ESWATINI OBSERVER

WEEKLY DIGEST

NOVEMBER 6–13, 2026

The week in focus: reporting and commentary across News, Business, Features & Opinion, Entertainment and Sports.

NEWS

Govt gets E5m El Niño assistance

November 13 | Nomalungelo Phiri

Government has received E5 million from the Food and Agriculture Organization to support livestock water supplies, cattle feed and drought-resistant seeds, according to Agriculture Minister Mandla Tshawuka.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/govt-gets-e5m-el-nino-assistance/



100 girls graduate as Eswatini seeks to bridge STEM skills gap

November 11 | Phiwase Phungwayo

One hundred high-school girls completed WomEng Eswatini's 10-month GirlEng Club programme, which introduced participants to STEM careers, leadership and entrepreneurship.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/100-girls-graduate-girleng-stem-programme/



11 months without pay: Contractors lose homes, lay off staff

November 9 | Nokuzola Thwala

A construction company director says delayed government payments have left contractors facing debt, retrenchments and repossessions. Some payments have begun, but many businesses are still waiting.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/eswatini-contractors-government-payment-delays/



BUSINESS

Banking fraud losses hit E31m, highest in a decade

November 11 | Musa Simelane

The Eswatini Bankers Association reports E31 million in fraud losses during the 12 months to October 31, 2026. It urged customers to protect credentials and verify payment instructions.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/banking-fraud-losses-hit-e31m-highest-in-a-decade/



FNB dangles three-month payment breaks

November 10 | Musa Simelane

FNB Eswatini's switching campaign offers qualifying customers repayment holidays and other incentives. A payment holiday is not debt forgiveness; customers are encouraged to check the total cost.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/fnb-dangles-three-month-payment-breaks/



El Niño driving sugar demand, brightens Eswatini outlook

November 9 | Musa Simelane

Eswatini Sugar CEO Banele Nyamane says regional demand and recovering prices could improve the 2027 outlook. Most 2026 export contracts were concluded before the price increase.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/el-nino-sugar-demand-eswatini-outlook/



FEATURES & OPINION

To whom much is given

November 8 | Mlungisi Ndwandwe
Opinion

Ndwandwe considers the pressures of supporting relatives while trying to build personal financial security, and suggests that families discuss affordable, shared plans for assistance.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/to-whom-much-is-given/



A reality check

November 8 | Mbongeni Mbingo
Opinion

Reflecting on police recruitment queues, Mbingo calls for fair and accessible selection processes and wider employment opportunities for young people.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/a-reality-check/



‘Usilima’, other lies we tell our children

November 7 | Bandile M. Khoza
Opinion

Khoza reflects on how hurtful labels can affect children’s self-image and encourages parents to use language that addresses behaviour while supporting confidence.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/opinion-usilima-words-children-carry/



ENTERTAINMENT

ENCAC classifies ballet as a sporting discipline

November 13 | Khetsiwe Khumalo

The arts council’s classification of ballet as a sporting discipline was clarified during a parliamentary discussion about support for the art form.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/encac-classifies-ballet-as-a-sporting-discipline/



Nomndeni urges women to own up to their stories

November 9 | Khetsiwe Khumalo

At Mom’s Day Out, speaker Nomndeni Sethole shared her personal journey and encouraged women to embrace their identities, pursue their ambitions and understand money as a tool.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/nomndeni-urges-women-to-own-up-to-their-stories/



A night of culture, colour and spectacle at Royal Theatre Night

November 9 | Bongiwe Dlamini

Royal Theatre Night in Ezulwini combined dining, cultural performances and an investment announcement in honour of the King’s Ruby Jubilee.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/a-night-of-culture-colour-spectacle-at-royal-theatre-night/



SPORTS

A generation giving Sihlangu hope for the future

November 13 | Mgcini Dube
Sports commentary

The writer reflects on the promise shown by Eswatini's Under-23 footballers after their 2–1 first-leg victory over Algeria, and calls for continued development of the team.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/a-generation-giving-sihlangu-hope-for-the-future/



E750 000 budget for 6th edition of Lubombo Marathon

November 11 | Melusi Mlotsa

Organisers estimate a budget of E750 000 for the sixth Lubombo Marathon, scheduled for April 10, 2027, in Siteki.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/lubombo-marathon-2027-budget/



PLE rushed to call off Charity Cup finals – Ministry

November 10 | Simanga Gamedze

The sports ministry says organisers should have waited for rainwater to drain at Somhlolo before postponing two Charity Cup finals. The PLE says heavy rain left the pitch unplayable.

https://www.eswatiniobserver.com/ple-rushed-to-call-off-charity-cup-finals-ministry/



Editor's Note

This week's selection brings together stories on drought assistance, education, business pressures and financial security. Our opinion writers consider family responsibilities, youth employment and the words adults use with children. In culture and sport, the digest highlights creative expression, emerging football talent and preparations for the Lubombo Marathon.

All selections are dated November 6–13, 2026. Opinion pieces reflect their writers' views.

Tap or click each article URL to read the full report on the Eswatini Observer website.

www.eswatiniobserver.com
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