, 2nd BCC, 1st Lovedale; Male: 3rd Ingwe, 2nd Ikhalala, 1st Lovedale;

Netball – Female: 3rd Ikhalala, 2nd Ingwe, 1st BCC; Male: 2nd KSD, 1st Lovedale;

Rugby – Female: 3rd Ingwe, 2nd Lovedale, 3rd BCC; Male: 3rd BCC, 2nd EMC, 1st Lovedale;

Soccer – Female: 3rd Lovedale, 2nd Ikhalala, 1st Ingwe; Male: 3rd BCC, 2nd EMC, 1st Ikhalala.



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