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The Right Place

The Right Sunday



OCTOBER 2, 2016

PRICE: E5.90 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

FLOODS CAUSE HAVOC AT SIPHOFANENI

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BIRDS BAG THE PREMIER CHALLENGE

Royal Leopard goal-keeper Phephisani Msibi is well beaten by Mbabane Swallows' Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko (not in the picture) during the Castle Premier Challenge Cup final at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Swallows won 1-0. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)



PULL OUT

Scene

TAKING
OVER
THE WORLD

FACEBOOK BANS INDLAMU PICTURES

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OFFERINGS SHOULD NOT BE FORCED - A.T

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TERRORIST WARNING...

SCREEN YOUR INVESTORS

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● Turkey Embassy says most wanted groups spreading to Southern Africa



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CLARIFICATION

Terror threat:

'SD MUST BE ON THE LOOKOUT'

STORIES BY
THEMBEKA DLAMINI

In light of the failed coup attempt on Republic of Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, the resident Honorary Consular has implored that his country's embassy in Pretoria be contacted prior to investors and non-governmental organisations being accepted at face value.

Following a press statement concerning his country overcoming dissidents who had attempted to overthrow state institutions as well as government, Ölmez was approached and asked about the possibility that the Fetullah Terrorist Organisation (FETO) led by cleric Fetullah Gulen could infiltrate the country. The interview was only granted after the express permission of the Ambassador of Turkey to South Africa Kaan Esener who later confirmed the responses to be in line with his office.

The honorary consular assured that organisations linked to FETO had not as yet made roots into the country as they have to date been concerned with bigger economies.

He, however, relented that their



presence in Southern Africa spanned 15 years as they had interests in the region.

According to international publications, the attempted coup took place on July 15 and was thwarted after a faction within the Turkish Armed Forces organised and allegedly attempted to forcefully seize key cities but failed after being defeated by forces loyal to the state. The government alleged that the leaders of the coup were linked to FETO.

Political

The political unrest has been going on for some time whereas FETO has been considered a threat for nearly as long with the government led by President

Erdogan warning countries about the threats the organisations bear.

When probed about the possibility of the organisation coming into the country, İsmail Ölmez said as a Swazi, he was concerned about the possibility of the country being infiltrated by organisations with ties to groups blacklisted in Turkey. The groups have been put in

Turkey's most-wanted terrorist list.

Appeal

He thereafter sent an appeal to the nation, business people and government officials to be vigilant and aware of a threat being highly possible. He implored that his office, and by extension the Turkish Embassy in South Africa, be informed prior to making deals with people claiming to have connections with the republic to ensure that the country's courtesy does not get abused by unfavourable characters.

Recounting the modus operandi of the unsavoury groups which have allegedly threatened the

peace and stability of the country situated between eastern Europe and western Asia, Ölmez said they approached countries with seemingly legitimate proposals of building schools as well as offering charity to the impoverished non-governmental organisations (NGO) in exchange for land which becomes their base.

He said through the schools established, the groups allegedly indoctrinated pupils under their tutelage to become strategically placed in governments in order to become their agents.

Ölmez said their interests were not confined to education as they also had business interests. The honorary consular revealed how organisations with ties to the alleged terrorist organisation have been present in Southern Africa for the last 15 years and the leaders were not necessarily Turkish but had ties to the banned groups.

Institution

He said Turkey was working with some of the countries where institutions had been opened in order to have them shut down. He alleged that profits from the schools were used to fund terrorism activities.

"There is no need to accommodate threats as Swaziland is a peaceful country. However, it can be infiltrated by these groups if we are not cautious," the consular said. Explaining how the group found itself blacklisted into the most wanted terrorist groups, Ölmez said members of FETO ran a parallel government in Turkey leading to the coup.

HOW TO FIND US:



#Swaziobserver



Swaziobserver

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo

e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz

Cell: 7602 9564

P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza,
Mbabane, Betfusile Street
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436, 2404 9600,
2404 9797, 2404 0706

Email: info@observer.org.sz

Website: www.observer.org.sz

EDITORIAL CONTACTS

SUNDAY EDITOR: Mbongeni Mbingo - 7602 9564
(mbingo@observer.org.sz)

NEWS REPORTERS: Thembeke Dlamini, Mlondi
Mpanza, Noxolo Nkabinde
(sunday@observer.org.sz)

SCENE EDITOR: (scene@observer.org.sz)

ACT.SPORTS EDITOR: Qondile Ntiwane - 7607 6305
(sports@observer.org.sz)

ASSISTANT SENIOR SUB EDITOR: Futhi Dlamini
(7615 8517)

MARKETING MANAGER

Siphesihle Mkhonta (7605 2296)
2404 8671/ 2404 8699
smm@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION OFFICER

Menzi Mabuza (7664 5864)
circulation@observer.org.sz

MANZINI OFFICE

Makhaya Convenient Centre, No.25
Sifiso Nhlabatsi Cell: 7674 6378
Tel: 2505 2320, Fax: 2505 7220

SITEKI OFFICE

Siteki market offices, Office No.15
Wonderboy Dlamini 2343 5779
Cell: 7643 6549

PIGG'S PEAK OFFICE

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
Office No. 3, Tel: 2437 1083
Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 7670 0678
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz

NHLANGANO OFFICE

Tobacco Company Complex,
Cnr King George,
Masengule Streets
Opposite SEDCO Premises,
Tel: 2207 5159
Starsky Mkhonta
Cell: 7621 5081
(starsky@realnet.co.sz)

VET DONATIONS

In the light of alleged terrorist organisations seeking to spread their bases, Republic of Turkey resident honorary consular has advised the country to scrutinise donations and the bearers thereof.

He cautioned that non-governmental organisations with terrorist links donated in strategic areas and place to make it look they had good intentions whereas they wanted to open paths to other avenues to other sectors.

He advised that this had nothing to do with religion as it was about politics.

"It's about a group of terrorists who happen to be from Turkey who can be based anywhere in the world using different names," said Ölmez.

QUESTIONABLE GROUPS MAKE CONTACT WITH HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS

The warning by the Republic of Turkey resident Honorary Consular İsmail Ölmez about the country keeping vigilant of unsavoury characters stems from publicised visits by alleged associates of terrorist organisations.

When asked about the political status of two groups which visited the country on two occasions in a 13 month period, the consular said the individuals were of alleged questionable character as the organisations represented were allegedly of terrorist origin. The two visits have

been well documented in the print media as high ranking officials have been pictured with the individuals. When the consular was asked about the individual who represented the organisations using different guises, he only offered that he had links to FETO.

Reason

In the captions of the pictures which appeared in the local dailies of the alleged same individual, the names that appeared were not the same whereas the people looked very similar. Ölmez said it was for this reason

that there was a need for background checks to be done prior to these organisations being allowed in the country because some of the people behind the organisations were wanted criminals in Turkey despite now being based in Southern Africa.

Presence

In both instances, the visitors were in the presence of a high ranking official who, when asked about the identity of the people who he was with, stated he was not privy to their names as they had been introduced to him by other high ranking officials.



Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane.

Government responds

When Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane was questioned about the associates of terrorists coming into the country, he said; "I am not aware. Even if I was I would not comment on it because security matters are not discussed in public, particularly national security."

When asked whether government vets businesses

and charities coming into the country for good standing in their own countries of origin, Simelane said government had three security organs which screened people from time to time depending on the nature of intelligence they have. It does not necessarily have to be an investor as it were. He deemed a terrorist as someone who uses force to intimidate society for political reasons.

Local Suppression of Terrorism Act not stringent

The piece of legislation which could best deal with the case of possible infiltration by terrorist organisations is currently under fire from all sides.

The country having lost the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) benefit after calls to amend the Suppression of Terrorism Act were made, a court case has shed more doubt on the piece of legislation. The court case is however being appealed by government.

NEWS EXTRA

Trump ready to drag Bill Clinton sex scandals into campaign

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump indicated in a new interview that he's ready to drag ex-president Bill Clinton's sex scandals into the White House campaign, after Democrats lashed out at the billionaire's Twitter rant against a pro-Hillary ex-Miss

Universe. Trump told The New York Times that he believes talking about the sex scandals that stained the career of Hillary's husband Bill would turn female voters away from her. "She's nasty, but I can be nastier than she ever can be," Trump told the Times.

He added: "Hillary Clinton was married to the single greatest abuser of women in the history of politics," referring to Bill Clinton (president 1993-2001).

Attacked

"Hillary was an enabler and she attacked the women who Bill

Clinton mistreated afterward. I think it's a serious problem for them and it's something that I'm considering talking about more in the near future," he told the newspaper.

In an apparent effort to pre-empt the attacks, the Clinton campaign released audio of Bill Clinton talking about his marriage with Hillary.

"I think that she has literally spent a lifetime dealing with not only her

joys and her blessings, but also heart-breaks and disappointment and sometimes unfair treatment," a reflective Bill says. Hillary Clinton, campaigning in Florida yesterday, described Trump as "unhinged" after the Republican presidential candidate unleashed a volley of pre-dawn tweets on Friday against former beauty queen Alicia Machado. **AFP**

FACEBOOK BANS INDLAMU PICTURES

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Images of Swazi Maidens wearing traditional gear, *Indlamu*, have been removed on Facebook.

While some explicit images and videos remain on the site. The social network site has the authority to remove pictures which can be reported by other users to be 'inappropriate' of the Swazi maidens showing their breasts, which is nothing out of the ordinary in Swazi culture as maidens pride themselves in their chastity.

South African TV and Radio Producer Msizi Nkosi was recently banned from Facebook for posting an image of a Swazi maiden who was clad in the traditional gear. The outspoken producer and author, who is a frequent user of the site informed his Facebook

friends this week that he had been banned for 24 hours for posting the picture and was unable to access his account.

"I was banned from Facebook for twenty-four hours for posting a picture of a Swazi maiden on Heritage (day), Facebook saw it as nudity coz (sic) her boobs showed. I couldn't even send messages," he posted.

Accounts

Facebook usually enables users to upload pictures of their choice on their accounts but if another user deems them as inappropriate and reports to administrators, the image is analysed to see if it is in accordance with their community standards. What surprised some of the producer's Facebook friends was that the site found it as nudity to promote cultural heritage while a number of explicit pictures were

circulating with users finding themselves tagged in pornographic videos.

Facebook is not the first social networking platform to pull down images of maidens wearing the cultural gear which Swazi girls pride themselves in wearing. One Instagram user once posted on her account that her images had been pulled down from the site after they were also reported by some of her followers as 'inappropriate.'

Removed

Meanwhile, Facebook has caused a stir in the past when they removed pictures of mother's breastfeeding their children. Administration of the site however argued that they do allow images of mothers breastfeeding and they only reviewed the pictures if they were reported by other users.

"We agree that breastfeeding is



natural and beautiful and we're glad to know that it's important for mothers to share their experiences with others on Facebook. The vast majority of these photos are compliant with our policies. Please note that the photos we review are almost exclusively brought to our attention by other Facebook members who complain about them being shared on Facebook." Other things that are not allowed on Facebook are nudity or other sexually suggestive content, hate speech, credible threats or direct attacks on an individual

or group, content that contains self-harm or excessive violence, Fake or impostor profiles, as well as spam. If a person reports something that is on Facebook, they are required to state why the content should be removed. Worth noting is that some of the pictures of maidens wearing *Indlamu* are still on Facebook, although once reported by other users for nudity they would have to be reviewed by the site administration if it violates the community standards, and possibly also pulled down as they also show breasts.

SD'S HIGH COMMISSIONER NO SHOW AT ZUMA CREDENTIALS

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Despite submitting a name for Swaziland's incoming High Commissioner to South Africa, no Swazi presented credentials to President Jacob Zuma this past week.

According to well placed sources, high commission staff members in Pretoria have expressed their ignorance of the identity of the incoming diplomatic officer.

The fact that the diplomat was expected to present credentials was confirmed by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Directorate: Media Liaison Nelson Kgwete who said the designate from the country would be amongst the diplomats scheduled to present their credentials to President Zuma during the course of the past week.

Failed

Having failed to present the country's diplomatic representation, this publication has information on high authority that the incoming will have to wait until next year to have an audience with President Zuma due to his schedule.

However, despite the confirmation, local government spokesperson Percy Simelane had said any reshuffle or appointment would be announced offi-

cially through the media. Such an announcement was not made during the course of the week. On the other hand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Principal Secretary Sotja Dlamini had also denied that there would be credentials presented by a Swazi diplomat to the neighbouring country.

He said there was a process which had to be completed such as the issuance of a legal notice which appointed the high commissioner before she could get the credentials. He said there was nothing as yet which equipped the diplomat to present credentials and said he was therefore not in a position to confirm the identity of Judge Dlamini's replacement.

Announcement

He said the Prime Minister, Sibusiso Dlamini, was the one who would make the announcement releasing the identity of the diplomat designate. The PS further revealed that premature revelations would do not work well in any event as the destination country had to be given time to vet the diplomat prior to any announcement. "It is premature to confirm anything as international norms call for the country to confirm acceptance of the identified person and we are not at liberty to confirm before that announcement," he said.

EU delegation from Brussels tours EU funded projects in SD

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Last week, a high level delegation from the European Union headquarters in Brussels and the EU delegation to South Africa came to the country on an official trip. The delegation made up of four people was said to be in the country to view projects that are funded by the EU in the country.

A post on the official EU in Swaziland Facebook page states that the team was in the country for two days. "On 22 - 23 September 2016, the EU Delegation to Swaziland welcomed a high-level mission of colleagues from the EU headquarters in Brussels and the EU Delegation to South Africa. The four-man team was here to view and familiarise them-

selves with EU-funded projects in Swaziland," reads the post.

It was said on the page that amongst the projects visited by the team included the now famous high-level bridge at Siphofaneni which has just been completed courtesy of the EU funding. The bridge is yet to be open to the public.

Trip

"During their two-day field trip the EU colleagues were accompanied by EU Ambassador to Swaziland, Nicola Bellomo, and Head of Cooperation, Ariane Labat as well as other Delegation staff. The team was very impressed with the projects and the work of the EU Delegation to Swaziland," adds the post.

The visit from the EU delegation comes at a time where members of

parliament demanded answers from the minister of education and training on what plans the government had for Free Primary Education funding as the funding from the EU for the programme was coming to an end.

The programme in which the EU paid for the education of children was set to end at the end of October, this year. The ministry of education has not yet provided answers on what plan would be implemented in the absence of this programme. This programme however, is only one of many projects that are being funded by the EU in the country. Just for the FPE programme alone, the EU has spent a total amount of E110 393 640 to fund free primary education in Swaziland so far, according to previous reports.

Gender Based Violence cases too high - UNICEF Poll

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Residents of Siphofaneni feel Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases in the country are too high and there is a need for more to be done by the country's authorities to decrease these cases.

The Siphofaneni residents made their opinions heard through a poll that was conducted using UNICEF's U-report, a free SMS social monitoring tool for community participation, designed to address issues that the population cares about. U-Report Swaziland Coordinator Nontobeko Mbuyane said during one of the awareness campaigns

on GBV held in partnership with the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP), the campaign started off with asking the residents present to participate in the short survey where they were asked questions in SiSwati.

Results

After collecting the results of the survey, it was noted that 97 percent of the residents that participated in the survey felt the GBV cases in the country were too high, while 100 percent of the respondents felt the violence by men towards women and girls was perpetuated by alcohol. Asked what they felt could be done to decrease the number of cases through the same survey plat-

form; they said they believed more could be done by the police in cracking down on the perpetrators.

Mbuyane said one of the main aims of U-report was to give people a voice to speak out on community issues as well as national issues affecting them, and they were glad that this was achieved at Siphofaneni. "We are pleased that we were able to give them the platform to speak out as such results help in knowing how the people feel, as well as gather statistic on how it has affected them. This will also help the police towards determining other information which may be of use to them as they work on their cases," she said.

STORIES BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

PM IN SUPPORT OF BILL TO ERASE CHILD OFFENDERS FINGERPRINTS

Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini says child offenders deserve a second chance in life after they have gone through the given period of rehabilitation.

The PM spoke optimistically about the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act Amendment Bill of 2015 saying it would give child offenders the much deserved second chance in life to enable them to get scholarships and employment in the future. He said this was important as even people who had committed offences deserved a second chance in society and it was up to them how they would behave once they had been given that opportunity.

"In order for you to get that important second chance in life and not have subsequent educational and employment opportunities compromised by the record, Government is processing an important legislative change.

The Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act Amendment Bill of 2015 is currently passing through the legislative process and when promulgated, will remove the criminal record of correction," he said.

The Premier was speaking at His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) Vulamasango School yesterday where the school hosted their



This teacher at Vulamasango was awarded for being a good ambassador as he is also a former student of the school. (Pics: Noxolo Nkabinde)

first speech and prize giving day. He said parents should not abandon children who had made mistakes in life but they should encourage them to be better members of the society. Once the bill has been passed, child offenders will have their criminal records archived, according to the PM, and will no longer appear on their background checks.

Vulamasango School also operates as a rehabilitation school which was initially operating as a reformatory

centre, offering only handicraft and core primary school subjects dating back to the early 70s. The school has undergone massive transformation and competitive after it became fully operational in 2010 with 9 professional primary and secondary teachers and also started admitting girls as well. The conceptualisation of the school was facilitated by His Majesty King Mswati III who also opened it officially last year, christening it 'Vulamasango'. HMCS



National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula with His Majesty's Correctional Services Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Nthangase at the event.

Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Nthangase had previously raised his concerns over the high number of juvenile offenders who would, upon release, re-surface as adult offenders in other departmental centre and the establishment of the school was to break this criminal cycle.

Principal of the school Dan Mavuso noted that since then, there had been a paradigm shift in the perception of the school from society and other

schools. "In the past years, it would be close to impossible for a student from Vulamasango School to be admitted to public schools.

They would be stigmatised and this really hurt us; however, today there has been a paradigm shift, the principals are no longer hard on our students and it is easier to make transfers from Vulamasango to other schools; and our 'schoolfreely' participates with other schools in all sporting and cultural activities."



A section of the crowd listening attentively to the proceedings.

STATE OF THE ART SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY

His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Nthangase hosted a state of the art speech and prize giving day ceremony. The event was held inside a marquee similar to those that are usually used for national events especially where His Majesty King Mswati III is in attendance. Pupils, parents and guests were

treated to a three course meal as they enjoyed a variety of entertaining performances. The event was attended by the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini as the guest speaker, as well as two cabinet ministers namely the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hilary, and the Minister of Education and Training Phineas Magagula.

PM ATTENDS FAREWELL FUNCTION AT MANZINI NAZARENE



The PM congratulating Hlophe who has since retired while MP Owen Nxumalo and Councillor Sandile Bhembe look on. Bhembe was one of the students who was taught by Hlophe. This was during the teacher's farewell function and opening of six classrooms on Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



PM Sibusiso Dlamini congratulating School Principal Amos Vilakati for a job well done.



Relatives and friends came through to witness the farewell ceremony of retired Gladys Hlophe.



Minister of Housing Phiyawinkosi Mabuza and Senator Ndumiso Mdluli posing with teachers Gabi Magagula and Sbhonginkosi Magagula who are both former students of Senator Mdluli and Nazarene Teacher Training College.



School Committee Chairperson Bongiwe Bhembe and Sibonginkhosi Magagula presenting the PM with a goat on behalf of the school.



Clothing that was put out to dry outside in one of the homesteads which had its rooftop blown away. (Pics: Sifiso Nhlabatsi)



One of the houses had its roof blown away.

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI

While most Swazis are looking forward to rains this season, for Siphofaneni residents, Friday's storms evoked the fear for what is to come.

Yesterday, the constituency was thrown into total chaos as cars, churches and homesteads were submerged under water after two hours of heavy rainfall. This incident has not only left many homeless but others have been reported missing.

Such comes at a time when weather experts have warned the nation of possible floods which can be likened to those that hit the country in the early 1980s.

Warning

Not only were people affected but livestock such as goats and chickens was swept away by the flash floods. International weather experts have already issued a warning regarding the pending La Nina. They have warned that it could come with heavy endless rains.

Siphofaneni Member of Parliament (MP) Gundwane Gamedze was found offering assistance to those who were affected by the floods.

The MP, who was busy running up and down, said the damage caused might be worse than what has been reported as bucofho of the area were still out assessing the situation at the time of compiling this report.

The MP said one person was saved by residents after he tried to cross a

PERSON GOES MISSING, CARS, GOATS SWEEP AWAY AFTER HEAVY RAINS



A kraal where three goats were swept away by floods while others had to be pulled out of the mud. (Pic: Dennis Malinga)

flooded river during the heavy rains. When asked if the person who was reported missing after his homestead was submerged under water due to the heavy rains was found, the MP responded to the contrary. He stated that community police were still searching for him.



Mud filled up homesteads after the floods.

The MP appealed to government to do something about the situation. Gamedze said people were presently sleeping in the open as their homesteads had been blown away.

Drought

Gamedze said some lost their livestock after the heavy rains.

He said the rains, however, did help in the current drought situation because many were able to harvest

water through their tanks placed at their homesteads. Residents have stated that the situation was worsened by an ongoing road project.

Mpendulo Nyawo, a shop owner in the small town, was one of the affected ones as his house was submerged due to the floods. He stated that the reason for the chaos was because the company that built the newly-constructed road going towards St

Philip's did not take into consideration the homesteads nearby as they didn't make proper drainage systems. Nyawo said the drainage pipes were way too small to carry the capacity of water flow. Nyawo said every time it rained, water would get blocked and swell up, resulting to nearby homesteads getting under water. He added that the area's bucofho, together with residents, tried to engage the construction company about the issue but their concerns fell on deaf ears.

Unfortunate

Nyawo said unfortunate as it was but it was a good thing that such a disaster happened while the construction company hadn't finished their job because now maybe they would be able to make means to channel the water flow to another direction.

Nyawo said he suffered a great loss as his newly constructed house got ruined and sand which he had just recently bought was washed away. He suffered losses amounting to thousands of Emalangeni.

The ACC is working—PM

BY LINDA DLAMINI

Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini has pointed at the inefficiencies of the judicial arm of government as a justification for the lack of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)-led cases reaching conclusion.

Dlamini said there were many cases for which charges have been drawn up and it was merely space in the High Court Roll that is holding the institution up.

The prime minister further said he wanted to assure the public that the work done by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was tangible and meaningful.

"Allow me to vehemently repudiate the repeated public allegation

that the ACC is not working. It is working," he said.

"Cabinet has recently offered the Judiciary the opportunity to engage two additional High Court judges. I await a reply from that arm of government in order to secure the assurance that justice further delayed will not amount to justice denied," he said.

Dlamini was speaking at the Swaziland Institute of Accountants annual dinner and graduation ceremony held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre on Friday.

The observation made by the prime minister comes just after the National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) and Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) delivered a par-



Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini.

tion to the ACC's. The petition was signed by the SWADNU General Secretary Sibusiso Lushaba and NAPSAWU's General Secretary Celumusa Tembe.

These pre-emptive statements come after the petition was meant to be also delivered at the prime minister's office but the intended march was aborted when the unions had a misunderstanding with the police.

As reported by our sister publication, the Swazi Observer, the two public servants unions had intended to create awareness about anti-corruption and to deliver a joint petition to the Prime Minister's Office and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Swaziland.

"We call upon the office of the ACC to investigate all allegations of corruption without fear or favour and no one should be immune.

The ACC must act on corruption to ensure that the macro-economic objectives of the country are being met," it stated.

The petition further instructs the ACC to ensure performance of lifestyle audits for politicians and high ranking government officials to ensure that money for development is not siphoned out of the people.

Recent reports have said the government has lost more than E34 million in fraudulent claims made from the Workmen's Compensation Fund at the ministry of labour and social security.

So massive was the looting that no-nonsense Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairperson MP Thuli Dladla noted that the fund had been converted into a cash cow that was milked by people from all walks of life.

To date, no one has been arrested in connection with such blatant corrupt acts.

WATER CRISIS

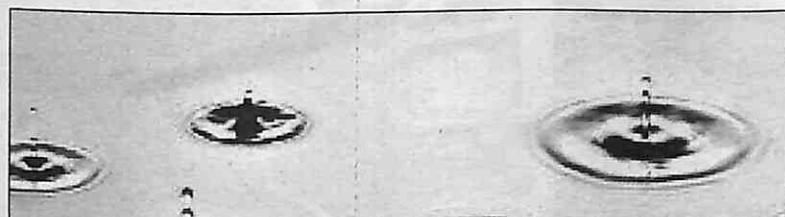
LITTLE HARVESTING OF RAIN-WATER

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Despite the heavens opening in torrents on Friday, few Mbabane residents were able to harvest the rain water due to being ill-prepared.

Those who made the effort were mainly able to collect using buckets as most of those who have tanks have them affixed to the Swaziland Water Services Corporation (SWSC) supply line, usually away from gutter which could collect rain water.

Several residential areas were noted to have the tanks situated remotely while others were raised above the level of the gutters thus failing any attempts



to collect water.

"We were only looking for the best place to position the tank to collect water from the pipes, not gutter," a resident of Makhokholo said. She revealed how she would have loved to harvest rain water as opposed to collecting water into the tank.

"I guess I will have to get a few drums in order to mitigate collecting water,"

she said.

However, a lawyer revealed how he had been strategic in positioning his tank as it was aligned to collect rain water. "I collected a lot of water," he said prior to sending pictures of his tank's position at his homestead.

With heavy rains falling on Friday, some people were found filling their tanks yesterday morning.

Having running water during rainy days not a blessing

Ever since rationing began, domestic work, such as thorough cleaning and washing of clothes, has been pushed to days when there is water.

"My helper does not come on the third and fourth days of rationing," a resident of Thembelihle said. She revealed how it defeated the purpose of having her helper come in when there was no water as they had to use several buckets for this. "You know

that when you are at home you use the bathroom several times. So I try to avoid having people over when there is rationing to reduce water usage," she said. Adding, she confided that her laundry days had been changed to follow the water. "On the first day of having water, the helper returns and has to wash clothes and clean the house," she said. Due to it raining on days she has water in her taps, she revealed that her helper was unable to

make use of running water. "Where is she going to hang the clothes because the basins will be needed for water the very next day?" she said dejectedly.

No change in rationing

According to the water schedule released by the Swaziland Water Services this past Thursday, there has been no change in the rationing schedule. This is despite the rains which fell and flooded some parts of the country.

Mbabane water shortage still better than our fate- rural folk

A resident of Phuzamoya scoffed at the extent of water shortages in Mbabane asking what was so special about the residents of the capital for them to need consolation.

"They have not as yet had to dig into a river bed and painstakingly wait for enough water to collect in order to have water for domestic use," Luke Dlamini said. Despite having modern flats situated near the road, he said the scarcity of water had him charging less rent than what he had hoped.

"We have access to water used by the employees at the railway station. Precious little

used for consumption as we have to use wheelbarrows to get to the water," he said. Other options included a water scheme which was, however, defunct as the water ran out.

He said it was in this light that they were eagerly awaiting piped water from the Swaziland Water Services Corporation in order to have internal plumbing.

"Mbabane folk have softened up and do not know hardship.

Washing blankets is a luxury which we can only entertain when it rains as the rivers have completely run dry. We dig for water," he said.

Excitement on Social Networks following rains

Zandi - Thank you Lord for the rain, **Internash** - A wonderful God for all! Thank you for the rain Lord! **Muzi** - And the Heavens opened up!!!

Sibusile - Mbabane peeps should shut down one street and dance in the rain....Can it rain like this the whole weekend.

Vusi - So Mbabane wants to be like Manzini ... rain out of no where ... and Manzini will be like enjoy whilst it lasts siyawabonga emanfonsi Simakadze

Nqobile - Mbabane folks... aren't you excited right now??? #Rain **Nozipo** - feeling annoyed Unpredictable Mbabane rain and the damage it has done to our cars! **Trevor** - Thank God for the rains in Mbabane **Celiwe** - Thank God for the rain in Mbabane, hope we won't be billed for harvesting it by SWSC, you may never know these days you get water for eight days a month but the water bill remains high come month end.

The Boardroom talk



It's time for some Boardroom talk; so we are starting today with a column to help us appreciate some of the things that happen in our boardrooms. Don't worry, this is about business—and the important things we should share and talk about, things that have an impact on what we consume and how we consume.

It's something to help us look at the broader picture of those deci-

sions taken by those in the boardroom. Believe me there is a lot going on that impacts on the decisions being taken—or not taken.

The focus of this column is purely business simplified, local and international. So all those business people, here's a quick guide to what is happening around us, so you can also look at how it affects you, and then make your own decision.

Ecsponent's major rise in profit

It is interesting to note Ecsponent's quiet showing in their financials.

The African financial services company announced this past week a major rise in profit, a 166.7 percent increase in operating profit to E58.4m for the six months to end of June.

This is up from 21.9m reported in 2015.

This success is largely

attributed to Ecsponent's shift to funding small businesses, particularly the small and medium enterprises.

Business

This should interest local SMEs for it goes to not only validate the business decision by Ecsponent after exiting the unsecured retail credit market in favour of SME credit and enterprise finance, but it gives greater impetus for business in this sector.

AB InBev: Deal or no deal

It is one of the biggest deals being talked about in the world, and one of the largest takeovers.

Anheuser-Busch InBev aims to take over the South African Brewers (SABMiller) for a staggering fee of E1.4 trillion, in a deal expected to be completed on 10 October, thus creating the world's largest beer firm.

It's taken long, but the AB InBev acquisition of SABMiller is finally looking to be on the home-straight after getting approval from its shareholders as well as global regulators. It now looks set

to be tied up and the first 'truly global brewer' is created.

SABMiller shareholders voted 95.46% in favour of the sale, clearing the 75% needed for the takeover to proceed, the London-based company said in a statement on Wednesday. According to Bloomberg, AB InBev intends to buy out SABMiller once the takeover is done, which should affect the local brewery, and no doubt causing some sleepless nights for our board of directors. It is considered therefore that there will be some movement locally as a result of this takeover, especially as Bloomberg reported that AB

InBev announced it would include one SAB executive in its senior management team. The deal was agreed last year, but in July AB InBev was forced to raise its offer following a fall in the UK Pound in the wake of the Brexit vote. SABMiller counts Peroni, Pilsner Urquell, and Grolsch among its stable of brands, while AB InBev produces Budweiser, Stella Artois, Corona, and Beck's. However, to get the deal past regulators, AB InBev has already agreed to sell SABMiller's Peroni, Grolsch and Meantime brands to Tokyo-based drinks company Asahi.

MTN International in the spotlight

The MTN boardroom is certainly a place to be.

This is quite understandable given there is so much happening in the MTN world and there have been some tough decisions being made, what with their E14bn (yes, billion) fine for the indescrption in Nigeria three months ago!

Locally, there is a considerable shake up as Swazi MTN, where MTN International is a 30 percent shareholder, is going through the process of a divorce with the majority shareholder in a fraught relationship.

There is going to be some tough decision-making in this regard too once SPTC amicably walks out of the boardroom and

the 41 per cent shares are put up for sale. Keep an eye on this one.

This past week, there were fresh allegations against the wireless carrier news in Nigeria over some impropriety. It is often said in the boardroom corridors that if MTN Nigeria sneezes the rest of the countries catch a cold. But, so far everyone is tight-lipped how much cold and flu there is out there.

Interestingly, a similar scenario is in the Ghana MTN Boardroom where they are weighing up a US\$500m share sale.

According to insiders, the group was approaching high-net-worth individuals in that country about a private placing of a 35% stake in the Ghana unit, valuing it at about \$1.5 billion.

The sale would help MTN meet conditions it agreed to last year when it spent \$67.5m for the right to use spectrum that can carry high-speed mobile data for customers in Ghana.

MTN was granted a 15-year licence for fourth-generation spectrum on the condition that 35% of the business would be owned by Ghanaian investors.

MTN said earlier last month it raised more than \$1.3bn from loan agreements as it worked to improve its debt structure and support its credit rating.

Its move to attract funding comes after it reported its first half-year loss in August, caused partly by an agreement to settle that record \$1.1bn fine in Nigeria for missing a deadline to disconnect customers.

COUNTRY RIPE FOR FIRST WORLD STATUS

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

For the first time in the country's history, the nation has experienced a marked increase in the number of the work eligible people when compared to those that are dependant.

This essentially means the country is ripe for heightened economic activity which in-turn could provide for advancement into His Majesty King Mswati III's vision to see it reaching 2022 as a First World nation.

According to National Population Unit Director Dudu Dlamini, the increase in the population of the work-eligible is called a demographic dividend, a term used to refer to the benefits that accrue in the form of accelerated economic growth, as a result of the change in the age structure of the population.

The change in demographic transition occurs when a country experiences significant declines in its birth and death rates, from high to low

levels which results in a transformation of the age structure of the population.

She explained how the change in the age structure was typified by a decrease in the proportion of children below 15 years and an increase of the population in the productive age groups 15-64 years.

This, she said, served as a stimulus for sustainable development for the country since the dramatic increase in the work force opened windows of opportunity for economic growth and poverty reduction, as the ratio of dependants to the working-age population decreased.

Jobs

Explaining further, she highlighted how when a household had fewer children that needed to be taken care of and a larger number of people had decent jobs; the household could save and invest more money.

Due to this being wide spread, the country could then benefit from a boost in economic growth.

Dlamini clarified that though experiences of countries could vary, none

have in the past appeared to become highly industrialised or urbanised without passing through or at least entering the demographic transition.

Due to Swaziland having a young population which finds about 39.6 percent under the age of 15, it has been said to be one of the few African countries experiencing a demographic transition.

Dlamini revealed how the proportion of children below 15 years of age had decreased whilst the population in the working age groups 15-64 years, has increased.

"This is due to high fertility coupled with significant improvements in survivorship in the general population," she said adding how the working age population segment was poised to grow more rapidly than the overall national population growth rate in the coming decades despite the country being hardest hit by the HIV and AIDS pandemic whose adverse impact on survivorship was being effectively mitigated by the multi-sectoral interventions that were being undertaken.

Some organisations harnessing the demographic dividend

With the increase of the work-eligible population, several organisations have over the years equipped them with entrepreneurial skills which, when used efficiently, could increase the country's economic capabilities.

Inhlanyelo Fund

Having been first pronounced by His Majesty King Mswati III in 1999 following a vision shared with billionaire Natie Kirsh, the organisation came about due to the realisation of a glaring gap in the financial services sector.

In a statement availed by Executive Manager Wandile Kunene he highlighted how the country's banking sector did not provide conducive environment to service the promotion and support the majority population of the country, especially the budding micro business and grassroots entrepreneurs.

He highlighted how the fund was established to awaken, promote and support entrepreneurial talent at grassroots level across the entire country while facilitating the establishment of

self-employment projects and job creation opportunities, in the quest of poverty reduction and a quality life for all.

Structures

The fund provides loan capital for Swazi owned micro and small business projects utilising coordination by the existing regional and community leadership structures.

Prior to the approval of loans, the fund provides business consultancy and advisory services to financed projects and ongoing monitoring as well as support for further development and business expansion.

Junior Achievement Swaziland

For the last seven years, the organisation has been a leader in youth entrepreneurship while preparing them for the work place.

According to the mission statement of the organisation, it instils an entrepreneurial culture into In and Out of School Youth while empowering them with economic and financial literacy by exposing them to the workplace.

What the country needs to reap the demographic dividend

There is need to upscale investments which will help the large numbers of young people be more productive during their working years.

This was revealed by National Population Unit Director Dudu Dlamini who said there was an urgent need for the government to put in place and implement appropriate macroeconomic and human capital development policies which were an imperative for reaping the full benefit of the demographic dividend.

"The urgency stems from the fact that the window of opportunity which has already opened for Swaziland, opens only once and

does not last forever," she said.

Outlining some of the initiatives the country could get into in order to harness the period, Dlamini said, "Increase investment in labour intensive enterprises to improve the employment rate such as creating effective labour market policies and establishing direct employment creation programmes."

Others include upscaling implementation of macroeconomic policies that permit and encourage investment; increasing access to adequate saving mechanisms plus confidence in domestic financial markets.

There is a need to put in place an

efficient job matching regime and improve access to labour market information for job seekers while at the same time upscale investment in youth empowerment including quality education and skills development in order to transform a youthful population into a productive work force.

Dlamini said there was a need to ensure that both boys and girls had access to quality education. This she highlighted as a pre-condition for harnessing the demographic dividend.

