**Track 17**

 Journalist: Mr Botha, what makes hippos so interesting?

 Mr Botha: Hippopotamuses, often called hippos, are interesting for a few reasons. One is their size. They are one of the largest animals in Africa. They can weigh up to 3,200 kilos and can be 160 centimetres tall. Females weigh between 650 and 2,350 kilos. But not all hippos are so huge. There are the pygmy hippos, and they are a lot smaller. They weigh around 265 kilos.

Journalist: What can you tell us about their behaviour?

Mr Botha: Hippos spend around 16 hours a day in water, but they can’t swim. They usually live in groups. The groups can be small but can also have up to 200 hippos. Mothers carry their babies in their wombs for 240 days. Their life span is around 50 years.

Journalist: What do hippos eat?

Mr Botha: They eat grass. At night, they leave the water and go searching for food. They eat 35 kilos of grass each night. Journalist: Are hippos dangerous?

Mr Botha: Yes, they are. They may look cute, but they are very aggressive. Reports say that they kill around 500 people every year. They are fast, too. They can run as fast as 45 kilometres per hour.

**Track 18**

 News anchor: Here is the latest weather report. It is rainy and cold in Johannesburg. Further south, in Bloemfontein, the weather is much nicer. It is sunny and warm. In Cape Town, the sky is clear but it's very windy, so be careful in traffic. In Durban, it’s partly cloudy, but it's still nice and warm. It’s cloudy in Port Elizabeth. The temperatures are below 10 degrees Celsius, so it's pretty cold, too. That's all for now. For more on the weather, join us later in the programme.