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DOUBLE TRAGEDY AS...

STORY ON PAGE 3



BLOWN OFF: Part of the Oslo High classrooms that were left roofless after a devastating storm that swept past Matsanjeni South Inkhundla last Friday, leaving a trail of destruction estimated to be close to E1 million. (Courtesy Pics)

MJINGO WINS JA REGIONAL COMPETITION

PAGE 2

COP STABBED BY GIRLFRIEND, HOSPITALISED

PAGE 3

ANOTHER STORM HITS MATSANJENI

- Young girl pulled from rubble and rushed to hospital
- Second time the constituency is hit by storm in two months
- Damage estimated between E500 000 and E1 million



COOL TO WARM WEEK AHEAD

PAGE 3

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SWAZIPOST

TSC'S CHAIRMAN SIMANGA MAMBA DOING WONDERS

Stories by Sabatha Dlamini
KaKholwane

PRIME Minister Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini says the Chairman of the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) Simanga Mamba, as his name suggests, is doing wonders.

The PM, Deputy Prime Minister Senator Paul Dlamini and Public Service Minister Owen Nxumalo and some senior government officials converged at the Mamba homestead at KaKholwane last Friday for the official launch of a retirement fund for pastors of the Nazarene Church in the Shiselweni region.

The PM said there was no better way to serve the Lord than to take care of the senior members of the church which the fund Mamba initiated sought to assist upon retirement.

The prime minister praised Mamba's mother for raising her son and instilling Christian principles in him. Explaining how he got to know of the good work Mamba was doing, he said it all started when he had an opportunity to share notes with Mamba, upon which he explained what he was doing for the church as his personal contribution.

As they were sharing notes, the prime minister said he noted that Mamba's



PRAISED: Chairman of the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) Simanga Mamba.

contributions and were worth being emulated and implemented in other regional branches of the church.

Mamba is said to have started the retirement fund for the Nazarene Church pastors three years ago with a sum of E10 000.

The following year he contributed E15 000 and at the official launch last Friday he made a E20 000 contribution.

Initially, 10 pastors are said to have been enjoying the fruits of his kind heart-

edness, getting Christmas gifts from the contributions he has been making over the years.

Inspired by Mamba's initiative and convinced that it was for a good cause, the prime minister contributed an ox to the initiative whilst CIT College director donated E10 000, Industrial Court Judge Bandile Dlamini contributed E3 000, Public Service Minister Owen Nxumalo E2 000 and Schools Manager Macanjana Motsa E500.

The regional Nazarene Church leaders said what these national leaders were doing was in line with biblical principles and was all contained in the Book of Luke in the Holy Bible, whereby Jesus Christ sent his disciples with a clear plan on how they would spread his gospel, warning them never to reduce themselves into beggars.

The pastor said the gospel of going around carrying money with the hope that one would ask for donations and survive on them was wrong, because it reduced the pastors into beggars.

What Mamba has done for the church, the pastors said, was fulfilling the plan Jesus Christ had for his disciples. They described the TSC boss as the biblical Barnabas, one who inspires and encourages others to do what was right.

'Christianity to be made a must in schools'

CABINET is considering reviewing the schools' national curriculum to make Christianity a religion of choice in pre-schools, primary, secondary and high schools.

Prime Minister Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini said cabinet has since noted the mistake the nation made by introducing the other types of religions at the lower academic levels. He said the executive arm of government was therefore working on addressing that anomaly.

The prime minister was speaking during an official launch of a retirement fund for pastors of the Nazarene Church for the Shiselweni region, an initiative by Chairman of the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) Simanga Mamba.

The prime minister said there was need to revert to the old system which ensured only Christianity was practised at primary and high school levels, with other religions being introduced at tertiary level.

He said this was done in most countries in the world, which ensured that at the lower levels only the dominant religion was allowed to form part of the national curriculum in the schools and at university level then other religions were introduced.

He said such allowed the child to absorb the religion that was dominantly acceptable by their nation and later in life when they had matured and the foundation has been laid upon them they could be introduced to other religions just to have a broader understanding of what others were doing.

TSC boss launches retirement fund for pastors

TEACHING Service Commission (TSC) Chairman Simanga Mamba was joined by Prime Minister Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini to launch a retirement fund for pastors of the Nazarene Church in the Shiselweni region last Friday.

A sum of slightly above E30 900 was contributed towards the launch of the fund.

The prime minister praised Mamba and his family for having initiated such a highly beneficial fund that sought to better the lives of elderly citizens whose lives were spent spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dlamini further said Mamba's initiative has made him a good role model for the country's youth and, "because he is still young, we can only wish him long life."

He said it was very important for church members not to run away from their church, especially after being blessed, either

with livestock or financially and Mamba was doing exactly that.

Pastor Mbuyisa, a senior church leader of the Nazarene church, was also full of praise for what Mamba was doing for them. He said the church had a retirement fund but for various reasons it collapsed, leaving them vulnerable. Pastor Mbuyisa said the prime minister deserved to be praised as well for the good work he was doing, not only for the Nazarene church but for whole Christian community and the nation as a whole.

Pastor Mbuyisa said the prime minister first organised a Christmas party for all children of the Nazarene Church and has been at the forefront in organising and contributing to several activities involving the church.

The prime minister's good work, the pastor said, has now been emulated by the TSC chairman, Simanga Mamba.

Chiefs following on Somhlolo's footsteps

PRIME Minister Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini says the country's leadership has not deviated from the footsteps of King Somhlolo.

He thanked the chief of KaKholwane and the rest of the national leadership for allowing the gospel to be preached undisturbed in their respective chiefdoms as per the instruction of King Somhlolo who instructed his nation to choose the gospel as opposed to financial riches.

Introduced

The prime minister said the country was very lucky in that the gospel was introduced to the nation by royalty, starting with King Sobhuza I (Somhlolo) who had a vision about the missionaries and ordered his subjects to

accept them.

His predecessor, King Mswati II took the initiative to send a delegation to South Africa to invite and bring into the country the first missionaries with the first bible. Since then, the prime minister said the nation has had Christianity as the main religion in the country.

Preaching

Pastor Manana from KaKholwane Royal Kraal represented the chief and explained that he was in full support of the preaching of the true gospel of Jesus Christ in his chiefdom, the one that changed people's lives.