"In particular, ensuring that girls, enrol and stay in school is widely recognised as the most effective intervention with posi-

tive spin-offs in the form of reduced child and maternal morbidity and mortality, reduced fertility and increased female labour force participation, amongst others," she said, adding how there was a need to upscale youth empowerment initiatives which could enhance their entrepreneurial skills and youth employment. Added to that, there was a need to increase investment in the public health sector and prioritise interventions in the areas of, for example, sanitation and safe water supply, immunisation, HIV control that lead to mortality declines and increased longevity.

With a healthy nation in place,

there was a need upscale investment in sexual and reproductive health including family planning in order to reduce: the risk of child and maternal mortality; unwanted pregnancies, teenage pregnancies, HIV/AIDS infection. Hence, the provision of comprehensive sexuality education in schools was critical since young people needed the information and services to make informed decisions and act responsibly on issues related to sexuality and reproduction. On top of that, there was a need to upscale efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment while improving availability of quality data and research and inculcate a culture of evidence based planning and programming.

'Lawyers equally important to teachers'

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Law students studying at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) have cried foul over government dropping law from its list of priority courses to be sponsored at tertiary level.

Bachelor of Law (LLB) Student has voiced out concerns of the students saying it was surprising to them how government prioritised some courses over others which limited student's options of pursuing what they really wanted to do. He said the need for lawyers in the country was equally important to the need for teachers, as there would always be a need for qualified lawyers to work as legal advisors for the government and other organisations.

"We need intervention in these matters, the Government could

consider paying for all programs fairly and allow students to perform in their respective institutions in a competitive scale if needed.

There can never be education that is more important than another, The Legal Advisers in every Government Department are learned in the Law, the Chief Justice, The Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney General, all Judges and Magistrates studied Law. The question then comes, when the people filling all these positions retire, will their positions be filled by Teachers, or Doctors?" wondered the student.

The concerned student wondered why other issues concerning students at the university were being addressed while law students remained cut off from the

government's budget.

"Law courses require many books, statutes, a constitution and other requirements, has the government considered how they afford to get those each and every year. Many students have grievances that what the Government is offering them is not enough. Today I put it to you that there are students who are cut off completely, and they don't get any form of assistance."

The students say what makes it more difficult for them was that on top of struggling to fund their studies, while government sponsored students called for class boycotts as such students did not go through the same problems as them. Other concerns that have been raised on the lack of scholarship is that the need for lawyers who can continuously be in quali-

fied enough to challenge laws that are repugnant to the constitution and common law, the abuse of power amongst the three arms of government, as well as see to it that the State adheres to the rule of all and all conventions it signed.

The students are calling upon the government to consider every Swazi child and their exact needs for what they want to study, and instead of trying to cut the numbers of Attorneys in Swaziland, the Government should consider exporting its lawyers to other regions in Southern Africa and abroad.

"One does not need to be in his own country to make a change, after all the previous Chief Justice was from another country. We hope those in power will fight for significant change, because I believe what changes the world are not the big projects alone, but also the little developments too," added the concerned student.

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OFFERINGS SHOULD NOT BE FORCED - AT

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Offerings should be given without the giver being pressured or being promised anything in return.

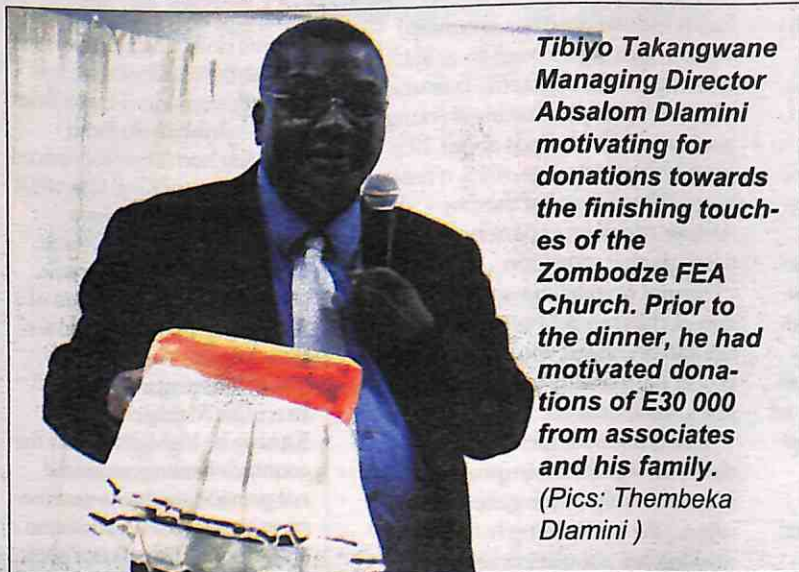
The biblical principles of giving were preached by Tibiyo Takangwane Managing Director Absalom Dlamini during the Zombodze Free Evangelical Assembly's Fundraising dinner held on Friday night. Despite the raging rain storm, church members were not deterred as they attended the event in their numbers.

The church is raising funds to complete the church's finishing touches. Present at the event were some Tibiyo employees, Acting Ludzidzini Governor Velabo Mtetwa as well as several men on the cloth who came with their spouses.

Dlamini cautioned that it was contrary to pressure people to give under pressure as stated in II Corinthians 9:7. He spoke against the predominant practice in young churches to pressure offerings out of congregants.

He further admonished those who gave due to being guilt ridden while also rebuking those who gave in order to have influence. Striking several nerves with his prepared speech, Dlamini said it was wrong to give in order to gain favour with man as this was the wrong motive. Quoting Matthew 6:1-4 Dlamini said God encouraged giving in secret as opposed to flamboyance and showing off.

"At certain churches, pastors promise people something in return for their gifts. I have heard of pastors who say, 'In return for your donation, you will be prayed for and your name



Tibiyo Takangwane Managing Director Absalom Dlamini motivating for donations towards the finishing touches of the Zombodze FEA Church. Prior to the dinner, he had motivated donations of E30 000 from associates and his family. (Pics: Thembeke Dlamini)



Albert Kunene from Ludzeludze FEA supported the event with his wife.

will be written and placed somewhere for the public to see' this is not biblical," Dlamini challenged.

He called for people to search their

hearts and test their motives prior to giving in order to align them with God's standards. "Everything you have belongs to God. You are just a

...TV prays for saintly life daily

The role past Free Evangelical Assemblies church leaders have played in spreading the gospel in Swaziland is motivation for Acting Ludzidzini Indvuna Velabo Mtetwa who daily prays for unshakeable faith.

Recalling some of the unsung heroes who laid the solid foundation of the church in Swaziland such as Reverend Kaizer Fakudze, Sikhova Msibi and others, Mtetwa said it was his fervent plea to be counted as having had the Holy Spirit shape his life.

He recalled how the faith with which Fakudze lived by enabled him to perform miracles when other remedies had failed in order to solve problems faced by those who approached him.

Despite revealing to be fatigued, he revealed that he had been

unable to miss the dinner seeing as he wanted to see the fruits of the pastors who are now deceased come to fruition.

He said he had always been enthralled by their preaching such that he wanted to see their legacy live on in the planting of churches.

On the other hand Tibiyo TakaNgwane Managing Director Absalom Dlamini also recognised the role the church continued to play in his life. He recalled how, immediately after he was appointed prime minister, congregants visited him and conducted a revival which started on Thursday leading to Saturday. He commended how eight pastors kept the fires burning during the revival. He praised past leaders for advancing God's work on earth.



Kgomotso Hlophe, Tiyaanza Ndlela and Samkelisiwe Vilakati could not miss out of the historic occasion.

manager of his wealth," he said while stating that there was a need for people to transform their giving of offerings in order that they in turn glorify God and not self.

As guest speaker, Dlamini gave several motives for giving such as

giving as a reflection of the condition of one's heart.

"If you desire that your heart be filled with the things of God, then you must invest in his work," he said while encouraging planned giving which includes offerings and appropriate tithing.

Helper who nursed Asian given a home

BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

A helper, who painstakingly nursed an Asian national, was recently awarded a home for her diligence in taking care of her sickly charge.

Nomsa Kunene, who lived with her three children in a one roomed rented flat, became the owner the homestead within which she lived after an Asian businessman and his family bought her the plot which had six rental rooms. According to Kunene, she once looked after a bedridden Asian for nearly two years after offering her services to a Bhagubhai family which needed a helper to tend to their convalescing friend.

Having looked after the sickly Asian for nearly two years, he had to be transferred to the United Kingdom in order to seek further medical attention, something which unfortunately did not work as he died two months after migrating. For Kunene, the death of the Asian national reportedly caused her strife as she was then returned to her previous status of



Nomsa Kunene with her children outside her home.

being unemployed while having three children to provide for. She revealed how being unemployed turned her into a beggar as she had to turn to her former employers for the most basic

of amenities. After having repeatedly extended her hands for alms, the Bhagubhai family, through its patriarch, businessman Shabbir told her to find a piece of land which had a struc-

ture so as to enable her to live with her children. Despite the disbelief at her good fortune, Kunene reportedly approached her then landlord and asked for

assistance in finding a plot of land. Instead of helping her look for a plot for sale, the landlord reportedly offered her own land as for sale. She explained how her benefactor said he wanted to help her to be independent instead of asking him for assistance at every turn.

With the price of the plot tagged at E45 000, she revealed how the Bhagubhai family assisted her in due processes which entitled ownership of the plot to her. Instead of being a tenant, she is now the landlord of the home which garners her an income on a monthly basis with which she is able to provide for her children who are at varying stages of their education.

She revealed that she was able to take her children to school without a problem something which has seen the eldest complete while one was looking forward to completing next month.

"Never in my life experience have I felt so humbled by human kindness," she said while revealing how she had plans to expand the number of flats while building herself a bigger home within which to live.



Soweto String Quartet gave a fantastic performance despite being bereaved. RIGHT - Guitarist and singing sensation Gally Nguveni in action. (Pics: Lungelo Nkambule)



IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCES AT YEBO GOGO ARTS FESTIVAL

STORIES BY LUNGELU NKAMBULE

...despite poor attendance

Poor attendance at the Yebo Gogo Arts Festival failed to discourage the international and local acts who performed at the very first installment of the event.

The two day festival put together by Swazi guitarist and singer Mbongiseni 'Bholoja' Ngubane, kicked on Friday at the Swazi Plaza in Mbabane and it failed to attract a crowd as less than 100 people were at the show.

This, however, did not deter the artists who were on the line-up as they all gave impressive renditions, which let the few people in attendance yearning for me.

The show, which was meant to kick off at 4pm, failed to start on time due to the heavy downpour. The show eventually kicked off at 9pm and local guitarist with a voice of an angel Gally Nguveni, was the first to take to the stage.

By the time Gally got off stage, the crowd was in a frenzy. He was followed by an equally talented guitarist King Don, who kept the crowd in between his singing. King Don after every song waited for the crowd involved clap hands and he told them this was a free gesture so they must do it a lot.

It was South African versatile guitarist Cameron Ward that gave the best performance of the night. The Capetownian who has worked with groups like Micasa and the legendary Hugh Masekela, gave an electrifying rendition proving why he is labelled as one of the best guitarists to come from South Africa. Ward was followed by Soweto String Quartet who despite being bereaved gave a sterling performance. Taking to the stage, they said their performance was in honour of their late brother Reuben Khemesi who died on Wednesday.

They gave an unforgettable delivery and assured their fans that the death of one of their own who played cello would not discourage them in any-



Versatile South African guitarist Cameron Ward kept the crowd on its feet.



Poet and singer Sakhile was a marvel to watch and listen to.

way thus they preferred mourning him by doing what he loved the most; performing.

Closing off the show was Afro soul sensation Siphokazi. The humble, God-fearing and award winning singer gave a powerful rendition, reminding those present why she was regarded as the princess of Afro soul. The vocally gifted singer was also joined on stage by an equally talented local singer Floewe.

The ladies who have shared the

stage, before gave an electrifying performance, which had the crowd screaming for more. Speaking afterwards, Siphokazi said she loved performing in Swaziland and hoped she would be invited back soon.

"Swaziland is my second home. I would love to come back soon," she said. She also said sharing the stage with the talented Floewe was always a pleasure. Floewe also said she had enjoyed meeting and performing with Siphokazi again.



Some of the few revellers at the show.

...Siphokazi makes Simanga's night

Simanga Mhlanga, a teacher at Motshane High School, got a chance to share a stage with his celebrity crush.

Mhlanga, who was standing in the front row when Siphokazi was performing, couldn't contain his joy during her performance, which resulted in the superstar noticing him. Siphokazi then called Mhlanga on stage to sing with her. Mhlanga could not believe his luck as he jumped for joy and he made his way to the stage. While on stage singing with his crush, he would stop

singing and ask Siphokazi if it was indeed her.

"Siphokazi is this really you?" he said. "Is it really you talking to me?" he continued, sending the crowd into stitches. Siphokazi thanked Simanga for his support and love. "Ndiyabulela bhuti uthando lwakho," which is Xhosa for "I appreciate your love my brother". Speaking to this publication after his performance with Siphokazi, Mhlanga said he had a huge crush on Siphokazi and was honoured to have shared a stage with her.



The Energetic King Don dancing up a storm.

"It wasn't as nerve wrecking as the first time because we have developed a bond over the years. We have so much in common

and that makes it easy for us to connect," she said. She is also looking forward to working with Siphokazi in future.

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE IN THE WORK PLACE

STORIES BY
THEMBEKA DLAMINI

...as workers become bold in escalating matters involving abusive language and racism

There have been heightened reports of workers growing intolerant of being verbally abused in the country to the extent that such cases get reported with employees seeking changes in the way that they are treated.

Gone are those days when workers seemed to accept to be 'put in their place' their place through sometimes derogatory means by their superiors as well as fellow subordinates.

Revealing their stance against abuse, unionists have revealed that they encourage their members to take up these matters and not to sit on them as they affect productivity in the work place.

Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union Secretary General (SG) Sibusiso Lushaba said they viewed the use of abusive language as violence in the work place. He alleged how in their profession, the abuse was usually meted out by superiors to subordinates, "Within the medical profession, we have noted how nurses, especially females are verbally abused by doctors making for sour working relations."

He noted that it was not only confined to doctors against nurses as



TUCOSWA Secretary General Vincent Ncongwane.

there were instances of fellow colleagues warring as well as immediate supervisors. "Abuse takes different forms as it can be, verbal emotional or physical; it is all unacceptable."

Instances

On the other hand Swaziland National Association of Teachers SG Zweli Mndzebele noted that there were instances where things got out of hand. "Teachers are professionals and so should be their behaviour. Granted, there may be instances where things get out of

hand and can stay within the boundaries of not being abuse," he said.

Justifying his sentiments he said the moment swear words came into the fray, then it became abusive. "Whenever conversations become heated, the minute they stray from the subject at hand and start referring to matters not related to the original bone of contention, then it becomes abusive," he said calling for employees to learn to curb their tongue in the work place.

Concerning to various reports of civil servants or parastatal employees being dissatisfied with the way they get treated by their superiors, Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) SG Vincent Ncongwane said it was time that the ministry of labour take things up with employers as it was a prevalent cancer. "The minister should take time to talk about such issues with employers before they get out of hand," he said adding that they, as unionists could only engage their members while on the other hand there was a need to talk about abuse to the employers so as to nip it at the bud.

Illovo manager fired after racial rant against supervisor

A white employee, who was based at the Ubombo Sugar plant, was recently fired after allegedly ranting at a supervisor about being tired of "...blacks who only know how to %&\$* each other from behind."

Revealing their satisfaction at management's stance of disciplining their superior suitably, workers said they were of the view that with the

strides that the country was making towards development, it would have been regressive to simply give him a rap on the knuckles.

"This instance has shown us that management takes our well-being seriously," an employee said. When asked to confirm reasons behind the manager leaving the company, Managing Director Oswald Magwenzi said, "We cannot provide

details about an employee due to employer-employee confidentiality."

Racism

On the other hand when asked about Illovo Group's policy on racism and the use of derogatory language, Magwenzi responded, "Illovo does not condone racism and the use of derogatory language is a disciplinable offence."



SECURITY GUARDS PICKET OVER ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

There have been cases of security guards picketing following allegations that their supervisors used unsavoury language when setting them straight or issuing instructions.

Confirming that verbal abuse is rife in the sector, Swaziland Amalgamated Trade Unions (SATU) Secretary General Franco Mncina said it they implore that managers learn to use professional language when

reprimanding for wrong doings. "They have to remember that employees are adults who should be treated with respect and as such belittling them is not acceptable," he said.

Disciplinary

He advocated for proper disciplinary channels to be used in the event of any wrong doing instead of using strong language which could in turn escalate matters to physical confrontations.

SIPA CEO wanted out over words

The litany of accusations against Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority Chief Executive Officer Phumelele Dlamini includes several instances where she was alleged to have used unprofessional language.

Although she is yet to be found guilty of any wrong doing, workers have revealed how they have been allegedly degraded on several occasions and they have displayed their dissatisfaction by taking the matter up with the board.

Ridicule

Among the accusations, Dlamini allegedly used management meetings as platform to belittle, ridicule and insult whoever was the target of the day, such as referring to managers as *Timphungane*, *ngumanager nje lo*, *unemona udalwe unemona* and *niyeba*.

She allegedly told employees that the new board of directors was inexperienced. This she allegedly in a meeting and congratulated them for having fired the previous board which was credible only replaced by an in-experienced board.



Sharon Maziya (2nd from Left) with members of the Limkokwing Public Relations Students Society (Pic: Noxolo Nkabinde)

Sharon Maziya warns students on behaviour on social media

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Professional communications practitioners Sharon Maziya has advised Public Relations students at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, who are preparing for internship early next year, to be careful of how they represent themselves on social media.

Maziya, who has spent most of her career in communications, warned the final year students to be careful of how they portrayed themselves on social media platforms as it was one of the things employers considered before hiring them. Maziya was invited by the LUCT Public Relations Students Society to speak under the theme 'preparing for internship' at an event that was held at the campus on Friday. Maziya said as students who were preparing to join the world of communications where they would be expected to represent certain brands, it was important for employers to know how an individual behaves socially, or how they represent their own brands.

Platforms

"The world has moved digitally and things are no longer like in the olden days. While it is equally important for people going into communications to be on social networks, it is also important to be careful of how you behave on the social networking platforms. Employees check your behaviour on social media and how you conduct yourself socially before they hire you. It is important for them to know how you represent your brand before they can decide if you can represent theirs," she said.

She said they would know what exactly a potential employee says on the sites, how she says it as well as the manner of approach

in addressing issues. Maziya has previously worked for Swaziland Beverages as the Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Director and is currently the General Manager for Corporate Services and Transformation at the Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC). She is also a businesswoman and motivational speaker, amongst the many hats she wears.

"On social media use your real name, I am Sharon Maziya on all the social media platforms I am registered on because I have an image to uphold I cannot be hiding. When we hire we check all these platform, if you want a job in communications or public relations and you are not on these platform you will not be hired by me."

Important

Maziya also told the students that Public Relations was not all about talking in front of people, addressing the crowds but she said sometimes being at the background is equally important and crafting what happens in the background.

She said there were a number of other roles that are expected of people in PR which was also important for the organisation they work for such as crisis management which called for an individual who is able to think on their feet and take decisions on the spot.

Speaking on preparing for internship, she encourage the students to give themselves introspection on what they enjoyed the most as she said if one practised what they enjoyed it could easily reflect on their productivity.

Maziya said employees were looking for innovative people who could come up with new innovative ideas that would improve the way they were currently doing for the company.

SAWS appeal for quarter of a million

BY SIMON SHABANGU

The Swaziland Animal Welfare Society (SAWS) is appealing to the public to help them raise E250,000 to refurbish their offices situated at Mountain Inn area in Mbabane, the organisation has said.

In a statement released by the organisation they are looking at starting the construction of phase one of the projects in 2017. "We appeal for funds to rehabilitate the buildings and facilities

at our Mbabane premises. The Society is well aware of the many calls on the generosity of the general public, but is appealing to individuals, businesses and large corporate companies to consider this as a very worthy cause for the community at large. It was Mahatma Gandhi who said "the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." As the Kennels in Mbabane are open to the general public, SAWS is offering an invitation to any interested and

MONITORING, EVALUATION RUNNING THE MILE

BY NKOSINGIPHILE MYENI

One are the days when non-governmental organisations (NGOs) would get funding and punch the air without delivery at the end or justifying how they spent the funds they had received.

Today, implementing organisations need to know their story for every cent spent on activities, their outputs, outcomes and the change they want to see. Should they fail, formal justifications on used funds are a must as over time, donors have developed the compulsive tendency to make organisations account.

Not surprisingly though, they (donors) themselves are accountable for the funding they allocate to the taxpayers and other stakeholders who fund their activities. That is where the field of Monitoring and Evaluation fits, a bridge towards relationships based on trust.

With various definitions, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a process, integral to the implementation of activities, tracking progress of the project achievements and to assess the impact of those projects benefitting communities.

An oversight in money control measures, M&E goes beyond that to some rather implications of data collection based on work done to analysing how to improve projects, as a recommendation tactic.

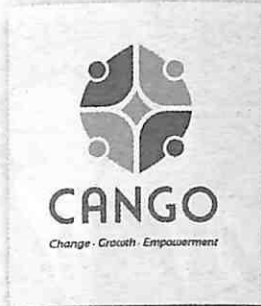
Performance

According to the Monitoring and Evaluation Association of Swaziland (MEAS) Vice President, Lungile Nkambule, who doubles as the Coordinating Assembly of NGOs (CANGO) Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Manager, M&E is a process that helps improve performance and facilitates the achievement of results. Its goal is to improve current and future management of outputs, outcomes and impact.

"People are doing cutting-edge things day-in and day-out but the only thing missing is publishing journals. Not even blogs," the Institute for Health Measurement (IHM) Director, Kelvin Sikwibele, said during an M&E roundtable that sought to bring together stakeholders at Ezulwini on September 28 under one roof.

The roundtable, organised by the Monitoring and Evaluation Association of Swaziland (MEAS) in collaboration with Punto.sud, an Italian NGO that is implementing a project funded by the European Union (together with COSPE), to foster collaboration and cooperation among non-state

An integrated M&E system could be a useful tool for the government to achieve the national vision of 2022...



actors, set the grounds for the promotion of a culture of M&E in the Country.

It is in the frame of the EU-funded project that MEAS, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, was established as an association in January and launched in April this year – to promote the culture of monitoring and evaluation in the country.

It (MEAS) serves a forum that brings together academics, M&E field officers, managers, private sector and the public sector officials whose daily-lives are touched by the idea of impacting other's wellbeing.

Appreciation

The Punto.sud Director, Monica Favot, expressed her appreciation for having worked well with partners in establishing MEAS, saying that they hope to leave a lasting legacy out of the association and that it could enhance the discussion around accountability and transparency among the key stakeholders, including civil society organisations, government and parastatal organisations and private sectors.

Appreciation was also expressed by the Project Manager at the European Delegation to Swaziland, Allen Dlamini, confirming the interest of a continue EU-support for initiatives such as MEAS.

During the roundtable, association members met on four broad information-sharing objectives which were: to analyse the M&E situation, identify gaps and risk implications in the country; identify M&E opportunities; discuss what partners are currently doing; and identify methodologies and types of M&E.

The members were mindful of donors' concern on 'working but not seeing the results'.

An integrated M&E system could also be one useful tool for the government to achieve the national vision of 2022.

Sikwibele who has vast knowledge in the field of M&E said sectors and organisations need to come together to deliberate on changing their weaknesses into successes.

His words were echoed by members of the association, among them, its President, Clement Dlamini.

Undocumented history of M&E dates back to 1995 with over 20 years since it was first introduced in the country by funding agencies for purposes of monitoring interventions and outputs.

Concepts

It was a complex concept; hard to fully define that overtime got to be fine-tuned. The concept of M&E has evolved from firstly, monitoring (M) to, secondly, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to, thirdly, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) and lastly to monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (MERL).

Organisations are making strides to develop this field even with suggestions of institutionalising it in tertiary institutions.

"In Swaziland, many M&E officers come from humanities with a bias of Bachelor of Social Science (BASS) holders, especially with majors in statistics. However, there is need to do more towards offering a specialised post graduate university certificate which could last between three to six months," Sikwibele believes, adding that data analysis is critical because the job description that M&E practitioners do.

Summing it up, he is of the idea that M&E needs a good base such as the right qualifications. Today, many other things within M&E are considered with stakeholders believing that among these are skills and training, moving from theory to practice, M&E funding, community of practice (practitioners) to provide support and oversight, and learning systems. Regarding M&E funding, stakeholders believe that at least 7 to 10 percent of organisational budgets should go towards the M&E. Other recommendations include donor-funded scholarships to develop knowledge and to advocate for a government-led M&E system. The round-about of the roundtable is the commitment among the MEAS members to consolidate these recommendations of the discussions, share them with the key stakeholders, and identify a joint way forward.

(Nkosingiphile Myeni is the Communications Officer of the Coordinating Assembly of NGOs (CANGO). Information is supplied by Punto.sud together with COSPE under the Fostering Communications Project)



Ministry of Public Works and Transport



KUKHANYA
Civil Engineering Contractors

ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR MR3: MATSAPHA TO MANZINI CBD

PUBLIC NOTICE PROGRESS OF MINOR WORKS

The general public is notified that Rehabilitation of the Matsapha to Manzini (MR3) highway will resume operations on Tuesday 4th October 2016 following the short break taken while the country hosted the 36th SADC Summit.

Minor outstanding works such as road markings, signage erection, setting up guardrails and aligning of new jersey barriers will be carried out therefore minimal disturbances will be experienced by road users.

All road users are urged to adhere to all warning and caution signs during the period of minor works.

Any inconvenience caused during this period is greatly regretted.

Thank you for your patience.

SATISO

KUCHUBEKA KWEMSEBENTI EMGWACWENI

Sive siyatiswa kutsi umsebeni wekwakha kabusha umgwaco longutselawayeka iMR3 kusukela kuMatsapha kuya kaManzini edolobheni uyachubeka kusukela kuLwesibili mhlaka 4 October 2016 kulandzela kumiswa kusachubeka umsebeni lomkhulu welive iSADC Summit.

Sive siyecwayiswa kutsi imisebeni lemincane lesachubeka ifaka ekhatsi; kulungisa imidvwebo yaphansi, kufaka timphawu letinsha, kanye nekulungisa ludvonga lwakhonkholo emkhatsini wemgwaco.

Bonkhe bashayeli bayecwayiswa kutsi bahambe ngekucophelela; balandzele tonkhe timphawu letitabe tibekiwe.

Siyabonga kubambisana nekubeketelelana kusachubeka lomsebeni.

to refurbish their facilities

potential donor to make an appointment and have a conducted tour to judge the scope of the work to be undertaken with the rehabilitation" reads the statement in part.

Appeal

The society further explained that the rebuilding appeal for funds is in addition to the money it needs to raise every year to keep the Mbabane and Manzini Kennels running and to offer the current service to pet owners and lovers of animals.

A spokesman for SAWS through the statement further stated that the general repairs needed comprise, roofing, damp proofing, tiling, paving and painting among other things.

Comfort

"For the comfort of animals the kennels need to be reconfigured providing more space and new Kennels are to be constructed for Cats. He said sponsors are able to have naming rights for the individual facilities for amounts over E 10 000. Substantial

donors will have their names cast in the new 'FRIENDS of SAWS' wall" he added.

SAWS was formed in 1958 as a self-funded non-profit organisation dedicated to the welfare of animals in Swaziland. It offers boarding, grooming and animal adoption services. He urge the public to visit their website which is www.saws.org.sz or call them at 2404-3446 or contact them by email being saws@realnet.co.sz or rob-hussey@realnet.co.sz for more information.

MIKE BOWS OUT IN STYLE

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The sugar industry this past week celebrated the milestones achieved by Retired Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mike Matsebula. Having led the association for a year short of 20, Matsebula

was celebrated for having created a robust and resilient sector after initiating a number successful of developmental projects. With the country having gained recognition and making it into the top ten notch of African producers under his leadership, his farewell function was one to remember as it was graced by the

premier, ministers, captains of the industry and others at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre. His contributions were noted even as far as the United Kingdom as London Sugar Group Representative Julian Price flew into the country to pay homage to the man who changed the industry.



Tibiyo TakaNgwane Managing Director A.T Dlamini (r) with Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) Chief Executive Officer Phil Mnisi, Minister of Tinkhundla Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini and Swaziland Sugar Millers Association (SSMA) representative Oswald Magwenzi.



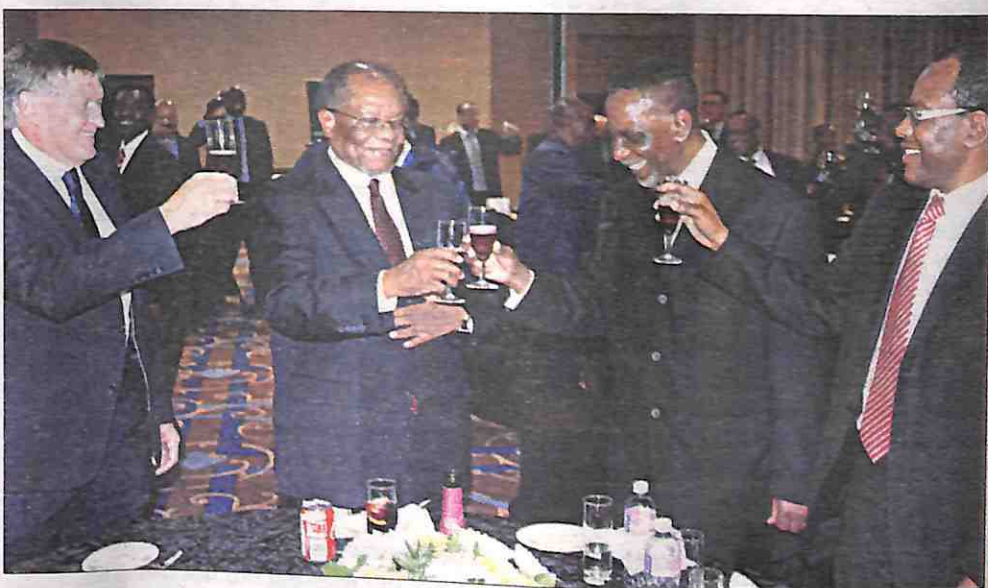
BANKERS: First National Bank Chief Executive Officer Dennis Mbingo and SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele among the guests.



Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini flanked by Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) CEO Phil Mnisi and the retiring CEO Dr Mike Matsebula, during Matsebula's farewell function at the Convention Centre on Wednesday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Tibiyo TakaNgwane Managing Director A.T. Dlamini and Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini sharing a light moment.



CGA representative George White, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini and SSMA representative Oswald Magwenzi proposing a toast with former SSA CEO Dr Mike Matsebula.



Swaziland Sugar Millers Association (SSMA) representative Oswald Magwenzi making his speech.



Swaziland Sugarcane Growers Association (SCGA) representative George White presenting a gift to Matsebula.



WATCHING: New SSA Chief Executive Officer Phil Mnisi with Minister of Labour Winnie Magagula and Minister of Natural and Resources Jabulile Mashwama.

STANDARD BANK FEEDS OVER 8 000 IN LUBULINI

STORIES BY SUNDAY
OBSERVER REPORTER

With the prevailing drought having caused food shortages in the country, Standard Bank last week extended humanitarian assistance to over 8,000 people from the drought-stricken Lubulini constituency in the Lubombo region.

Working in partnership with World Vision Swaziland (WVS), the bank's contribution of E200 000 earlier this year made it possible for 8 097 people to receive a total of 98 metric tons of food commodities, which comprised mealie-meal, beans and vegetable oil.

The beneficiaries from Mconcwane, Nthuthwakazi, Nsubane, Ndzevane, Mbutfu, Gangakhulu, Mhlabeni, Lubulini, Moyeni, Sinyamtulwa and Ngcampalala, each received 10kg mealie meal, 1.5kg beans and 0.675l vegetable oil. The two organisations held distributions in all these communities, and to ensure accuracy and accountability in all its food distributions, WVS used tracking software known as the Last Mile Mobile Solution (LMMS). According to WVS Country Programme Director Francis Dube, the resources, though going a long way to mitigate the effects of famine, were still not sufficient to feed all who were



Standard Bank Head of Marketing Zitsile Dlamini addresses the community members from Ngcampalala.

affected by the El Niño-induced drought in Lubulini.

"We are highly appreciative of the support extended by Standard Bank and all our partners, without them we would not have been able to achieve what we have been able to achieve thus far. It is evident though that the need is still greater.

For one, Lubulini with a population of about 18 000 is one of the most affected by the drought, but we have only been able to feed 8 097 of these since our distributions started. This should give perspective on the severity of the deficit. More are still in need," he explained during the distribution at Ngcampalala community.

WVS began food aid in Lubulini and Sithobela in November last year and

has also managed to partner with organisations such as Esicojeni Foundation, MTN Foundation, UNICEF, and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

Recently, the organisation commenced food distribution in Shewula and Lomahasha, supported by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Speaking on behalf of Standard Bank, Head of Marketing Zitsile Dlamini expressed how the severity of the drought prompted the bank to want to help; "When you live in Mbabane you don't realise the extent of the impact of the drought in the Lowveld. This situation is very touching yet so near to us, and predictions that it will get worse before it gets better are quite disturbing."



The food that was distributed at one of the sites.

The food we receive sustains us

Nkosephayo (15) and Dumokuhle (11) are sisters. They live on their own and survive on food rations handed to them by World Vision Swaziland and partners.

The soft-spoken siblings lost their father at an early age, and were recently left to fend for themselves by their mother who now resides in South Africa where she is taking care of their grandmother and two siblings. The girls benefit from World Vision's food assistance under Lubulini constituency. Nkosephayo expressed how at one point they ran out of food and had to walk 10kms to their mother's aunt (grandmother) to ask for food. "The food we receive sustains us, and kind strangers give us cabbage to cook as a substitute to the beans on some days, but there was once a time when we were without food. We had to walk a distance to our mother's aunt's home for food," she said. Notwithstanding their current circumstance, the girls, who both want to be doctors when they grow

up, are top students in their school, as they got positions 2 and 10 at the end of their second term examinations. They revealed how a recent health scare on Nkosephayo affirmed their desire to be medical practitioners, "I didn't know what was wrong with me, my head and stomach were sore and we had no money for me to reach a hospital."

Issues

If I had been a doctor I would have cured myself," she said innocently. They have not had any issues with perpetrators taking advantage as they live under the watchful eye of neighbours who are compassionate enough to even offer them a place to sleep come nightfall, to minimize the risk. The girls take care of themselves, cook and look for water for themselves. Their homestead comprises of an older structure which was partly blown off by heavy winds and a fairly secure one-room stick and mud house which is where they spend most of their time during the days after school.



Gogo attending to part of the ration she received from Moyeni FDP.

I used to borrow food to survive

Food distribution day, brings much relief to the arid and windy community of Lubulini, but it also comes with mixed emotions for 82 year old Gogo Phelelaphi Dlamini who queues religiously at the Moyeni Final Distribution Point (FDP) every month to receive her ration of mealie meal, oil and beans.

Having been enrolled as a food beneficiary in January this year, her first ration of food found her in severe food deficit, one she carries with her to date as she had to - in her own words - borrow food for the latter part of last year for her and her grandchildren to survive. This essentially means that part of the

60kg of Mealie Meal, 4.5l vegetable oil and 9kg of sugar beans she receives monthly goes to repaying what she borrowed.

"Life was very hard last year, I used to try and grow food for my family but because there was no rain, there was no yield. To survive with my grandchildren I had to keep borrowing food from neighbours, so I was so happy and relieved when I was registered to receive food from World Vision when the year started," she related with a heartwarming smile.

Gogo Phelelaphi lives with five of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. One of the grandchildren is a direct beneficiary of the World Vision

child sponsorship programme, which made it possible to construct a three-room house for her, with the support of World Vision Austria, when the one room she was living in collapsed.

All but one of her five children have died, and she is left to take care of their children. A feat which is quite heavy considering her advanced years. She is rejuvenated by the love the children have for her, particularly her four year old great grandchild S'thandiwe who desires to be a police officer when she grows up. Oblivious to what circumstance has dealt her young life, she is full of joy and hope.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CULTURAL CENTER DRIVE EZULWINI CLOSURE DUE TO ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. WORKS SCHEDULED FROM OCTOBER 5 - 19, 2016. PUBLIC TO USE INDICATED DETOUR ROUTES DURING ROAD WORKS.



Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini joins Swaziland Tourism Authority

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Melusi Dlamini, who is also known as 'Zox', is set to join the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA).

