

Your week in focus: homegrown innovation, disaster readiness, economic empowerment and the stories shaping Eswatini.

STEM Club develops wildfire alert system

16 October 2026

Pupils earned the prime minister's praise for a wildfire-warning prototype combining satellite data, ground sensors and AI-supported processing. Further development and testing are needed before wider deployment.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/stem-club-develops-wildfire-alert-system/>



'Eswatini needs E1.23bn for disaster resilience'

16 October 2026

Deputy Prime Minister Thuli Dladla appealed for investment in the national resilience and recovery plan. Speaking in Maputo, she prioritised practical financing, social protection, food and water security, and early warnings linked to timely action.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/eswatini-needs-e1-23bn-for-disaster-resilience/>



PS Naniki seeks MPs' guidance on female pupils' trousers ban

15 October 2026

Education Principal Secretary Naniki Mnisi asked Parliament whether the 2017 school uniform policy should be reviewed or retained, amid debate over the ban on trousers for female pupils.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/ps-naniki-seeks-mps-guidance-on-female-pupils-trousers-ban/>



BUSINESS

Warning of potential disruption under CEE law

15 October 2026

Mufti Feroz Ismail warned of disruption under proposed empowerment regulations. CEEC Chairperson Lincoln Motsa argued that experienced local managers are ready, while access to finance and transitional arrangements remain central concerns.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/warning-of-potential-disruption-under-cee-law/>



Big business hits brakes on borrowing, SMEs do opposite

14 October 2026

Central Bank figures show large-enterprise credit fell 8.9% in August, while SME lending rose 5.6%. The contrasting movements occurred as total business credit declined; the figures do not establish the reasons for the divergence.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/big-business-hits-brakes-on-borrowing-smes-do-opposite/>



FNB unveils E586 591 car for EYA grand finale

13 October 2026

FNB Eswatini unveiled a Toyota Hilux for the 2026 Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. Four regional contenders await the 21 October finale, with the vehicle offering practical support for business transport and deliveries.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/fnb-unveils-e586-591-car-for-eya-grand-finale/>



FEATURES & OPINION

EPTC's new false dawn

11 October 2026 · Opinion

Mbongeni Mbingo questions whether the proposed E455 million intervention will deliver lasting reform at EPTC. His column calls for scrutiny of pension obligations, repayment capacity, measurable targets and accountability to taxpayers.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/eptcs-new-false-dawn/>



The illusion of regime change politics

4 October 2026 · Opinion · **Closest Available**

David Dlamini argues for gradual reform through participation in the Tinkhundla system. The opinion piece critiques regime-change politics and presents civic engagement as the preferred route to political development.

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



Understanding the breast cancer scare

4 October 2026 · Health feature · **Closest Available**

Dr Advocate Dlamini addresses common fears and myths surrounding breast changes. The feature encourages readers not to panic or delay, but to seek prompt professional assessment and discuss appropriate screening with a clinician.

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



ENTERTAINMENT

Oscar Mbo teases local collaboration

12 October 2026

Oscar Mbo hinted at a project with an unnamed Eswatini artist during the fifth Eswatini Farmers Market at Malkerns Country Club. The packed lifestyle event brought together local talent and South African performers.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/oscar-mbo-teases-local-collaboration/>



Big names, but where are the crowds?

7 October 2026 • **Closest Available**

Recent star-studded shows raised questions about turnout, competing events and audience spending. Promoters were urged to coordinate dates and make better use of the industry calendar rather than rely on headline names alone.

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



African theatre experts sharpen young talent

2 October 2026 • **Closest Available**

More than 20 schools joined the October International Theatre Festival in Mbabane. Regional practitioners led practical workshops in acting, dance and other creative disciplines, giving young performers opportunities to learn and share local stories.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/african-theatre-experts-sharpen-young-talent/>



Selection note: “Closest Available” identifies articles published outside 9–16 October, used where fewer than three suitable in-period stories were found in the checked section listings. Opinion summaries reflect their authors’ views.

SPORTS

Asking fans for money could cost Swallows

13 October 2026 · Sports opinion

Mphikeleli Msibi cautions that direct supporter donations could create expectations of influence over club management. He advocates merchandise, membership packages, fundraising events and business partnerships as more sustainable revenue options for Mbabane Swallows.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/asking-fans-for-money-could-cost-swallows/>



Floyd calls for self-introspection

12 October 2026

Highlanders coach Mogale called for reflection after Royal Leopard's 2–0 win at Mayaluka Stadium. Malangeni Dlamini scored both goals, while Leopard coach Edwin Matsebulu praised his side's tactical discipline.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/floyd-calls-for-self-introspection/>



Bull, Leopard renew rivalry in Mayaluka showdown

10 October 2026 · Match preview

The week-three preview set up Highlanders' clash with Royal Leopard, with revenge and early momentum at stake. It also examined fixtures involving Moneni Pirates, Ubombo Sugar, Ezulwini United, Nsingizini Hotspurs, Sea Birds and Young Buffaloes.

<https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/bull-leopard-renew-rivalry-in-mayaluka-showdown/>



Editor's Note

This edition brings together stories on homegrown innovation, disaster readiness, economic empowerment, health awareness, the arts and football. "Closest Available" identifies articles published outside October 9–16, 2026, included where fewer than three suitable in-period stories were found in the checked Features & Opinion and Entertainment listings. Publication dates are shown on every story. Opinion summaries reflect the respective authors' views, not news findings. All article titles and full URLs are clickable. Photographs and source reporting: Eswatini Observer and the respective contributors.

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