The pastor said he was convinced that Jesus died not only for the Israelites but for all nations of the world.

Mjingo wins 1st prize in JA Regional Competition

By Gugu Simelane
Mbabane

JUNIOR Achievement Swaziland (JAS) Company of the Year winners, Mjingo High represented the country well in the sixth edition of the prestigious JA Regional Company of the Year Competition as they came back with the first prize of about E14 000 (US \$1000).

The event was held at the Rainbow Towers in Harare, Zimbabwe. The theme for 2016 was 'Start Young: Own Your Future.'

Swaziland has won the JA Company of the year regional awards four years in a row – a feat which has set the standards very high for the rest of the African countries.

Nelisiwe Bhembe, Mjingo High



THE BEST: JA Swaziland National Expo winners Mjingo High School pupils displaying their artwork with Vice Board Chairperson Gciniwe Fakudze.

Company Chief Executive Officer said the competition was an opener.

"We look at things differently now, before the competition we felt like

achievers, but right now we feel like champions and winners.

We see business opportunities and those to touch lives and make a difference.

It has unlocked our inborn entrepreneurship skills and for Hawk Art Company, this is only but a beginning of a prosperous journey," she said.

Last year, represented by Manzini Nazarene High School Company, Econovative PTY LTD, the country scooped three awards which were the JA Company of the Year Award, Best Social Entrepreneurship Award and Best CEO Award.

Countries represented this year included Botswana, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The company of the year compe-

tition is an annual event and climax point of JA's company programme which teaches students how to start and operate their own businesses, develop and market a product or service with the assistance of a local business mentor.

Each country runs its own programme, has its own awards and celebrates its winners who finally meet at the regional competitions.

Judges looked at the stage presentations with each team allocated five minutes on stage in the presence of a wider audience.

There were also exhibitions, where participants set up booths, interacted with the public, as the event was also open to members of the public. Other prizes included a main trophy for the school and miniature trophies for the team members.

Smartphones and tablets were also part of the prizes.

Cool to warm week ahead

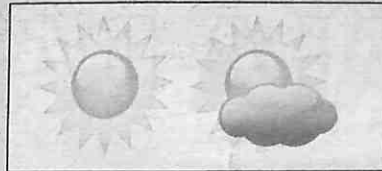
By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

SWAZI Meteorology forecasters have predicted a cool to warm week with high chances of thunderstorms, starting tomorrow and

continuing until Thursday.

Today commuters could wake up to fog and drizzles in the morning. "But the rest of the day should be partly cloudy and cool to warm in the Lowveld," predicted the forecaster.

The forecaster said temperatures are expected to reach 22 degrees



Celsius in the Highveld while in the Lowveld they will reach a maximum 29 degrees Celsius today.

He said there is a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms on Wednesday and Thursday.

Today there will be morning fog with drizzles at places otherwise cloudy clearing partially to partly cloudy and cool to warm in the Lowveld.

Mbabane	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
14/22	15/23	16/25	16/24	17/28	18/29

Tomorrow there will be morning fog at patches, otherwise partly cloudy and warm to hot in the Lowveld with isolated thunderstorms in the evening.

15/27	16/28	17/30	17/19	18/32	19/33

On Wednesday, there will be morning fog at patches, otherwise cloudy becoming partly cloudy and cool to warm in the Lowveld with a few afternoon thunderstorms mainly in the western part.

16/23	11/23	18/26	18/25	19/28	20/29

While on Thursday, there will be fog patches at first, otherwise partly cloudy and warm to hot in the Lowveld with isolated thunderstorms.

16/28	17/29	18/31	18/30	19/33	20/34

DOUBLE TRAGEDY AS ANOTHER STORM HITS MATSANJENI

- Young girl pulled from rubble and rushed to hospital
- Second time the constituency is hit by storm in two months

COVER STORY

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

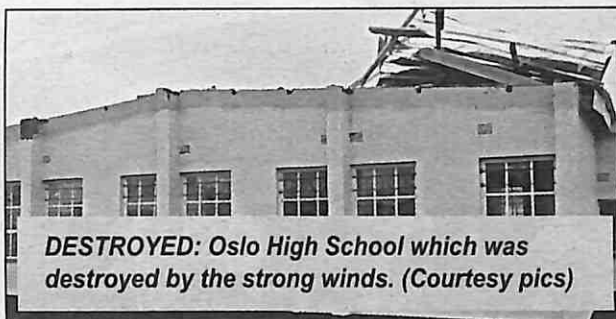
THEY say lightning does not strike the same area twice.

But this was proved wrong at Matsanjani South Inkhundla when the constituency was hit by a devastating storm for the second time in two months.

Oslo High School was one of the hardest hit areas as the school was completely destroyed by strong winds which only lasted for 15 to 20 minutes causing damage amounting close to E200 000 last Friday. The damage saw almost the entire buildings left roofless.

Oslo Primary, which is situated nearby, was also affected but not as bad as the high school. Some of the teachers' houses were also ripped apart and the teachers did not believe it when seeing the roofing blown off while inside their houses.

This happened while some of the teachers were away on hol-



DESTROYED: Oslo High School which was destroyed by the strong winds. (Courtesy pics)

iday as schools closed last week while others were still at the quarters. Those whose houses were affected forced to seek refuge in their colleagues' houses.

The damage saw school property and teachers' valuables destroyed. The strong wind accompanied by light drizzle started at around 4pm. It is said apart from the schools, a number of homesteads were also left roofless and others collapsed and almost buried occupants alive. One little girl said to be a pupil at Hluti Central Primary School had to be retrieved from debris of a house she was in and had to be rushed to Matsanjani

Health Centre, where she was admitted. It is said the damage in the whole community was estimated to be between E500 000 to E1 million.

Food, which included maize also got destroyed and some of the families have been going to sleep on empty stomachs with some spending nights in the open. According to the area's Member of Parliament (MP) Edward S'kiza Mhlungu, it was a sorry sight when he visited some of the communities as the people complained that they had nothing to eat after their food was destroyed.

He said he could not believe his eyes when he arrived at Oslo

High as all the roofing in almost all the buildings was blown away.

"The administration block is completely destroyed. We are talking about the area of the school which keeps important things including documents and other important records. Equipment worth many thousands of Emalangeni is now left in the open and it is likely that some had also been damaged. It is such a sad scenario and we are not sure where we are to get the money to bring things back to order in the school," said MP Mhlungu.