Dlamini has been hired by the company as the Marketing Assistant-Information, a position left vacant by Nokwanda Dlamini - Masuku who recently left STA to join National Maize Corporation (NMC).

His last place of employment was Big Game Parks (BGP) Swaziland where he worked for the past two years as the Marketing Coordinator.

STA Human Resources Officer Doctor Mlota, confirmed that Dlamini had been selected out of six candidates who were short-listed.

"It is true that Melusi Dlamini will be joining us after being selected from a pool of highly competitive candidates. One of the qualities we were looking for was an individual who has experience in communication and that is what Dlamini has," he said.

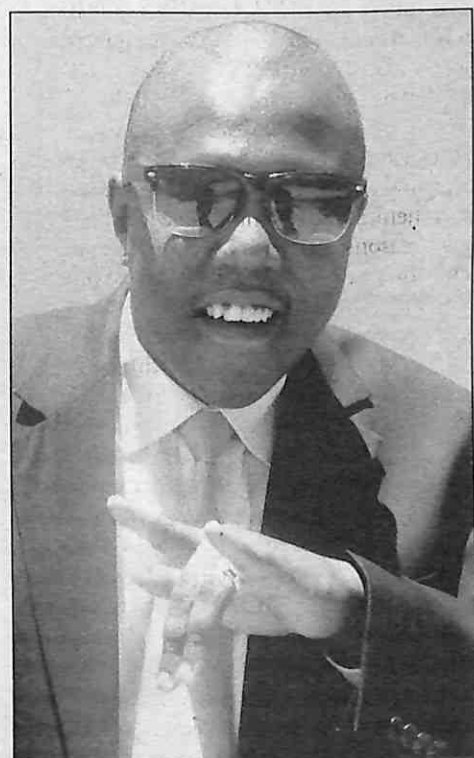
Mlota also said the other post of Marketing Assistant Customer Liaison had been filled although he did not want to reveal the name of the candidate.

Dlamini's position at Big Game Park (BGP) Swaziland has been filled by Nikki Jacobsz, who has already been introduced to media practitioners as the new Marketing Coordinator.

In the two years that Dlamini spent with BGP, the Park has received more media exposure and understanding of the operations as a number of media practitioners were invited to view some of the unique establishments which attract tourists from all over the world.

Big Game Parks Swaziland was recently in the spotlight when they had to answer difficult questions from local and international media on the relocation of 17 elephants from the country to the United States of America, a move that caused an international stir. Dlamini leaves Big Game Parks at a time where Swaziland is in the process of proposing to permit a limited and regulated trade in white rhino horn.

This proposal was submitted at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and Conference of Parties meeting that started last week in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini.

JOURNALISM WAS HIS FIRST

BY LUNGELO NKAMBULE

Speakers at the memorial service of fallen scribe Donny Nxumalo took turns to look back in fondness at his life.

They all said the same thing—that he lived for the profession until his health started to fail him.

Speaking on behalf of journalists, Swaziland Editor's Forum Chairperson Mbongeni Mbingo, said he was fortunate to have met and worked with Nxumalo because he was passionate about the profession and he had taught him a lot.

"I am fortunate to have worked with a person like Donny, someone who had no life out of journalism," he said.

Mbingo said Nxumalo's love for journalism was evident in the work he would do.

"Donny didn't mind putting the paper together all by himself if people didn't want to work. He would get the story, type it, edit it and have it published," he narrated. He further said Donny, unlike many, didn't let his promotion within the newsroom change his work ethic. "He was made editor but he would still be in the newsroom at 8 like the rest of us," he said.

A friend who also spoke at the memorial service said he had grown with Nxumalo and they had both ventured into journalism but the deceased was the fearless one. "He was passionate about the craft and nothing scared him. When going after a story he would do it with all his might and no threat could change his mind," he said. He said his passion for the craft was evident for everyone to see and nothing could change his focus.

Other speakers also concurred, saying Nxumalo was at his element when chasing stories and it was people like him that elevated the journalism profession in the country. The memorial service was attended only by close friends and family.

... "Donny didn't mind putting the paper together all by himself if people didn't want to work. He would get the story, type it, edit it and have it published"



Donny Nxumalo's mother seated at the memorial service at the Mbabane Assembly of God Church yesterday. (Pics: Lungelo Nkambule)



Tribute to Donny Nxumalo

■ Sibonginkosi Mamba, former Swazi Observer journalist

I'm not good with elegy. Neither am I better with obituary. But the loss of even one soul is a calamity infinitely outweighing the treasures of a world. The death of Donny Nxumalo is no exception. From the onset, I must disclose that we did not start off well with uMnguni when I walked into the Swazi Observer newsroom for the very first time. The year was 2010. I was fresh from school when he literally bellowed at me while editing one of my early stories. I nearly jumped out of my skin. But since writing gives me the greatest shot of adrenaline, I summoned the tenacity to deal with uMnguni.

He never wanted to edit long and winding stories. He liked them short and to the point. However, that is not to say he compromised balance. I guess we had the same passion for writing hence in 2011 he would say "tibhale njengoba ubhale letinye". His tough love brought about resilience in me. I was on the verge of being wiped out and becoming a little footnote in the history of journalism. But his attitude was like kraal manure to the seed of courage that he unknowingly grew in me. And for that, I cannot thank him enough. "Lala ngekuthula, Mnguni waseGudu".

■ Sifiso Cele

I trust that this continuously disrupted journey to Swaziland will finally happen this week. I can't wait to see my boys. Then go mourn my long lost and one of the best Swazi journalists that ever lived, Donny

Nxumalo.

Let's bury a national hero with the dignity he deserves.

■ Sabelo Magagula (Mbabane Councillor Ward 10, brother to deceased journalist Musa 'Chicken' Magagula)

I've known Donny since 1990 not just as the committed and dedicated scribe he was in the noble journalism profession but as a loyal friend too.

On behalf of my late brother Musa (I have to speak on his behalf), Donny and the likes of Mashumi Thwala were always willing to lend a grooming hand to cub reporters; namely Vusi Ginindza, Musa Ndlangamandla, Banele Ginindza and Bheki Makhubu, to name but a few. May his soul rest in eternal peace and may his family find comfort and solace in the knowledge that he fought a great fight.

■ Thabile Maripe

I find that I am not befitting enough, worthy enough, to speak of such a noble man. A man I shall always remember for his sense of humour...always laughing Donny, always smiling!

A gentle 'giant', whose sting was most evident through his pen on paper! I believe I am but one of many who have had the pleasure of encountering and working with Donny Nxumalo, but I'm also exceptionally honoured to have forged a friendship during my tenure at the Times of Swaziland between 1995 and 2000.

His skill with the pen and use of the Queen's

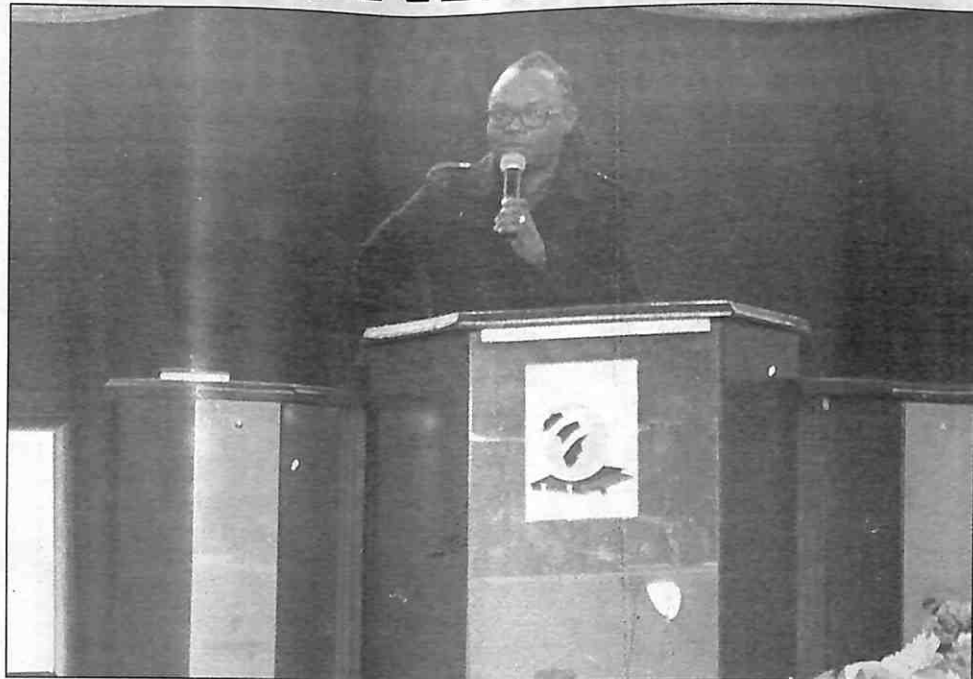
language remains undisputed, but it is his sense of humour I shall always remember him for. There was never a dull moment with Donny, he saw humour in everything, why he even laughed at himself sometimes. The journalism fraternity has lost a soldier, but many of us have lost a friend. Lala ngekuthula Mnguni!

■ Bongwiwe Dlamini

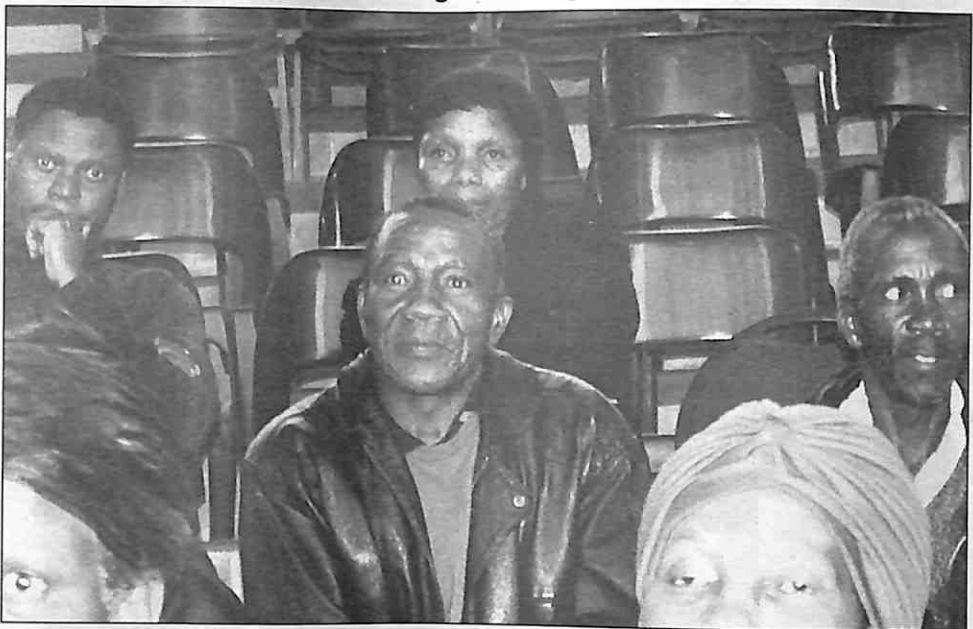
Donny Nxumalo, Mbuso Matsenjwa and I joined the media industry around the same period (mid-80s). I remember at a cocktail party hosted by the British High Commissioner, Donny who was working for the Times of Swaziland and Mbuso, who was at the Swazi Observer, came over to me and kind of bragged: "Wena Bongwiwe utsi wake wasibhala nje scandal?" I felt small and replied: "There is no room for scandals at SBIS." Donny will be missed for his courage and work ethic displayed when Sibahle Sinje claimed his friend veteran journalist Cyril Dlamini was one of their members. Donny questioned the organisation's intentions for making that claim after Cyril had died: "They cannot claim him from the mortuary," he wrote.

Swaziland has indeed lost someone who dedicated all his life to journalism and made significant contributions to advancing media freedom. He was a true advocate for media freedom and his death is a great loss for journalism. He was a shrewd journalist who served the media industry with due diligence. My profound sympathies go to his family.

AND ONLY LOVE,



Editor's Forum Chairperson Mbongeni Mbingo addressing the mourners.



Jabu Matsebula was also there.

Donny is gone too soon, taken away at his prime. May his gentle soul rest in eternal peace.

■ Simon Shabangu

They say 'straight talk does not break any friendship'. Actually, it makes it even better because a straight talker does not pretend. When they do not like something they just tell you in the face. It also helps you as a person because you know whether you are on the right track or not. Donny Nxumalo was the kind of guy who would just tell you straight in the face if he did not like something, in fact even his facial expression and body language would just say it all.

At first it was a bit frustrating because in most cases he would use strong language, heavy words to express how he felt about what you have done. He came with a different style which confused us a bit but we had to adjust. Like one colleague has said, he never wanted long stories, he would ask you one question, *utsi angiyenteni le novel lena wena mtsakatsi?* The next day you will find your 734 long story compressed to 234 words, all the rest gone, ouch.

He was a seasoned journalist with a wealth of experience and knowledge in media related issues. He still had a lot to offer the media industry if he had more time on mother earth. He had this way around words which made his style of writing rather unique. I recall one headline which read 'Dzinhle tsona mara ma colours wazo', it was an opinion piece he had written about members of parliament. Lastly, I must say I had to force myself to write this piece and avoided the words gone

too soon because he warned us never to do that when he dies. *Angifuni nje nilibale kubhala bo gone too soon ngatsi beningitsandza.* I am also worried about the length of this piece because he was going to scream at the sight of over 300 words. That was Donny for you. May his soul rest in peace...

■ Bongani Mamba

I know this *Zwidekayanga abeluma aphuphute*...followed in the steps of the late James Dlamini. Very shrewd, brutal and thorough! Donny aimed high and did not find satisfaction in writing 10 stories per week. He took his time to strike and never a day did I hear his articles being corrected or retracted by the ombudsman of either newspapers. He tackled the toughest of people and issues. Each time he called you for a story, he already had 90 percent of the facts.

You felt like asking for um-go-out and relieve yourself to face his questions. You could not even have the slightest courage to attempt *kumcelela eceleni* for a compromise. He was a master *meselane* for he carved *naba bo-Bingo* and *Thulani Thwala*. He served under the leadership of Douglas Loffler *nabo Rev. Pat Nxumalo* and served alongside my cousin Felix Sandziso Simelane, Mashumi Thwala, Pat Jele, Sifiso Cele, Bongwe Dlamini, Mahlaba Mamba, Vusi Ginindza...*ngeke ngibacedze...bontsangayetfu bo Mbongeni Mbingo, Thulani Mthethwa (ngabewayaphi loyo), Kenneth Dlamini...bebafika basamunya kulamajaha.* RIP Mnguni.

We can only praise you in death but you were a veteran in the industry.

Donny, a hero, teacher in death!

JERRY DUBE

Former Times of Swaziland Sports Editor



Once again, a giant in the field of journalism has gone so soon. Yes, Donny Didi Nxumalo has joined the all time journalism greats in the likes of James Dlamini, Mashumi Thwala, Raphael Mhlanga and Vusi Ginindza, to mention but a few. While to some, his death may just be an addition in the death list since the country's media system had seemingly thrown him into the 'has beens', to many of us, Nxumalo would remain a teacher and a hero even in death.

Didi, as we usually called him, was not your ordinary journalist. This was a man who had no problem to tell it like it is, both to his newsroom staff and in his writings. Even when the newspaper bosses weren't doing right, Nxumalo would not fear approaching them to tell them in the face. Of course, that meant he was hated by many and loved by others, especially us novice journalists at that time.

I owe my success both in journalism and personal life in general, to him. He foresaw a jewel in an oyster in me. It's now history that I was later to grow and climb up the success ladder not only to be crowned the 1999 Best COSAFA Sports Journalist but because Sports Editor for the newspaper. And I'm proud to be one of those who went through his hands.

I walked in the newsroom as a rough diamond back in the early 1990s but Donny, either through his cleverness or probably noticing my poverty background, took his time to polish me until I joined the elite sports reporters of our time. I am proud to say he, together with many others, contributed to my journalism career.

I won't forget my first experience with the then proprietor of The Times of Swaziland newspaper, the late Douglas Loffler. When I came in the newsroom I had been warned about him. I was told to behave well or else I may not see the other day in the newsroom. Having tried to avoid meeting him in my first three days, I was to accidentally meet him on the fourth day. I was seated next to a far corner when he noticed me. I overheard him giving an instruction to the then News Editor, the late Mashumi Thwala (May His Soul Rest in Peace):

"Who is that young man over there?" Thwala explained to him that I was the new journalist who was on trial.

The response wasn't good news to my ear. "Tell him I don't want to see him in my newsroom again," he yelled. Thwala did exactly as instructed without challenging him. I wondered what had happened because to my knowledge, there wasn't anything wrong I had done because I had not written a single story then as I was still being taught the basics of journalism. That was Loffler Senior for you who, I must say, later changed to become one of the nicest gentlemen I have ever met.

I cringed in a corner as if I had been hit hard by an electric shock, wondering what would be my next step while my would be colleagues were busy pecking on their keyboards, writing stories. I looked at Thwala again, thinking he would offer solace and maybe change Loffler Senior's instruction or maybe invite me to come back the following day to discuss further. He didn't, instead he reiterated: "Aah! Ye mngami nami kute lengingakwenta. Nase kushito umlungu, what can I do? Ncono uhambe because when he sees you here again, it

won't be good". Loosely translated to mean: "Once the boss says it, I guess there's nothing I can do. You better go now." I sheepishly left the newsroom to ponder my next step. No sooner had I gone out, 30 minutes to be exact, Donny came in for his editorial meetings which normally took place at around 9:30am at that time.

When he asked why I was outside, I literally cried while narrating my sad experience. It would seem my tears touched him as he led me back to the newsroom and went straight to tell Mashumi where to get off.

I was later told that my issue was discussed at their editorial meeting and the consensus felt I should be given a chance to prove myself - thanks to Donny. Indeed I came back to learn the ropes under his supervision until I voluntarily signed out in 2008. Even after I had left journalism, Donny, with TB clearly eating on him of late, would check on me in my new place of employment and we would chat about the journalism standards and as always, he would not end the chat without reminding me of how local journalists have failed him. How the country's media in general, whom he helped to shape up, were taking him from pillar to post when knocking for a job. That was Donny for you.

His passing away has saddened me, more so because his last visit to me at my place of employment was last week Wednesday. Sadly, I wasn't able to meet him or his need as I was in a workshop only to be told he has passed on.

I was still nursing hopes he would recover on time and maybe get back to writing, which has always been his wish. It's a pity that he was deserted by his own at the hour of need.

Looking at Donny's plight while fighting TB, I said to myself; this is the time the Swaziland National Association of Journalists (SNAJ) should stop being the sleeping dog it currently is and instead, consider looking at ways on how it could help those journalists in situations like the journalism giant, Donny, was in. Yes, the association, through the help of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Swaziland, need to come together and establish a fund that would help journalists in the hour of need.

It was painful hearing Donny whining and mourning about how the media has failed him when we have organisations that should be making sure they are in the forefront in as far as helping out needy journalists is concerned. SNAJ should not only be a body that comes in to whine about government's failure to protect them when attacked but should be seen to be doing something in the welfare of desperate journalists. I know of many journalists who are struggling to put food on the table. Yes, a lot of them, some unemployable due to different reasons. Surely, SNAJ should be seen to be doing something while still alive (the journalists) and not only to wait to offer condolences when a journalist has passed on. It's time we, especially practicing journalists, come together and look for a solution to this or else, the profession will remain a laughing stock.

Seriously, they need to stand up for themselves and make hay while there is still sunshine by revisiting the issue of their welfare. Nobody knows his or her future. It could be someone today but nobody knows what tomorrow holds for him/her.

As Donny's casket is lowered down the grave in his final journey, I say: *Hamba Kahle Didi. Hamba Kahle soldier of many wars!*



A Youth Section On Youth Issues By The Youth



WRITER'S NOTE...

"I never became a doctor but I heal my fans though - that means I'm doing what you wanted, just that it's from a different angle."

It's bad hair season and with that, I greet you dear ASPIRE readers and welcome you once again to your favourite youth section that ASPIRES to make you a better person, the person that you want to be.

Today, we interview a rapper based in Tembisa, South Africa and he goes by the name of Mickey M. He talks to us about rap as a career and how his parents and teachers played a huge role in him becoming what he is today. He further advises the youth on drug abuse and what rap calls for in a person.

On page 17, we have the Sunday podium by yours truly - and in it today I give my opinion on the Salesian sodomy case. Istayela Syalahlela is flames on page 18 as Nasty C just dropped his debut album that has got everyone talking. Even Black Coffee took time to congratulate the youngster on what he described as a good piece of work. Presenter Scoop Makhathini simply described it as monumental. The South African youngster was our cover just a few weeks ago, and we are very proud of his work, we hope that our youngsters will go on to do more, but as the Durbanite said in our interview; and I quote - "Man, it's actually funny that you ask me about this (give youngsters who want to rap advice), because I tweeted about that just this morning. Obviously, in the beginning, things will be very, very hard. I won't twist it or try to sugar-coat it, that's a given - it will be HARD! You just have to stick through it, because once you start reaping the benefits, that's when you'll be happy and glad that you hustled so hard for so long. You have to be dedicated, passionate, and willing to be patient because it takes a long time."

Summer is already upon us so we give you the best summer trends to slay with this summer. Michelle then finishes everything with her column on page 19 - now that's an opinionated woman. Send your comments and any form of art to sbusiso@laminithetg@gmail.com. If you don't stick to what you love then, you just don't love it enough, because your moment of truth might be nearer. Remember that dawn comes just before sunrise!

Till next time; spread love
SBUSISO DLAMINI.

WANDILE HLATSHWAYO

Nhlanhla Masimini affectionately known as Mickey M, was born in Tembisa, spent his childhood in Mpumalanga and attended school there.

He started with poetry at school, which is something his teachers encouraged him to keep doing because he was good with words from a tender age.

He says he only kept at it because he wasn't allowed to do something with beats. "I was only doing poetry because we were not allowed to bring beats into it. Otherwise, honestly it would have been hip hop,

but back to your point, my teachers were really supportive towards my art, although I think they would have been really ecstatic if I continued with poetry. Those were my first fans."

He acknowledges the fact that he was very lucky in the

"I was only doing poetry because we were not allowed to bring beats into it. Otherwise, honestly it would have been hip hop, but back to your point, my teachers were really supportive towards my art."

fact that even his

got my inspiration from kasi artists like zola 7, which was obviously due to the environment I grew up in, and I always aspired to reach the level of American actor/artist Will Smith. I just loved everything about those dudes, form their work ethic to their final product."

As a consequence of his hard work, he even got to the point of opening up for his favorite South African rapper Pro-

parents were supportive of his rap, which is what motivated him to continue working hard. "My parents are a blessing as they've always been there for me, which is why I knew that I had to do well, so I can make them proud of me."

"My Parents were always supportive when it comes to my music that's why I couldn't stop no matter how hard it got, and I owe them success. My mom mostly! I think she has played the biggest

role in music career because she was always supportive from day one and she made sure I had everything I need to pursue my career."

The youngster has always been a hood boy, as from an early age he was inspired by the likes of Zola 7, but he always wished to reach the heights that the likes of American actor/artist Will Smith. "As a kid I



Kid, now Pro. "One of the biggest highlights of my career is when my favorite rapper "Pro-kid" was performing in my hood and I was asked to open up the stage for him. That moment was simply surreal."

And, according to him, the fans have also been paying homage. "The reception from the fans is super amazing, I'll have to invent whilst trying to describe how the reception has been."

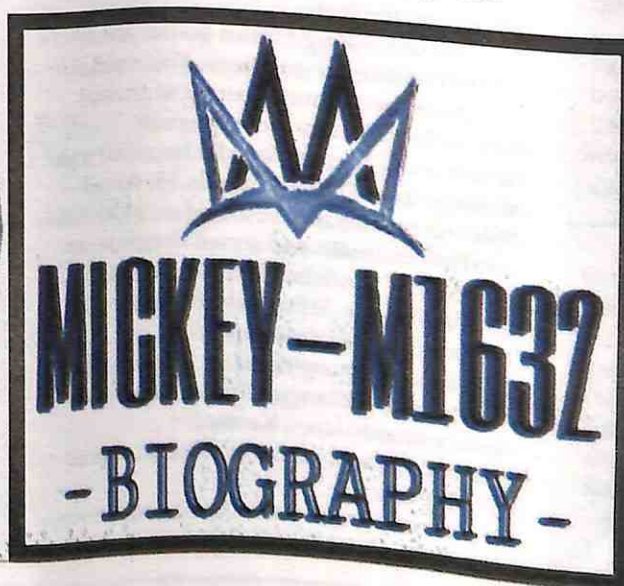
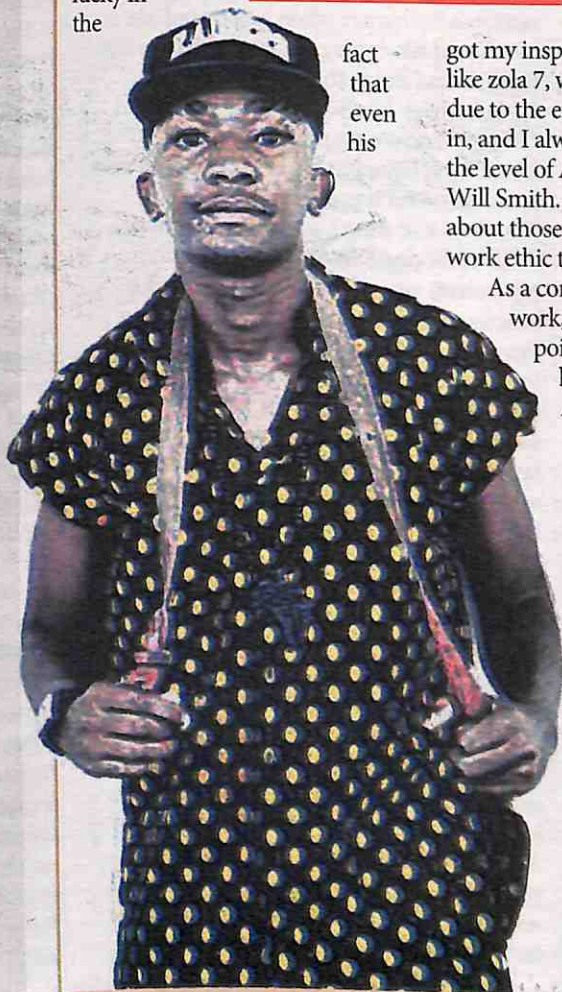
He is currently working on his mix tape and new album. "People should look out for the mix tape and album because the mix tape is dropping pretty soon, and its entitled Blade-spitter2."

ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

● On what makes a good rapper - To young stars who want to rap for a living: you need to focus, work hard, believe in the music and yes, the talent has to be there in the first place. You also have to tell your own story and not something that you don't even know about. For example, what makes me different from the rest is that I tell kasi stories better than the rest and the kasi lifestyle is me.

● On drugs - The youth should stay away from every drug. Finish and klaar.

● On girlfriends/boyfriends - Have a boyfriend/girlfriend who understands what you stand and willing to help you better whatever you trying to achieve with your life.



Salesian sodomy case:

A LESSON FOR WHOLE COUNTRY; WAKE-UP CALL FOR SALESIAN

● And the worst part of it all is this taints the image of the school, which already has a lot of bad publicity to deal with

I am still terrified and disgusted to this very day, that about five years ago, I was unknowingly in constant conversations with Sabelo Thusi, the man who is alleged to have sodomised a nine-year-old pupil for two years.

I have to admit it scares me to even think that for all those years when Thusi would play and joke around with us as kids, such things may have been allegedly lingering in him.

But, as I read the story and how the young boy was allegedly abused daily, sometimes twice in less than eight hours, I had to voice out my opinion because to many people - parents mostly, the teachers are to blame.

Responsibility

After all, when their children are at school, they are the responsibility of the teachers, and if they will be abused - sexually even - then it's very bad. Then it simply means the teachers and the principal are sleeping on the job.

And the worst part of it all is this taints the image of the school, which already has a lot of bad publicity to deal with.

God knows that school has had enough baggage to deal with. From rumours of physical abuse, to issues of teachers and the principal not seeing eye-to-eye and now - pupils are being molested. That's a whole lot of baggage.

Okay; this is the part I didn't want to get to, well because this will sound like me telling my parents what, and what not to do. Imagine!

But Petros Horton being the man he is, will probably not mind me criticising him. And what makes it harder for me though is he is one



Part of the Salesian Primary School building.

person who has always supported my love for writing and public speaking. Also, the sodomy occurred at the primary school, so why is he involved in this? But I'll get to that later, and how it's part of what I'm writing about today.

It pained my heart when I overheard a conversation in a kombi, where one of the passengers was complaining of the growing bad image that the school seems to be attracting.

See, blaming Zodwa Dlamini - the primary school Principal is not fair, because I'm pretty sure she did not see Thusi allegedly committing the unthinkable crime. And it's definitely not her fault that Thusi is a

scumbag.

Which leads me to my first point for today - the fact that sexual abuse against men is overlooked in the country. No one seems to think something like that is ever possible.

And that was one mistake Dlamini, and the rest of the teachers at Salesian, did. They probably overlooked that possibility, well because it doesn't get to happen that much in the country.

We are all focusing on sexual abuse against woman - which is good, but why are we forgetting about men?

Even his parents (the boy) probably didn't think about it because it's not something that occurs every

day.

And I think this case is reason enough for the ministry of health to start taking this into consideration, and raise awareness on sexual abuse against men. Parents should also take this issue seriously and talk to their children about sexual abuse - let them know it's okay to open up about abuse. Like; how does a child get abused for two years, and is threatened by the abuser? What type of relationship does that child have with his parents?

Please get me clearly, I am not saying the parents are bad in their deeds, but all I'm trying to say is they did not have an open relation-

ship with their child, due to whatever reason.

And that is something most parents are lacking a lot these days. It's either they are too busy with work or they just don't have the time at all.

This is why we will then tend to be quick to put the blame on teachers - who by the way also have their own children to take care of. The teaching profession as a whole is under siege and in tatters because the industry is now filled with people who do not have the heart for it. Teaching is not supposed to be a job, but a calling! Government is not making matters any better by filling classrooms with unworkable amounts of pupils. Many are teachers, not because they love it, but because they don't want to sleep on an empty stomach.

And then parents risk their children's lives by passing all their parenting duties to teachers who do not care about anything else but a pay cheque, come end of the month.

Secondly, the school has a lot to deal with, and I hope they will be ruffled by the latest bad publicity and try to fix everything else. Wherever I go, I'm always questioned as to how my experience with lowering my trousers was. I still don't understand why Horton does it.

Punishment

Yes, I do admit that corporal punishment in our country is legal, but lowering your trousers in front of another man does something to your integrity, regardless of what punishment you may deserve. And the reports that he manhandled a staff member in front of pupils is also something that punches holes on his leadership abilities.

When you add everything up as a parent, you come up with only one conclusion - Salesian is a bad school and I will not dare take my child there.

This is the sole reason why the school will then attract the wrong type of pupils who will further taint the school's image.

The less said about the lack of communication and proper working relationship between the primary and high school principals, the better.

If you don't believe me, just visit the school and take a look at the major differences. You would swear one is a Christian and the other a Muslim.

HELP YOUR CHILD FOR GOOD HABITS

You can help your child develop healthy habits early in life that will bring lifelong benefits. As a parent, you can encourage your children to evaluate their food choice and physical activity habits. Here are some tips and guidelines to get you started:

1. Be a good role model - You don't have to be perfect all the time, but if children see you trying to eat right and getting physically active, they'll take notice of your efforts. You'll send a message that good health is important to your family.

2. Keep things positive - Children don't like to hear what they can't do, tell them what they can do instead. Keep it fun and positive. Everyone likes to be praised for a job well done. Celebrate successes and help children and teens develop a good self-image.

3. Get the whole family moving - Plan times for everyone to get moving together. Take walks, ride bikes, go swimming, garden or just play hide-and-seek outside. Everyone will benefit from the exercise and the time together.

4. Be realistic - Setting realistic goals and limits

are key to adopting any new behaviour. Small steps and gradual changes can make a big difference in your health over time, so start small and build up.

5. Limit TV, video game and computer time - These habits lead to a sedentary lifestyle and excessive snacking, which increases risks for obesity and cardiovascular disease. Limit screen time to two hours per day.

6. Encourage physical activities they'll really enjoy - Every child is unique. Let your child experiment with different activities until they find something they really love doing. They'll stick with it longer if they love it. Check out these activities for children.

NOTE THIS TO YOU CHILD

1. Signs of Child Abuse
2. Child Abuse Facts
3. Child Abuse Support
4. Child Abuse Psychology
5. Child Abuse Books
6. Effects of Emotional Abuse
7. Abuse Survivors
8. Institutional Abuse

POETRY...

ENDURANCE

When things go wrong,
and they sometimes will
When the road seems to
be an uphill

When the funds are low
and the debts are high
And you want to smile,
but you have to sigh

When care is pressing
you down a bit
Rest if you must, but just
don't quit

Life is strange with its
twist and turns
As every one of us some-
times learns
And many a fellow turns
about
When he might have won
had he stuck it out

Don't give up although
the pace seems slow
Because you may just
succeed with the next
blow Often the goal is
nearer than it seems to
the fair and faltering man

Often the struggler has
given up when he was at
his closest to capture the
victory cup and he
learned too late when
night came down
How close he was to the
golden crown

Success is failure
inside out
The silver of the tint of
the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell
how close you are,
It may be near when it
seems far
So, stick to the fight when
you're hardest hit
Because that's the time
when you mustn't quit

I'STAYELA S'YALAHLELA

BAD HAIR SEASON IS FINALLY UPON US

... cutaways too! – You just have to love this summer

1. So, the long wait is finally over.

Albeit, delaying it for a couple of hours, Nasty C finally released his long awaited debut album – **Bad Hair**, and boy is it worth the hype. The 19-year-old rapper has been changing the game since he came through with his breakout track – 'Juice back.'

Just a few weeks ago, he was our coverboy and during our interview he promised that the album would be fire.

We have to say he wasn't kidding, not even a bit.

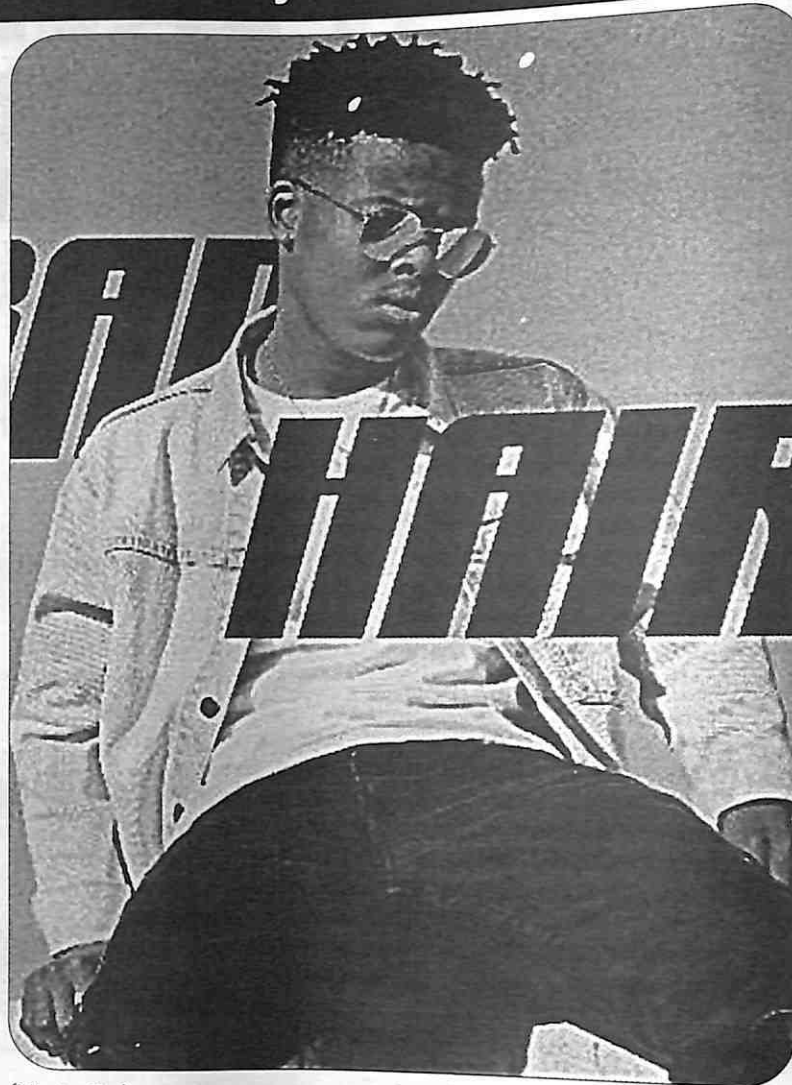
What I noticed, well besides the track where he features fellow Mabala Noise star – Ricky Rick, the young king used his talented day ones – Tellaman and Erick Rush. They didn't disappoint as they both showed their prowess in music.

