



THE WEEK IN FOCUS

ESWATINI OBSERVER

Weekly Digest | October 2–9, 2026

This edition covers the employment crisis, broadcast workers' concerns, citizen participation in business, agricultural investment, health awareness, the arts and football.

NEWS



Parliament proceedings. Photo: Mduduzi Mngomezulu / Eswatini Observer.

Death threats for EBIS, TV staff after parly submissions

October 9, 2026

A parliamentary select committee reported that broadcast workers received threats after giving evidence about workplace concerns. MPs called for action on alleged victimisation and clearer procedures for international assignments and training.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/death-threats-for-ebis-tv-staff-after-parly-submissions/>

Eswatini records world's highest unemployment rate

October 9, 2026

The Observer reports that comparable World Bank/ILO modelled estimates place Eswatini's 2025 unemployment rate at 34.2%, with youth unemployment at 52.2%. Government outlined entrepreneurship funding, skills development and investment initiatives intended to address the challenge.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/eswatini-records-worlds-highest-unemployment-rate/>

Embrace technology to transform agriculture – PM

October 8, 2026

Closing the inaugural AU Africa Seed Summit in Ezulwini, Prime Minister Russell Dlamini urged investment in research and biotechnology while protecting food sovereignty, indigenous varieties and farmers' access to affordable seed.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/embrace-technology-to-transform-agriculture-pm/>

BUSINESS



Senator Tony Sibandze at CEE discussions. Photo: Musa Simelane / Eswatini Observer.

'Locals ready to take over retail sector'

October 9, 2026

CEEC Chairperson Lincoln Motsa says qualified and experienced Emaswati can lead retail businesses but need financing. Draft empowerment regulations propose reserving retail businesses with annual turnover below E8 million for targeted citizens.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/locals-ready-to-take-over-retail-sector/>

AU commissioner backs seed bank

October 8, 2026

AU Commissioner Moses Vilakati supports a continental seed and genetic resources bank linked to regional and national facilities. The proposal seeks to preserve biodiversity and strengthen agricultural research, innovation and climate resilience.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/au-commissioner-backs-seed-bank/>

E943m waiting in the leather value chain

October 7, 2026

A joint procurement framework aims to help leather enterprises obtain affordable inputs. The report highlights the potential value of local processing and manufacturing, while identifying the absence of a commercial tannery as a major constraint.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/e943m-waiting-in-the-leather-value-chain/>

FEATURES & OPINION



Image from the breast cancer awareness feature / Eswatini Observer.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/understanding-the-breast-cancer-scare/>

Understanding the breast cancer scare

October 4, 2026 | Health feature

Dr Advocate Dlamini discusses breast changes, common misconceptions and the importance of timely medical evaluation. The feature encourages readers not to panic, but not to delay seeking professional advice.

The illusion of regime change politics

October 4, 2026 | Opinion

David Dlamini argues for gradual reform through participation in Eswatini’s Tinkhundla system rather than regime-change politics. The column presents the author’s political perspective, not a news finding.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/the-illusion-of-regime-change-politics/>

The economy is growing. can you feel it?

September 27, 2026 | Closest Available — outside the edition period

Mlungisi Ndwandwe examines why national growth forecasts do not necessarily translate into immediate household income. He explores how spending moves through contractors, suppliers and workers, and how businesses can identify opportunities.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/the-economy-is-growing-can-you-feel-it/>

ENTERTAINMENT



The Swazi Rally’s grand-prize motorcycle / Eswatini Observer.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/gaming-board-dismisses-swazi-rally-complaint/>

Gaming Board dismisses Swazi Rally complaint

October 9, 2026

According to the rally organisers’ statement, the Gaming Board dismissed Abel Du-Pont’s complaint about the motorcycle prize draw. Organisers attributed the disputed announcement to an MC error and announced stronger visual verification measures.

Big names, but where are the crowds?

October 7, 2026

Recent star-studded shows have prompted questions about attendance, overlapping events and audience spending. Promoters and entertainment fans point to better scheduling and the wider costs of a night out.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/big-names-but-where-are-the-crowds/>

Over 150 regional artists bring creative exchange to OITF

October 4, 2026 | Arts and culture

Regional artists joined local creatives for October International Theatre Festival masterclasses and performances. Sessions covered acting, writing, dance and production, while discussions highlighted funding barriers facing the sector.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/over-150-regional-artists-bring-creative-exchange-to-oitf/>

SPORTS



Football must protect children's minds – EFA

October 8, 2026

EFA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu urged coaches and clubs to support children's mental wellbeing. A workshop with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health focused on awareness, resilience and football's responsibility towards young players.

EFA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu / Eswatini Observer.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/football-must-protect-childrens-minds-efa/>

Wanderers take winning form to Mayaluka

October 7, 2026

Manzini Wanderers head into their National First Division encounter against Lozitha Spurs following consecutive victories. The fixture preview also covers other matches in the race for points.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/wanderers-take-winning-form-to-mayaluka/>

There should be no permanent enemies in football

October 6, 2026 | Sports opinion

Mphikeleli Msibi uses Mbabane Swallows' loan signings from Nsingizini Hotspurs to argue that sporting rivalry should not prevent cooperation, sensible transfers or player development.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/there-should-be-no-permanent-enemies-in-football/>

Editorial note

Two in-period Features & Opinion articles appeared in the category listing checked; the third selection is explicitly labelled Closest Available, following the digest's standing selection preference.

Opinion summaries reflect the respective authors' views. All article titles and full URLs are clickable. Photographs and source reporting: Eswatini Observer.

Read the full stories online

www.eswatiniobserver.com