The MP said the relevant ministries as well as the departments tasked to deal with such situations including the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) under the Deputy Prime Minister's office have all been alerted about the situation.

"There are areas in the constituency where the wind was also accompanied by hailstorm and I am talking about communities which had already planted their fields but everything was destroyed and it's a setback again to some who were still trying to recover from last season's drought. Maize fields are an eyesore and we just wonder as to why us out of the whole country," said the MP in a painful voice.

The MP said when they were assessing the damage in the company of Red Cross there were over 35 homesteads found to be greatly affected in Kwaluseni (under Matsanjani) while close to 10 were found to have been also completely destroyed at Bambitje.

"I am referring to homesteads we managed to reach. There could be more as we could not make it to all the areas in one day. Hectares of maize fields at Ekuphakameni near Lombiwako were destroyed by hailstorm which fell on that day. The havoc was immeasurable," said the MP.

The MP made a special request to anyone apart from government to be of assistance to the constituency which is now prone to disas-

ter. "It's hardly two months we were in this same situation. *Kani senteni kangaka?*" the MP wondered.

He said anyone who can assist the community members with food and other necessities would be highly appreciated.

"Seeds are also needed as there are those families who were already through with ploughing only for their fields to be ravaged by the hailstorm. There are also families who had food reserved to keep them going until harvest time come but all has been destroyed. As for roofing, I just don't know where to start.

People need urgent help and some of the families as we speak, they don't have any roof over their heads," said MP Mhlungu.



NOTICE

EXTENTION OF OPERATING BUSINESS HOURS

Swazi Wire kindly informs all valued clients and stakeholders that as effective from 10th December 2016 (Saturday), business operating hours shall be extended from the usual 8:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays to 8:00am to 3:00pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Cop stabbed by girlfriend, hospitalised

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

A police officer deployed at Mafutseni Police Station is currently fighting for his life in hospital after he was allegedly stabbed by his girlfriend on Saturday night.

The officer is said to have been stabbed in the stomach with a sharp object while at the police quarters. Sources close to the matter revealed that the couple was from a drinking spree when they engaged in an argument. Apparently, they have a child together.

It is said the couple's argument started at a drinking hall where they met after each of them had gone to have some drinks. The woman is said to have accused the father of her child of cheating with another

- It is said the couple's argument started at a drinking hall where they met after each of them had gone to have some drinks.

woman.

They eventually left the watering hole together and headed to the police quarters. The officer is said to have been the one who started punching the evidently aggressive woman as a way of reprimanding her.

She subsequently withdrew what is believed to have been a knife and stabbed the officer. Other officers came to the scene after he raised an alarm.]

He was found lying in a pool of blood while the woman had already fled the scene.

He was rushed to RFM hospital, where he was admitted.

When reached for comment,

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba confirmed the matter and said they were currently conducting investigations.

Further information gathered is that this is the same couple which recently engaged in fight that left a house which was occupied by the officer burnt.

The woman is said to have set the house and other property worth thousands of Emalangeni on fire after finding another woman at the house about four months ago.

This resulted to the officer relocating to the police quarters. However, there were no formal charges laid against the woman.

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LITTLE INCWALA DAY 13



MAKE WESIVE: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi with other members of the Royal Family during the ongoing Little Incwala dance Day 13 at Ludzidzini Royal Residence yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



ENGOMENI: Prince Lindani (2nd from right) with other regiment members.



COULDN'T MISS: Some of Lutsango members who were present.



SWAZI PRIDE: Imbali also took part in the Little Incwala Day 13.



IN SONG: His Majesty's Correctional Services officers dancing to Incwala songs.



SWAZILAND NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

The Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) would like to notify its stakeholders, clients and the general public that all SNPF offices, including regional ones, shall close for the festive holidays, from the 21st of December at 16:45hrs, and re-open on the 4th of January 2017.

However, to attend to urgent funeral claims, our Head Office in Manzini shall open till 12noon on the 23rd, 28th and 30th December 2016.

Moy Peace, Joy Hope and Happiness be Yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!!!

SATISO SEKUVALA LIHHOVISI

Lidlelantfongeni (SNPF) latisa sive nalabo labatsintsekako kutsi sitobe sivalile onkhe emahhovisi etfu nalawo langaphandle. Sitobe sivalile emaholide akhisimusi. Sivala mhlaka 21/12/2016 nga 16:45hrs. Sivule mhlaka 04/01/2017.

Sive siyatiswa kutsi ticelo letiphutfumako letiphatselana nemngcwabo titawemukeiwa emahhovisini lamakhulu aka Manzini. Atovulwa kuze kube ngu 12 emini mhlaka 23, 28, na 30 December 2016.

Kuthula, kufakota neltsemba kube kuni ngalawocholide akhisimusi nangemnyaka kufaka!!!



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DOC 12351



ENJOYING: Lutsango members among the regiment.



ON DUTY: Senior police officers Polycarp Ngubane and Mxolisi Dlamini dancing to Incwala songs.



DEFENCE: USDF members in full swing during the Little Incwala Day 13 at Ludzidzini Royal Residence yesterday.




WE CAN DO IT: The young ones showing them how its done.



AYIBUKELWA: Imincugulu also joined the regiment in singing and dancing.



PRESENT: Minister of Housing Phiwayinkhosi Mabuza and Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati among the regiment.



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DOC 12230

SWAZI WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DAGGA POSSESSION IN ZIM

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

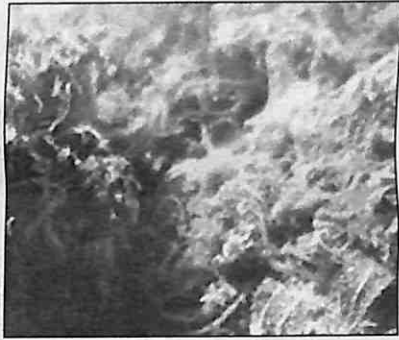
A Swazi woman from Nkamazi who 'conveniently' married a Zimbabwean man has been arrested for dagga possession in Zimbabwe.

The illegal herb in her possession weighed five kilogrammes.

The arrest happened last Friday at Beitbridge border gate where the couple was trying to smuggle the dagga into Zimbabwe but were impeded by South African border guards who were on high alert.