The album is a very good RAP album and only a day later, people were already going mad over it. It's an overall good album which has everything in it.

A lot of celebrities have also taken onto Twitter and Instagram to give a shout out to the young king.

The most notable ones have to be Hype magazine Editor Fred, presenter Scoop Makhathini, actor and model Maps Maponyane, Cassper Nyovest, Kid X and even the G himself Ma E.

The youngster has certainly entered the game to change it and he is all up in the settings and going "edit, edit, edit". I guess we just have to wait and see what's next, and as Pearl Thusi said – every rapper in Africa should be scared of Nasty, because as his name suggest – he is definitely a



'Nasty Cat'.

2. Now, on a rather unexpected move, Ambitiouz Entertainment's A Reece has dropped an EP titled 'CUTaways'. I know, some of you guys were shocked on Friday, when we woke up to five tracks when the

21st hasn't arrived.

But it seems like the youngster

"I am Nasty C's fan and right now, am listening to the sixth track in the album – 'Squad Goals.'"

likes his fans such that he has chosen to give them five tracks that couldn't make the cut for his upcoming album –

'Paradise' which will be dropping on the 21st of this month. CAN'T

WAIT!

I know that Nasty C and A Reece are in competition by the mere fact that they are both rappers, not to mention they are the same age. But, guys, seriously, can't the boys just make music without us trying to create beef between them?

When Reece dropped his single *Zimbali* from the upcoming album, people were all on about how he was throwing shade at Nasty just because *Zimbali* is based in Durban which is where Nasty C is from.

Anyways, the boy is doing great things and has come out to dispute the fact that he is foes with Nasty C, because on Friday, when **Bad Hair** dropped, he was one of the very first people to tweet and show love.

Statement

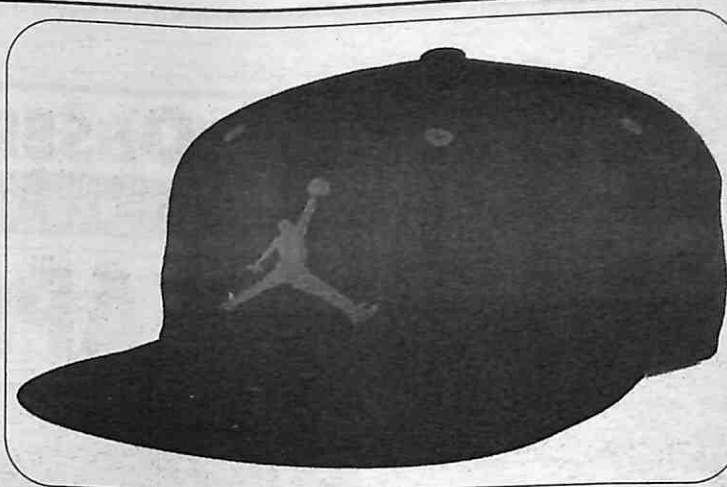
He even gave a statement which I'm pretty sure should end this thing that people are trying to create between the two when he said – "I am Nasty C's fan and right now, am listening to the sixth track in the album – 'Squad Goals.'"

The road to paradise continues and we can't wait for the youngster's debut album, considering the flames that his age mate just dropped. I know, you just have to love this summer and the music it's giving to us.

I hope our event promoters are watching this situation very closely because I know for a fact that it would be a "lit" show to have these two gentlemen together.

Oh, me and my thinking out loudly, I'm just a newspaper man but who knows, I might be making sense!





HOTTEST SUMMER TRENDS

Summer is already upon us and we bring you the best things to rock and enjoy your summer.

1. Ripped jeans - For the person who aims to look oh so cool and casual, ripped jeans seem to be the perfect option to pair with everything from nice shirts to oversized jumpers. But unless you're exactly the right height, jeans with rips in the knees end up half way down your shins with thick turn ups, or flashing just a little bit more thigh than you originally intended.

The only solution to this is to buy jeans with rips all the way up them, which leaves you questioning whether you're really wearing jeans at all.

Ripped jeans are meant to look effortless but in reality they're so much more effort to put on. You have to gently shimmy them up your legs, praying your foot doesn't go through the knee hole and rip all the way through, turning your jeans into jots.

The longer you wear ripped jeans, the bigger the hole. Whilst you'd normally throw your jeans away when they rip, with ripped jeans you're always stuck in a conundrum of how ripped is too ripped. Ripped Jeans

are the ultimate dressed down casual wear. For maximum effect, we'd suggest pairing with a simple t-shirt and a pair of sneakers or desert boots.

Distressed denim will give your everyday look an edgier aesthetic, but it's worth remembering that the jeans should be the focal point of your outfit.

Over complicating the look will make your outfit feel very unnatural and too over styled. We are aiming for effortless, not try hard.

As said earlier, they are supposed to look effortless, so please don't try and do something that will not work out because you will be a head turner for the wrong reason.

2. Now the fun one - Sunglasses. - They come in many colors, shapes, and styles and there's sure to be (at least!) one that you'll love.

You can even have different sunglasses for different activities or to coordinate with different clothing styles! No matter what look

you're going for, from classically cool to modern and fashionable, there's a pair of sunglasses that will make you look and feel great.

3. Baseball caps and snap-backs - This summer, we're all about embracing the sporty trend, while still looking chic and stylish. Baseball

caps have also been spotted on the runways of DKNY and Rodarte. Needless to say, baseball caps are one of the coolest new trends this season.

This trend makes it

easy to cover up a bad hair day, (Although it is said to be the new hairstyle), and to stay super-comfortable throughout your day. From classic caps supporting your favorite sports team to leather caps that are perfect for a more edgy look, there's seriously a baseball cap that you can wear with just about everything. I've also seen a lot of local brands who have caps, so it would be very nice to be patriotic and rock one - if it's worth your cash!

Ripped jeans are meant to look effortless but in reality they're so much more effort to put on.



ENDING THE STIGMA AROUND ABORTION

MICHELLE VILAKATI

September 28 is the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. I think it is time we address the stigma that termination of pregnancy holds, particularly in societies which still prohibit them.

How do you know someone is a woman? Because everyone thinks they are allowed an opinion to her body. A woman's body should be a woman's right, yet in 2016 that is still not the case in Swaziland. I used to believe "no uterus, no opinion," but I've amended my stance to "my uterus, my opinion." I am a proponent of a woman's right to choose whether to carry to term, or pro-choice as it is more commonly known. The other side of the argument like to call themselves pro-life, but they're not really pro-lifers. They are pro-births, because once babies are born they don't care what happens to them. I believe that every woman should be able to choose what happens in her uterus, whether that is to carry to term or not.

It is a travesty that worldwide caucuses of men decide what should happen to women's bodies. It is not just a third world issue: the Republican Party in the United States is a proponent of banning abortions across the board. Instead of protecting the rights of women to adequate healthcare, these laws want to erase bodily autonomy for women.

This publication ran a series of exposes about illegal abortion tablets being sold on the black market. These are medications that haven't been certified by relevant standards authorities, therefore are detrimental to health.

Prohibition creates a black market. The minute you remove a regulatory system for a product that there exists a demand for, people will always find a way to circumvent the law. All legalising abortion does is make it safe for women. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the 1996 legalisation of abortion in South Africa had an immediate positive impact on the frequency of abortion-related complications, with abortion-related deaths dropping by more than 90 percent. The current state of legislation just forces women into going to unlicensed doctors for backstreet abortions, or carrying out risky unsanitary procedures like the "coat hanger" method.

The same men who shame women for terminating pregnancies act like they would be present fathers, when the realities of Swaziland is many a household has been abandoned by men. Believing in a woman's right to choose whether to carry to term is just that: affording a woman the right to choice. No one is imploring anyone to have an abortion, but it remains that women should have options.

Pregnancy shouldn't be a punishment for sex, particularly because the pregnancy seems to push only one party to the act. The idea that legislation exists if a woman has been raped is equally problematic, and very invasive. According to the Constitution, a woman who wants to terminate a pregnancy after she has been raped must first undergo the intense scrutiny and scorn of facing police officers who almost always victim blame and nearly never believe women who report rapes, then obtain a court order to finally be free of the alien gestation inside her? That is even assuming that her case is heard, as the way our police departments are set up, it would be safe to assume they exist to deter women reporting rapes. The stigma carried around abortions is probably a symptom of patriarchal roles, where women's role is to be a child bearer. Men don't have material objections to abortions, yet they are the loudest voices. Having a child is a lifelong contract and the pro-birthers are often found wanting when required to be responsible. A pregnancy is such an invasion of a woman's being, and the manage about women exercising self ownership is pitiful.

It is insulting to a woman's choice, body and autonomy for her value to be tied to her abilities to procreate. One shouldn't be expected to have a child just because they fall pregnant, and the moral ambiguity that exists around abortion further emphasises this misconception that a woman is her ovaries. A woman's decision to terminate a child should not be a matter of debate. Each time you argue that the termination of a pregnancy should not be the sole decision of the pregnant woman you're diminishing the value of a woman to an incubator. I am a woman not a womb.

BRIEFS

Zambia opposition shuns parliament after president's re-election

LUSAKA - Zambia's main opposition party on Friday boycotted President Edgar Lungu's first parliamentary address since his contested re-election, which his rivals say was rigged. The poll campaign saw clashes between supporters of Lungu's Patriotic Front (PF) and his rival Hakainde Hichilema's United Party for National Development (UPND). All 58 UPND lawmakers shunned the official opening of parliament and party secretary general Stephen Katuka declined comment when approached by AFP. Lungu, who won the August 11 election by around 100 000 votes, condemned the violence. "Zambia has had a long record of peaceful elections - it was disheartening to witness the post-election violence," he told parliament. **AFP**

Home Affairs committee applauds arrest of border officials

CAPE TOWN - Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs has applauded the arrest of 20 home affairs officials and six civilians at the Lesotho border on charges relating to fraud and corruption. "This is clear evidence that the corruption fighting initiatives by the department are bearing fruit and that the scourge of corruption will be defeated," chairperson Lemias Mashile said on Friday. "The dereliction of duty on behalf of the arrested officials must dealt with to the full extent of the law and the Committee hopes that internal disciplinary hearings will be kick-started in earnest." **News24**

Anglican Church rejects 'prayers of blessing' for same-sex unions

JOHANNESBURG - The Anglican Church of Southern Africa has voted against the blessing of same-sex civil unions in South Africa. The vote was taken by the church's top legislative body, the Provincial Synod. Same-sex marriages are allowed only under South African civil law. The initial motion before the Synod also proposed that bishops could provide for clergy who identify as LGBTI and are in legal same-sex civil unions, to be licensed to minister in parishes. But the proposers withdrew this section before debate began. The church includes Anglicans in Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and on the island of Saint Helena. **eNCA**

Alabama chief justice ousted by judicial panel over gay marriages

ALABAMA - The chief justice of Alabama's Supreme Court was effectively ousted on Friday by a judicial panel that found he unethically resisted US court rulings that legalised same-sex marriage. Chief Justice Roy Moore, 69, violated judicial ethics by ordering probate judges to defy federal court orders on same-sex marriage, the Alabama Court of the Judiciary ruled. It was the second suspension for the outspokenly conservative Moore. Earlier, he was sanctioned for refusing to remove a monument of the Ten Commandments in a state building. Moore's lawyer, Mat Staver, said he plans to appeal the unanimous decision to suspend him without pay for the rest of his term, effective immediately. Staver said the latest suspension essentially removes Moore from the bench, as the chief justice will be too old to seek re-election when his term ends in January 2019. Civil rights proponents hailed the move. **Reuters**



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

TRUMP HEAPS NEW ABUSE

Washington - Donald Trump stepped up his attacks Friday on a former Miss Universe, urging the public to check out an alleged "sex tape" of the young woman who claims the billionaire bullied her and has turned supporter of Hillary Clinton.

In a pre-dawn Twitter storm, the Republican presidential candidate accused his Democratic rival of helping Alicia Machado get US citizenship so she could "use her" in this week's presidential debate.

Addressing his nearly 12 million followers, Trump charged that the Venezuela-born Machado, who won the Trump-owned beauty pageant in 1996, had "duped" the Clinton campaign.

According to the fact-checking website Snopes, the sex tape allegation appears to refer to Machado's appearance on a television reality show in which she is shown in bed with another participant, but under the covers. Machado was also pictured in



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Playboy magazine. But a pornographic video circulated in recent years purporting to star the former Miss Universe was debunked as a fake.

The tweets were continuing fallout from Monday's brass knuckles presidential debate, when

Clinton assailed her rival for publicly humiliating Machado after she gained weight following her beauty pageant win.

Trump owned the Miss Universe beauty contest until last year. His brutal criticism of Machado's

weight - including TV images repeatedly re-broadcast this week showing her being put through the paces of a weight-loss exercise regimen in front of television cameras - is seen as potentially damaging with both women and Latino voters.

Verbally

Machado accused him of having verbally abused her, calling her "Miss Piggy" for her post victory weight gain and "Miss Housekeeping" - an apparent reference to her Latina heritage.

The former beauty queen has seen her profile raised considerably by the controversy.

During a news conference call earlier this week, speaking in a mix of Spanish and English, Machado heaped contempt on Trump for his past mistreatment.

"He doesn't remember me, he doesn't remember many things that he did to me, or that he told me," Machado told reporters. **AFP**

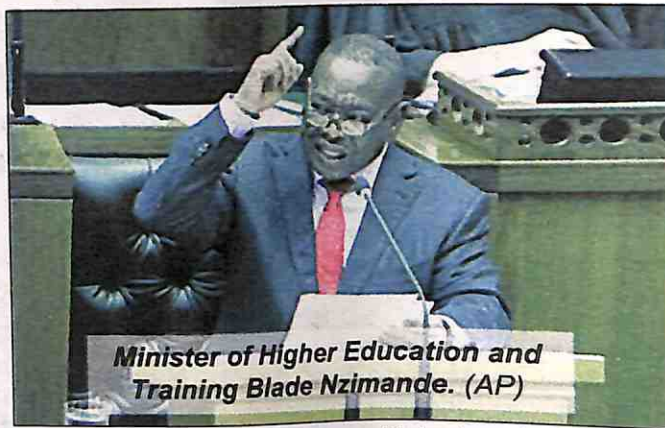
We are on the same side, Nzimande tells students

JOHANNESBURG - Ministers in higher education and the justice cluster believe their engagement with students over tertiary fees has been honest and fruitful.

Nzimande said the ministers had met with student leaders for more than three hours in Kempton Park, east of Johannesburg, to discuss violent protests which have been taking place at several institutions of higher learning across the country.

Students and police have clashed a number of times, with the latter using stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse protesting students.

"We are on the same side with students when they want free education for the poor and those who cannot afford," Nzimande told journalists. He added that both students and national leaders had denounced



Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande. (AP)

the violence at some of the institutions.

Nzimande also urged students to return to class, stating that no effort had been spared in trying to proceed with the 2016 academic programme. He also asked for them to be patient with President Jacob Zuma's commission on higher education, claiming that when its work was complete it would

provide lasting solutions.

Members of various university student representative councils took part in the meeting, including leaders from the South African Students Union (SAUS). SAUS President Avela Mjajubana agreed with the ministers and criticised those demanding the immediate implementation of free education. **News24**

Zimbabwe threatens to withdraw protesting Mugabe students' degrees

HARARE - Zimbabwe's Higher and Tertiary Education Minister, Professor Jonathan Moyo on Friday made a veiled threat to withdraw the degrees of students who demonstrated against President Robert Mugabe during a graduation ceremony at the University of Zimbabwe.

In a tweet on his twitter account, Moyo implied that any conduct deemed unruly by the state could lead to the withdrawal of one's degree, in reference to former student leader, Tonderai Dombo, who waved a placard at Mugabe as he capped almost 4000 graduands at the University of Zimbabwe on Thursday.

"Just because one is Mr Dombo does not mean they should throw stones everywhere anytime. Disrupting a graduation ceremony can cost a degree," he tweeted on his account. "Dombo" is a Shona word meaning stone. Dombo was arrested along with two other students by Central Intelligence Officers who later handed them over to the police at Harare Central police station where they were detained overnight.

The three were charged with public nuisance and fined US\$10 each and subsequently released.

Political analyst, Pedzisai Ruhanya said it was permissible for a university to withdraw a student's degree but it had to be on merit, which in this case, he said, was not there. He said the students who protested were only exercising their right to express themselves freely. "There was nothing illegal about what the students did. By protesting or holding placards, the students were exercising their rights in a civil manner. Moyo is playing a political game and what he is doing cannot stand the rigours of judicial scrutiny," he said. He said Moyo might want to please Mugabe but it would be difficult to effect his threat as it entailed a rigorous process that also called for the setting up of a committee to look into whether the withdrawal was in line with legal constitutional rights. **African news Agency**

Madonsela quick to please 'Israel-supporting' DA

CAPE TOWN - The ANC Women's League (ANCWL) has accused outgoing Public Protector Thuli Madonsela of trying to please the "Israel-supporting" Democratic Alliance with her state capture probe.

ANCWL secretary general Meokgo Matuba claimed on Friday that Madonsela's tendency of allegedly trying to please the party was "not new".

"The ANCWL is surprised that, despite her previous

claims of not having resources to investigate complaints, Madonsela has moved with speed to ensure she doesn't disappoint vivid Israel supporters, the Democratic Alliance," Matuba said.

Matuba claimed Madonsela had amended her report on the multimillion-rand tender for communications services put out by the Western Cape government. "In her draft report, the Public Protector found that the inclusion of DA

leader and Western Cape Premier Helen Zille's special advisers - Ryan Coetzee and Gavin Davis - on the tender bid evaluation committee was unlawful and in violation of the Constitution, but she quickly retracted on that after the DA objected to her report."

Matuba said it would be unfortunate for Madonsela's office to be "part of the agenda" to advance narrow political opportunism by the DA. **News24**

SundayObserver
Scene
THE RANDOM ISSUE



**TAKING
OVER
THE WORLD**

COMPILED BY: Lungelo Nkambule | SUB-EDITING BY: Futhie Dlamini

Email: scene@observer.org.sz

WRITER'S NOTE:

The most amazing moments in life are the ones that happen unplanned. The wise say "Life is what happens while you busy making plans". This week I was reminded of that saying and I realised the importance of being random as much as you possible can.

Our issue this week is named the random issue. We named it random because there was no one thing we were focused on instead we spoke to different personalities in a quest to know who they are and to get in touch with their fun side. The thing is we rarely get a chance to speak about them as individuals instead when we met up with them we are always speaking about their work. Much as their work takes centre stage at the end they are as normal as normal can get.

The hustle was in getting them to attend to us because these ladies and gentleman are super busy. Read more on pages 2 and hopefully by the time you are done reading you will have a clear idea of who Velemseni, Bianca and Karly B are. The past week Social media was in a frenzy following the drama that involved two of the best talents to ever come from South Africa.

The Kiing of House Music Black Coffee was caught on camera slapping the Supa Mega, Aka'a manager.

Social media went crazy and the video went viral. On our social watch we have an insight of how the SCENE team looks at the whole incident that some how some people are condoning. On page 5 we have our movie review compiled by Zanemvula and I must confess I am not a movie person but because of her reviews I find myself watching the movies she has reviewed. Thank you Zan.

On the same page we have a brief on Sipho Makhubane's show in the UK, where the amazeballs singer performed donning a Swazi lihiya. We end it off with a beautiful spread.

We hope you will enjoy our issue this week and we would love to here from you send us a shout at scene@observer.com.

Till next week. Bless!!!

EXPLORE RANDOM THINGS

Unplanned moments are usually the ones that give us the most pleasure, however most of the time we find we rarely do random things because we don't have an idea of what to do.

We have compiled a short list of random things you can try and you will have fun whilst doing it.

Say good afternoon to strangers in town

Try doing this with a straight face, as if you accidentally came across a friend's parent or a friend of a friend, or your old math teacher. Not only will stepping outside the social norm give you an adrenaline rush, but you'll also have a huge confidence boost once you overcome your initial shyness and awkwardness; it's brilliant if you are about to become a freshman and need to work on your social skills (in a fun way).

And to say nothing about the confused looks you will get, and the occasional "good afternoon" in return, mostly from people too lost in thought to notice that they don't really recognise you.

Become your friend

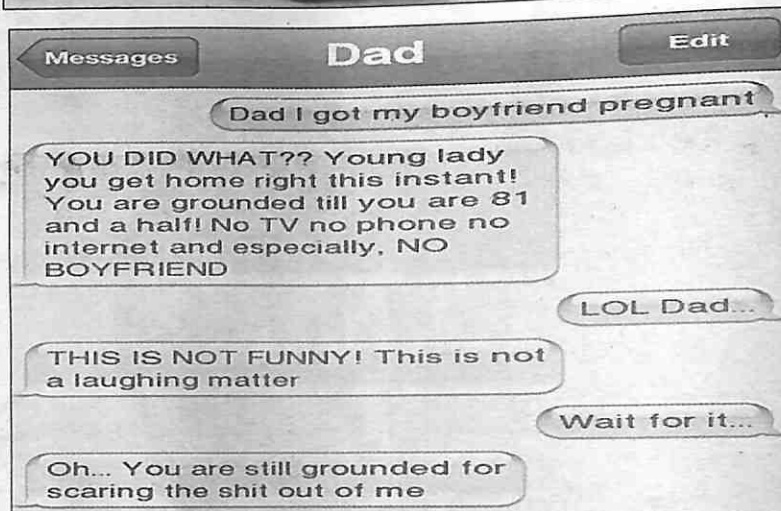
You and your best friend probably know almost, if not absolutely, everything about each other, right? Then why not try and pretend to be each other for a day? Getting into character should be easy: Dress up in your friend's favorite clothes, do your hair as they do theirs, answer their phone, respond when someone asks them a question, approach when someone calls them over! And the fun is doubled when you get to see them pretending to be you, wearing your trademark outfit and sunglasses. You can spend the day, or even go out at night as one another. Of all the random things to do with friends, this one encourages the most bonding.

DIY Dance Video

Harlem Shake will never, ever get old. And the hundreds of insanely hilarious videos of it will exist online forever, so why not add your own to the collective legacy of internet madness? All you need is a few enthusiastic friends or even family members, and masks and/or costumes, in case you are bold enough to try, but not exactly comfortable about the possibility of being recognised from the video. You can then choose either to keep it private or show it to a selected few, or upload it to YouTube and see how it compares to the already popular ones.

Go around town listening to street musicians

Another random fun thing to do, yet relaxing. You would be amazed to realise how many talented people are out there, every day, yet few people actually notice. We all just hurry along, with our headphones in and our



minds somewhere else. Give yourself a chance to tap into the energy created by a musician in a public square, stop for a few minutes and listen how the music blends with the city noises. If you have spare change, you can tip the artist, but even if you don't, the mere fact that someone stopped and listened to the music for a while will mean something to them. You and your friend can even create a scoring system to figure out which artist is your personal best, for example, add points if he sings as he plays, more points for a violin than a guitar, less points if you don't like the choice of song, etc... Then you can go back and tip your favorite.

Attend an event that you are not invited to

Find out about any event in your area, and go with a friend. It can be a workshop, a lecture, a concert, a café opening, a dance class, whatever. Your best criteria

for choosing random things to do are that it's right here, right now. Even though a lecture might sound boring at first, you can be surprised how a good lecturer can capture your attention and make you intensely interested in the reproduction of snails.

Or Greek mythology. If you have never been to any sort of a workshop, know that these things exist just to prove that learning something new can be fun, especially because it's mostly hands on, which means that you get to do stuff by yourself instead of just listening about it. And even if it ends up being uninteresting, you can still laugh and crack jokes about it the next day.

Send Prank Texts

Get everyone to pull out their phones, and choose a person to text, saying "Stop that at once, you're being ridiculous" or "I know what you're doing, you ought to be ashamed of yourself", or "Does your mother know you

do that? What would she say?" and then sit back and wait for the hilarious confused, paranoid responses.

Chances are, someone somewhere is breaking their diet, or stalking their ex-boyfriend and his new girlfriend's Facebook, or picking their nose, or considering a tattoo, or engaging in all sorts of awkward activities. If you're looking to involve as much people as possible, this is the random fun thing for you and your friends, and their friends, and friends of friends.

Write funny rhymes about each person

This could be extremely entertaining, especially among a group of close friends. Everyone should try to write a few rhyming lines (or more, the inspiration provided!) about everyone else, and read it out loud in turns. The results will probably be witty and uncannily descriptive, and should probably be recorded.



Am I the only person that thinks AKA and Black Coffee are the same person?

The past week they were trending on social media platforms because of their drama and at some even used them as ice breakers. I had an interesting conversation with my colleagues and so many things were brought to the fore, many of which would get us in trouble if I were to write them here, not because they are terrible things

to say but because people are not fans of the truth.

The point I am more focused on though is that from where I am standing, Black Coffee and AKA are similar in many ways than one. The thing is for some reason people seem not to notice that Black Coffee is as arrogant as they get and he thrives in controversy. The music genius that is Black Coffee is not new to controversy, he has many a times been in the spotlight for his wandering eye and I can bet

my last cent that this wasn't the first time he resorted to violence when he wasn't being listened to. I just feel the media as well as the public for whatever reason turns a blind eye and they take his side always. AKA is a music genius in his own right, he has managed to stay relevant in a cut throat industry since his introduction and even though new talent

joins the boat everyday, the SupaMega has maintained his position, he remains the number one MC and the guy to dethrone.

So whilst people are busy taking sides, they must also acknowledge that when things go sour they all played a part instead of condemning this rot. It is rot that might not affect Black Coffee and AKA but future genera-

tions. The problem I see is that people like Black Coffee must be the ones to condemn the beef between Cassper and AKA but no he joined in and chose a camp. This is going to kill South African music because arrogant people like AKA and Cassper sat down and decided to divide the industry. Now the trend is, if you are team Cassper then you must be anti-team AKA. This was made evident for me when K.O said it in no uncertain terms that he had no desire to collaborate with Cassper and we all know the reason. Weeks ago, Ricky Rick then took one for the team and said he would not be collaborating with 'Skhanda King'.

I don't think this is good for the music or it is benefitting the fans anyhow because now we are robbed killer collabos all because of egos. Black Coffee has been in the industry longer and he is the one that's supposed to be drumming sense into the youngsters but no he is busy being part of the madness.

THE GEM THAT IS VELEMSANI

Most people liken her to American guitarist and singer Indie Arie; her name is Velemseni.

When she takes to the stage she soothes your soul and makes all your problems look so little.

Her beautiful eyes allow you into her soul and in that moment magic happens. She is a gem and her talent is undeniable, even Idols judge Somizi Mhlongo couldn't stop talking about her after he heard her perform at the SmoothFest Festival. This week we spoke with the music graduate in a quest to know her better and this is what she had to say:

The prized possession you value above all others... It has to be my guitar, I love it so much and can't imagine my life without it.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I have no regrets, just lessons.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... Oh yes I would go to all the countries that require a visa. Applying for a visa can be such a grueling and stressful task.

The temptation you wish you could resist... HAHAAHA it has to be Reality TV.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... It's a book I read a while ago 'Purple Hibiscus' by Adichie Chimamanda. It is a great read and I can read it over and over again.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a do.... I would spy on important people.

The lives they live seem so different from ours and it would be nice to know what they get up to behind closed doors when they let their guard down.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... frogs!! I can't stand them.

The film you can watch time and again... Dreamgirls. It is a beautiful



movie and it never gets old.

The person who has influenced you most... Jesus.

He influences my life on so many levels, actually He is the cornerstone of my being.

The figure from history for which you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Jesus, meeting Him would be such a great honour.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... I would tell my child that "Your body is more like your dream car. Wash it, wax it, paint it, race with it and make it take your places." These are the words I live by as well.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... It is Reality TV.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My first guitar. It was stolen. I remember that day so well, my heartbroke and no guitar will replace that one.

The unending quest that drives

you on... Music. Music is my life, I live it and nothing makes more happier than making music. All I want is to make more and more music.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... who knows? Every event alters your future. Every experience shapes you for your destiny.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I honestly believe I could rob a bank and get away with it like a G!

The song that means most to you... For me a song means the



most to me when I'm still writing it.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... As a child I got a dog and I was very happy. It is one of the best moments of my life.

The saddest time that shook your world... Losing family always shakes my world, it is not something you get used to, no matter how many times you do it.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... My career, which is where the drive comes from. Like I said, music is everything to me and I won't stop until I get to where I want to be.

The philosophy that underpins your life... I live by the words 'Do unto others'.

The order of service at your funeral... I haven't really thought about it but I do hope it rains buckets.

The way you want to be remembered... Like a bright shining light. Even when it is gone, you can still see the imprint it left on you.



DYNAMITE COMES IN SMALL PACKAGES

...Bianca Coster is a fast rising star

Bianca affirms the saying that dynamite comes in small packages.

The pint-sized Bianca Coster has been making a name for herself on the big stage.

This year she was hosting the Hipnotik Music Festival alongside South African TV presenter, reality TV star, MC and Brand manager Siya Ngwekazi, and boy, she matched his penny for pound.

She is a fast rising star and SCENE this week got a chance to meet the dynamite that is Bianca and she gave us an insight into who she is.

1. What should every woman try at least once in her life?

They should at least try to be themselves without the influence of society's standards or expectations of what a "women" should be like.

2. What brings you the greatest joy?

My family and friends. Seeing my family and friends happy brings me a lot of joy!

3. What brings you the greatest satisfaction?

Reading inspirational books, applying what I've learnt from those books and witnessing how my life changes because of that brings me great satisfaction! Best feeling in the world, trust me!

4. What is the best advice you've been given?

Sometimes silence is the most eloquent response.

5. Who do you follow on Twitter?

I don't have Twitter but on my Instagram account I follow motivational pages, close friends and fashion and interior pages.

6. What is on your bookshelf?

I am currently reading 'Think and Grow Rich' by Napoleon Hill and 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho.

8. What is on your bucket list?

Attending the Tomorrow Land Festival with my friends.

9. What is on your perennial to-do list?

Acquire financial freedom.

10. What is love for you?

Is what I feel for my family, friends and work, it's indescribable.

11. What item in your closet do you wear the most?

My vintage high waisted jeans from my grandmother quite often.

12. Who are your heroes?

JK Rowling, Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers (google them).

13. Who is on the guest list for your ideal dinner party?

I could love Oprah Winfrey, JK

Rowling and Bob Proctor to be on the top of my guest list!

14. What is your greatest indulgence?

I love chocolate and energy drinks!

15. What is on your nightstand?

I have the books I'm reading including the Bible, my phone, lip balm and a pencil.

16. What quote do you live by?

"Impossible is just a small word thrown around by big men who find it easier to live in the world they have been given than to explore the possibilities they have to change it."

17. What is the best gift you've ever received?

Hmm well I'm still waiting for my car from Dad!!!! LOL

18. What is one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

I'm a straight A student! Yes, guys I'm quite a smarty pants.

19. What is your beauty secret?

Hahaha sibonga bazali!

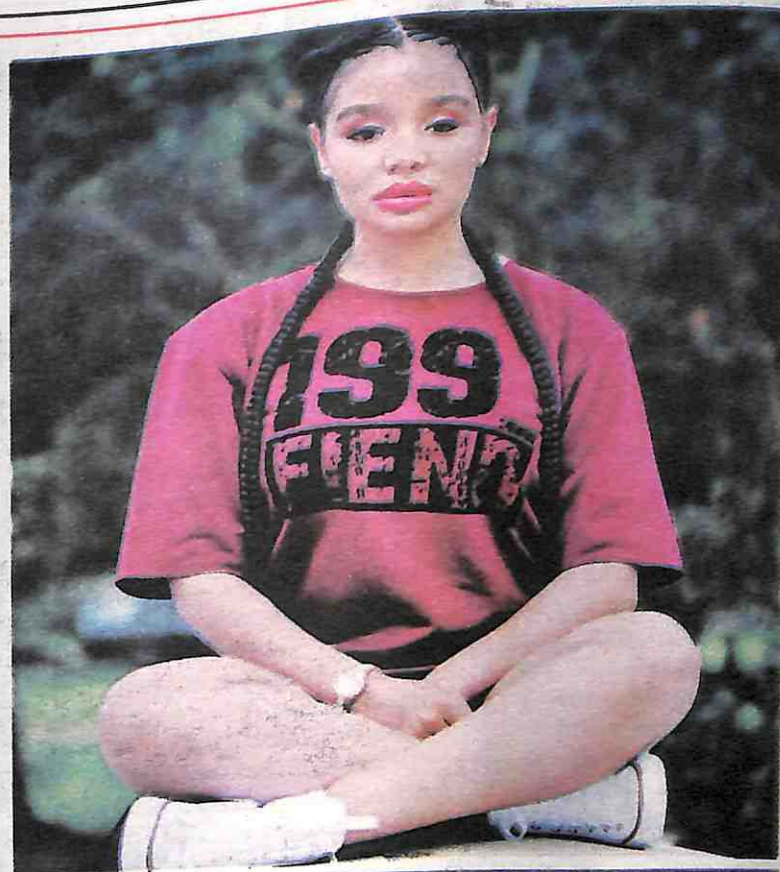
20. What is one thing you wish you knew when you were younger?

That being an adult isn't that much fun.

I remember wishing I was old enough to wear make-up and weaves and to make my own money, etc.

Ya now I realise it isn't a walk in the park.

You have to work! If I knew that when I was younger, I would have made sure I enjoyed my childhood thoroughly!



VELEMSENI MEETS PM

It never gets old it's always intimidating. This is what songbird Velemseni said after performing in the presence of the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini.

She was performing at a corporate event during the farewell function of former Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) Mike Matsebula held on Wednesday at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre, Ezulwini.

Velemseni's performance seemed to have captivated the audience. Despite that it coincided with the main course, some from the audience literally stopped eating and watched her performance and would occasionally clap their hands in appreciation.

After her performance the Prime Minister called her to appreciate her performance.

"It wasn't my first time performing in front of him. I have been to a few of the state events including His Majesty's birthday dinner. It never gets old, it's always intimidating," she said.

"But that's the kind of motivation

... "It never gets old, it's always intimidating"



that I eager for, the nerves actually make me perform better, I have realised. It was fun and intimidating, but it was a pleasure. I was honoured and I could feel that he was paying attention. He actually stopped eating and listened to my performance," she

further stated.

Nxumalo shared her CD's with the prime minister and Dr. Matsebula as souvenirs.

The event drew local and international stakeholders who came to officially usher Matsebula to retirement.



'BIG FISH' SETS UK STAGE ABLAZE

Gospel music lovers who witnessed the Ebenezer Gospel Concert headlined by Siphos 'Big Fish' Makhabane in Birmingham, United Kingdom, are not yet over the excitement and joy they experienced during the show.

Makhabane and his band performed for the first time in the United Kingdom styled Ebenezer concert, a name synonymous with his 2009 album title and also with one of the many shows he has organised in South Africa.

Facebook messages congratulating him and appreciating the show are still coming through a week after the show.

Other messages were sent to the organiser of the show Timothy Ngwenya, while others were directed to Makhabane's Facebook page.

Many are calling for his return stating the performance was a first of its kind from an African artist.

"Well done 'Big Fish', you nailed it and made a name for yourself in the United Kingdom. Out of all the shows I have attended, this was the best.

"We want you back soon baba"

"It was a great honour to have you Siphos Makhabane-Big Fish and the Team! Please come back again to shoot your old age video The Devil is a liar! We love you!"

"Safe journey 'Big Fish' Siphos and the team ...journey mercies to you all. Timothy well done for organising such a fabulous event ...our old man is still on fire!!"

These are some of the many congratulatory messages sent to Makhabane after this historic performance.

Makhabane says he is humbled by the support received from the people



Siphos Makhabane performing during the Ebenezer Gospel Concert in the UK recently. (Courtesy pics)

of United Kingdom in his debut performance in that land. He says this was a performance which he would never forget in his life.

"I am over the moon with the feedback I am receiving from the people who watched this show.

"I thank God for the travelling mercies to and from the UK and for the love I received from the people there. We gave a splendid show which the people will never forget," he says.

