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Verve P14



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More baking weather today

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FOR A third time this season, Gauteng and surrounding provinces are experiencing a severe heatwave with temperatures hitting highs of 39°C.

South African Weather Service forecaster Kgosoloso Mahlangu said heatwave conditions in Gauteng were expected to last until tomorrow.

"Today's temperatures are expected to hit around 39°C in Pretoria with Johannesburg and Vereeniging going up to 36°C. A 30 percent chance of afternoon thunder showers is expected today and tomorrow," she said.

Mahlangu said Gauteng residents could expect slight relief from the heat tomorrow, with temperatures falling by 2°C. "Pretoria will be around 37°C, with Johannesburg hitting a high of 34°C," she said.

According to Mahlangu, high-pressure systems are the usual cause of heatwaves.

"A high-pressure system causes air to sink and as it sinks, the air warms up. Lack of moisture is also adding to the heatwave," she said.

"We need to also take into account that we are in the middle of an El Nino season. This comes with extreme temperatures and sometimes severe thunderstorms," she added.

ER24 spokeswoman Chitra Bodasing said South Africans should "stay well hydrated and use sunscreen when (out) in the sun".

"Remember to wear caps and don't forget your pets, they also need water. "Please also keep an eye on your kids playing outside and remember to keep them safe around pools," Bodasing said.

@Lanc_02

King in apartheid storm

Zwelithini heaps praise on National Party

BONGANI HANS AND STAFF REPORTER

KING Goodwill Zwelithini has stirred a Twitter storm with his remarks that "this so-called democracy" of black people has destroyed the powerful economy built by the apartheid government.

Speaking at his kwaKhethomthandayo Royal Palace in Nongoma on Saturday night during a celebration of his 44 years in power, Zwelithini praised the apartheid regime for building a powerful government with the strongest economy and army on the continent, adding history would judge black people harshly as they had failed to build on the successes of the Afrikaner regime.

This morning he trended on Twitter, with some calling him a sell-out, and others saying he ought to sing the apartheid government's praises as he was a beneficiary.

"King Zwelithini was for the boers from the start. He is the apartheid beneficiary. He was never here for our freedom," tweeted Zikho Twantwa as @Miss_Twantwa.

ANC spokesmen Zizi Kodwa and Zweli Mkhizwe were not available for comment this morning.

In his speech, Zwelithini continued to say black people "loved to use matches" to burn down infrastructure built during apartheid.

Delivering a speech, which ended just after midnight, the king also told hundreds of people packed into a big marquee he felt lucky he was born the same year the National Party came to power.

Most people did not take kindly to this, with @JohnnySober saying: "Headlines should read: King Zwelithini Praises His Former Handlers," and others like @Shuda_H saying he was ungrateful for praising the apartheid government while "he is getting millions

and millions of rands per year from this government".

Asked for his comments on Zwelithini's utterances, Pik Botha, who was foreign minister towards the last years of apartheid and minister of minerals and energy under Nelson Mandela's presidency, said: "We must not allow negative elements on history to interfere with reconciliation contained in our constitution."

The king's speech comes in the wake of a series of anti-government statements by the leader of the Zulu nation in recent months.

In September, Zwelithini ordered that there should be no government banners at royal events and that the government should stop organising the events.

He said on Saturday this was the first time his anniversary celebrations had been organised by the King Zwelithini Foundation.

The king said the apartheid regime had built a mighty army. He said the currency and economy "surprisingly shot up" under the National Party. "The economy that we are now burning down... You do not want to build on what you had inherited. You are going to find yourselves on the wrong side of history," he said.

He said while people on the ground did not appreciate the infrastructure inherited from apartheid, democratically elected presidents - Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma - were occupying apartheid infrastructure, including the Union Buildings and Parliament.

"I am surprised that all presidents who have been in the so-called democracy occupied apartheid buildings where they make all these laws that are oppressing us.

"But you on the ground are burning everything that you found here. You don't want to use them



COURTING CONTROVERSY: Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini at an auction at his Nongoma-based palace in KwaZulu-Natal. He says Afrikaners respected him.

PICTURE: DOCTOR NGCOBO

(buildings), you say this is apartheid infrastructure. Your leaders are occupying buildings where apartheid laws were made to oppress you," the king said.

Despite the National Party having created anti-black laws, he was happy it had treated him with respect. "The Afrikaners respected me. I don't know how it happened that they respect me so much," he said.

He said at the kwaKhethomthandayo Palace there were still medals which the apartheid government had awarded to his kingdom.

The king also touched on the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), which released its preliminary report last week on the king's alleged involvement in xenophobic attacks early this year. The commission had recommended he make a public apology or risk being taken to the Equality Court.

Early this year, it was reported that the king called on foreigners to

pack up and return to their home countries.

He said he would in January address the Zulu nation on the outcomes of the report, which he said were an insult to the nation.

The king's traditional prime minister and IPP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi told Independent Media the SAHRC report had exonerated the king, but he said the commission should explain why it had called on the king to issue a public apology.

"I am pleased they exonerated him, but I'm confused that they still insist he must apologise. There seems to be a contradiction," Buthelezi said.

Political analyst Protas Madlala said apartheid succeeded because it was supported internationally. "There are other people who think life was better under apartheid, because of the international racism that made them believe that," he said.

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Festive season off to a grim start with 20 road deaths

ANNA COX AND KARISHMA DIPA

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IT'S A gruesome start to the holiday season with 20 road deaths reported since Friday.

The worst collision occurred in Eastern Cape on Saturday night when a taxi collided with a truck, resulting in the death of eight people.

It is believed the taxi hit a cow on the N9 between Cradock and Graaff-Reinet before the driver lost control of the vehicle and it collided head-on with a truck.

The drivers of both vehicles were among those who died.

KwaZulu-Natal was the prov-



BLOW-OUT: A taxi crashed this morning on the R25 near Bronkhorstspuit. Two people died and 14 were injured.

PICTURE: ARRIVE ALIVE

ince where most of the road accidents took place.

Four police officers died when a vehicle in which they were travelling collided with a minibus taxi in Harding on Friday. A fifth person was confirmed dead at the scene.

In Margate, two people died in a multiple car collision on the N2 on Friday. On Saturday, the driver of a bakkie was killed when he was thrown out of the vehicle after a collision on the N2 near the Umhlali River Bridge.

In Gauteng this morning, a woman and a 4-year-old boy died

when the taxi in which they were travelling, rolled on the R25 near Bronkhorstspuit. Reports from the scene indicate that the taxi was travelling from Groblersdal when it had a blow-out in one of the rear wheels and rolled several times.

Joburg Metro Police Department spokesman Chief Superintendent Wayne Minnaar told The Star three people died in two separate accidents.

Two women were killed near the N12 Lenasia off-ramp when a taxi collided with the Audi in which they were travelling.

A pedestrian died after he was knocked over by a delivery van on Main Reef Road in Roodepoort. The driver fled the scene, but was later arrested, said Minnaar.

Both the SA National Roads Agency and the N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) announced that an automated payment system on the highways became operational on Friday. Road users with electronic tags will no longer have to stop at any of the five plazas on the N1 North, but can make use of dedicated automated payment lanes.

N3TC, the company responsible for the 415km N3 toll route between Heidelberg and Cedara, also implemented an automated electronic tag payment option in selected lanes at all its toll plazas.

Report incidents either to the SAPS at 10111 or the National Traffic Call Centre at 0126656075.

@annacox @Karishma_Dipa

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