According to family members of the arrested female, the marriage was one of convenience and infact a tool for the Zimbabwean national to smuggle dagga from Swaziland to other Southern African countries.

The mother of the 25-year-old woman Ayanda Nkambule said last November, her daughter, Xolile Ndlangamandla



DAGGA: This picture has been sourced from the internet.

met a Zimbabwean national who was interested in allegedly smuggling dagga sourced from Pigg's Peak to South Africa then Zimbabwe. However, the Zimbabwean needed to marry a Swazi so as not to raise suspicion on his constant visits to Swaziland.

In November, my daughter said she needed money to support her two-year-old minor and was approached by a

Zimbabwean national who was known by her boss who is an Asian man."

Nkambule said the arrangement was for her daughter to source the dagga at Nkamazi and supply the Zimbabwean who would travel with it to outside the country and bring back some money.

Unfortunately the Zimbabwean decided to marry Ndlangamandla as to make his constant visits seen innocent by law enforcement.

"Last November, the two of them went to Mbabane to marry at the DC offices against my wishes. They continued with their business of smuggling dagga and on Friday they were arrested at Beitbridge and I was informed of the arrest over the phone. I do not know who to approach in the matter," the old woman said.

Police, Information and Communication Superintendent Khulani Mamba stated the details of the arrest had not yet reached the Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSP) at the time of compiling this report.

PPK HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR MOVED TO TB CENTRE

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

THERE are claims Pigg's Peak Government Hospital Administrator Fikile Bulunga has been transferred to the TB Centre in Manzini.

This comes after Pigg's Peak orderlies staged at least two lunch time pickets to attract attention of the ministry of health.

According to the shop steward of the Pigg's Peak government orderlies Sibusiso Mnisi, Bulunga has called a meeting between herself, the Pigg's Peak government administration and the Pigg's Peak government orderlies scheduled for today. "I do not know what the meeting is about and I feel it is too little too late as our relationship with her has been sour for a very

long time," he said.

Mnisi said orderlies had received rumours from the grapevine to the effect that Bulunga has been transferred to Manzini with effect from January. "Our highly placed sources within the ministry of health have said Bulunga has been transferred to the TB centre in Manzini. As shop stewards, we see this as a minor victory as we have prayed for this moment where we will no longer have to deal with Bulunga anymore," added Mnisi. Meanwhile, Pigg's Peak Government Hospital Administrator Fikile Bulunga could not be reached when contacted and her administration stated she does not work on Sundays. The Pigg's Peak government senior matron on duty further refused to forward Bulunga's cellphone number and stated the Swazi Observer should contact her weekdays.

MAN ROBBED CAR WORTH E56 000 AT GUNPOINT

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

A 33-year-old man of Zombodze got the shock of his life when he was robbed his vehicle at gunpoint while at Bethany area.

The victim according to Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba was driving a grey Toyota Corolla. It is said while he was in Bethany, two men armed with a gun pounced and robbed him the vehicle which is valued at E56 000. Information released by the police is the vehicle is registered LSD 632 CM. Police have urged anyone who might have information that

Teenager dies as car overturns

AN 18-year-old from Ludzeludze who was travelling in a Chevrolet Optra sedan died when the car overturned along the Mkhweni-Vibe Itallo public road.

According to information released by the police Chief PICO, Khulani Mamba, the passenger was rushed to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital

where she was certified dead. The driver of the vehicle who also happened to be an 18-year-old is said to have lost control of the vehicle resulting to it overturning.

The driver from KaShali has since appeared at the Manzini magistrate's court where he faced a charge of culpable homicide.

may lead to the discovery of the vehicle and arrest of the suspects to contact the police at 999/9999 or they can also con-

tact desk officer Mr Maseko or Matsapha police at 2518 7111.

UNISWA student arrested for occupying driver's seat while intoxicated

THE love of music and beer has landed a UNISWA student into trouble after he was arrested for occupying a driver's seat while drunk.

While most students are focusing on their examinations, Masiko Mamba spent a night in police custody for seating in a driver's seat while under the influence of alcohol.

His breathalyser results read 0.41mg/l as opposed to the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. The accused made his first appearance in court yesterday before Manzini Magistrate Mthokozisi Dlamini.

Mamba pleaded guilty to the charge laid against him. In mitigation he told the court he was not aware that occupying a driver's seat while drunk was

an offence.

He said he was sitting there to operate the car radio.

Mamba pleaded for leniency and told the court he is still a student doing fifth year at the University of Swaziland and is still financially dependant. Dlamini sentenced the accused into six months imprisonment with a fine option of E800.

CIVIL SERVANTS RECORD HIGHEST DD READINGS

IT seems some civil servants are already in a festive mood splashing their bonuses.

Two civil servants arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol topped all drink driving offenders over the weekend by recording the highest alcohol readings. The first offender Vusi Sandile Dlamini told the court he was employed under the ministry of natural resources and energy.

Dlamini was accused of driving while under the influence in that his breath specimen read 1.00mg/l as opposed to the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. He was also charged with negligent

driving in that he did not stop at a stop sign near Mashayitafula.

The accused pleaded guilty to both charges, he asked for leniency and told the court he supported six children back home.

Dlamini was condemned for his recklessness by the court; he was advised to be a responsible citizen and parent.

On the first charge, he was sentenced to a year in a correctional facility with a fine option of E2 000. On the second count, the accused was sentenced to five months imprisonment with a fine option of E500.

The second accused was Mlondoloz

Nxumalo, he told the court he worked for the government under the ministry of agriculture.

Nxumalo was caught at Mathangeni while driving under the influence of alcohol. His breath specimen when taken read 2.00 mg/l which was way above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. Nxumalo informed the court he was a breadwinner who is supporting about nine children at home.

When asked what it was he was drinking which resulted into such high readings, Nxumalo said he drank Sibebe beers, Nxumalo was sentenced to a year in a correctional facility with a fine option of E2 000.

Taipei surgeon leaves happy patients

By Gugu Simelane
Mbabane

DR Wayne Hsu, a Taipei surgeon specialising in minimum invasive surgery also known as Laparoscopic (LPS) has left a number of Swazi patients extremely happy after he operated painless, successful LPS surgeries.