Makhabane added that what enhanced his performance was the fact he went there with his full band and also added two of his artists in saxophonist Denzel Erasmus and Joyous Celebration member, Phindile Phoky as part of the group and performed before a strong crowd of over 2000 people.

"This was my first show in Europe and I made it a point to leave a mark by giving an unforgettable perfor-

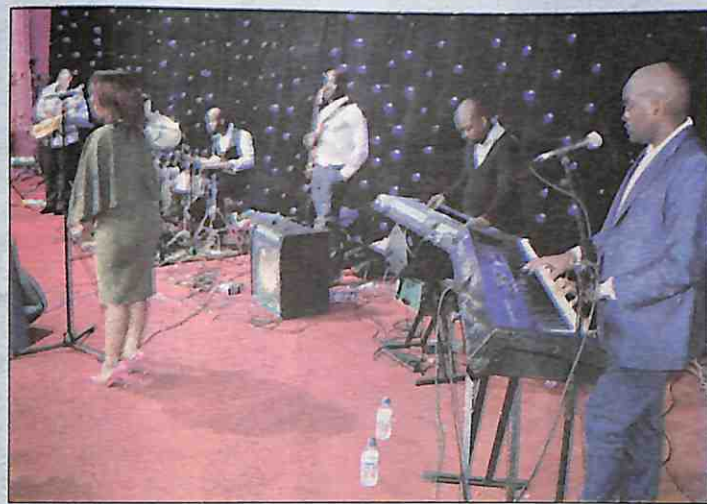
mance. I am sure that soon I will be going back to the UK as the people are calling for my return and the organisers have already told me they are planning another show in April next year.

"This is all God's work and I am grateful for the support and prayers from my fans both in Swaziland and South Africa many of whom sent me messages wishing me travelling mercies to UK," he added.

He says hoisting the country's flag in the UK was a sign of the love he has for the country that received him to the earth.

"This is where I was born and brought up and I love this country which is home to me. The story of my origin is an open book, I have never hidden the fact that I was born and grew up in Swaziland and will always be grateful to the great kingdom I call home," he said.

By Simon Shabangu



Makhabane's band in action on the day of the show.



Makhabane also visited Villa Park-Aston Villa FC's stadium.



Gospel music lovers dancing to Makhabane's music. Most of the fans present on the night were African nationals including Swazis and South Africans.



JUDITH SEPHUMA, HUBBY GO SEPERATE WAYS

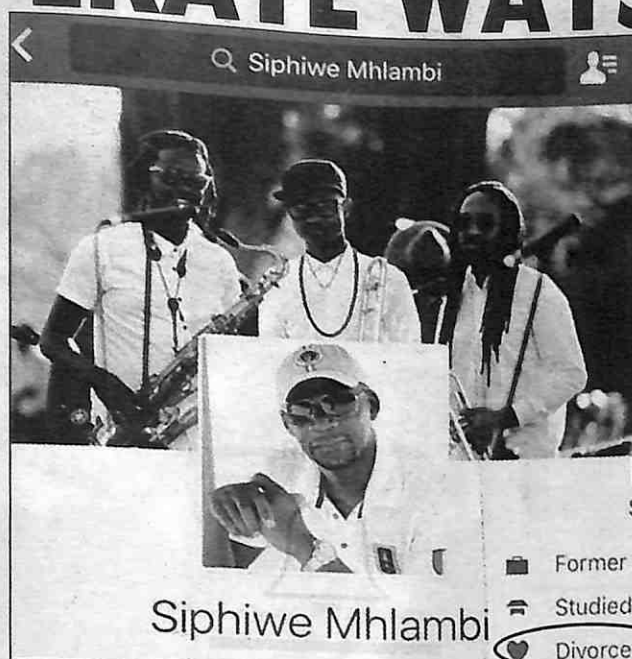
Mzansi musician Judith Sephuma and her husband Siphwe Mhlambi's marriage has ended.

According to DESTINY, Judith said, "I do not want to comment on this, but what I can tell [you] is I am divorced. And I am the one who decided on the divorce."

She also mentions she is doing well.

Siphwe refused to confirm the news, but he did changed his Facebook relationship status to "Divorced".

The couple have two children together.



Self Employed Photographer

Siphwe Mhlambi

Former Photographer at Media24

Studied at University of Life

Divorced

Future coming to Mzansi

Award-winning hip hop superstar, visionary mixtape supremo, MAMA 2016 nominee (Best International Act) and mesmerising live performer Future is set to perform at MTV Africa Music Awards Johannesburg 2016 at the Ticketpro Dome in Johannesburg, South Africa on October 22.

Following his performance at the MAMA award show, as a bonus for fans Future will stage an extra live performance, reprising fan favourites from throughout his recording career from "Turn on the Lights", to "Same Damn Time" and "Stick Talk".

Born Navyvadius Cash, in Atlanta, Georgia, Future is known for his signature melodic flow and authentic "street" sound.

The rapper first gained fame thanks to a series of classic mixtapes that gave light to his first single "Tony Montana", before notching up three number one album debuts on the Billboard 200 chart in just seven months thanks to DS2 (2015), "What a Time to be Alive" (his 2015 collaboration with Drake), and EVOL (2016).

An amazing 2016 has seen Future's star rise higher than ever before thanks to the release of his critically acclaimed mixtape "Purple Reign", swiftly followed by the launch of his fourth solo album EVOL. In March 2016, he completed his first, 22-date nationwide tour, then went on to win "Best Group" with Drake at the BET Awards 2016 for their collaboration "Jumpman", before scoring 10 nominations at the BET Hip Hop Awards 2016, and performing a riveting live rendition of "Commas" at the MTV VMAs in New York. He is currently nominated in the "Best Hip Hop" category at the 2016 MTV EMAs, which will take place on 6 November.

Commented Alex Okosi, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, Viacom International Media Networks (VIMN) Africa, "Future has an amazing fan following in Africa and we are delighted that he will make his African performance debut on the MAMA 2016 stage in Johannesburg on 22 October."



'I wanted to kill myself'

Controversial TV personality Nonhle Thema had her real talk with Anele where she poured out her heart about the difficulties she went through at the peak of her TV career.

On her interview, Nonhle talks about her depression and her reality show 'Nonhle goes to Hollywood' which she goes on to say it did very well. She explains that her biggest mistake was Twitter.

The former O-Access star reveals her biggest sadness came when her late boss who groomed her passed on and she went in to depression as he was the one who helped her be who she was.

Nonhle goes to explain how her hard depression even led her to want to commit suicide when a Twitter tirade was saying "RIP Nonhle".

She hysterically explains that her fans forgot she's a human being. "And I think when I went



through my state of trying to discover me, I needed to first also understand that I'm human. I'm not a success machine, who brings ratings, who sells products, because that's who I had become all my life. I didn't know I had feelings. I didn't know I was kind. I didn't know I could cry," she said.



'I didnt threaten Ntsiki Mazwai'

TV personality Bonang Matheba has come out on Twitter to set the record straight after poet Ntsiki Mazwai posted screen grabs of a threatening email that is allegedly sent by Bonang.

Ntsiki's post went viral and she started trending on Twitter. The email appears to have been sent from Bonang Matheba's account insulting Ntsiki and calling her "Nja" and telling her to focus on why her music isn't selling and try looking pretty. The poet went on

to reply to the email with her Twitter posts which on one she mentions that Bonang Matheba is "not pretty she just wears lots of make up". She also went on to poke fun at Bonang's level of education and that she has been by her side when everyone was calling her "Bonang Mafeba". The drama comes after Ntsiki has called Bonang out for dating "trashy" guys after a video of AKA fighting at iRock Music Festival in Limpopo this past weekend emerged online.

CELEBRITYNEWS BRIEFS



Amy Schumer most dangerous celebrity to search online

Searching for the name of a celebrity online may be a hazardous activity according to a new report.

Anti-virus experts have published a new list of musicians, TV and film stars whose names have been hijacked to attract internet users to sites that carry malware.

Actress and comedian Amy Schumer topped the annual list of the most dangerous celebrity names to search for online.

The comedian and actress Amy Schumer (pictured) is the most dangerous celebrity to search for online as hackers are using her name to lure unsuspecting fans to malicious sites that will install viruses or malware onto their computers to

steal passwords and personal information

Hackers use the fascination with celebrity news to entice unsuspecting fans to visit sites that can download viruses onto their computers and steal. The study by Intel Security found that Justin Bieber, Carson Daly - host of Today and The Voice in the US - actor Will Smith and singer Rihanna were also popular choices for cybercriminals.

In the UK, singer Ellie Goulding was the most dangerous celebrity to search for online, along with singer Rita Ora, producer Calvin Harris and Geordie Shore TV stars Charlotte Crosby and Holly Hagan.



Jennifer Aniston's necklace sends clear message amid Brangelina divorce

Jennifer Aniston is seemingly sending a message to the world amid the still-shocking news that her ex, Brad Pitt, is getting divorced from his wife of two years, Angelina Jolie.

The actress stepped out on Monday in New York's West Village in a simple black tank, boyfriend jeans and on-trend Gucci loafers.

The cute, but seemingly unremarkable, outfit had a major twist that got people talking, though: Her necklace. Aniston rocked an evil eye necklace along with the look, which is traditionally thought of to

ward off bad energy or curses. Though it's not clear whether or not the star believes in the symbol's power, there's no getting around the timing of her wearing such an accessory. After flying to New York City last weekend, Aniston was spotted out to dinner with husband Justin Theroux at The Smile in downtown Manhattan. Last week, sources told US Weekly that the actress had a mixed response to the news that Pitt and Jolie were getting divorced. Though she reportedly called it "karma," she also allegedly wants nothing but the best for her ex.

Halle Berry, Olivier Martinez divorce off for now

Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez raced to the courthouse last year, trying to beat each other to the punch in filing divorce papers, yet a year later they are poised to dismiss the case and stay married. We found a legal doc in which the clerk in divorce court sent a notice to both Halle and Olivier, saying they've been asleep at the wheel and done nothing to make the divorce final. The clerk issued an ultimatum ... either do something or the case will be dismissed.

We've spoken with multiple sources, on both Halle and Olivier's side, and they say the same thing. Neither is in a rush to make the divorce final, and they're fine with staying married. As for why ... we're told Halle isn't convinced she wants a divorce. We're told she still thinks Olivier might change, especially in the anger management department, and if he does she thinks the marriage could work.



RECAP OF SWAZI BOY ENTERTAINMENT'S SPRING BASH

Last Saturday we were reminded of the good old days.

The days when SwaziBoy owned the night.

During those days, every weekend was just like the last, it was always a weekend of great fun.

The next weekend would find us still recovering from the previous weekend fun.

There was no time to rest and we didn't want to rest. Last week Saturday was a reminder of those days and we are still hungover from that show.

It is good to see that SwaziBoy Entertainment still has what it takes to host a good party and last Saturday we witnessed just how relevant the stable still is and they can still host a good party. What we must applaud is their willingness to cooperate with the new guys in the game who are also making waves; MegaSound.

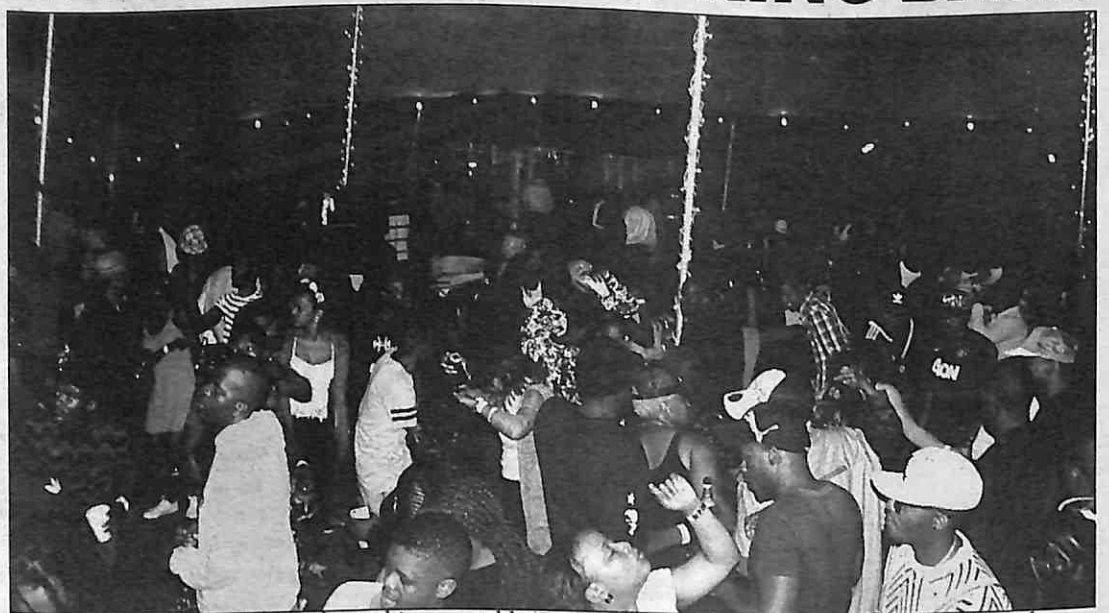
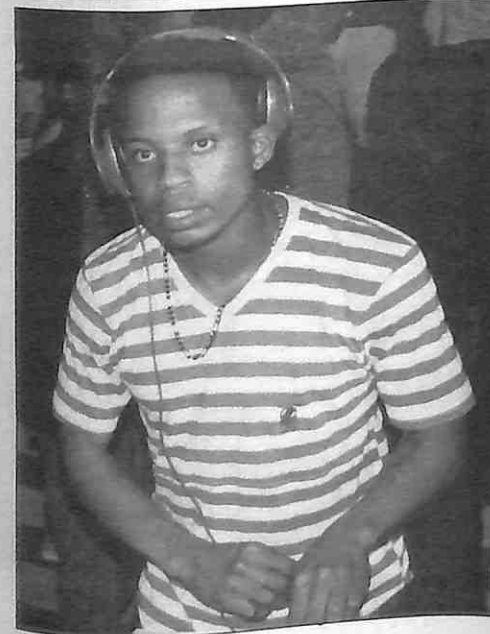
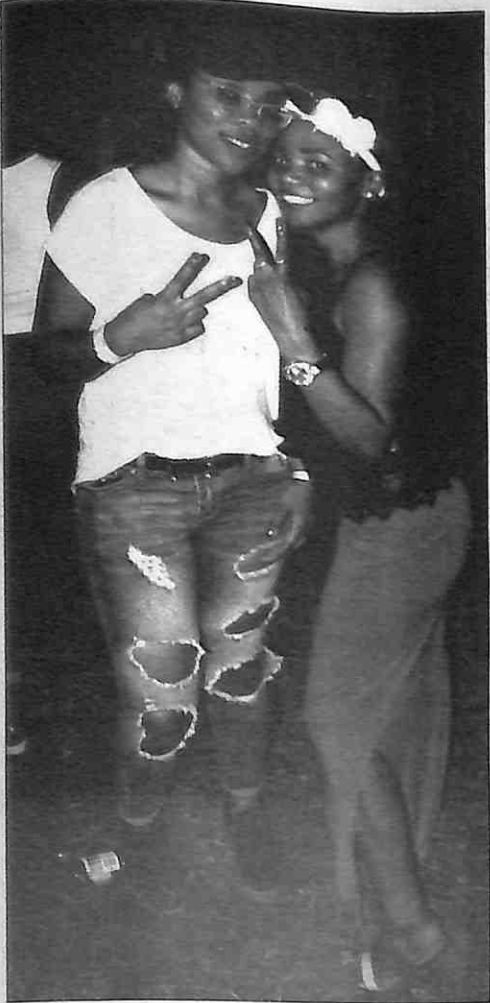
MegaSound for those who aren't aware are the young gentlemen who used to host killer shows at Solanis Shisanyama.

They had all of us craming the joint and this was powered by

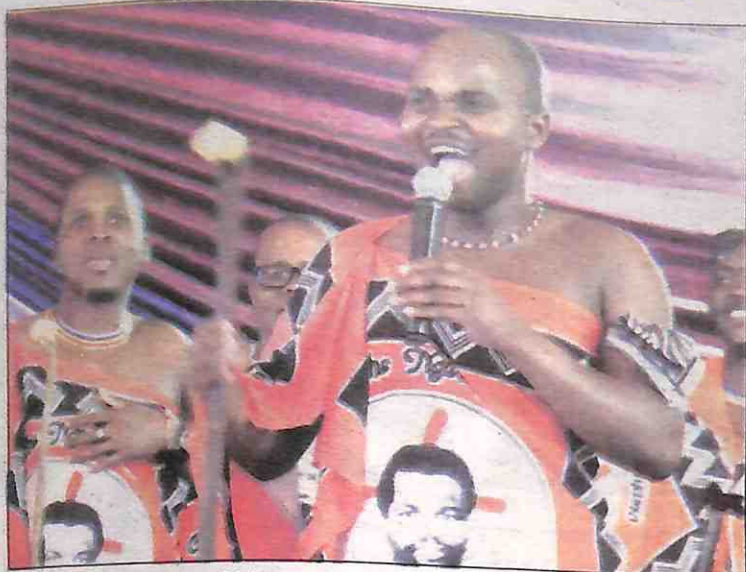
this new stable. Seeing the young and the old working together was great and we are looking forward to more shows of this nature.

Shows that will leave you exhausted all week but looking

forward to the next. From the Mciing down to the performances and the deejaying everyone was just 10/10...dankie Megasound and SwaziBoy Entertainment.



Behind the Scene



Umbutfo Gcobisa Ndwandwe leading a song during the traditional performance by the local crew.



Vikinduku Ndwandwe sharing the Benguni and Swazi history with the High Praise congregation.



Ndwandwe flanked by Mduduzi and Sibusiso from the Benguni household of Nkambeni.



Dube presenting the Swazi group with their trophy.



Bishop Benjamin Dube, the founder of High Praise Centre Church, who is also a well known gospel artist, with Swazis who visited his church during a culture day celebration recently. The local group outshined the cultural groups from around South Africa as they were competing with the different cultural performances. They won a trophy which was up for grabs. (Courtesy pics)

SWAZI CULTURE SHINES IN SA

Bishop Benjamin Dube of High Praise Centre Ministries in South Africa hosted Swazis under the Ndwandwe clan in Nkambeni area during the church's culture day held recently.

This was part of the Heritage Day activities which took place in different parts of South Africa.

The locals also went there to represent the Swazi culture. The church held a mini-competition where the different traditions competed in song

and dance and it was the Swazi culture that outshined the rest.

The Swazi delegation of about 15 members was invited by Skhumbuzo Nxumalo, who is a member of Dube's church.

He is also originally from Nkambeni. Bishop Dube was also dressed up in a Swazi shirt and also joined the locals on stage during their performance, which he seemed to enjoy.

He also presented the Swazi delega-

tion led by Umbutfo Gcobisa with gifts.

Umbutfo Gcobisa also shared, with the gathering, the Swazi history together with Umbutfo Vikinduku.

The locals competed with Xhosa, Zulu, Tsonga, Shangan, Pedi, Basotho, Batswana and the Ndebele, among other tribes, present. It was a colourful ceremony as all the tribes present were dressed up in their traditional regalias and showcased their cultures in song and dance.



Emajaha were all dressed up in matching Swazi outfit as they prepared for the performance.



It was celebrations all the way for the Swazis through song and dance.

SUNDAYCOMMENT:

Dr Mike Matsebula set the example

When Dr Mike Matsebula retired from the Swaziland Sugar Association there was no shortage of speculation as to why he was leaving, especially so hurriedly.

The former chief executive officer surprised all when he announced he would be retiring from his job.

The reaction from the public was hardly surprising. In fact, most government officials are refusing to take the bold decisions to retire once they reach the mandatory age of 60 years. Instead, many of them canvas for renewed contracts. This on its own deserves special attention, some other day.

However, Dr Mike has bucked the trend, choosing to retire even though it would be the easiest decision to extend his contract and stay on in his position.

At a ceremony to celebrate his contribution to the organisation, it was hard to disguise the brilliance of a man, if not the calibre of his leadership that transformed the Swaziland Sugar Association.

The Prime Minister, who was guest speaker at the ceremony, paid tribute to Dr Matsebula's contribution to the sugar industry, and in turn, the nation, during his 19 years at the SSA.

The PM called Matsebula a visionary and a great leader, pointing to his immense role in developing the crop, sugarcane which for decades has been the mainstay of the Swazi economy.

You could be forgiven for thinking how such a man, whose stature so huge, is allowed to take 'umhlala phasi' in the industry.

The truth is it was more Dr Matsebula's call than anyone else's. It was more his decision to say he had achieved what he had and then developed other interests to make a meaningful contribution to society. He announced on Wednesday night that he would not be pursuing a fresh challenge in producing his own notes, using sugar as a case study. "I plan to refine these notes through interaction with senior university students so that I can also contribute to the pool of knowledge for use by future generations.

For us, this speaks to the integrity of the man, that even when he would have been expected to stay on; and based on the accolades received on Wednesday night he was a loved CEO, he found an area that he felt would offer him a fresh challenge.

This is profound. When this country is struggling so much to reinvent and reinvigorate itself, to find an individual who wants to try something else, is quite something.

Dr Mike has demonstrated to us all that it is possible to seek new challenges, and to allow others to carry on your own legacy.

This country would benefit a lot from encouraging those who have accumulated so much experience and wealth working in the civil service, to expand their horizons, to give us something totally different.

Good luck to you Professor, and may this be the start of something new for all others to emulate.



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

This may read as an exaggeration, if not an over exaggeration. It should not.

The headline is meant to put into context the significant contribution of a man who died quietly last week Monday after battling with TB. It is not a stretch. It is what it is, although many of the people in the country's newsrooms may not know this, let alone agree with it—which perhaps would be a perfect indictment of the state of our profession more than it is an undeserved compliment.

I will argue strongly that Donny Nxumalo toiled for this profession that he loved so much. He toiled selflessly. He toiled with passion, because he was in the space where this was what he wanted—what meant more to him. The irony is that by the time of his death, he was gone and forgotten and had not enjoyed the fruits of his toil.

Donny, who was laid in his resting place this morning, should have received a hero's send-off because ultimately, death catches up with all of us.

Yet, his demise, and indeed burial tell the painful story of journalists and the profession—especially those who dedicate an entire lifetime to work selflessly for the society and the downtrodden.

Having worked for three media houses, Donny dedicated his life to fighting the course; to telling the story that no one else would tell, and being a very good journalist.

His last few days however, were spent moving from one end to another trying to make ends meet. There were weeks and months of pain and dejection, although such was his pride he would not openly show it.

Those closest to him tell of how much, even when it was clear he was no longer in the condition to practice, he never gave up the idea of him returning to the field—of him having his name in print on a byline.

Attitude

It is this kind of attitude that set him apart, and that shaped his career. It is also what was exceptional about him. He never gave up, whether he was pursuing a story or chasing a lost course. He worked day and night. He wrote and rewrote until the sentences flowed perfectly.

He looked for information, and knew how to piece it together. This was his craft and for the past couple of years he was not been able to do this, I am confident it ate at him more than his sickness.

I say this because Donny was happiest behind a computer. He was happiest being published. Sometimes I think this would have been a good dose for him, being allowed back into the newsroom.

Analysis & opinion

DONNY GAVE HIS ALL FOR US



Family and close friends paid their last respects to the late Donny Nxumalo at a memorial service held yesterday.

● It is this kind of attitude that set him apart, and that shaped his career. It is also what was exceptional about him. He never gave up, whether he was pursuing a story or chasing a lost course. He worked day and night. He wrote and rewrote until the sentences flowed perfectly.

I say this aware that he tried many times to find a way back into the profession, but things wouldn't happen for him.

I recall him telling me how frustrated he was that a certain media house had promised to take him, but it seemed they had had a change of heart. So he was confused why they would 'string him along' and in his usual jocular self, he found some words to describe the situation.

It is inescapable that Swazi journalism benefitted from Donny more than he benefitted from it.

Career

The standard that was set in the twilight years of his career, alongside some luminaries in the profession back then, makes it hard to ignore that he was part of an exceptional group of journalists whose work set the benchmark and opened doors for some of us to launch our careers.

I am one of those who had the privilege of learning not just through tutelage from Donny, but through his very presence in the newsroom, as well as watching him develop as a professional.

A lot of us who joined the newsroom in the early 90s benefitting from learning from the crop of journalists who set the bar for years by witnessing their competitiveness and passion for the profession.

Much of what I know today as the culture of the industry is what

I learned back in those years. Much of it was passed on indirectly, or through the scolding that was part and parcel of the newsroom life.

Now, back to my headline. Donny joined the profession soon after completing high school at St Mark's. He was to spend his life there, and although without a degree, his pedigree was second to none. He was the ace journalist of his time, and it was inevitable he would move up to the high office.

In fact, I am reminded that most of the crop of journalists back in that period who had joined the media industry did so out of the love for what they were doing.

Exceptional

Many of them were exceptional at what they did, the result of which was the development of the industry.

This is what eventually led to some of us wanting to also join the newsroom because it was normal that if you really had the passion for the job you would do okay.

The generation of Donny and many of his colleagues back then, laid the foundation for us to follow.

They made it easier for us and this was not just in their writing but it was also in the way that they gave the profession the credibility and respect that grew the

industry. It is in examining each and every one of those at the time that you will appreciate how much we owe it to these individuals that the media continues to develop. It is also in analysing their work that you can appreciate the selflessness of the likes of Donny Nxumalo who chose to stay in the newsrooms for hours on end, because that is what they forever wanted to do.

Naturally, Donny's death means we have lost a gallant but gentle soldier who fought for the revolution of journalism. Journalism, if not the media itself, has lost an irreplaceable talent whose wealth of knowledge will never be replaced.

Tribute

It would not be a fitting tribute if I did not mention Donny's humour and sarcasm, which set him apart from the rest. He never said much, but in his way, he was funnier than Chris Rock.

But, whether he was cracking a joke, or hurling expletives, there is no disputing the fact that journalism owes a lot to Donny Nxumalo. But now that he has left so soon, perhaps the rest of us can show it to the children he leaves behind, who were unable to enjoy the presence of their father. I get the sense it would mean much more to him than any accolade we would throw his way, even if this was to suggest that he gave his all for us.

A JOURNEY TOWARDS THE 2016 NATIONAL EXPO:

EVALUATING IMPACT OF
JA COMPANY PROGRAMMENOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE

JA BOARD CHAIR

One of the major misconceptions about the Junior Achievement Programme is that we operate only in urban schools yet the real fact of the matter is that 64 percent of the schools that we operate in are based in the rural areas of Swaziland. We also strive to strike a balance between all four regions of our country. Another very interesting fact is that it doesn't matter the location of the school, creativity and innovation is just a culture that drives the 21st century generation of young people.

Schools in rural areas display the same level of creative thinking as some of the urban schools. Some learners in the rural schools are as eloquent as those in the urban areas living an identical image of all the schools. Today my journey took me to the Central district which is in Manzini as well as the Hhohho region which will feature both urban and rural schools presenting the different products they make. The focus is on Mbekelweni High School, Phumelele High School as well as Sithembisosebunye High school. It is an exciting analysis.

MBEKELWENI HIGH
SCHOOL

Mbekelweni is a rural school found on the outskirts of Manzini. This school has established a mini company trading by the company name, Vision Enablers. This group of young people produce decorative candles suitable for festive holidays and those special candle light dinners. These young people were inspired by the decorations they noticed on television displayed during events and wanted to be a local company that can produce such in Swaziland.

Mbekelweni High School resumed implementation of the JA Company Programme last year 2015 after a long absence having implemented the programmes in previous years. According to Mduduzi Tsela who teaches commercial subjects in the school and also facilitates the program, there is a lot of positive transformation that the learners undergo through this programme.

"James Bhebhe who was the company's General Manager last year is in the branding business and offers these services to the school and the local community.

At some point the school wanted to brand t-shirts as an addition for the school and together with others he was able to apply for the tender and he was selected to get this business. It became so inspirational to note such transformation from this



Mbekelweni High School.



Phumelele High School.



Sithembisosebunye High School.

young man," he said.

Tsela revealed that what this programme has done for him is that it has provided the needed practical exposure to the pupils who are involved in the commercial stream.

Concepts

"As I outline these concepts in class, we get to practise these principles through the programme and this creates a better understanding of what we are actually teaching the learners. When it is exam time, the learners tend to do exceptionally well in this subjects based on a better understanding of the subject provided by their engagement in the JA Company Programme," he said. Tsela wishes to see the programme time extended from the 15 weeks to a longer time which will allow learners to have more time to produce more well thought of products and also get enough

exposure on the programme.

Qondile Ginindza who is the current General Manager in the mini company explained that they have learnt a lot from this programme. "We have had a chance to grasp what it means to establish a business from scratch. I will not deceive you; it was not an easy experience. Personalities tend to clash a lot as we tried to brainstorm different business ideas and finally conceptualising one business idea that we agreed on. We had to learn to trust each other as a team and get the understanding that every member of the team is very important and has a role to play in order for successful results to be reached," she said.

Ginindza revealed that as a group of vibrant young people, they wish to join the nation in its quest to end unemployment through

becoming entrepreneurs and create job opportunities for other young people in Swaziland.

PHUMELELE HIGH
SCHOOL

Phumelele High School is located in a much more urbanised area around Matsapha. It is one school you would not expect such a product from. The young people decided to produce woven, baskets, flower pots, fruit baskets and also woven resting chairs. They produce the kind of products that are usually associated with the older generation yet these young people have dedicated themselves to master the art of weaving at a very early age of their life which I find to be very impressive. They call themselves Kuhlanteka Kwemvelo Investment.

Idea

Nhlanhla Dlamini who teaches Commercial subject at Phumelele and also facilitates the programme explains that once young people have tasted the rewards of working hard for their money they tend to want to keep that business idea. "The young people who are now in Form Five who decided to produce cleaning supplies such as floor polish and liquid soap are still in business because they enjoy the independence that making their own money comes with," he said.

Dlamini revealed that he wishes such a programme could be extended to the country's Tikhudla system so that it can benefit a larger population of young people in the country capacitating them with the entrepreneurial skill.

"I also wish to see the Form Five group engaged more in such a program because those are the relevant people who are about to enter into the real world hence need such skills to build their future on," he said.

Through the voice of Simphiwe Moyo the general manager, the students were able to share their experiences in the programme.

"We learnt that in business one should lower their expectations as the chances of failure are a reality. We had a brilliant product however we had a challenge building the market for it. We have learnt that it is important to first make linkages with the client base before taking a product to the market to avoid chances of miss calculations. We still believe we have what it takes to break into the market as we have learnt our lesson through this process and we definitely envision ourselves coming out a lot stronger and better the next time which is why we intend to keep working in this business," he concluded.

SITSEMBISOSEBUNYE
HIGH SCHOOL

Located in the country's capital

city, Sithembisosebunye High school is a private school that offers a modernised approach to the education of Swazi children. The students decided to name their company Green Elite which recycles plastic bottles and produce candle holders and side lamps though the use of creative thinking.

Happiness Dlamini who is the patron teacher for the programme in the school, directly involved in ensuring the smooth running of the program explains that she has observed firsthand the transformation that the young people enrolled in this program get to undergo. "The learners become intensely focused on grasping the concept of running a business mostly with the intention of implementing what they have learnt in future as they strive to become successful entrepreneurs. My motivation as a teacher who is involved in this program comes from the fact that as a business studies teacher my mandate is to create as much future entrepreneurs as possible. I have also noticed that the fact that this program develops into a real competition provides an insight on the reality of competition in the real world of business," she said.

The mini company's General Manager, Nonhle Magongo explained that as a team they have learnt quite a number of valuable lessons from this programme.

"First and foremost, our business idea itself taught us the value of recycling. Another man's waste can be another man's treasure. We also got to experience how hard it is to start a business to the extent that we got to respect the people who were resilient enough to keep going in business until they established multimillion enterprises. As a leader I got exposed to the idea of delegating tasks to the team and respecting each team member as they become instrumental in the collective success of the team," she said.

Element

The school Principal Mangaliso Dlamini explained the value that this programme has in the lives of young people in two key points. "The first element is that it introduces a new skill which encompasses the basics of how one can go about establishing a business. The second aspect is that while most young people lack an activity that they can do while in school, JA comes in and provide a challenging yet fulfilling task that these young people can place their brains on. This therefore limits the time in which young people can engage in ill activities but find themselves engage in a value adding activity. It certainly enriches the school curriculum and provides a holistic approach in the education of a child," he concluded.

The journey continues even next week as we learn more from other schools what they found to be an added value in their lives through this programme. It is becoming clearer that there is need to extend the time frames attached to the implementation of our programmes to create more value addition for our target group.



ACCESS TO FOOD FOR ALL CITIZENS - GOVT'S RESPONSIBILITY

... If ever we dreaming of ensuring that there be some progress made towards ensuring food security issues, we should seriously be coming up with incentives to those that are trying their level best to enhance sustainable agriculture

The prices of maize meal which happens to be Swaziland's staple food have skyrocketed so high you just wonder how the ordinary people will ever survive until their next harvest, which will only be in June next year.

Several announcements from Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati, have been made that farmers must now start cultivating their fields especially those in the Highveld. We certainly pray that the rains will be average as predicted so that we start ploughing.

I hope the meteorological department is disseminating information to all concerned about the prospect of the rains this coming season.

We should be advised accordingly when can we start cultivating the soil, lest we spend a fortune only to lose the hard earned monies when the droughts hits us gain.

Let me make a rather provocative statement in today's feature by stating loud and clear that it is government's duty to ensure food security for her populace. Access to food is a human rights issue and government has an obligation to feed its people.

For government to always wait for hand-outs from donor agencies to feed the nation, it just does not sit well with me.

It is time we revisit the Sugar Cane growing business and while it brings foreign exchange, certainly a national policy to grow maize at a large scale in ensuring food security for the majority of the people must be given due attention.

To be held captive of meeting the sugar quota to Western world at the expense of suffering masses because they cannot access food is a great shame for us. It's all about food security dear reader and that is the crux of the matter.

SUBSIDISED FARM INPUTS

When you consider the state the majority of the people are in currently, and the undeniable reality that they will not have cash to buy farm inputs this season. The great concern each farmer grapples with currently, is whether it will be prudent to take the little money people have in their they have and spend it on getting farm inputs.

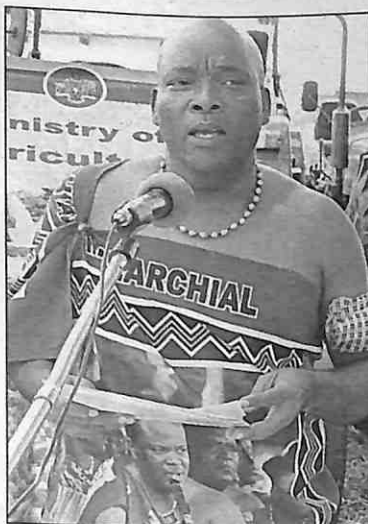
Such fears are made worse by the continued deep fear of having been hard hit by the drought this past year. Government should make a top priority to have a national policy in place for consideration that substance farmers be given support of subsidised farm inputs. Of course this will sound like asking a lot from government whose hands are already very tight, but when you visit the stores that are sells farm inputs, I must admit it depressing and one wonders how people will afford to purchase farm inputs.

If ever we dreaming of ensuring that there be some progress made towards ensuring food security issues, we should seriously be coming up with incentives to those that are trying their level best to enhance sustainable agriculture. Malawi remains a classic example in SADC in supporting her people with subsidised farm inputs.

A couple of years ago, Malawi had a bumper harvest, when they successfully produced enough maize. We cannot sustain living on hand-outs forever for the majority of our people.

SWAZILAND MAIZE CORPORATION

There are wide claims that farmers are being forced to sell their maize produce at a very lower price in Swaziland. Farmers have crying foul because the price



Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati.

offered cannot even meet the expenses incurred when going through the entire process of producing the grain.

Of great concern is that the Maize Cooperation Board prefers buying in bulk from RSA and neighbouring states instead.

As matters stand, the related expenses farmers incur in producing maize cannot be met or even getting any profits margins. Probably there is need for the Maize Corporation Board to engage farmers in this regard, so that there can be a better price offered to such committed people whose efforts are aimed at ensuring food sustainability.

If we fail to protect the local farmers from this exploitation, then the country is not promoting farming at the grassroots.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

There must be alternative ways found to encourage sustainable agriculture for income generating purposes as part of turning around the agriculture produce.

As to why some Swazis are fond of keeping cattle and other domes-

tic animals for a long period of time even if they have gone past their reproduction age is indeed a dilemma.

