ESWATINI OBSERVER

WEEKLY DIGEST | 13–20 NOVEMBER 2026

Your weekly briefing on the stories shaping Eswatini. Published Friday, 20 November 2026.

NEWS



Royal Science and Technology Park.

LEAD STORY

Another govt online services blackout

19 November 2026 | Nomalungelo Phiri

A precautionary shutdown of 16 systems at the Royal Science and Technology Park Data Centre disrupted government digital services, including passport, identity-card and business services. The ICT ministry said the intervention protected infrastructure and assured stakeholders that data remained secure. Check the latest report for updates on restoration.

Read the full report →

Govt preparing child grant proposal

19 November | Kwanele Sibiya

Minister Dr Tambo Gina says a proposed child grant will go to the prime minister's office before Cabinet consideration. It is not yet an approved benefit.

Read the report →

World Bank-backed project targets learner retention in 64 schools

15 November | Melisa Msweli

The education project supports learner retention in 64 secondary schools, including assistance for vulnerable children and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Read the report →

BUSINESS



Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg.

LEAD STORY

‘Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill to be tabled early next year’

20 November 2026 | Nokuphila Haji

Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg says the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill is expected to be tabled early in 2027, alongside the February Budget Speech. He said consultations and benchmarking had been needed to develop a suitable model using assets strategically.

Read the full report →

MNWAP phase one cost projected below E7bn

19 November | Musa Simelane

The first phase of the Mkhondvo-Ngwavuma Water Augmentation Project is projected to cost approximately E6.06 billion. Part of the financing remains subject to parliamentary approval.

Read the report →

Emaswati priced out

19 November | Phiwase Phungwayo

Eswatini Commercial Amadoda interim chairperson Dumisa Mamba says limited access to finance makes it harder for local entrepreneurs to stock and compete.

Read the report →

FEATURES & OPINION



The late Dr Thabo Sacolo.

LEAD STORY | TRIBUTE

A rare scholar gone too soon

19 November 2026 | John Pires, guest writer

John Pires reflects on the life and contribution of the late Dr Thabo Sacolo, executive director of ESEPARC. The tribute considers his academic journey, institutional leadership and evidence-based policymaking, and calls for opportunities for young professionals to contribute to national development.

Read the full tribute →

In defence of Parliament: Accountability versus parliamentary representation

17 November | Hon. Welcome Dlamini, MP | Opinion

The writer argues that parliamentary travel should be assessed against its purpose and outcomes, and calls for evidence-based accountability.

Read the opinion →

Gambling, Mashonisa: Financial traps that can destroy your life

14 November | Clement Dlamini | Commentary

The columnist discusses gambling and expensive borrowing, urging realistic budgeting, attention to loan terms and support where needed.

Read the column →

Opinion and commentary reflect the writers' views.

ENTERTAINMENT



Eswatini producer LIVIN SZ.

LEAD STORY

LIVIN SZ lands 4-track credits on Black Motion album

18 November 2026 | Lusito Gule

Eswatini producer LIVIN SZ contributed to four tracks on Black Motion and Spice Drums' album *Pula le Maatla*. The collaboration began after Black Motion discovered his organ improvisations on Instagram. He describes the project as a career milestone as he develops his profile beyond Eswatini.

Read the full report →

Shekinah makes memorable debut at Crown Gospel Awards

17 November | Lusito Gule

Gospel singer Shekinah Motsa made her performance debut at the awards, singing *Consistent God*, and was nominated for Best of Africa Female Artist.

Read the report →

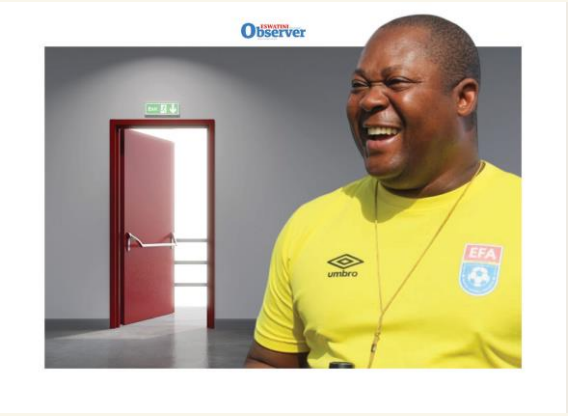
ENCAC classifies ballet as a sporting discipline

13 November | Khetsiwe Khumalo

The ministry told Parliament that ENCAC classifies ballet as a sporting discipline, citing its competitive recognition. The discussion also covered support for artists.

Read the report →

SPORTS



Former Sihlangu interim coach Sifiso Ntibane.

LEAD STORY

Ntibane takes EFA to CMAC, alleges unfair dismissal

19 November 2026 | Mgcini Dube

Former Sihlangu interim head coach Sifiso ‘Nuro’ Ntibane reportedly lodged an unfair-dismissal dispute against the Eswatini Football Association at CMAC. A source said conciliation ended without agreement. Ntibane declined substantive comment; the association had not provided a detailed response by publication.

Read the full report →

Birds, Bull co-host in Sunday fiesta

18 November | Sabelo Gwebu

Mbabane Highlanders and Mbabane Swallows are scheduled to feature in a Somhlolo National Stadium double-header on Sunday, 22 November. Check for fixture updates.

Read the report →

A generation giving Sihlangu hope for the future

13 November | Mgcini Dube | Commentary

The writer considers the promise shown by Eswatini’s Under-23 footballers following their first-leg victory over Algeria and calls for continued development.

Read the commentary →

Editor’s Note

This week’s selection examines access to essential services, support for children and learners, and the financing of national development. Our features and opinion contributors reflect on research leadership, parliamentary accountability and financial wellbeing. Entertainment highlights local talent reaching regional audiences, while sport covers coaching developments, upcoming league fixtures and emerging footballers.

All selections were published within 13–20 November 2026. Opinion and commentary reflect their writers’ views.

Tap or click each article button to read the complete piece on the Eswatini Observer website.

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