Dr Hsu from the Taipei medical University Hospital in Taipei was in the past two weeks stationed at the Mbabane Government Hospital. He was in the country with the help of Taiwan Medical Mission. During his stay at the Mbabane Government Hospital Dr Hsu successfully operated on 13 patients suffering from cholecystectomy (gallstones), one from LPS appendectomy. Dr Hsu worked together with two local surgeons orienting them on how to conduct Laparoscopic.

The two doctors had previously gone to Taiwan for training.

Happy Dlamini from Hlatsi who had just had the Laparoscopic surgery said since the surgery she has not been experiencing any pain as she had been suffering since 2013.

"I have been living in hell for three years, the doctors could not give me a proper diagnosis up until

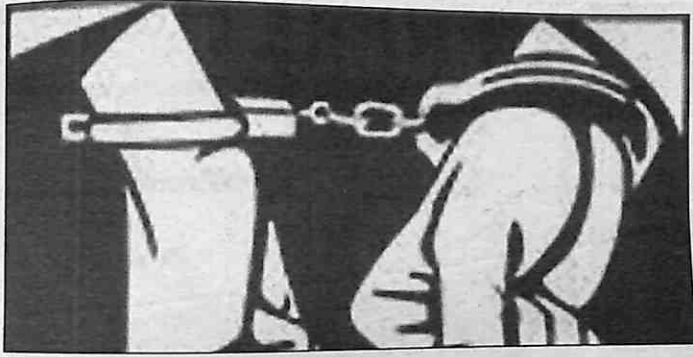
September when I was scanned and was discovered I had gall stones in my bladder and fortunately they told me a doctor from Taipei who performs minimum invasive surgery was scheduled to come to Mbabane Hospital. I do not regret waiting for him, the moment I woke up from the surgery table, all the pain was gone. As a bonus I do not have big scars which show I had surgery," said Dlamini. Christian Vilakati from Siphocosini and Nosipho Ndlovu from Simunye also attested to the successful surgery they went through.

Nosipho said she had previously seen people who had the traditional Laparoscopic surgery and said they had massive, slow healing scars. "I am eternally grateful, I had the operation yesterday but now I go to the toilet without any help from anyone" she said. Dr Hsu said he is pleased that his patients were happy with the surgery.

"Laparoscopic is the best way, because the patient experiences less pain after the surgery, since it only requires three small incisions to allow the equipment into the abdomen. The patients heal faster and spend only two days in hospital after the surgery after that they are discharged" he said.

A LIST OF DD OFFENDERS

Name	breath specimen	fine
Nkosinathi Dladlu	0.60mg/l	E1 500/1 year
Sphiwo Dlamini	0.50mg/l	E1 500/1 year
Sangrea Pillay	0.71mg/l	E2 000/1 year
Ronald Shongwe	0.82mg/l	E2 000/1 year
Khayoni Zamani Lee	0.51mg/l	E2 000/1 year
Mpendulo Simelane	0.61mg/l	E1 500/1 year
Dlamini Sandile Vusi	1.00mg/l	E2 000/1 year
Mlondoloz Nxumalo	2.00mg/l	E2 000/1 year
Eddie Thring	0.73mg/l	E2 000/1 year



75 ARRESTED FOR DD OVER THE WEEKEND

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

ABOUT 75 people have been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol over the weekend.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba yesterday said 75 motorists were nabbed for driving under the influence of alcohol. "There were 75 drink-driving cases reported over the past weekend while the previous weekend there were 105 cases reported," said Mamba.

He therefore urged the public to drink responsibly and not get behind the wheel after drinking any alcoholic beverage.

"We are aware it is the festive season, but people should not drink excessively and forget to obey the laws of the country," he said. Mamba said roads over the weekend were clean as there were no fatal road traffic accidents reported. However, along Mkhweni-Vibe Italio public road Thelma Street, a Chevrolet Optra Sedan driven by an 18-year-old from Kashi lost control and overturned, leaving a passenger dead.



SRC asks for respect for student who committed suicide on campus

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

UNIVERSITY of Swaziland (UNISWA) students are still seeking answers as to why one of their own decided to take her own life by swallowing weevil tablets last week.

UNISWA Students Representative Council (SRC) President Sibusiso Siyaya has pleaded with students to be calm and not to spread speculations on the death of one of their own in respect of the deceased's family. In a statement, Siyaya stated as students they heard about the shocking news of their beloved sister who passed away.

He said as much as they were in grief as students, he said he would love to urge all students within the university to try respect the family and close friends of the late student and understand the pain they are going through.

The SRC president said such

a case was sensitive and he therefore urged students that whatsoever information they may have, they must try to keep that information to themselves in respect of the student's relatives. Siyaya said the only information they shall take seriously as SRC was that which would be communicated by Mkhonta's family. Siyaya said as SRC, they are still waiting to hear from her relatives. Mkhonta is said to have passed away on Thursday night around 21:00hrs. Information gathered is that she passed away at RFM after she was rushed there by friends and 4Him officers. According to close friends, the deceased was doing her Bachelors in Education Secondary (Humanities). Mkhonta is said to have taken her life by swallowing weevil tablets immediately after sitting for her examinations. It is further alleged she left a suicide note stating her mom must not be informed of the suicide.

House breaking accused appears in court for DD

Stories by Phesheya Kunene
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man currently out on bail made a swift return to the accused box after committing three traffic offences.

It has been one long year for Bheki Jele of Msunduzi.

Jele has already appeared before court on several occasions for different offences this year and has also spent time behind bars. Following his arrest, together with his alleged partner in crime, a security guard at Atlas Motors, in relation to house-breaking and theft allegedly committed at Atlas Motors in Ngwenya, the 42-year-old spent time behind bars while raising money for bail.

He is currently waiting for trial to proceed in respect of this court case where he is facing a number of charges laid against him.

It is alleged Jele while working jointly with the security guard strategically stole a number of items worth thousands of Emalangeni at the company where the guard was employed.

It is alleged the offences were committed for several months since last year before the two were allegedly busted.

Yesterday, the vocal man was back in court after being slapped with three traffic counts committed at Timele Bar in Msunduzi. He committed these counts on Saturday after a drinking spree.

It is said he contravened Section 91 (1) as read with Section 122 (2) of the Road Traffic Act 6 of 2007 by hopping on his Nissan L.D.V along the Timele parking lot whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug having a narcotic effect. After the traffic police conducted a breath test, the alcohol contents found in his body stood at 1.82mg/l. This subsequently led to him picking up his first count, that of drink-driving.