Cattle and other animal rearing needs to be revolutionised with innovative ways to make it profitable, so that it becomes more viable in producing income for the general Swazi populace. We are perhaps quick to judge our people on how to consider rearing animals for commercial purposes than merely prestige purposes. It is high time that people are exposed to better ways of this farming methodology and how this could be exploited to become enviable and sustainable.

OTHER ALTERNATIVE CROPS

Following the climate change and unpredictable weather patterns, Ministry of agriculture should tirelessly work on empowering the farmers to change their long held belief that only maize must be grown in their lands. I am sure beans and other legumes should be considered as an alternative.

Better still, these should be grown with the view of reselling such produce for income generating purpose. It should not be difficult for the Ministry of Agriculture to advise farmers about present markets so that other crops rather than the staple maize are considered. I guess there is need to orient the Swazis on other possible crops that could then be sold to buy maize. I still believe that it will take long time to change the mind-set of an ordinary Swazi not to grow maize for domestic needs.

REVISIT THE LAND AND GOVERNMENT FARMS UTILISATION

I am still of the view that a lot of

land lies uncultivated in Swaziland.

Some of this land is in farms owned by the government. Whatever happened to consideration of leasing out these idle farms to potential farmers who could turn them around to sustainable agriculture instead?

I think if our people could be empowered and subsidised to consider commercial agriculture as an alternative for employing our people, maybe we could generate more interest to people to do farming.

When you consider the so many agriculture graduates coming out of UNISWA-Luyengo, but rarely are these are strategically utilised with strategic interventions aimed at ensuring food security in Swaziland.

There is an urgent need to revisit the training of these young people. Ideally graduates who go through this training discipline must be supported to become professional farmers to enhance food security issues.

Will it be too much asking that each graduate who enters such graduate programme be exposed to agri-business skills and given start-up capital to any their area of interest and specialisation?

Efforts should be more aggressive in changing the mind-set for one to study agriculture and end up being merely an employee instead of cultivating a bigger concept of how these graduates can become employers by enhancing sustainable agri-businesses.

It all boils down to how people can assess food that remains more urgent than that ever before.

A nation that cannot feed its people cannot claim to be independent from exploitation syndrome, and then we keep on blaming that we do not have skills.

HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?



Last week the kwaito world was thrown into an emotional tailspin following the passing of kwaito legend Mduduzi "Mandoza" Tshabalala. Even those that aren't really kwaito fans felt a tug on their heartstrings because he needed no introduction.

It is not likely that there are many people that would ask, "Who on earth was Mandoza?" At some point, a good number would have bopped to his hits Nkalakatha, Tornado or Tsotsi Yase Zola or another without

necessarily being big fans of his. No doubt, Mandoza will be immortalised by his music. Decades, maybe even centuries from now, people will still be able to listen to his music and watch his videos.

People will also get a feel of the kind of person he was when they see his tombstone. It stands tall, like his reputation that ran far and wide, and there is his bronze statue, clad in his trademark sunglasses and a fashionable jacket, in the middle. There are also music notes inscribed on the tombstone, and many, many years from now, anyone who passes by will know there lies a man who had something to do with music and was a fashion icon of sorts liked his sunglasses.

Gone are the days when people would just go for a lackluster rectangular headstone with plain messages,

nothing eye-catching. People are going bold! Celebrating a life taken from their midst and telling a story through the tombstone. It's almost like birthday cakes that are made these days. People want to get their loved ones the very best.

Children get cakes molded into their favourite Disney World characters, adults get in their favourite English Premier League teams or one that defines who they are - a sewing machine if they are a tailor, agricultural implements if they are a farmer, or animals if they are animal lovers.

Ever ahead of the pack with modern trends, Dups would also like you to have your life celebrated in spectacular fashion when you eventually answer your call. The Tribute Cover Plan pays out cash to the nominated beneficiary to enable them put up a memorial in the form of a tombstone

or statue for the policy holder and his/her spouse upon their death. This benefit can be accessed from three months after the death of the policy holder or his/her spouse.

What are you known for, what are you good at? Wouldn't you want to be remembered for that in the form of your tombstone? As the breadwinner of your family, you probably spent your whole life ensuring your family was taken care of - sending children to school, providing food and all basic necessities, and much more. When you're gone, they will want what is best for you, a decent tombstone that celebrates the impact you had on their lives. They might, however, not have the money for that. Dups gives you the chance to take care of that last celebration of your life at very minimal cost.

You might not be a celebrity, but you too can get a head-turning tombstone. Premiums for the Tribute Cover start from E45 for a payout of

up to E50 000. Dups funeral home provides exclusive tombstones and professionally mounts them anywhere in the country.

We have flexible premiums payment terms, which are annual, bi-annual, quarterly or monthly.

There is a 12 months waiting period for the Tribute Cover Plan. This means the product will not cover death that is due to natural causes if it occurs within the first 12 months from inception. Death that is due to an accident is covered immediately after payment of the first premium.

Should you need any of the services provided by Dups Properties or any of the Dups subsidiary companies, please call us on 2505 2028. You can also pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Pigg's Peak and Siteki. Alternatively, you can send queries to info@dups-group.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance.



**LETHUMUSA
SIMELANE**

CELL: 7606 7049/ TEL: 2416 1278/9

KWELUSA

Times have changed boys used to spend most time looking after cattle, goats, sheep and calves. The life of a boy used to revolve around this.

They would learn many things including survival skills. Fighting was common and older boys used to take pride in setting their young fellows to fight. All men who have passed through this stage can tell how they used to hate it. *Kwelusa* is a brood term because it co notate many things. *Kukhona labeluse likhaya, libandla, ummango*, live etc. let us sit down and analyze *kwelusa* according to Swazi perspective.

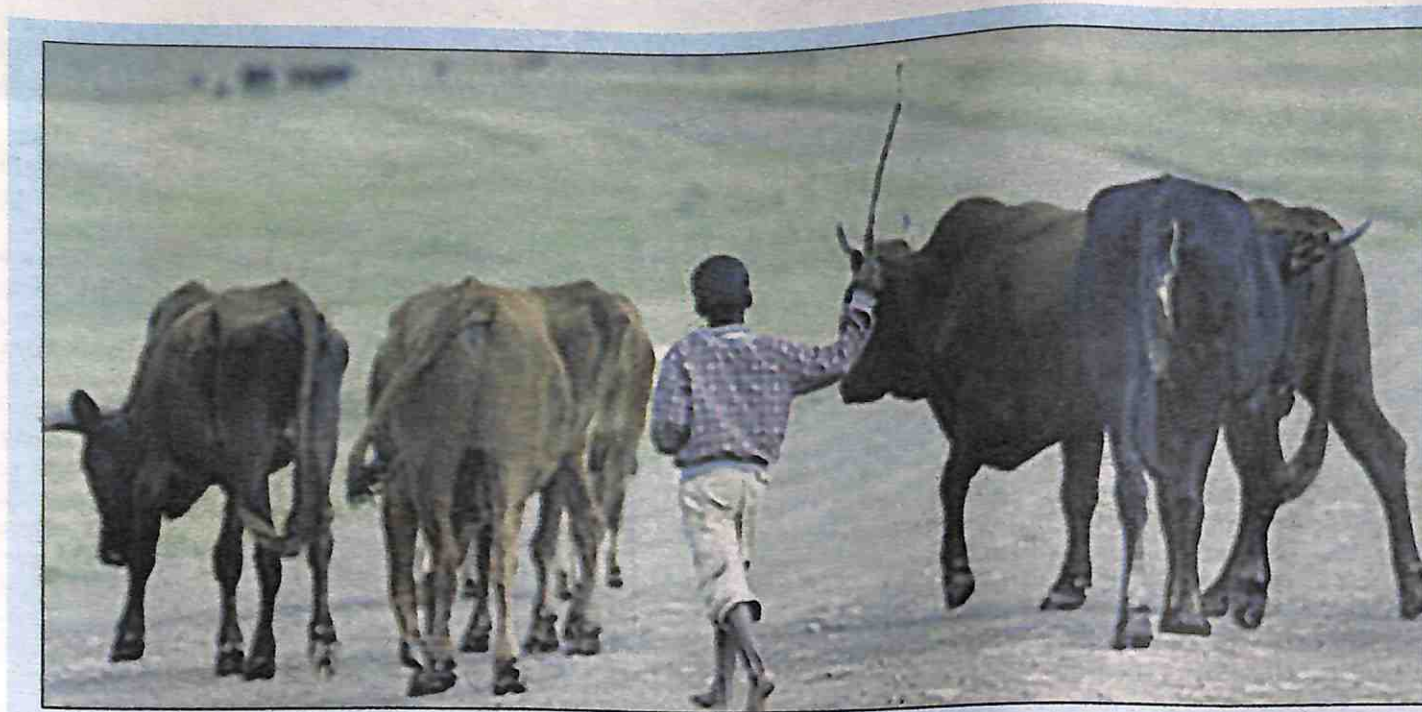
Times have changed, gone are the days when boys used to look after their father's cattle. Today *kwelusa* is not seen as an important institution for boys but as abuse of children's rights. *Lafa elihle kakhulu, lokubuhlungu libulawa maSwati. Itolo umntfwana wemfana bekakhulela esangweni. Banakabo labadzala bekuba ngibo labebabuka kukhula kwakhe. Imfuyo ekhaya yehlukeni. Umfana bekacala ngekwelusa timbuti* from when he is six until nine years. Most often than not, goats are driven to the mountains not so early in the morning and in the afternoon they usually come near the homestead.

Young boys are tasked with looking after them so that they will not trespass into other people's fields. Goats are known for being fast when they move and can be problematic if not carefully headed.

Here a boy is gradually exposed to the world of *kwelusa*. He is not doing it full time but this serves as good starting point to orient him. Between age 10 and 12 years, boys look after calves at home. Calves are known for their aggressive behaviour especially when they hear the sound of their mother's. They can outpace a boy if he is not a tactful and skillful shepherd.

The training of boy transcend from looking after goats then becomes handy as he looks after calves. This is the stage whereby a boy also learns to hold *umcenge* when kusengwa. This requires high level of thinking as some cow's kicks or jump during milking. The calf also becomes a problem as it turns to complete with the boy who is holding the *umcenge*.

Between the ages of 13 upwards, he now looks after cattle. This is when he starts to learn a bigger responsibility. Interestingly this is the time whereby a boy matures and start to see changes in his body. Most boys at this stage if when unguided, they start misbehaving and being rebellious. It is for that reason they are given a huge responsibility so that they can learn to control their



anger and thoughts. During this stage a boy does not want to be controlled.

He want to spend most of his time with his friends and it is during this stage whereby if he is not properly guided, he is most likely to go astray. He is then tasked with looking after his father's cattle. His elder brothers also spend time with him in the veld. It is during this stage where he learns to fight using sticks and fists. The emotional stage he is going through is now brought under control by setting him up with other boys so that they fight each other using sticks and sometimes fists.

Firstly he would cry as he is beaten by other boys of his age and soon he will learn that real men do not cry as his tears are no where nearer. He then starts fighting back and soon learn how to defend himself and how to fight his rival.

He learns to do this until he grows up and graduate to be among elder boys who are no longer set up to fight with others. *Kwelusa* teaches a boy respect as he is bound to respect his elder brothers. He guards his father's cattle carefully respecting people's fields by ensuring that the livestock does not trespass into other people's property. It is through *kwelusa* that a boy learns the importance of cattle. Among them there is cattle which came as *umdzalaso wabodzadzewakhe, tinsulamnyembeti tenina, emabheka, kanye netinhlawulo*. There is also among these cattle a cow that is dedicated to *emadloti*. This is a cow that must not be beaten, *ayisengwa, ayiboshelwa*. If *bafuna kuyisenga kufanele umnumzane*

welikhaya ayicele kucala kubanikati bayo.

Kwelusa that orients a boy to the lifestyle of males within the homestead. *Bafana bahlala esangweni bese balala elawini.* Through *kwelusa* a boy learns that he has to mature not only physical but emotional as well as spiritual. It is for that reason *lomunye umfana bekahlala elawini nalabanye bafana ate abemdzala solo uyise angakamakheli lilawu lakhe.* During these times *kuphuma lilawu nawungumfana bekweniwa ngubabe wakho ngobe sekabonile kutsi umfana wakhe sewukhulile both physically as well as emotionally.*

Kwelusa is a good training ground to tame the mind of a boy so that he becomes a responsible man tomorrow. He learns whilst looking after cattle how to fight his emotions, how to battle tears as other boys laughs at him when he is seen crying. *Kwelusa* orients him to harsh environment as in the veld he meet predators like snakes, crocodiles, *ingungumbane, timfene*, etc. he also learns to hunt as at times whilst looking after cattle *logwaja, impunzi, imbolwane* etc. he will hunt these animals sometimes with the help of his dogs. It is from here that he also learns the importance of *kwetfula* as he cannot devour the meat in the wilderness; instead he takes it and submits the game to his father.

Kwelusa lokwenta umfana afundze kuhlunza inkhomo netitfo letimcokwa enkhomeni. His elder brother teaches him that *impundvu lekuyinyama leyincenye yesi-bindzi letsambile. Ayidliwa bantfwana nawuyidli ubasihundzakhundza ukhohlwa lite. Lenyama idliwa bantfu labadzala*

kuphela. Ufundza kutsi emalulu lekunge-matfumbu lamancane lanetigadlana leti-samadlala. Lenyama lena ayidliwa bantfwana ngobe nabayidla bayalulutela besabe nababhekene nebulukhuni. Uphindze afundze kutsi bomphondvweni. Lena yinyama lekhishwa enhloko yenkhomo ngasetimpondvweni. Batsi labadzala umfana lodla bomphondvweni umila timvu asemncane. Umfana uphindze afundze ngetitfo letiphatselene nemisimeto letsite. Uyabona nakuhlindvwa inkhomo banakabo bayamchazela kutsi imcokwa ngani inyongo yenkhomo. Lamanti enyongo amcokwa ngobe ayaset-jentiswa kujojotela makoti. Ayakhishwa bese lesikhwama siyaguculelwa kute makoti ayigabe esandleni. Ungagidza umtsimba uphindze uhlatjiswe inyongo yalenkhomo nayo makoti uyayigaba kulesi lesinye sandla atigabe totimbili kube ngulena yakubo nale-na yekhakhakhe. Letinyongo makoti utigaba tite tome bese ubuyela kubo, kube ngibo labamkhokha tona ngemsimeto lokutsiwa ngumshisanyongo. Letinyongo tihlonywa etulu etjanini endlini yakabo. Inyongo yenhlabisabayeni igatjwa ngumntfwana wakabomakoti lomncane. Lelisingiso leku-gabisa lomntfwana kutsi nguyena ayinhlanti yalodzadzewabo. Nangabe ingakagatjwa ngulomntfwana ivele igatjwe nguyey makoti, lokusho kutsi ute inhlanti.

Uyafundza kutsi kunenyama lekutsiwa ngu galu. Lekusitfo lesisetjentiswa naku-lotjolwa. Galu sitfo senkomo yelugege lekud-laliswa ngaso agcine asahlutfulwe bantfwana labancane labasengakakhuhlu, bay-omudla. Lelitsambo litsatselwe enyameni

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National Maize Corporation vying for ISO certification

The National Maize Corporation (NMC), under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Sabelo S. Msibi is going for the ISO: 22000: 2005 during the financial year of 2015/16. The NMC highly believes that such quality management systems will ensure that the organisation provides continued customer satisfaction, which is the ultimate goal. The organisation is also looking to improve the levels of quality for

the entire organisation – every process and every product. NMC leadership believes that such quality management systems assure the client that what is being produced will meet customer expectations, as well as meet implied expectations. NMC strongly believes that implementing an ISO 9001 Quality Management System can empower employees and provide them with expectations and tools to do their work as seamlessly as possible as

well prompt actionable feedback on their performance, resulting in an improved organisational culture and a generally more professional staff. This journey involves developing a Food Safety Management System (FSMS) plan, implementing it and getting certified on Food Safety Management Systems on ISO 22000: 2005 during this financial year. ISO 22000: 2005 standard

describes the internationally accepted food requirements of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) and also specifies requirements for an organisation within a food chain. The expectation is that such an organisation needs:

- To demonstrate its ability to control food safety hazards in order to ensure that food is safe at the time of consumption
- To enhance customer satisfac-

yemlente lebesi iyadzilitwa kusale lelit-sambo. Galu udlaliswa ngumake wekukhetha lowabephetse umtsimba kutsi nasekukhetha lugege adlalise ngaye alilitele atsi, "Wayivula, wayivala, wayivula, wayivala" ahle alungutisa ngaye lapha emacaleni etingculwini takhe. Kulelisiko lagalu umkwenyana sewunika makoti wakhe ngalokugcwele sibaya sekangasivula ngoba sewutikhokhe tonkhe timfanelo.

Umfana uyafundza futsi kutsi kunenya-ma lebitwa ngekutsi ngumsasane. Lena sitfo sangekhatsi lesisuka eswilini siye ematfunjini lamancane. Lenyama idliwa talukati, ikakhulu gogo wakoti. Lesitfo simcoka ngekutsi siphatselene nemsimeto wekutekwa kwemfati. Nakutekwe umfati lalabamtekile bakhipha umuntfu lophatsa lenanyama nenyama yembuti afike ayijike ebaleni atsi; 'Funelani nganeno nine bekutsini' besuyabaleka.

In conclusion, kwelusa remains the only institution that trains a boy to be a man. It is when a boy is looking after cattle in the veld that he learns to control his thoughts, emotions and other battles boys of his age go through. It teaches him patience as he heads the cattle from morning till sunset. Kwelusa assist him develops defence mechanism and fighting skills. Bantfu labadzala bayaye batsi nababona bucotfo kumuntfu wesilisa batsi kungoba, welusa, lokuhlakanipha wakutfoli khona. Times have changed, we no longer keep cattle and the few Swazis that still do, and they now keep them in farms or emadzeleni. Our young male children no longer have attributes of kwelusa. They are fragile and too emotional. Their bodies are frail, which is an indication of cheese, bacon, yoghurt, eggs, you name it.

They are no longer exposed to fruits from the wild which we got whilst heading cattle, like emantulwa, emagwava, ematelembe, tincozi, umfomfo, tintokolovu, emathunduluka, emahlala, umkhwakhwa, umfomfo, emanumbela, umvutfwamini, tjwalabenyoni, tinyosi, emakhiwa nelihlela. Kwelusa as an institution of training has seen young boys graduate before time to man atsi emaSwati budvodza abukhulelwa.

If a boy has graduated from looking after goats, calves and thereafter looks after cattle, elders measured his progress and could determine his readiness to take on huge responsibility of looking after his father's household. This simple meant that he was now ready to get married and be able to look after his family. Now that we no longer value this entity, how are we training our young boys so that they grow up and show attributes of respect, responsibility, art and patience which our grandparents learned from ekweluseni?

tion through the effective application of the system, including processes for continual improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Importance

The NMC has invested in training all staff members on Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) in recent weeks. The organisation is cognisant of the importance of every staff member understanding the need for FSMS and the procedures and thought-process behind this.

The expectation is that after the training, management and key staff members will be able to understand the Food Safety Management System and how it relates to the food business or rather, NMC business; explain how ISO 22000 supports national and international legislation and trade requirements; understand and integrate the general requirements of the prerequisite programmes as well as hazard analysis and critical control point principles in a food manufacturing business and demonstrate ability to plan, implement and manage an effective ISO

22000 system.

The National Maize Corporation is aware of the consequences of unsafe food, and though due diligence has always been followed in the storage, packaging and distribution of her products, the NMC feels that getting the ISO 22000: 2005 certification will re-affirm that indeed the organisation is headed in the right direction.

This is one of many developments and initiatives that the organisation is taking towards improved service delivery standards, as mapped by the new strategy. The Chief Executive Officer of

the National Maize Organisation states that as an organisation, the NMC is aware of the challenges that come with going after such a feat. However, the organization also understands the rewards that come at the end.

Confidently

Chief Executive Officer, Sabelo Msibi states that: "The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out but they are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. The brick walls are not there to stop us, they may be there to stop other people, not us." He

says confidently, as he states matter-of-factly that the power lies in the hands of the NMC.

As industries evolve, so do the standards that have informed them. This is particularly true for ISO standards. It is said that as these standards change, they will eventually head in the same direction.

The expectation is that this will help remove or at the very least, reduce international trade barriers in the long run. When businesses across the globe recognise the same quality standards, they are on a more level playing field.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI
STA Marketing Manager
Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



A NIGHT AT WONDERFUL MALOLOTJA

One form of mass publicity that the Swaziland Tourism Authority employs through strategic partnerships/relations and direct appeals is blogging – a universal communication trend usually told from first-hand experience. In the past, we have hosted several bloggers, most of whom formed part of international media groups that come to engage with our various and diverse products, and nothing excites us as reading their experiences when they engage with their own audiences. One consistent blogger, who always writes about Swaziland every time she visits is none other than Jenny Bowen, who by now you know as 'a friend of Swaziland'.

Her latest escapades in the country were only about two months ago, whereby she brought two groups of volunteer tourists from St Helen and St Katharine, as well as Abbey Gate College schools, who left a huge impact in the two rural communities they toured and worked in. You will recall dear reader that the other group built a kitchen facility at Mlindzini High School in Nhlengano, while the other assisted in the building of a resource centre at Tambankulu. While in Swaziland, they also took time out to tour our majestic country, and the following blog post is an account of their time at Malolotja Nature Reserve. The

blog was posted by Jenny. She writes:

"Wonderful Malolotja! There is something special about Malolotja, a magical land in the North East of Swaziland. Rolling mountains dotted with roaming blesbok, granite outcrops with dassies perched on top on the lookout for eagles and stunted vegetation allowing you to look as far as they eye can see, it is a unique place.

St Helen and St Katharine School had chosen to spend two nights in Malolotja to fully experience the place. We arrived late last night and the girls were delighted to find the log cabins had beds with white cotton sheets, fully equipped kitchens and electricity, a real treat after camping for 17 nights and cooking on gas stoves. This was the height of luxury in comparison to what they had been used to.

So after a great night's sleep it was time to explore the area. And first up was seeing it from the sky, well from the canopy tour that we were going to do. The set up at Malolotja is brilliant, very well organised and also efficient but with a lovely personalised touch, in fact, typically Swazi. After being told that even if we had had a big breakfast the breaking point of the cable was 2 tonnes, so nothing too much to worry about! Thulani was very good at giving the briefing.

And then we were swiftly kitted out and onto vehicles to take us to the start point

which was about 25 minutes drive away. We had woken up in mist and as we drove along the dirt roads it began to clear, the views looking like a typical water colour painting of different hues of blue and grey, it was very stunning.

After a short walk we were all clipped into the system and sailing above the valley from one platform to the next. There were a few people who were a bit apprehensive, it is 50m high above the crevasse after all, but everyone managed themselves well. The braking system can be a bit temperamental; it is the person on the cable who control the slowing down mechanism! So after a few tentative braking tries everyone had it sorted. The view from each platform was wonderful and there were lots of happy faces. What I really like about this set up is that the whole thing is blended so well into the environment such as the platforms being built around the trees.

We loved the different names for each section; the Ferrari (which is the fastest), the rabbit hole (as in after Alice in Wonderland), the Sundowner (you can see the sun go down as you zip along) and the bridge which was, well a bridge...

Unfortunately the experience was over far too quickly. Lots of smiley faces.

After an excellent lunch of toasted sandwiches and chips, love the nutritional value there, we set off on a walk through the reserve. The girls did set quite a fast pace but in hindsight this was a good thing as we only got back as the sun was setting. The wonderful thing about walking in Malolotja is that you can see wildlife on foot and we saw herds of blesbok and some eland as we walked along the footpaths and dirt roads. There were view-points galore from the top of granite boulders peering over valleys lined with tree ferns and monkey tail plants, it is picturesque and remote. We felt as if we were the only ones there. Idyllic.

As the sun set over the horizon, and we watched the dassies on the granite outcrops, it had turned out to be a great day, ending with meatballs, tomato sauce and roasted vegetables. The girls had excelled themselves. Looking forward to another night in my log cabin..."

Have a great week ahead.





FSE & CC committed to living its talk

On Friday, September 23 2016, the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE & CC) held its Annual General Meeting, wherein it presented its Annual Report for the year 2015/16 to its members.

Before discussing how the "Voice of Business" performed in the past fiscal year, it is befitting to congratulate Andrew Le Roux who was elected as FSE & CC President, taking over from the Acting President Fikile Nkosi from May to September 2016.

The FSE & CC business community wishes Le Roux the very best as he takes up the responsibility of lobbying and advocating with various stakeholders within and outside Swaziland to ensure a conducive and enabling environment for the benefit of the FSE & CC business community and private sector at large.

Details of who Le Roux is, will be shared in the next article where a one-on-one discussion will be held with the new FSE & CC President.

BACK TO FSE & CC OPERATIONS

During the fiscal year 2015/16, Sandile Simelane, former CEO at Mondelez International held the reigns as FSE & CC President. He stepped down in May 2016, upon which, Nedbank Swaziland's MD, Fikile Nkosi held the fort as Acting President, until the elections held on September 23, during an Annual General Meeting, as per the FSE & CC Constitution.

Under the leadership of Simelane, FSE & CC continued to lobby within the various structures of government and other stakeholders to promote and protect the interests of business in Swaziland.

Such lobbying played a major role in promoting the development of the Swazi economy by ensuring that a conducive environment for business in the country is maintained. Notably, FSE & CC's engagement on the development of legislations and regulations for the liberalisation of the Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) sector, marked a great improvement in the business environment and the ease of doing business within and outside the borders of the country.

The regulations for the ICT sector include 12 regulations and cover a wide range of activities as advised by the International Telecommunications Union.

Processes

These regulations have since been passed by both Houses of Parliament, and constitute Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Postal Services. They prescribe the processes to be followed in the licencing of service providers, usage of scarce resources, managing the quality of services to customers, amongst other undertakings. Pending some areas of perfection, FSE & CC is confident that these regulations will enhance the private sector to fully participate in the ICT sector.

During the course of 2015/16, other concerted efforts were employed by "The Voice



FSECC Vice President Industrial Relations Bheki Maziya, FSECC President Andrew Le Roux FSECC, Chief Executive Officer Bonisiwe Ntando, FSECC Acting President Fikile Nkosi and guests during the singing of the national anthems of Swaziland and SADC, marking the end of the 36th SADC Summit closing ceremony.

of Business" to foster cooperation between business and government to help remove barriers to trade and promote good practice in corporate governance and corporate citizenship. Dialogue meetings were held with various Ministries and Cabinet to ensure that the voice of business is heard.

Standing meetings included participation in the Technical Committee for Investment convened by the Investor Road Map Unit in the Ministry of Trade and Commerce; participation in the National Steering Committee on Trade Facilitation as well as various industrial relations structures and Wages Councils.

One of the major hurdles in the trade and commerce policy issues, is the protracted delays in finalising commercial court cases within the Judicial system. This has been a long and outstanding concern by the private sector. Currently, it takes an average of 956 days to finalise a commercial court case according to the 2016 World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index.

But through working with the Investor Road Map Unit, FSE & CC continued to advocate for the enactment of the Small Claims Court (amendment) Bill as well as the operationalisation of the Commercial Courts. The Bill is currently with the office of the Attorney General and is expected to go through the legislative process.

It is worth noting that challenges still prevail in the area of reducing energy costs for both large and small businesses in Swaziland. In recognition of the high electricity prices in the Kingdom, FSE & CC held consultative meetings with the

Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA), with a view to influence the development of an appropriate tariff structure in Swaziland.

Facts obtained from the Regulator indicate that electricity prices will have a substantial movement in the near future. The main reasons given are that there is need for new investment in generation capacity and the fact that Swaziland imports about 80 per cent of electricity requirements.

Drafted

The Voice of Business is aware that SERA held public consultations, with FSE & CC participation, in which a new tariff structure was drafted and presented to stakeholders. The proposal from SERA is a move towards a more cost-reflective tariff structure and subsidy framework. The Voice of Business will continue to engage with SERA as the tariff structure develops towards finality.

Recognising the need to produce good and quality skills-based education as well as a multi-skilled workforce, a Draft Swaziland National Qualification Framework (SNQF) was presented to the private sector and stakeholders.

The aim of the SNQF is to improve and transform the education system in Swaziland and address the challenges articulated by the private sector, including the need to reduce the high costs of training employees out of the country. FSE & CC looks forward to completion of the reforms of the Education Sector as the challenges enumerated do not only stifle growth of the citizens, but they in turn impede robust economic growth for the country.

The Voice of Business will continue to advance the interests and business agenda of the private sector in the various sectors of the economy, through the capable leadership of the President, Le Roux, and the various FSE & CC Board structures and membership.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

The launch of One Billion Rising 2017 was memorable and inspiring, with its theme is listen, act and rise, for the liberation of women locally and globally. On this day they honoured Colani Hlatjwako, for her recent appointment as Regional Coordinator for the Africa Region. My first time to attend, was intrigued by the level of support from donors to local NGO's, particularly the inclusiveness, as rural women, factory and domestic workers were represented.

I have attended some women initiatives which focus on the Mbabane-Manzini corridors, hence this was a refreshing experience with slogans from 'watsintsa bafati watsintsa imbokodvo' to 'phezu komkhono.' This inclusive representation speaks to the leadership qualities of Colani, who works with diverse women on this One billion rising campaign.

RELEVANCE OF ONE BILLION RISING

This campaign seeks to empower the girl child and women who are systematically oppressed due to patriarchal societies, this is what Colani said during her speech. This intrigued me as I have just been reading 'The Indigenous Law and Custom of the Kingdom of Swaziland' which is still awaiting approval and codification. What a patriarchal document, and ever since reading it have been feeling the 'itch' of listening, acting and rising in protest for the protection of girls and women from these so called 'indigenous' laws and customs.

In my view the content of this law and custom document does not reflect 'indigenous' knowledge or wisdom, as the context are about laws and practices of the 20th Century or the 1900 epoch.

Thus, suggesting using 'indigenous' would not be a true reflection of our indigenous laws and customs, rooted within the 19th Century or 1800 epoch and prior. This document promotes the relevancy of One Billion Rising vision and mission, as some content reflects how laws and customs were corrupted by urbanisation and modernisation throughout these two centuries to date.

Evidently in the current state or form of this 'Indigenous Law and Custom' requires women and girls to listen, act and rise in order to challenge patriarchy. The rights of women and girls within indigenous societies were protected, as those societies lived according to ubuntu. Urbanisation and modernisation changed the laws and customs, by bringing into our societies elements that suppressed indigenous laws and customs. Hence One Billion Rising is a critical response and intervention on these corrupted laws and customs, which would be an injustice to our ancestors to call 'indigenous.'

One Billion Rising is spot on by ensuring that diverse women and girls come together to address the burden of abuse or neglect. As indigenous societies did not treat women as second class citizens, as they understood that we all come from the same God. The notion of men being the head of the household and women the neck, is a classic example of how women were respected. The neck controls the direction of the head and also when the head is rotten, it will affect the neck and body. However if the neck is allowed to hold the head with dignity, which is what is missing in patriarchal societies, the whole family with be protected from rot.

RISE WITH UBUNTU AS DIGNITY

The state of decay manifesting as spiritual

... FSE & CC looks forward to completion of the reforms of the education sector as the challenges enumerated do not only stifle growth of the citizens, but they in turn impede robust economic growth of SD

Snip

ONE BILLION RISING 2017



and immoral challenges within patriarchal societies, as a result of urbanisation and modernisation. Evidently require One billion rising with *ubuntu* as dignity, this must happen at the neck level, which protects and guides the head of family and future generations. Rising with *ubuntu* as Dignity begins with the understanding that we are souls coming from the same Source, which is God the Supreme Being. Hence we are all equal in the eyes of God, and our purpose on earth is to experience dignity, rooted in Ubuntu embedded in indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems. Thus edifying cosmic order, social order, harmonious human existence, coexistence and belief in God the Supreme Being.

This evidently answers the questions raised by the global campaign on Valentine's Day 2012, as to how can we have one in three women on the planet be beaten or raped during her lifetime.

When considering that *ubuntu* embedded in indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems, speaks of cosmic and social order, where does rape and physical abuse come into our societies. Thus, suggesting rising with Ubuntu as dignity is a critical intervention for dealing with patriarchal societies, as we will be reminded of how we were in 1800 epoch.

Hence I am always saying 'umfati umekeza esibayeni amekezele emadlati, aphidze akhale emaleni wakushoniwe lakhaya' a woman cries for ancestors in the kraal on her wedding day and only if someone has died.

This is indigenous law and custom, hence when you beat a wife who belongs to ancestors you are negating cosmic order. When she is heard crying and yet no body has died, you are negating social order, and this is what indigenous societies believed in.

The urbanisation and modernisation process that enabled us to step out of ancestral land as we live 'emkopololo' company towns, peri-urban and urban areas rendered us vulnerable.

As the kraals of ancestors were in the villages and secondly we became arrogant fools who despised our ancestors. We call them un-urban or not modern and most significantly non-religious, hence we became savages that beat and rape women and children. This most distasteful of all of this is we have

labelled this indigenous culture, law and custom, and yet it goes against *ubuntu*. Thus negating indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems of cosmic and social order, harmonious human existence and coexistence.

CONCLUSION

It amazing how we have become fraudsters of our own *ubuntu*, corrupted to the point where we use it to manipulate women and girls. Hence rising with *ubuntu* as Dignity is critical for us to deal with the injustices that women and girls have been experiencing, particularly in the name of fraud indigenous culture, law and customs. Women and girls are the necks of societies, hence they must rise against patriarchal societies that have defrauded them of their equality.

Who am I to speak? I wrote my first book *Releasing Monkey* in 2003, where my family and many others were disgusted as I told my story and did not sit of the dirt 'tibi tendlu'. This was the beginning of using my voice against the dirt and I have been unpopular ever since that publication.

This unpopularity within my family escalated and still continues as I stand firmly against patriarchy, will not be a second class citizen to men nor to married women and their children.

My being born out of wedlock and forthrightness is part of God's purpose, mission and calling manifesting within research and writing today and in future.

When God visited me, He never told me I was unworthy as I was born out of wedlock and stand firmly against patriarchy. And its institutions safeguarded by patriarchs, apostles, priest, pastors and biblical prophets subjugating God's creation, are fraud. Patriarchy within families is fraud as it does not translate into cosmic and social order, harmonious human existence, coexistence and belief in God the Supreme Being.

Patriarchal systems and institutions are designed to negate cosmic and social order, negate harmonious human existence and coexistence, such that I ask where God the Supreme Being is in all of this.

My commitment is rising with *ubuntu* as dignity, the time is now, and will write on my life journey as Indigenous Prophet and LaZidze in incarnet.

Wrapping up deaf month hearing loss and headphones

As a parent, do you often find yourself asking your children, particularly the teenagers, to remove their headphones so you can speak to them? You may want to consider doing it even more often. Today, one in five teens has some form of hearing loss - a rate about 30 percent higher than it was in the 1980s and 1990s - which many experts believe is due, in part, to the increased use of headphones.



CELI STEWART

Disability Rights Advocate

Founder of the Asante Stewart Foundation

E-mail: celi@asantestewartfoundation.com

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Listening through headphones at a high volume for extended periods of time can result in lifelong hearing loss.

the main problem, especially from mobile phones, iPods, as well as noisy clubs and music gigs. This is thought to be why hearing loss is increasingly affecting younger people.

The case is you could be losing your hearing without even realising it. The best way to avoid developing noise-induced hearing loss is to keep away from loud noise as much as you can.

The risk of damage to your hearing is based on two factors: how loud and for how long.

10 TIPS FOR SAFER LISTENING

1. Use earplugs: The louder the noise and the longer you're exposed to it, the greater the chance of damaging your hearing. Protect your ears with ear protectors - earplugs or earmuffs - and get away from the noise as quickly or as often as you can. If you can't leave the venue, take regular breaks. A 10-minute rest break will give your ears some time to recover.

2. Turn down the music: Don't listen to your personal music player at very high volumes and never to drown out background noise. If the music is uncomfortable for you to listen to, or you can't hear external sounds when you've got your headphones on, then it's too loud. It's also too loud if the person next to you can hear the music from your headphones.

3. Use the 60:60 rule: To enjoy music from your mobile phone safely using your earphones, listen to your music at 60 percent of the maximum volume for no more than 60 minutes a day. Most mobile phones have a 'smart volume' feature, so use it if you have one. It will help you regulate the volume.