Unlawfully

With too much alcohol contents in his body, Jele collected another count when he wrongfully, unlawfully and inconsiderately drove his car and side-swiped with a parked Honda fit belonging to Nhlanhla Msibi. While driving out of the famous bar, Jele is said to have failed to take a proper look-out, apply brakes on time and further failed to avoid an accident. Lastly, the drunk driver failed to produce a valid driver's licence when the police ordered him to thus committing his third count of the night.

Jele first pleaded guilty to all the offences before loudly blaming his car for all the

misery facing him.

"I was crazy to make that decision of driving my car while drunk as I do not usually do that. I do not know why I did that. I blame the car for everything wrong happening, seems like it brings bad luck into my life," he said.

The traffic offender said the best option for him now would be to sell the car even though Senior Magistrate Nhlanhla Dlamini believed the problem was not with the car but him as the driver.

Peace

"This car has put me through a lot already; I just need to sell it in order to enjoy a peace of mind," he added.

In explanation, Jele alleged he hit the Honda Fit while he was putting on his seat belt as he had to focus on it.

"I do have a driver's licence, I think it fell down while I was attending to the accident I had caused," he said.

Dlamini found him guilty and convicted him as per his own pleas. She sentenced him to a fine of E1 500 or eight months of imprisonment for drink-driving.

An additional E400 or three months for causing an accident was slapped on him while another E200 or 30 days in jail was added for driving without his valid driver's licence. However, the counts were made to run concurrently.

'My driver was helping another drunk driver'

PETROS Nxumalo learnt the hard way that some decisions can be costly especially when one is drunk, when the court fined him E1 500 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

It was either he pays a fine or spend eight months in a correctional facility.

Nxumalo mentioned while in the accused box that he took the decision to drive himself home after his sober driver was busy helping another drunk driver by driving him home.

"I was already tired and I feeling sleepy, all I wanted was to get home

and sleep," he said.

Unfortunately for him, this did not happen as the police arrested him for driving while high at Sir D Honey Crescent Street in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Nxumalo had to rather spend the night in police cells than his bed, which he supposedly needed. He was nabbed while driving a Nissan Navara L.D.V and after a breath test was conducted the alcohol contents in his body were found to be 0.89mg/l and thus contravened the road traffic act. The 60-year-

old man from Nkoyoyo made his appearance before Senior Magistrate Nhlanhla Dlamini and he pleaded guilty to the offence. He further apologised for being found on the wrong side of the law.

"I plead with the court to be lenient with me when passing sentence as I have an unemployed wife back home. I also have three children to support.

I ask the court to consider that it is my first time committing these offences," he pleaded guilty.

Nxumalo was also overheard disputing he was 60 years old.

'I SLEPT BEFORE DRIVING'

MOST drunk-drivers believe napping a few hours after heavy drinking is the best trick to evade drink-driving arrest.

However, in most cases they always get caught as the breathalyser usually detects contents of alcohol in their body system. Amongst those who have fallen victim to this is Mlungisi Dlamini of Mpolonjeni, who told the court he dozed off before taking to the wheel with the hope he would be sober when he woke

up. However, that was not the case as alcohol contents results showed 1.01mg/l to be in his body system. This resulted in Dlamini being slapped with the offence of driving his Toyota Rav 4 while intoxicated. The 27-year-old man was nabbed while driving along MR 3 public road at or near Mafini.

The traffic police arrested him in the early hours of yesterday morning. Nevertheless, his troubles did not end

there as he further failed to produce a valid driver's licence when ordered to by the police. His offences accumulated to two as he contravened the traffic road act by driving on a public road without the possession of a valid driver's licence. In court, Dlamini pleaded guilty to the offence of drink-driving and dismissed the second count. In turn, the court acquitted and discharged him in relation to the second count and he was sentenced to a fine of E1 500 or eight months of imprisonment for being found driving while high.

Woman drinks, causes accident

STATISTICS of women causing road accidents after alcohol consumption are on the rise.

This past weekend also saw yet another casualty Futhi Dlamini being added to statistics.

The woman otherwise known as Wendy had an unfortunate scenario while driving past Sozisa Street at Checkers. Dlamini bumped into another car belonging to Khulekani Ndlovu after failing to do a proper look-out before

joining a lane.

The first offender was subsequently charged with two counts, drink-driving and negligent driving. She wrongfully and unlawfully drove her Toyota Rav 4 negligently and failed to avoid an accident or apply brakes on time. She pleaded guilty to both counts and thus the court found her guilty and she was convicted as per her own pleas.

"I am sorry for committing these offences. I ask the court to be lenient with me as I am unemployed. I also have to fix both cars," she mitigated.

Senior Magistrate Nhlanhla Dlamini sentenced her to E1 500 or eight months of imprisonment for drink-driving. She was further sentenced to a fine of E500 or five months in jail for causing an accident. On another note, Geina Dlamini was the luckiest in court after being sentenced E400 or three months of imprisonment for being found behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol. Dlamini was arrested while driving along Msunduzi on Saturday night in his Mazda S.U.V. The 30-year-old pleaded guilty to the offence.

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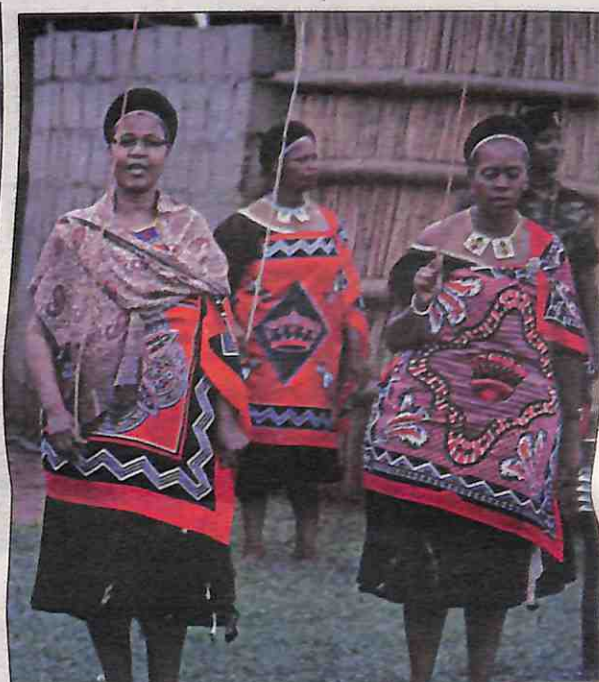
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LOMANGCEVEZA: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi dancing the Little Incwala on Saturday where she was joined by hundreds of the regiment. His Majesty King Mswati III is currently at Buhleni and is expected to commission Ingatja in a few days. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



SIGODLO: Inkhosikati LaMatsebula with a member of the Royal Family.

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WENA WEKUNENE: Prime Minister Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini was also present.



FATHER AND SON: Umbutfo Mahwalala dresses his father Prince Masitsela.



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LITTLE INCWALA DAY TWELVE



IN SONG: Members of the regiment at the ongoing Little Incwala.



FOR THE LOVE OF OUR CULTURE: Lutsango regiment could not miss the important event.



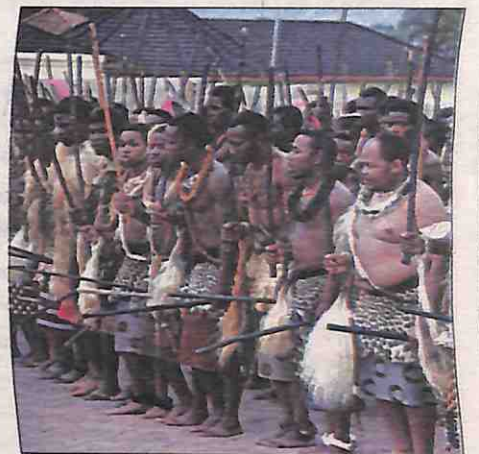
ME AND MY KIDS: Mahwalala Dlamini with his children Lombango and Sibakhele at the event.



TEACH THEM YOUNG: Ingatja also participated.



MARCHING: Part of the regiment captured upon arrival at Ludzidzini on Saturday.



KUYO: Emajaha in song.

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JURIS MANUFACTURING'S END OF YEAR PARTY

Stories by Starsky
Mkhonta
Nhlangano

JURIS Manufacturing, a textile company with close to 2 000 employees has impressed many as it has also employed those with hearing impairments.

Apparently, the company does not segregate when it comes to employment as long as one is capable of doing the work.

Four of the employees are deaf and two of them have thanked the company for giving them a chance.

They said they were thankful to the management and directors for giving them a chance.

Futhi Lukhele (27) and Khetsiwe Mdluli (32) were employed in 2013. Telling their story, they said they were doubtful at first when they stood by the gate where they were queuing with many others who were also looking for jobs.

They said they did not even think they would have any chance



GROUP PHOTO: Some of the employees pose for a group photo. Winile Mkhumane (c) was the organiser of the party.

when considering that they would com-

pete with those without any disability.

Lukhele is deaf and cannot speak while Mdluli is only deaf. One of the

supervisors who is also believed to have played a role in having the two employed Winile Mkhumane said the two were more than capable in their work.

Proven

She said at first no one thought the two would cope but as time progressed, all doubting 'Thomases' were proven wrong.

She said as someone who recommended that the two should be considered for employment, she does not regret her decision.

The supervisor said she had to learn sign language as she assisted each time the two wanted to communicate with management or colleagues.

Breadwinner

"Khetsiwe is a breadwinner as both her parents passed away, so she takes care of her siblings. We really applaud Juris as we are not sure how life would be for her brothers and sisters if she was not employed by the company," said Mkhumane.

On the other hand, Futhi has only her mother as her father passed away in 1999. The two joined their colleagues during their end of year party they held on Friday at Nhlangano Park.

DLALA KAYONA: This employee taking to the dance floor to entertain her colleagues with her dancing skills.



EXCITED: Another group photo of the excited employees.



PICTURE PLEASE: These ladies also requested to be taken a photo.



HIGH SPIRIT: They were in high spirits for the better of the day.



DANCE TILL YOU DROP: Another employee danced until she fell.



SWAZI MEETS ZULU: These two donned traditional regalia.



NICE PARTY: Some of the employees who were programme directors pose with some senior employees.



GET DOWN: These employees showing how it is done.



JOYFUL: This is another group photo of the employees.



POSE: Some of the employees posing.



GRATEFUL: Khetsiwe Mdluli, an employee who has a hearing impairment addresses her colleagues and appreciates how she was warmly received when she was employed in 2013.



THRILLED: The employees who were thrilled by the music dished by DJ Mangwengwe of Mathendele.



HUG: An excited lady dances and hugs this performer on the day.

Hearing impaired employees thank company, colleagues

THE two hearing impaired employees at Juris Manufacturing have thanked the management and their colleagues for treating them well and as one of their own.

Futhi Lukhele and Khetsiwe Mdluli were given a chance to make a few remarks during the Juries end of the year party held at Nhlangu Park on Friday.

They told their colleagues that they may have challenges in communicating with them but they were happy that they have never been ill-treated. Both were employed in 2013.

"We thank all of you for being caring people. No one

is mocking us because of our disability. Today we are here with you because of you as you have not treated us like outcasts.

"You warmly welcomed us when we started. Many thanks are directed to our supervisor *Mama Mkhumane* (Winile) who we now consider as our mother. She is everything to us," said Khetsiwe when addressing her colleagues.

The two said Mkhumane has made them gain courage at work and she has not even complained when she has to translate using sign language when they wanted to communicate something to management or colleagues.



THANK YOU: The two employees with hearing impairments Khetsiwe Mdluli and Futhi Lukhele are flanked by their supervisor Winile Mkhumane and senior supervisor only identified as Mr Orlando.

Management's zero tolerance to discrimination

JURIS Manufacturing believes in recognising the value of hiring and promoting people with disabilities, is considerate of their families and also gives them a chance like any human being.

Elmon Ndlovu, the company's Human Resources Manager said it was important to treat everyone who is a human with dignity and respect.

He told the newspaper that at Juris Manufacturing, what was of utmost important was the work at hand. He said segregation was something they do not encourage.

"We have four of them and the two you saw are just part of the employees with disabilities. The company does not segregate and we do not even want to see them segregated by their colleagues. They are human beings just like you and me," said Ndlovu who is undoubtedly the longest serving HR the company has ever had.