4. Wear headphones: When listening to your personal music player, choose noise-cancelling headphones, or go retro with older muff-type headphones. These block out background noise and allow you to have the volume lower. Earphones are less effective at drowning out background noise. Try to take regular breaks from your headphones, though, to give your ears a rest.

5. Turn down the dial: Turn down the volume on your TV, radio or hi-fi a notch. Even a small reduction in volume can make a big difference to the risk of damage to your hearing. If you need to raise your voice to be heard above the sound, turn it down.

6. Use earplugs when you're listening to live music: They can reduce average sound levels by between 15 and 35 decibels. They're widely available at many live music venues and shouldn't spoil your enjoyment of the music.

7. Don't put up with work noise: If you're experiencing noise at work, talk to your human resources (HR) department or your manager and ask for advice on reducing the noise and getting hearing protection.

8. Wear ear protectors: Wear ear protectors (earplugs or earmuffs) if you are using noisy equipment such as power drills, saws, sanders or lawn mowers.

9. Be careful in the car: Listening to music in a confined space increases the risk of hearing damage. Don't listen to music too loud for too long.

10. Have a hearing detox: Give your ears time to recover after they've been exposed to loud noise. You need at least 16 hours of rest for your ears to recover after spending around two hours in 100dB sound, for example in a club. Reducing this recovery time increases the risk of permanent deafness.

SO, HOW LOUD IS TOO LOUD?

Most of the earphones today can produce sounds up to 120 decibels, equivalent to a sound level at a rock concert. If you can't hear anything going on around you when listening to headphones, the decibel level is too high.

Duration of exposure to noise is also a major factor. As a rule of thumb should be the louder the volume, the shorter your listening duration should be. At maximum volume, you should listen for only about five minutes a day. The type of hearing loss due to headphone use is typically gradual, cumulative and without obvious warning signs. A hearing test and a medical examination are the only way to truly diagnose hearing damage. However, if you or your child experiences any of the following symptoms I would recommend a visit to a physician immediately.

- Ringing, roaring, hissing or buzzing in the ear.
- Difficulty understanding speech in noisy places or places with poor acoustics.
- Muffled sounds and a feeling that your ear is plugged.
- Listening to the TV or radio at a higher volume than in the past.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR HEARING LOSS?

Unfortunately, the type of hearing loss caused by over exposure to very loud noise is irreversible, making prevention paramount. Hearing aids and implants can help in amplifying sounds and making it easier to hear, but they are merely compensating for the damaged or nonworking parts of the ear.

HOW TO PREVENT HEARING LOSS?

Using older style, larger headphones that rest over the ear opening instead of earphones that are placed directly in your ear. However, whether using headphones or earphones, moderation is key. Avoiding excessive use of listening devices altogether will go a long way in preventing hearing loss. The key to keeping your hearing healthy is knowing how much loud sound you're exposed to. A 'noise diet' can protect your hearing from future problems. Most cases of deafness are caused by damage to the tiny hair cells in the inner ear. This damage can be caused by too much noise, and it's permanent. Noise-related hearing loss is usually irreversible.

It is important that we all take steps to prevent noise-related damage. The key to keeping your hearing intact is to avoid loud noise. The louder the sound, the less time you can safely listen to it. Just because a sound isn't annoying doesn't make it safe.

Noisy occupations, such as working in factories or on roadworks, used to be the most common cause of hearing problems. Nowadays it's recreational loud noise that's

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RASHFORD TO FOLLOW RONALDO'S EXAMPLE

MANCHESTER - Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford reveals that Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo is the player he looks up to the most in world football.

The 18-year-old burst onto the scene last season amid the Red Devils struggles in front of goal. He grabbed his opportunity with both hands scoring five goals in 11 starts to earn a call-up to the England squad for the Euros.

With the acquisition of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the youngster has been

relegated to more of a bench role this season, but his impact has been impressive all the same and he's already scored four times in all competitions.

Rashford was coming through the youth ranks when Ronaldo was tearing up the Premier League for United and the 18-year-old admits he looks up to the Portuguese star.

He told Soccer AM: "In recent years Ronaldo is the example, wherever you put him in the attacking three he's going to make an impact and the opposition are going to fear him."

"Being a constant threat, that's what I need to develop."

"(Wayne) Rooney and Ronaldo were unreal. In 2007/08 it was an unreal partnership, they have been huge players I have looked up to and watched how they perform to try to put into my own performance."

The Red Devils are currently on a three-match winning streak and Rashford believes hard work will be the key to their success this season.

"If we work hard as a team then the quality starts to come out," he added. "We have some really good talented individuals." *Sport24*

Benteke cancels out Lukaku's stunning free-kick

LONDON - Alan Pardew had a glint in his eye. Christian Benteke had just resumed his normal service against Everton and the Crystal Palace manager's enthusiasm could not be contained.

He knew that eyebrows were raised towards the end of the transfer window when Palace invested £28million in a striker who, at times, had looked an expensive misfit at Liverpool but Pardew was adamant the Belgian was just what his club needed.

Here at Goodison Park was the emphatic proof. Rising high at the back post to meet a precise cross from Joel Ward, Benteke looked every inch the swashbuckling old No 9 - eyes fixed on the ball and defender pinned down by his strength before thumping in an inch-perfect header.

Benteke's intervention - his fifth goal in six appearances against this particular foe - secured a hard fought point; given it came six days after a similar goal won a similar game at Sunderland, it was little wonder Pardew was purring.

"He was our number one target this summer," said Pardew, whose side had trailed to a wonderful free-kick from Romelu Lukaku. "We stayed on it and I kept pushing Steve Parish, looking for answers. There were a few calls to (Palace's owners in) America to get it done. But we did."

Unlucky

"I thought Christian was a bit unlucky at Liverpool. I think he needed a run of games. It is difficult for big guys like him to come in and out of a team. He hasn't been on a losing side for us yet and it shows the level he is at. No full-back can compete with him when a ball is played in that area." This has become a fixture that Evertonians have come to dread, with Palace winning two and drawing one of their last three visits - the first of those victories, in April 2014, was particularly damaging as it effectively torpedoed Roberto Martinez's dream of reaching the Champions League.

So given Everton arrived into this fixture on the back of two consecutive defeats, to Norwich in the EFL Cup and Bournemouth last Saturday, it was inevitable that a degree of tension could be felt in the opening exchanges. Palace were more than happy to put the onus on their hosts. *AFP*

Gundogan says he could have signed for Manchester United

MANCHESTER - Ilkay Gundogan has admitted he nearly ended up playing in the red of Manchester United but couldn't be happier at Manchester City.

After much speculation surrounding his future, the German became the first signing under Pep Guardiola, when he left Borussia Dortmund after five years for £20million in June 2016.

Three games and one goal into life at the Etihad, Gundogan has settled well, but says it could very well have been United he had signed for.

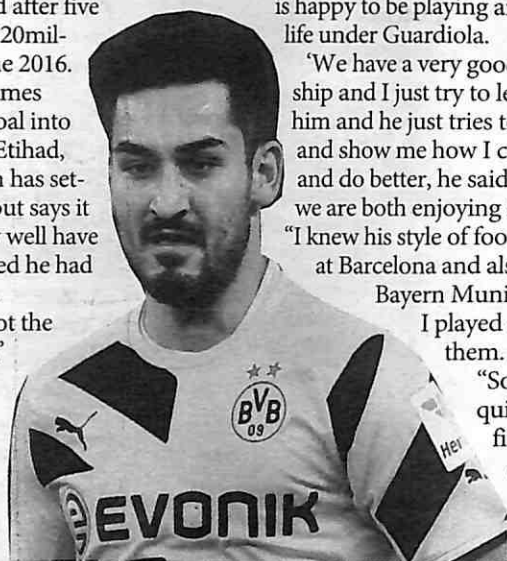
"It was not the biggest lie," he says in an interview with the

Telegraph. Why did it not happen? "Two years ago, three years ago it was not the time. I had a contract at Dortmund and I was not thinking of leaving the club so it was not a discussion."

Following a difficult spell with injury - which included a dislocated knee cap to rule him out of Euro 2016 - the 25-year-old has said he is happy to be playing and enjoying life under Guardiola.

"We have a very good relationship and I just try to learn from him and he just tries to teach me and show me how I can improve and do better," he said. "I think we are both enjoying it," he says. "I knew his style of football before at Barcelona and also at Bayern Munich because I played against them."

"So I was quite sure it fits to my style very well." *Daily Mail*



Ilkay Gundogan.

Kevin De Bruyne could be back for Barcelona clash

MANCHESTER - Pep Guardiola says Kevin De Bruyne could be fit for Manchester City's Champions League clash with Barcelona next month - but Yaya Toure remains frozen out at the Etihad.

De Bruyne suffered a hamstring injury in last weekend's win at Swansea and went to Barcelona this week to be treated by renowned doctor Ramon Cugat.

The early indications were that the Belgium star would struggle to be fit for City's trip to the Nou Camp on October 19, but Guardiola has indicated that De Bruyne could be ready sooner.

"The injuries are not so, so tough, like the first impression," said the City boss. "Now we have 10 days [during the international break] and no games, which helps us."

"Maybe two weeks, three weeks, maybe [he will recover] in time to arrive in Barcelona, we will see."

Toure has not even been included in Champions League squad but Guardiola insists the 33-year-old midfielder will not play at all for City until his outspoken agent Dimitri Seluk apologises for comments made about the club.

Asked if the situation has changed since the row erupted last week, Guardiola shook his head and added: "He's training everyday with us and training good. But I am not talking anymore about that." "You know my opinion about that." Meanwhile, Guardiola has hailed Mauricio Pochettino as 'one of the best managers in the world' and claimed that he would be a Tottenham fan if he wasn't coach of Manchester City. *AFP*

Manchester United wanted Arsene Wenger to replace Sir Alex Ferguson

LONDON - The tentative approach was made when Fergie first planned to retire in 2002, but was rebuffed by the Frenchman.

Ferguson made his decision to quit publicly the previous summer before changing his mind in February 2002.

But on his 20th anniversary as Arsenal boss we can reveal that United inquired about snatching him away.

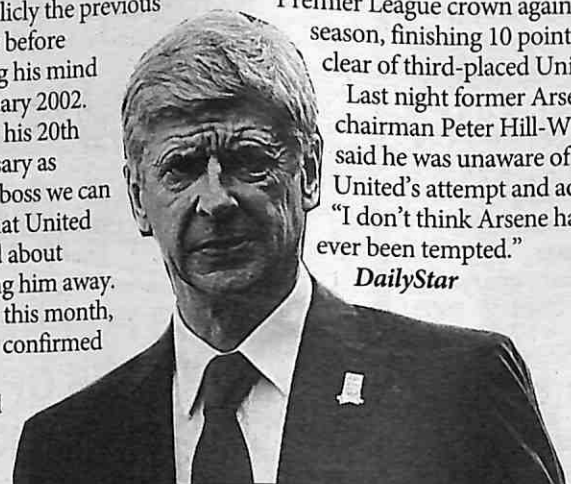
Earlier this month, Wenger confirmed he had snubbed three

approaches from Paris St-Germain for his services out of "loyalty" to Arsenal.

It is understood he also gave little consideration to the United offer and went on to land the Premier League crown again that season, finishing 10 points clear of third-placed United.

Last night former Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood said he was unaware of United's attempt and added: "I don't think Arsene has ever been tempted."

DailyStar



Arsene Wenger.

I am not surprised by Chelsea's struggles - Conte

LONDON - Antonio Conte has spoken of his lack of surprise for

1-0 lead.

But the 47-year-old says he knew he was joining a club with

problems to solve after their disappointing 10th-placed league finish last season.

"I am not surprised [about the results] because, usually, when you change manager it means you have a problem," he told a press conference ahead of his side's trip to Hull City yesterday.

"When you arrive in a place for you to solve the problems then you know you must face this situation. *Goal*



Antonio Conte.

Chelsea's recent struggles in the Premier League after their recent 3-0 defeat against Arsenal made it three games without a win. Chelsea better than my Juventus - Conte

The Blues previously lost 2-1 at the hands of Liverpool at Stamford Bridge after they also dropped points against Swansea City in a 2-2 draw, despite taking an early

Spain's big three renew title battle

BARCELONA - After another stellar week for Spanish clubs in the Champions League, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid resume their three-way battle for La Liga supremacy today.

Real were the only Spanish side not to win in midweek, but got a creditable 2-2 draw at Borussia Dortmund to remain on course for the last 16.

However, the European champions have now failed to win any of their last three games as draws to Villarreal and Las Palmas have seen their lead at the top of the table whittled down to just a point by Barca.

Zinedine Zidane's men conceded a late equaliser for the second time in four days in Dortmund, but defender Danilo insisted Eibar will bear the brunt of Real's frustration when they visit the Santiago Bernabeu this weekend. "We drew again,

but we are playing well and we're calm," said the Brazilian international. "We are not satisfied with the draws but Eibar will pay for that at the weekend." Real are still without the injured Brazilian duo of Casemiro and Marcelo, but Zidane is likely to rotate his squad again with Alvaro Morata, Marco Asensio and Pepe in contention.

Eibar have never taken a point off Madrid in their history, but travel to the Bernabeu full of confidence after a fine start to the season that has carried the Basque minnows to eighth in the table, just four points behind Real. Barcelona continued to shrug off the absence of Lionel Messi as they came from behind to beat Borussia Moenchengladbach on Wednesday and face a third away game in a week when they travel to Celta Vigo.

AFP

ETO'O RECALLED AFTER RACISM ROW

TURKEY - African legend Samuel Eto'o has rejoined the Antalyaspor squad, after he was axed for comments made on social media about not being respected enough.

The 35-year-old posted controversial remarks on social media about not receiving enough respect because he is black and he was subsequently dropped from the squad.

Eto'o last featured for Turkish outfit on 26 August 2016, and has only managed to score once in his three appearances this season.

However, the former Cameroon international has now rejoined the

first team and the club's president, Ali Ozturk Dawn believes his presence will be a positive.

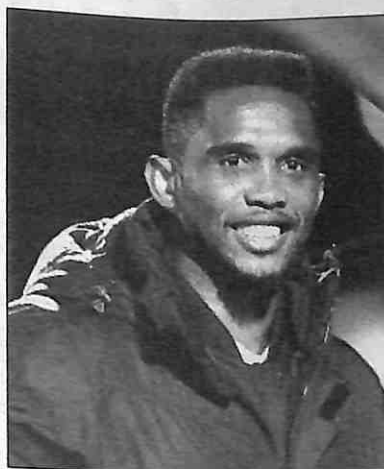
"Eto'o's return will be more positive," Ozturk said in a statement.

"The team and will reflect positively on the performance of our players. Eto'o is our valuable players. However, accusations of racism is very heavy.

You must pay attention to this kind of thing," he said.

The former Barcelona and Inter Milan striker has made 35 appearances for the Turkish Premier League side, scoring 21 goals in the process.

Soccerladuma



African legend Samuel Eto'o.

Juventus plan Nemanja Matic raid

ITALY - Juventus are set to reignite their interest in Chelsea midfielder Nemanja Matic and will look to tempt them into a sale with a €27 million bid, Calciomercato reports.

The Bianconeri were keen on the Serbian in the summer as a possible replacement for Paul Pogba, but Blues boss Antonio Conte blocked a sale to his former club.

Subsequent moves for Blaise

Matuidi and Axel Witsel also fell through for Juventus and coach Massimiliano Allegri has prioritised a midfield addition in January.

The Serie A champions will therefore present Chelsea with an important offer for Matic, though it is unknown whether the latter will budge from their position. *Goal*

Kvitova wins Wuhan Open, Cibulkova crumbles

WUHAN - Petra Kvitova overpowered Dominika Cibulkova 6-1, 6-1 yesterday to win the Wuhan Open for her first title of the year.

The 14th-seeded Kvitova, who won the inaugural tournament in 2014, hit nine aces and converted six of seven break points to post her fifth win over a Top 20 player this week.

With the win, the Czech will move up to No. 11 in the rankings after coming into the tournament at No. 16, which was her lowest ranking since May 2011.

Kvitova, who has won at least one tournament every year since 2011, improved to 5-2 against her 10th-ranked Slovak opponent. It was the first meeting between the two players in more than two years.

Fifth-seeded Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova defeated third-seeded Sania Mirza and Barbora Strycova 6-1, 6-4 to win the doubles title. *AP*



Petra Kvitova.

WTA boss mulling radical format shake-up

WUHAN - Women's tennis boss Steve Simon said he's considering introducing super tie-breakers and no-ad scoring for singles matches in a radical move to shorten them and make them more TV-friendly.

The much-criticised season schedule is also in the crosshairs with plans to split the calendar into "premium" events and "pathway" tournaments and reduce the load on players, Simon said.

"To think that we don't need to adjust our format so we can play matches that are 60 to 90 minutes in length as opposed to three hours, I think is very short-sighted," he said in an interview at the Wuhan Open in China.

The WTA chief executive said he was mulling replacing third sets with super tie-breakers, already used in non-Grand Slam doubles, when matches are locked at one set each.

Doubles matches on the WTA and the men's ATP circuit also use no-ad scoring, which means when a game is at 40-40 it is decided by the next point rather than playing 'deuce' and 'advantage'.

Simon acknowledged that a shake-up in the scoring system is likely to ruffle feathers in a sport where traditions and origins are often held dear.

They would also make contests like Petra Kvitova's gripping three-and-a-half-hour win over world number one Angelique Kerber in Wuhan a thing of the past.

"These are the things (scoring systems) we have to evaluate. And that's where the traditionalists will go back, they will say 'Look at this epic match'," he said.

The scoring changes took a long time to be accepted in doubles and still remain unpopular amongst some players who have to switch to

the old format at Grand Slams.

But the new rules also create shorter matches that are more predictable in length, making them easier for broadcasters and TV audiences.

"Our future audience, they're not looking to watch three hours of anything," said Simon, adding that he was committed to "fundamental change".

Simon said he also wants to reform the schedule to improve the viewing spectacle and reduce the wave of retirements and withdrawals that often hit late in the season.

"It's something that's very seriously being looked at because I think we have to evolve this," Simon said.

"When we have withdrawals nothing good happens anywhere," he added. "It's not good for the athlete, they wanted to play. It's not good for the tournaments. It's not good for the fans. It hurts us with broadcasters."

After the US Open in September, the WTA tour migrates to Asia for a busy schedule that sees players zip between tournaments, many of them trying to collect points to reach the elite — and lucrative — season finale in Singapore.

For the last two years, American star Serena Williams has sat out the 'Asian swing' because of injuries picked up earlier in the season.

The Wuhan Open has also been hit by a raft of mid-match retirement six this year and five last year, including in the final.

"We have to work on (the schedule) because the players are not healthy," said Simon, who moved from Indian Wells tournament director to the WTA last year.

He said the ideas being floated include dividing the tournaments according to players' rank. *AFP*

AGENT: BALOTELLI IS A PHENOMENON BUT...

NICE - Mario Balotelli's agent Mino Raiola believes his client would have won five Ballon d'Ors if he had Zlatan Ibrahimovic's mentality.

Balotelli has received criticism for his behaviour on and off the pitch in recent years, despite being touted as one of the players for the future when he was younger.

However, the player's agent believes his tough upbringing in a "racist town" has affected

Balotelli's mentality.

"Mario is a phenomenon, but he's Balotelli," Raiola joked to *Il Giornale*.

"He was lucky enough to be adopted by two great people, but in a tough town [Bagnolo Mella], let's face it: a racist one.

"He suffered a lot when he was a child, and he's always been that way in the head. If he had the mentality of Zlatan, with his talent he'd have won five Ballon d'Ors."

Soccerladuma

'Messi wouldn't have been the same at Real'

BARCELONA - Lionel Messi would not have been the same player if he had played for rivals, Real Madrid, according to a former Argentina coach.

Messi made his debut at Barcelona at the age of 16, and has gone on to winning numerous titles with the club, while also winning five Ballon d'Or awards.

However, former Argentina head coach, Cesar Luis Menotti believes Messi has benefited from playing a more superior team than his Portuguese counterpart.

"Messi would not have been the

same at Real Madrid," Menotti told Fox Sports.

"He started at Barcelona with [Andres] Iniesta, Xavi, Ronaldinho. A team that Cristiano Ronaldo never had.

"Cristiano always worked like a hero. He's a massive player, and maybe a great guy. But he works like a hero and he gets 50 goals.

"Messi has grown an enormous amount from the first day until now. He went from being a clinical striker to a more creative game, where he has another role."

AFP



Lionel Messi.

Fabio Capello: Napoli can reach UEFA Champions League final

NAPOLI - Maurizio Sarri's side have been in fine form in both their domestic and Champions League campaigns, securing two victories against Dynamo Kyiv and Benfica in the latter competition.

"Napoli are capable of the final," Capello told *Il Mattino*.

"I have faith in this Napoli, they play great football. I hope for an Italian in the final.

They know their roles and they're really well-organised, it's a pleasure to see them play," he said.

The 70-year-old mentor also

took the time to comment on some of the differences between world football today versus yesterday.

"I don't like comparisons with the past, it's pointless. For example, 20 years ago with such heavy balls you couldn't strike it from distance the way they do now.

"We're talking about the present, and in the present Napoli have clear ideas, great organisation, belief in what they do and a great intensity about their play.

"In short, they play good football," he concluded.

TeamTalk



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FIXTURES

Today		
Manchester United	v Stoke City	13:00
Tottenham Hotspur	v Manchester City	15:15
Leicester City	v Southampton	15:15
Burnley	v Arsenal	17:30

Giggs is 42, should enter managers pool

LONDON - Ryan Giggs is 42 and this summer, for the first time since he was 16, he did not spend it involved in pre-season preparations.

He spent 24 years playing for Manchester United and a further two as an assistant to Louis van Gaal but is unattached in football and a free agent in his Foursies.

Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola were 37 when they first took to management. Antonio Conte and Mauricio Pochettino were 36, Arsene Wenger was 34 and Jurgen Klopp was 33.

Charge

There is not a single manager in the Premier League - Hull City caretaker Mike Phelan aside - who was as old as Giggs when he took charge of his first club. If Giggs wants to go on to become one of the best bosses in the business, and someday take over at Old Trafford, then it is time he joined the party. Whether that is in the Premier League is up to Swansea City. Yesterday they took on Liverpool and there was talk this week that Giggs' debut in the dugout could come against Manchester United's great rivals from Merseyside at the Liberty Stadium. *Daily Mail*

IMPROVING MAN U PRIMED TO PUNISH STOKE



MANCHESTER - Manchester United appear to have averted the crisis that was developing in the wake of a recent run of three successive defeats, but there is still plenty of room for improvement at Old Trafford.

Jose Mourinho questioned the personality of his players after they lost 3-1 at Watford two weekends ago and the Portuguese displayed some of the haunted look that characterised his fateful last few months at Chelsea.

However, three straight wins across three competitions since have gone some way to lightening the mood and last Saturday's 4-1 Premier League win over

champions Leicester was particularly emphatic, and means that United sit in the top six as they prepare to host winless Stoke today.

Thursday's 1-0 Europa League group-stage win over Ukrainian minnows Zorya Luhansk was rather less impressive, but it did at least demonstrate that Mourinho's ability to dig out scrappy victories appears to have returned following his troubles at Chelsea last season.

Ability

An ability to grind out positive results under pressure may be vital, given that United have testing league trips to Liverpool and Chelsea during October, as well as a Europa League meeting

with Turkish club Fenerbahce.

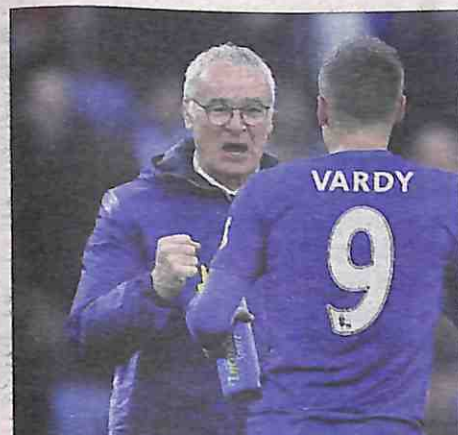
"Every game is massive," Mourinho said. "Watford was massive. We lost three points against Watford. No different to the three points we lost against Manchester City."

"So every game for me is important. You're right, we have some big opponents in October. But that's also a motivation."

The biggest question Mourinho has faced since taking charge at Old Trafford in May is what to do about Wayne Rooney.

There is little doubt that the England captain's powers are on the wane and his performances this season have been poor.

AFP



Claudio Ranieri and Jamie Vardy.

Ranieri challenges superstitious Vardy

LEICESTER - Leicester City Manager Claudio Ranieri has challenged Jamie Vardy to prove his curious pre-match drinking ritual still works by ending his goal drought against Southampton today.

Vardy revealed in his new autobiography that he superstitiously drank a glass of port out of a Lucozade bottle the night before every match last season.

The England international striker's unusual habit worked a treat as he left opposing defenders punch drunk en route to scoring 24 times in Leicester's incredible Premier League title triumph.

Goals

But Vardy, 29, who also said he consumes three cans of Red Bull and two espressos on the day of a game to boost his energy, has only three goals this term and has gone five matches without scoring.

Keen to keep him on his toes, Ranieri questioned if the ritual had lost its magic following Vardy's latest blank, in Leicester's 1-0 Champions League win over Porto on Tuesday. "He took it before Porto? Why didn't he score?!" Ranieri said.

AFP

Pep expects sparks to fly at Tottenham

LONDON - After a ding-dong 3-3 draw with Celtic in the Champions League, Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola anticipates another breathless encounter in this weekend's Premier League showdown with Tottenham Hotspur.

With six wins from six matches, City are the league leaders and early title favourites, but Tottenham, four points back in second place, are enjoying their best start to a top-flight campaign since 1965.

Guardiola and his Spurs counterpart Mauricio Pochettino employ an aggressive, high-pressing style and the City manager thinks the fans at White Hart Lane today could be in for a treat.

Active

"What I like is teams who are active and you see that when they play, they want the ball," said Guardiola, who could become the first manager to win his first seven Premier League matches.

"They want to keep it and they are so aggressive without the ball. I like to see that and Liverpool and

Tottenham are both teams in that way. "I think it's fantastic what happened in Glasgow. One attacked, then the other did, it was 3-3 and the fans enjoyed it and the people here watching did too."

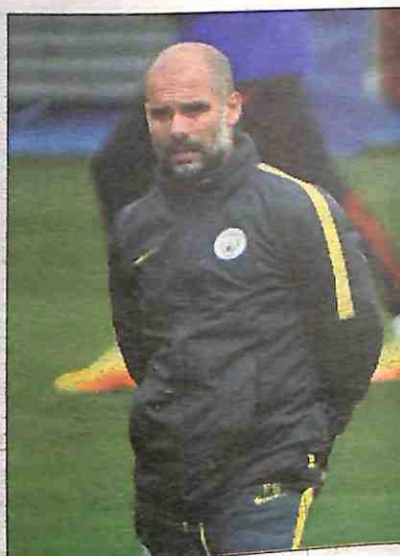
"The fans for Man City were disappointed because they didn't win, but were happy with what they saw. They saw until the last moment they tried to win."

"That is what I am after. Until the last minute, try to win the games, it doesn't matter what happened."

Exhausted

"At the end I went to the locker room and the players were tired. They were exhausted. So much so that they couldn't talk and that is what I want from my players."

Pochettino's managerial career has been closely entwined with Guardiola's, the two men having started life as top-level coaches in the same city and during the same season. In his first game as a head coach, former Argentina centre-back Pochettino saw his Espanyol team hold Guardiola's Barcelona to a 0-0 draw in a Copa del Rey tie in January



Pep Guardiola.

2009. A month later, Espanyol sensationally won 2-1 at Camp Nou to end a 27-year wait for a derby victory and give Pochettino his first win as a manager.

It was Barcelona's first league loss in six months and one of only three home defeats that Guardiola suffered in a maiden season that concluded with a league, Copa del Rey and Champions League treble.

AFP

WENGER RETAINS LOFTY VISION

LONDON - Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger, for all his admirable qualities, has faults. He is not gracious in defeat, he is as stubborn as a mule and he often suffers from selective vision, to name a few.

But as the charismatic Frenchman prepares to mark 20 years in charge of Arsenal at Burnley today, it could be said his biggest fault is the ceaseless pursuit of silverware by playing fantasy football - a noble undertaking prone to failure.

That is why, despite giving so much to the English game since being met by headlines of "Arsene Who?" when he arrived in 1996, there are a few conspicuous spaces in the trophy cabinet. It would be harsh to criticise the 66-year-old since he has won three English Premier League titles and six FA Cups as well as steering Arsenal within 14 minutes of beating Barcelona in the 2006 Champions League final.

Yet all but two of those feats were achieved before the north



Arsene Wenger.

London club left the marble-halled splendour of their Highbury home for the Emirates Stadium 10 years ago.

Enjoy

It is true that the 60 000 fans who fill the gleaming new arena enjoy a brand of football that when it clicks, as it did when they tore FC Basle apart for 45 minutes in a 2-0 Champions League group victory on Wednesday, sets the pulse racing. *Reuters*

South African SOCCER

Jomo Cosmos win contractual dispute?

JOHANNESBURG - Jomo Cosmos have confirmed that the team's Ivorian defender, Ange Lebahi, is likely to make his long-awaited return to the pitch for the side.

The centre back has been the subject of a contractual dispute involving Cosmos and Cape Town All Stars, as reported in issue 991 of Soccer Laduma.

Assist

Last week, Cosmos boss Jomo Sono confirmed to the Siya crew that he would assist Lebahi by representing him at the PSL DRC regarding the contractual matter he has been facing.

Now, the club took to their official website to confirm the player could be available for the team's trip to Tuks Stadium for yesterday's game against University of Pretoria. *SoccerLaduma*

'MERE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY IN MIDFIELD'

JOHANNESBURG - Platinum Stars coach Calvin Johnson tells Goal that he has been impressed with how Vuyo Mere has adapted in his new midfield role, and he hopes he can continue in that vein for the rest of the season.

"He is doing very well for us. We hope he can keep doing as well as he has been in midfield the whole year," Johnson told Goal.

Mere started his playing career as a midfielder when he first made his professional debut for Hellenic during the 2001/02 season.

However, he was converted into a full-back as soon as he joined Mamelodi Sundowns in 2004.

As he approaches the twi-



Platinum Stars coach Calvin Johnson.

light of his career, the 32-year-old has been reverted to his old position by Johnson, who worked with Mere as an assistant coach during their days at Sundowns 10 years ago.

"As long as he guides the

youngsters well in midfield, he will be just fine, and yes he is getting better and better and gets into good scoring positions like against Baroka, where he could have scored two goals," Johnson said. *Goal*

No action for Tokelo Rantie, Kermit Erasmus

JOHANNESBURG - The 26-year-old Tokelo Rantie has made two substitute appearances for his side so far, but was not used on Friday.

Kermit Erasmus was also not included in the Rennes squad for their Ligue 1 clash with Guingamp.

This after making his first start for the club in the 3-0 loss to Dijon last weekend.

Andile Jali remains sidelined by injury and did not feature for Belgian side Oostende, who selected former Kaizer Chiefs forward Knowledge Musona despite allegations he had bet on his own team and was under investigation.

Action

Bradley Ralani was in action for struggling Swedish side Helsingborg from the start, but his side suffered another demoralising 1-0 loss to Hammarby and are now in real danger of relegation.

Ertugral backs Kutumela to bring Bucs goals



JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates coach Orlando Ertugral believes Thabiso Kutumela can bring goals and scoring opportunities to his team if he can get fully fit.

The talented forward netted his first goal for Bucs in a recent 1-1 draw in a Premiership clash against Platinum Stars.

Kutumela is highly-rated after making his name in the National First Division last season with Baroka. The 23-year-old hit 18 goals for Bakgaga as the side from Limpopo gained promotion to the top-flight.

Such were his talents, at least five Premiership clubs were said to be after his services until the Bucs won the

race for his signature.

Nonetheless, Ertugral has explained why he feels the South Africa Under-23 star can give Pirates an edge in attack.

The Turkish mentor told reporters, "He brings a lot of scoring opportunities, he just needs some more games. He is not fit, he was injured."

Cramps

"I don't think, in this point in time, he can last in a game for 30 minutes. The last time he had cramps at training and he is not 100% fit yet."

The forward will have plenty time to reach full fitness as Pirates' next game is only on October 16, against Polokwane City following the international break.

Sport 24

Orlando Pirates' Thabiso Kutumela.

Komphele senses 'harmony, desire' from his troops

JOHANNESBURG - It has been a long time coming but Steve Komphele and his Kaizer Chiefs charges are on top of the Absa Premiership again.

Amakhosi secured a 2-0 victory over Free State Stars on Wednesday which ensured the Sowetan side claim maximum points and shifted them to the summit of the PSL.

Three victories in a row have given Chiefs a sense of

desire Komphele has said and that everything is starting to come together.

"There is harmony in the team and a desire to do better," Komphele reflected on the club's website.

Tremendous

"There's camaraderie in the camp. Everyone wants to play, but those that don't make it into the match squad have given tremendous support to their team-mates, and that's pleasing to see."

The Chiefs coach posed a cool and collected figure after watching Man-of-the-Match, Willard Katsande, score from the penalty spot, while fellow Zimbabwean, Michelle Katsvairo, added the second.

Result

"I thought we did well, getting the result," comments Komphele.

"We just have to continue working hard, game by game."

Sport24

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'I PUT TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON MYSELF'

SERBIA - Novak Djokovic no longer sees winning grand slam titles or staying top of the men's ATP rankings as a priority in his tennis career, Serbia's world No. 1 said on Friday.

"I don't want to think about winning titles and being the No. 1 any more in order to avoid putting pressure on myself," Djokovic, the winner of 12 major tournaments, told reporters.

"I put too much pressure on myself after winning this year's Roland Garros and I didn't like it," the 29-year-old added.

"I always enjoyed tennis and relished the game away from tournaments too but in the last few months, all the talk about making history has brought too much pressure."

"It doesn't mean I no longer want to contribute to the sport but I also don't want to keep on playing just for the sake of winning titles."

Djokovic, who steamrolled to Australian and French Open titles in the first half of the season, has suffered a dramatic loss of form since and pulled out of next week's China Open with an elbow injury.

He lost to American Sam Querrey in the Wimbledon third round before he was knocked out in the

● *Novak Djokovic is not obsessed with winning Grand Slams or being No. 1 any more...*

DJOKOVIC GRAND SLAMS

Australian Open W (2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016)

French Open W (2016)

Wimbledon W (2011, 2014, 2015)

US Open W (2011, 2015)

Total: 12

opening round of the Olympic Games by Argentine Juan Martin del Potro.

Djokovic was unstoppable in 2015 when he won three out of four major titles and this year he finally completed a career slam after clinching his maiden French Open title by beating Briton Andy Murray in the final.

Ability

He pointed out several times after his Wimbledon and Olympic disappointments that the effort had drained him mentally and physically, raising question marks over his ability to equal Swiss maestro Roger Federer's career tally of 18 grand slams.

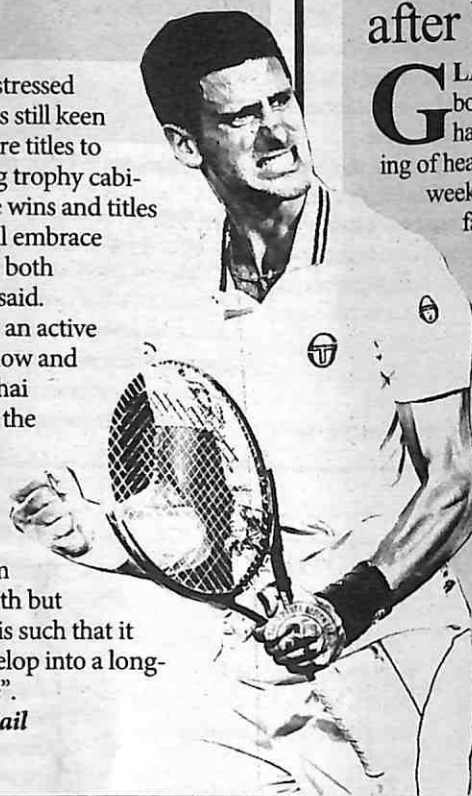
Appearing to enjoy a light workout in the morning sun at a hard-court complex overlooking the banks of Belgrade's Sava River,

Djokovic stressed that he was still keen to add more titles to his bulging trophy cabinet. "If the wins and titles come I will embrace them with both arms," he said.

"I am on an active vacation now and the Shanghai Masters is the next tournament."

"It's a micro-injury I am dealing with but its nature is such that it could develop into a long-term issue."

Daily Mail



Scottish boxer dies in hospital after being knocked out in bout

GLASGOW - Scottish boxer Mike Towell had been 'complaining of headaches' in the weeks leading up to his fateful fight against Dale Evans, his partner has revealed.

Towell, 25, suffered a fifth-round loss to Evans in a St Andrews Sporting Club fight at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow and was rushed to Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, where he later died.

Following the tragic news, his partner Chloe Ross took to social media to pay tribute to Towell, writing "I'm absolutely heartbroken to say my annoying best friend passed away tonight at 11.02 very peacefully". "Michael had severe bleeding and swelling to his brain. He had been complaining of headaches for the last few weeks but we put it down to migraines with the stress of his fight."

"It has been the longest 24 hours of our lives. My baby has lost his daddy. But he will be so so proud of his dad in what he achieved."

The event was being broadcast on STV Glasgow when Towell, from Dundee, was fatally injured.

Daily Mail

No contact over England vacancy, says Rangnick

LONDON - RB Leipzig Sporting Director Ralf Rangnick insists there has been no contact from the Football Association regarding the vacant England manager's job.

Sam Allardyce left the post on Tuesday by mutual consent, after agreeing with the FA that comments he made to undercover journalists regarding ways to negate transfer rules were "unacceptable".

While Under-21s boss Gareth Southgate has been handed the job for the next four matches, a permanent successor has yet to be identified and Rangnick's name was linked.

The 58-year-old admits to having spoken with FA Technical Director Dan Ashworth after England's abysmal Euro 2016 showing, which cost Roy

Hodgson his job, but insists he has not been approached since Allardyce's departure.

Speaking prior to Leipzig's Bundesliga clash with Augsburg on Friday, he told Sky Deutschland: "The fact is, a few days after the Euro 2016 final, I got a call."

"It was from Dan Ashworth, the association's Technical Director who I had known for a few years. He invited me for talks about me becoming the new England manager. "We had a good, two-hour talk. A day later, Dan informed me they had decided they wanted to appoint an English manager, also out of respect for English managers."

"Since then, there has not been any more contact." Rangnick has coached numerous clubs in his homeland, notably Stuttgart, Hannover and Schalke, and guided Hoffenheim from the third tier to the Bundesliga in consecutive seasons.

Daily Mail

Ralf Rangnick.
(AP)



Ex-England manager could face football ban

LONDON - Sam Allardyce left his role after the Daily Telegraph claimed he told undercover reporters posing as businessmen how to "get around" player transfer rules.

The FA is awaiting the newspaper's full transcript before deciding what action, if any, to take against Allardyce.

FA CEO Martin Glenn said punishments "could range from a fine to a ban".

Asked if a charge was likely, he replied: "It is realistic. It's not for

me to call but once the evidence is clear, the decision will be based on the merits of the evidence."

"We've treated Sam as an employee. Sam's role as a participant in the game will then be, potentially, part of this next process, if there is one."

The Telegraph are releasing full transcripts of their investigation, which covers alleged corruption across English football, to the police.

Allardyce made a "whole-hearted apology" as he left his post by

mutual agreement on Tuesday - just 67 days after taking charge.

Glenn said he felt "let down" by Allardyce and letting him go was not an easy decision.

"I genuinely think, for football reasons, he was a really good choice," he said.

"My instinct was to say: 'Let's look at it but let's see if we can find a way of making it work.' But as the events unfolded and in the cold light of day, [we judged] that it was going to be a compromise to the FA." *BBC Sport*

McIlroy answers 'hostile' US crowd with a bow

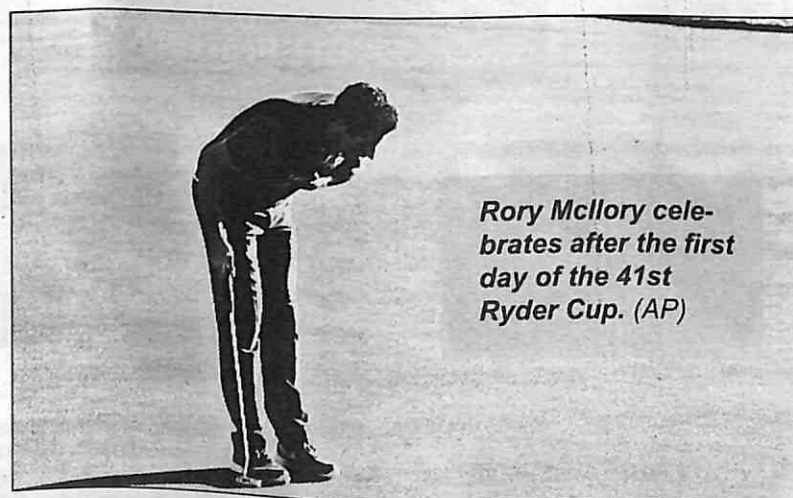
CHASKA - Rory McIlroy helped reinvigorate a European challenge with an emotional celebration on the 16th hole after he drained a walk off eagle putt to cap the first day of the 41st Ryder Cup.

McIlroy and playing partner Thomas Pieters defeated Dustin Johnson and Matt Kuchar three and two to lead an afternoon charge that saw Europe claim three of four four-ball matches Friday at Hazeltine National golf course.

"We want to ride this little wave of momentum we have," said McIlroy.

McIlroy's celebration on the par-five 16 began with a formal bow to hostile fans followed by a fist pump and a couple of chest bumps thrown in for good measure.

"I bowed to them and said, 'You're welcome for the show' and we move on," said McIlroy who was trying to



Rory McIlroy celebrates after the first day of the 41st Ryder Cup. (AP)

light a fire under his team after they were routed 4-0 by the host Americans in the morning session.

"It was pretty hostile out there," said McIlroy of the raucous Ryder Cup fans.

"You don't want to let that get to

you. You just want to let them know when you hole a putt how much it means to you."

McIlroy's largely untested Team Europe still trails 5-3 in points as they seek to win an unprecedented fourth straight Ryder Cup in a row. *AFP*

LIVERPOOL FIGHT BACK TO SINK SWANSEA

LIVERPOOL - James Milner propelled Liverpool to second place in the Premier League as his late penalty secured a 2-1 win against Swansea yesterday.

Milner's spot-kick sealed an impressive comeback for Jurgen Klopp's team and enabled the Reds to move within two points of Premier League leaders Manchester City, who face Tottenham today.

Liverpool trailed to an early Leroy Fer goal at the Liberty Stadium and looked second-best before Roberto Firmino took control to inspire his side's fourth successive league victory.

Brazil forward Firmino scored Liverpool's equaliser early in the second half and won the crucial penalty that Milner converted in the final minutes.

Struggling Swansea's fifth defeat



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino, left, celebrates scoring his side's first goal of the game with Sadio Mane, centre, against Swansea City during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea, England, yesterday. (AP)

in seven league games will increase the pressure on manager Francesco Guidolin, who has had to deal with speculation he is set to lose his job.

Ryan Giggs and Bob Bradley are among the names reported lined up as potential replacements for Guidolin. Klopp made one change to the side that thrashed

Hull 5-1 at Anfield a week ago, with Dejan Lovren, a rejuvenated presence in the Liverpool defence this season, returned to the starting line-up in place of Ragnar Klavan.

There was a solitary change, too, in the Swansea team following their 3-1 defeat by Manchester City as striker Borja Baston starting a Premier League game for the first time in place of the injured Fernando Llorente.

Former Atletico Madrid forward Borja was in the thick of the action, but wasted an early chance to endear himself to the locals by heading over from Wayne Routledge's fine cross.

Liverpool's defence was looking surprisingly fragile despite Lovren's return to action and Fer made the most of the instability to put the home side ahead.

AFP

Dominant Chelsea get back to winning ways at Hull

LONDON - Chelsea earned their first Premier League win in four games as they defeated Hull City 2-0 at the KCOM Stadium.

Willian (61) and Diego Costa (67) grabbed the goals yesterday as Antonio Conte's men returned to winning ways with a dominant performance in Yorkshire.

Willian produced a brilliant finish with his left foot to curl an 18-yard effort past a wrong-footed David Marshall before Costa managed almost a carbon-copy goal with a first-time finish into the top corner from just inside the area.

It was a timely tonic for Blues boss Antonio Conte who had seen his side struggle in a disappointing first half in which they failed to muster a single shot on target.

But for the acrobatics of Thibaut Courtois, who saved from Robert Snodgrass and Ryan Mason, Chelsea could



Chelsea's Willian, right, celebrates scoring his side's first goal of the game during their English Premier League soccer match against Hull City at the KCOM Stadium, Hull, England, yesterday. (AP)

have been heading for another damaging defeat.

Chelsea's underwhelming start to the season had seen the pressure mount on Conte, who admitted on Friday there was "no magic wand" to correct this campaign's glaring inefficiencies.

He replaced the misfiring Branislav Ivanovic with Marcos Alonso and handed Victor Moses his first league start for the club since May

2013.

Things were far from happy at Hull, too, with Mike Phelan still stalling on talk of a permanent deal and his side smarting from last weekend's comprehensive 5-1 defeat at Anfield.

But an encouraging start lifted the hosts as a foul by David Luiz set up a free-kick chance for Snodgrass, whose deflected effort was brilliantly tipped over the bar by Courtois.

Teamtalk

Watford fight back twice to earn point against Cherries

WATFORD - Battling Watford had to come from behind twice to secure a point against Bournemouth in a thrilling 2-2 draw at Vicarage Road.

Allum Wilson's first-half strike was cancelled out by Troy Deeney. Josh King restored the lead moments after coming off the substitutes' bench, but the Hornets levelled for a second time through Isaac Success three minutes later.

Jack Wilshere might have won the match for the visitors - and put a dampener on Watford head coach Walter Mazzarri's 55th birthday celebrations - but could not hit

a gaping goal from six yards out. If this were an audition for England then Wilson and Deeney stood out, although Holland-born Morocco winger Nordin Amrabat outshone them both. It was not one of Howe's team's better performances.

There were nine England-qualified players in the visiting starting XI, but Wilshere did little to stake a claim for inclusion in Gareth Southgate's squad for the forthcoming World Cup qualifiers with Malta and Slovenia. Wilson was a hand-ful for Younes Kaboul and Sebastian Prodl from early on.

Prodl fouled Wilson and the resulting inswinging free-kick from Junior Stanislas was tipped over by Heurelho Gomes. Wilshere's most meaningful contribution in the opening half-hour was a late tackle on Camilo Zuniga which saw the on-loan Arsenal midfielder booked.

The Cherries were rewarded for their perseverance when Adam Smith and Deeney were in a tangle on Watford's left. The ball broke for Stanislas whose cross looped off Jose Holebas and was met by Wilson with a firm downward header which bounced beneath Gomes. AFP

Winless Sunderland still searching after Baggies stalemate

LONDON - Patrick van Aanholt came off the bench to relieve the pressure on manager David Moyes as Sunderland collected just their second point of the season in a 1-1 draw against West Brom.

The Black Cats were trailing to Nacer Chadli's 35th-minute opener with seven minutes remaining when Van Aanholt, who was withdrawn from the side to face Tottenham just minutes before kick-off on the advice of a cardiologist, bundled the ball home to level.

He immediately ran to the touchline to celebrate with club doctor Ishtiaq Rehman, who is understood to be working his notice after tendering his resignation earlier this week.

The draw spared Moyes a return of just a single point from the first seven games of the Premier League season, the same record as that which cost Paolo Di Canio his job at the Stadium of Light at the start of the 2013-14 campaign.

The contest was just four minutes old when Duncan Watmore, playing in the central role behind lone striker Jermain Defoe, exchanged passes with Didier Ndong and slid the ball through to the former England frontman.

Defoe was just inside, but with only keeper Ben Foster to beat, he dragged his shot inches wide of the post. Goal

Ancelotti's men drop first Bundesliga points

MUNICH - Bayern Munich dropped their first Bundesliga points of the season as Anthony Modeste's second-half equaliser gave Koln a shock 1-1 draw at the Allianz Arena.

Carlo Ancelotti's side had suffered defeat to Atletico Madrid in the Champions League last time out and failed to get back on track despite Joshua Kimmich heading his fifth goal of the season in the first half.

Koln came into the game sitting fourth after an impressive start to the campaign and Modeste scored in acrobatic fashion on 63 minutes shortly after Javi Martinez had hit the post for Bayern, who made seven changes after their midweek defeat.

Substitute Thomas Muller thought he had rescued the points for Bayern, but a brilliant save from Timo Horn, as well as Juan Bernat striking against the post, ensured the visitors claimed a point.

Bayern - who had scored four on each of Koln's last two trips to Munich - stay top, but title rivals Borussia Dortmund can move to within one point if they defeat Bayer Leverkusen later yesterday.

Goal



Cologne's Frederik Soerensen, left, and Bayern's Robert Lewandowski challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and 1. FC Cologne at the Allianz Arena stadium in Munich, Germany, yesterday. (AP)

Payet wonder goal rescues point for Hammers

LONDON - A fine solo effort from Dimitri Payet ended West Ham's run of four consecutive Premier League defeats with a 1-1 draw against Middlesbrough.

The France star beat five Boro players before slotting the ball home to cancel out Cristhian Stuani's header and rescue a point for the Hammers after four straight Premier League defeats.

Payet's heroics provided a positive end to another tough week for West Ham, whose players are under the spotlight after a team night out on the town on Monday reportedly went on a bit longer than it should have.

To compound their problems the move from Upton Park to the former Olympic Stadium is still not sitting well with some fans, as a section sang 'we should have stayed at the Boleyn' and 'Stratford's a s***hole, we want to go home'.

If under-pressure boss Slaven Bilic thought things could not get much worse he was proved wrong after just five minutes when Sam Byram left the field on a stretcher.

And the hosts could have found themselves behind moments later when Viktor Fischer fizzed a low shot across Adrian's goal and inches wide. Teamtalk



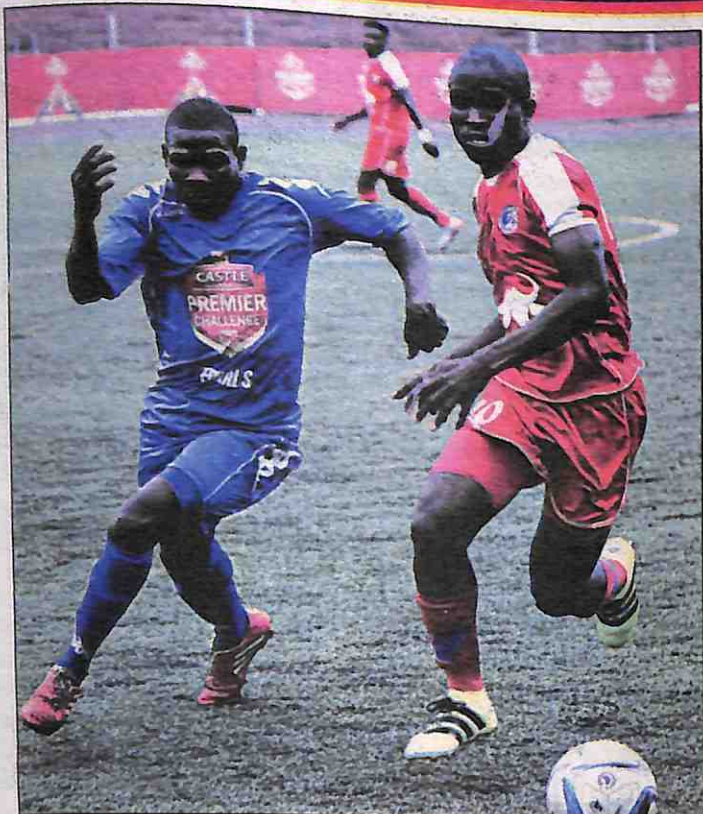
West Ham's Dimitri Payet celebrates after scoring during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham and Middlesbrough at The London Stadium in London, yesterday. (AP)





CASTLE PREMIER CHALLENGE

POWERED BY CASTLE LAGER



Royal Leopard's Gondo Anesu and Mbabane Swallows' Sanele Mkhweli vying for the ball during Castle Premier Challenge final at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Swallows won 1-0. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Swallows' Njabulo Ndlovu controls the ball while Leopard's Sicelo Mavimbela tries to mark him.



Mxolisi Lukhele and Banele Sikhondze battling for the ball.

Mbabane Swallows 1 - 0 Royal Leopards



Mbabane Swallows Captain Tony Tsabedze receiving the trophy from Prince Masitsela and Swaziland Beverages MD's representative Thembinkosi Thwala.



Jubilant Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati lifting the trophy.



Prince Masitsela flanked by FA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu and Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.



Swallows players going back to the dressing rooms after warming up.



Guest of honour Prince Masitsela shaking hands with Royal Leopard players.



Jubilant Mbabane Swallows supporters celebrating their lone and important goal against Royal Leopard.

CASTLE PREMIER CHALLENGE

POWERED BY CASTLE LAGER



Castle Premier Challenge Finals



Royal Leopard goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi making a brilliant save.



Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa celebrating a goal scored by Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko (not in the picture)



Mandla Palma, Mydo Nakouho Kingu and Siphamandla Mathenjwa celebrating their goal.



Man of the Match Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze of Mbabane Swallows receiving his E1 400 replica cheque from Swaziland Beverages HR Director Lindiwe Mbatha and Director of Sports Henry Zeeman.



Top goal scorers Sandile Hlatjwako, Tony Tsabedze and Zweli Nxumalo receiving the trophy from Swaziland Beverages HR Director Lindiwe Mbatha.



Swallows substitutes in full sprint after the final whistle.



PLS Chairman Victor Gamedze complains after Royal Leopard players disappeared during the medals presentation.



Prince Masitsela presenting the medals to the champions.



PLS Chairman and Mbabane Swallows boss Victor Gamedze, guest of honour Prince Masitsela, Swaziland Beverages MD's representative Thembinkosi Thwala and Minister of Sports David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala displaying the trophy.



Scorer of Swallows imported goal Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko laughs with Leopard captain Sifiso Nkambule while the team's (Leopard) coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane congratulate Nhleko after the game.

VAN ROOYEN JOINS HUB SUNDOWNS

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Soccer - Former Manzini Sea Birds head coach Van Rooyen Magagula has found a new home with MTN National First Division side, Hub Sundowns.

The coach assumed his role at the new side during their fall draw against Bad Boys at the Mavuso Sports Centre on Friday night.

Asked about the move, Magagula said there was no communication from his former employers except for telling him he would be the Technical Director in the new season, something that did not materialise.

"Sea Birds did not inform me about offering me a new role in the team so I decided to move on with my career. I am now focusing on Hub Sundowns and committed to helping the team achieve great things," he said.

Sea Birds Public Relations Officer (PRO) Sifiso Masuku said he was yet to verify the issue of the coach with the team's board of directors when asked about the matter yesterday.

"Nothing official has reached my office with regards to this matter. I am yet to consult with the directors and thereafter will be able to comment," he said.

Meanwhile Bad Boys coach Mpendulo Mawelela lauded his charges for their showing despite sharing the spoils against their town rivals.

"I am happy with the performance of the team tonight (Friday) as my boys showed character by salvaging a point during this tough game.

We will continue working hard in the upcoming matches," he said.

Goals from Hub Sundowns' Xolani Mdluli and Bad Boys' Sifiso Dlamini ensured the two teams share the spoils in front of over 200 fans who watched the match.

Matsapha Utd jump to summit after Brothers win

Soccer - Star studded Matsapha United maintained their winning ways after brushing off Ludzeldudze Brothers 2-0 in a match played on Friday night.

It was goals from Vusumuzi Zungu and Michael Dombo that gave the Matthews 'Chaka Chaka' Mandlazi-led side their third league win.

United have now jumped to the summit of the log standings with a total of 10 points, three ahead of their competitors Malanti Chiefs, who will be in action this afternoon against Mbabane Citizens. Speaking after the match played at the Mavuso Sports Centre, the Mozambican born Mandlazi said he was happy with the win, and described it as a result of hard work from his players. "Credit should go to the boys for fighting throughout the match and bagging home the maximum points. We need

Fixtures									
Today					Malanti Chiefs	3	2	0	1
Prince of Wales					Hlatikhulu Tycoons	3	2	1	0
Vovovo	vs	H. Tycoons	1.30pm		Hub Sundowns	4	1	1	2
Citizen	vs	Malanti	3.30pm		City Warriors	3	1	2	0
Mayaluka Stadium					Vovovo	3	1	1	1
Sikhalo	vs	Madlenya	1.30pm		Madlenya	3	1	1	1
City Warriors	vs	Amalanda	3.30pm		Amalanda	2	1	1	0
National First Division log:					Mbabane Citizen	3	1	2	0
Position	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
Matsapha United	4	3	0	1	6	0	6	10	
					Bad Boys	4	0	1	3
					Sikhalo Se-Afrika	3	1	2	0
					Ludzeldudze Brothers	3	0	3	0
					N.B Amalanda and Brothers have a pending DC case				

to continue working hard, treat each game as a cup final and see what we can achieve at the end of the season," he said. His Ludzeldudze Brothers counterpart, Mandla Shabangu, said they were still on a rebuilding phase after losing

some of their key players during the pre-season.

"I am not yet panicking as this was my first match in charge. I am still instilling self-belief in the players and am positive we will improve during the course of the season," he said.

Phumlile, 23 others complete IAAF coaching course

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Athletics - Top female 100m record holder athlete Phumlile Ndzinisa, and 23 other participants, successfully completed a two weeks International Athletics Association Federation (IAAF) Level 1 Course.

The course was held at the OlympAfrica Centre and was facilitated by Mauritius born IAAF instructor Frankie Le Bon.

Only one participant didn't complete the course as she reportedly disappeared.

Making her remarks on behalf of the Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA), board member, Pearl Dlamini, praised the participants for their commitment during the course. She thanked the tutors for sharing their knowledge and expertise with the aspiring coaches.

"It is now up to you to impart your knowledge to other athletes out there. As an organisation, we will do a follow-up to check the implementation process.

"I must say I'm not pleased with the number of ladies that turned up for the course. Only four out of 24 took part and this is not good," she



International Athletics Association Federation (IAAF) coaching course Level 1 participants displaying their certificates after the official closing of the course on Friday at OlympAfrica. (Pic: Sabelo Majola)

said.

Athletics Association of Swaziland (AAS) Track and Field Chairman, Joe Dlamini, said the mandate was to have podium athletes by 2024.

"We are grateful to SOCGA for finding it fit to train our coaches because we are looking to produce athletes that will win medals for the country by 2024," he said.

Swaziland National Sport and Recreation

Council (SNSRC) Chairman, Lolo Mtsetfwa, praised SOCGA CEO Muriel Hoffer for her passion and enthusiasm towards sports.

"We cannot have podium athletes unless we have podium coaches. With such initiatives, we will give the best athletes in the world a run for their money by 2024 and thus appreciate the efforts by SOCGA in developing and equipping the coaches," he said.

vened after 14 days if half of the members form the quorum," she said.

She said the constitution also gives the executive committee powers to use its discretion to either call another meeting or continue with those present and that this meeting shall be the same status as of the normal AGM.

Sigudla said they were looking to have the meeting on October 15 and were hopeful the teams would attend.

"Maybe the bad weather conditions attributed to the teams failing to show up. We are, however, hopeful that the next meeting will go on as planned," he said.



Mandla Mahewu Sales and Marketing Manager Paulo Marques handing over the trophy to SuperSport captain Sibane Gamedze while HRFA Chairman Comfort Shongwe (r) and member Ntokozo Tsela look on. (Pic: Sabelo Majola)

SuperSport crowned Mbabane Juniors champs, E800 richer

STORIES BY SABELO MAJOLA

Soccer - SuperSport are the champions of the Mandla Mahewu Mbabane Juniors Football League champions after finishing six points clear on the log.

The grand closing games were held at Msunduzi Sports Ground yesterday.

The champs played to a goalless draw against runners-up Hurricane in their last match of the campaign, finishing the league with only one loss in 22 games and 57 points. They were handed their E800 cash prize and a trophy immediately after the match while the second placed Hurricane, who finished with 51 points, received E500.

Making her remarks after the prize presentation, Mandla Mahewu Sales and Marketing Manager Paula Marques, said they were committed to their partnership with the Hhohho Regional Football League (HRFA). She said they would continue sponsoring the youngsters who are the future of football in the country.

"We want to motivate them to be better footballers, get off the streets and find enthusiasm in the sport. We will try and add extra money to the juniors next season but all that is yet to be discussed. We have already committed to sponsoring referees with equipment and more is yet to come," she said.

The prize breakdown:

Champions	E 800
Runners-up	E500
Third place	E400
Fourth place	E250
Participation fee	E1 200
Communication fee	E150
Medals and trophy	E1 700

Over 500 units of Mandla Mahewu doled out

Soccer - Over 500 units of the Mandla Mahewu product was handed to children who came to Msunduzi Sports Ground to witness the grand closing of the Mbabane Juniors Football League yesterday.

HRFA Chairman Comfort Shongwe expressed gratitude to the sponsors Mandla Mahewu. He said they would now let the youngsters focus on their studies since the league has come to an end, as education was a priority.

"We have passed the stage of promoting mass development and are now looking for quality. From next season, we will be very strict and will allow only teams with qualified coaches to register. The same thing will apply with administrators because their job extends to imparting life skills to the youngsters hence should also be well knowledgeable," he said.

NETBALL AGM A NON-STARTER

BY SANELE JELE

NETBALL - The much anticipated National Netball Association of Swaziland (NNAS) Annual General Meeting (AGM), was a non-starter after teams failed to show up.

The meeting, scheduled for the Zakhele Community Hall in Manzini yesterday, had to be postponed after teams failed to meet the quorum as per the association's constitution.

Only seven out of 18 teams showed up for the meeting and these were; Manzini Ladies, Correctional, Nhlanguano Ladies, Royal Swaziland Police, Tambuti and Buhleni.

NNAS President Mandisa Sgudla said they had no other alternative but to call off the meeting.

"Article 7.2 of the constitution states that the quorum shall consist of two thirds of the members and that in the event the quorum is not met, the meeting shall be called off and be con-

'BIRDS' FLY OVER LEOPARD AGAIN

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Mbabane Swallows (0)1
Royal Leopard (0)0

SOCCER – It was a perfect moment yet again for giants Mbabane Swallows as they clinched their second Castle Cup championship at the expense of Royal Leopard yesterday.

This was, however, a third victory for the 'Beautiful Birds' in the Swaziland Beverages sponsored tournament as they won the inaugural winner-takes-all edition after beating Malanti Chiefs.

It took a special player in a special moment to shine during the tightly contested encounter and that was none other than seasoned winger Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko who unleashed a stunner 25 minutes into the second stanza, earning his side the E800 000 first prize carrot.

The former international player rattled the far right corner of the net following a place kick taken at about 25 yards. This was after eventual Man of the Match Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze was fouled by Leopard defender Sizwe Khumalo. Just like in their first meeting in



Swallows players greeting their supporters before kick off.

the final of the tournament last year, it was Swallows that visited the back of the net, as Leopard have failed to score in this tournament having lost 0-2 in their first meeting.

It was Swallows that had the best afternoon and started off the match like a house of fire, as fullback Sanele Mkhweli saw his ground shot missing the target by a few inches only two minutes into the affair. Leopard defender Sicelo Mavimbela rescued his side in the 10th minute as he cleared a 'Samba Jive' goal bound shot inside the

sixth area.

The fast paced Swallows not only gave the opposition a tough time but displayed carpet football, thrilling their throngs of supporters present on the day.

The ever impressive Leopard goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi also came to the party, making brilliant saves during the gruelling encounter.

Leopard upped their game minutes later and almost punished the opposition in the 31st minute but winger Mathokoza 'Tokyo' Thwala's dipping shot was tipped

over the bar by an alert Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza.

Leopard were forced to make an early substitution in the first half after debutant Anesu Gondo and Siboniso 'Rocco' Malambe were rested for Sizwe Khumalo and Barry Steenkamp, respectively.

Pupu' Sikhondze, Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu, Papy Kabamba and on form striker Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa also wasted glorious chances in the second stanza of the clash witnessed by over 4 000 supporters.

Leopard's future prospect Lungelo Tsabedze squandered what was their best chance of the day just before the hour mark when he sliced his way through the opposition defenders but failed to beat the advancing Nkomishi.

The teams

Swallows
Nkomishi, Mabila, Mkhweli, Palma, Siphamandla, Papy, Wonder, Pupu, Sikhali, D4D, Tony
Leopard
Phephisani, Sicelo, Chaka, Sushi, Rocco (Sizwe), Gina, Mzoro, General (Mlilo), Anesu (Barry), Lungelo, Tokyo

'Birds' Siphamandla is Castle's Best

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER – Mbabane Swallows defender Siphamandla Mathenjwa is the Castle Premier Challenge Player of the Tournament.

The defender, who is fresh from an injury he picked during the MTN League game against Mbabane Highlanders last weekend, is E10 000 richer after scooping the award.

This was after their 1-0 victory against Royal Leopard in the finals of the tournament played at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Interestingly, the talented South African born defender who has not won an award in this tournament, beat nine other players who were contesting for the award by virtue of winning the Man of the Match award.

The players included Mbabane Swallows' Papy Kabamba, Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze, Sandile Hlatshwako, Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa. Others are Royal Leopard duo of Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo and goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi, Mbabane Highlanders pair of Thokozani Khanyile and Baimba Kamara and Young Buffaloes Sanele Ngcamphalala.

Happy

Interviewed after the game, the defender said he was happy to win the award.

"I don't have the words to describe what I am feeling right now it has to do with lots of happiness. Firstly I couldn't have done this without God and would like to thank Him. I wasn't expecting this award but was not surprised because I have played well in the tournament," he said.

The player further dedicated the award to the team's coaches and his teammates.

"The coach was behind me even at training and was always encouraging me to work hard. Also motivating me even when I failed to perform during a game was Massoye and I am grateful to all the coaches for motivating me.

"Lastly I couldn't have done this without my teammates. We all wanted to win this game and worked extra hard to get the desired results," he said.

Man of the Match during the final Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze also thanked his teammates for working together as a unit.

"I am very happy with this award and want to thank the coach for pushing me at training. The award is a result of team efforts. We all wanted to win this tournament for the third time and we managed to achieve this goal," he said.

The awards

Champions	
Mbabane Swallows	E800 000
Player of the Tournament	Siphamandla Mathenjwa (Swallows)
	E10 000
Best PRO	
Sibusiso Manana (Swallows)	E5 000
Best Print Media	
Swazi Observer	E6 000
Best Electronic Media (Radio)	
SBIS	E6 000
Best Electronic Media (TV)	
Swazi TV	E6 000
Top Goal scorer	E7 000

(To be shared by)
Tony 'TT' Tsabedze Mbabane Swallows
Sandile Hlatshwako Mbabane Swallows
Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo Royal Leopard
Barry Steenkamp Royal Leopard
Sanele Ngcamphalala Young Buffaloes
Sibusiso Thwala Mbabane Highlanders

Leopard players snub Castle final presentation

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Castle Premier Challenge runners-up Royal Leopard snubbed the prize presentation held shortly after their 0-1 loss to Mbabane Swallows at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The team's silver medals were received by the team's Chairman Mxolisi Dlamini and the Public Relations Officer (PRO) Frank Hurube as the players were a no show with the exception of Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo and goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi who came through to receive their top goal scorer and man of the match awards, respectively.

The conduct by the team did not go down well with some of the dignitaries present during the event. Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala, condemned the behaviour of the police service side. "We are strongly against the actions by Leopard of not showing up for the presentation. Such conduct is not acceptable in football," he said.

Over E90 000 made in Castle Premier finals gate takings

BY SANELE JELE

SOCCER – Over E90 000 was made in gate collections during the Castle Premier Challenge finals at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Over 4 000 supporters witnessed the final pitting Mbabane Swallows and Royal Leopard. The figures were confirmed by MC Secretary Petros Vilakati.

"A total of E93 000 was made from the gates which saw each team take home E28 000. It was a fair attendance despite the chilly weather. We want to thank supporters who came to watch the finals and their good behaviour during the game," said Vilakati.

We deserved this one – 'Koki'

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati was a happy man after leading his team to their second Castle Cup trophy against Royal Leopard yesterday.

Worth noting is that this was the third consecutive final victory for the coach after lifting it with Green Mamba in 2014.

Interviewed after the Mbabane giants recorded a 1-0 victory against the police side at the Somhlolo National

Stadium, the coach said his charges deserved to win the clash. "I am very happy. This success came through hard work from the players and entire Swallows family, which was evident during the preparations of the match. We were at our best throughout the match, creating numerous chances which we failed to utilise," "We played according to our game plan, which was not to give them space and press them harder when in possession of the ball and it worked well for us. I would to

thank Almighty God for this achievement today," he said.

Royal Leopard coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntiban said luck was not on their side when speaking after the game.

"We did everything that was expected of us but couldn't get anything out of this match. My players did well and worked hard throughout the match but were just unlucky. Such things happen in football.

We just need to go back to the drawing board, rectify our mistakes and focus on other competitions," he said.

It was good final – Princes Masitsela, Hlangabeza

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Prince Masitsela has described the Castle Premier Challenge final pitting Mbabane Swallows and Royal Leopard as a good game.

The prince, who was the main guest during the final played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday, however, noted that both teams missed scoring chances during the game. "This was a great football match and both teams played to expectation. Swallows deserved the trophy as they played well. We also commend the supporters for their good behaviour on the day," he said.

Ingwenyama Cup Board Chairman Prince Hlangabeza shared the same sentiments



Prince Masitsela flanked by FA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu and Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.

when interviewed after the game "It was a good day for football and the two teams played well throughout the afternoon despite failing to convert some glorious chances," he said.

National Football Association of Swaziland

(NFAS) President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa lauded the wondrous strike by Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko during the game. "That was a beautiful goal scored by Wonder. We are also happy with the manner in which the final played out today," he said.



RESULTS



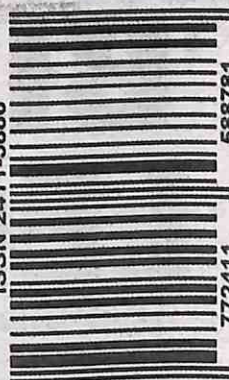
English Premiership	
Watford	2-2 Bournemouth
West Ham United	1-1 Middlesbrough
Hull City	0-2 Chelsea
Sunderland	1-1 West Bromwich Albion
Swansea City	1-2 Liverpool

MTN 8	
Bidvest Wits	3-0 Mamelodi Sundowns

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IT ALL COMES TOGETHER FOR BIRDS



...Swallows record 1-0 victory over police side to win third Castle Cup trophy
...Birds Siphamandla named Player of the Tournament

THE BEST



Best PRO Sibusiso Manana receiving his award from Swaziland Beverages HR Director Lindiwe Mbatha.



Swallows defender Siphamandla Matheranjwa with his Player of the Tournament award.

Bidvest Wits **claim** MTN 8 in style

NELSPRUIT - Bidvest Wits claimed the top eight trophy for the first time since it was minted the MTN8 as they crushed a beleaguered Mamelodi Sundowns 3-0 at the Mbombela Stadium yesterday.

A tidy sum of R8million was pocketed by a Wits outfit that were good value for their win as they claimed silverware for the first time since 2010.

Daine Klate scored on either side of a goal from Rodgers as Gavin Hunt's men easily disposed of a Sundowns side who only really got out of the blocks in the second stanza.

Under very testing conditions, it was the side from Johannesburg that adjusted quickest as they got off the mark with less than a minute played.

The Clever Boys had the ball in the back of the net after only 35 seconds courtesy of a low strike from Klate that arrowed into the bottom corner.

The lead was almost doubled not long afterwards as Klate picked up a loose ball in the centre of the park and threaded it through to Elias Pelembe who could only side-foot wide under pressure.

Klate had a chance to grab a second in the 12th minute from slightly further out than his opener but curled the ball over the crossbar.

The conditions made going into tackles a dangerous prospect and some may deem Hlompho Kekana lucky to have escaped with only a yellow for a wild challenge on Klate but

the usually uncompromising Victor Gomes showed leniency.

Pressure from the Students intensified and Mhango saw his headed effort fly into the ground and just wide with Denis Onyango scrambling.

It wasn't long before Wits had a second with Klate playing provider as he challenged bravely in the air before the ball broke for former Sundowns man Rodgers to sneak the ball in from a tight angle.

Finding themselves a further goal down Sundowns tried to get a foothold in the game but had a difficult time breaking down a disciplined Wits backline.

KickOff

Madzala **scores**