Considered

Ndlovu said directors of the company were caring and hired all Swazis with disabilities or without. He said, personally, he was also pleased with the performance of all the employees who are living with disabilities. He said it was not just them that were enjoying the end of the month salary but their families were benefitting.

"They have mouths to feed back home, it is against this background that the company employees everyone as long as they have the necessary skills. At the end, it is their families that also benefit," said Ndlovu.

Disturbing

Ndlovu said there was however a disturbing report where one of the employees with disabilities was being financially abused by a relative.

"We have learnt that each time our employee gets paid, all the money is taken by her relative. This is bad as she then comes to work hungry such that at times she cannot even afford to buy a banana.

"It's like she is not getting paid when in actual fact her relative takes the money and leaves her without anything. I have warned the relative to desist from such and I hope she got the message as now things seem to have improved," said Ndlovu.

LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Justice Conference Room on the 29th December 2016 starting at 09.00am

Region Lubombo

1. Gcinile T. Vilakati P.O. Box 80 Tshaneni, grant of a Wine & Malt Liquor Licence situated at Portion 60 of Farm 94 Mananga known as **Emfuleni Bar**.

Any person who wishes to lodge an objection to the above-mentioned application may do so with the Secretary of the Liquor Licensing Board in writing, sending a copy to the applicant by registered mail to reach him/her at least ten days before the sitting of the Board.

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
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SADC COUNTRIES GATHER FOR LEARNING

● "The SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with cooperating partners MIET Africa, UNESCO, UNICEF and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has developed a programme that provides a comprehensive approach to addressing the barriers to teaching and learning associated with health and poverty-related challenges"



HERE: Various stakeholders receiving their own copy of the policy framework.

Stories by Nozipho Sibiya
Matsapha

MINISTER of Education and Training Dr. Phineas Magagula launched the SADC Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Framework in the country.

Ministers of education of all SADC member states approved on June 30, 2016 in a meeting held in Gaborone they would adopt and implement the policy framework in their different countries.

He said HIV and AIDS had resulted in increase in the number of orphans in the recent past, accounting for more than 70 per cent of orphans in some member states. The minister was making his remarks during the CSTL held at Esibayeni Lodge last Thursday. He added education is one sector which is affected by the increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children, as a majority of them fall within the age group covered by this sector.

"The increasing number of orphans, vulnerable children and youth (OVCY) has had a negative impact in the achievement of national and international education goals such as Education For ALL (EFA) due to low or declining access and retention of learners in the education sector."

Magagula said they must respond adequately to the impact of the increasing number of OVCY, HIV and AIDS and other health and poverty related factors that negatively affect the effective provision and delivery of quality education.

He therefore said the ministers of education



APPROVED: Minister of Education and Training Dr Phineas Magagula and Director Guidance Lindiwe Dlamini during the official launch on the Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Policy framework last Friday. (Pics: Nozipho Sibiya)

in the SADC region agreed a comprehensive approach be adopted.

"The SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with cooperating partners MIET Africa, UNESCO, UNICEF and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has developed a programme that provides a comprehensive approach to addressing the barriers to teaching and learning associated with health and poverty-related challenges."

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FRAMEWORK



MC: Schools Manager Macanjana Motsa was the programme director on the day. RIGHT - ENTERTAINMENT: Elangeni High School pupils dancing ingadla.

... 'Countries must make secondary school more affordable'

SADC countries are required to make primary education free, pre-primary and secondary school more affordable, through comprehensive schooling policies that address all educational costs.

SADC is the Southern African Development Community.

This will include fees, transport and school uniforms and compensate schools adequately for the loss of fees and other income necessary for maintaining good educational quality.

According to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) policy framework on care and support for teaching and learning, all countries under the SADC should adopt and implement the framework.

On that note, Director of Education Dr Sibongile Mtshali said primary school attendance remained a challenge, resulting in 20 per cent of enrolled children not completing their education.

Mtshali was speaking at Esibayeni Lodge on Thursday during the official launch of the SADC framework. Present during the presentation was the Minister of Education Phineas Magagula and other educational stakeholders.

"Also the ministries of education are required to establish a maximum age of entry into primary school, complementary parallel education primary institutions for older first-time, balancing the need for maintaining quality standards with the need to eliminate unnecessary promotion requirements." She said the ministries were also required to develop policies to identify and include out-of-school youth.

"More specifically with regards to out-of-school youth falling within the compulsory age of schooling, ministries of education are required to develop policies capable of finding and including them in school, and which support their retention until they complete their mandatory schooling." The Director said the operationalisation of CSTL requires that all schools provide access to a range of essential comprehensive services and support necessary to ensure the conditions for quality teaching. The ministries are also required to overcome social and economic barriers to education.

In turn, Mtshali said this requires care and support for teaching and learning be mainstreamed within the education systems of member states.

He added it also requires that the education and other sectors work together to provide a package of services through schools as coordinated sites of service delivery.



SWAZILAND NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

NOTICE

Swaziland National Provident Fund Maximum Statutory Contribution Increase

The attention of all contributing employers is drawn to Legal Notice No. 171 of 2014, Section 2 (1) (a) thereof, which states that wages level for statutory contributions for the year 2017 shall be payable by a contributing employer in respect of wages of two thousand three hundred Emalangeni (E2, 300.00) or less during any calendar month.

This means that with effect from 01 January 2017, the maximum contributions per employee will increase from E210.00 to **E230.00 per month (115:115).**

Employees (members of the Fund) are advised to check their pay slips to see if the correct deductions have been effected. Legal Notice No. 171 of 2014 is reproduced here under for easy reference.

Issued by;
Prince Lonkhokhela
Chief Executive Officer

In exercise of the powers conferred on him by Sections 14 and 15 of the Swaziland National Provident Fund Order, 1974, the Minister for Labour and Social Security, after consultation with the Minister for Finance and Minister for Economic Planning and Development hereby makes the following Regulations-

Citation and Commencement

- (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Swaziland National Provident Fund (Statutory Contributions) Regulations, 2014.
- (2) These Regulations shall come into force on the 1st January, 2015 and shall continue to be in force for a period not exceeding five years.

Wages level for statutory contributions

- (1) Statutory contributions for:
 - (a) the year 2015 shall be payable by a contributing employer in respect of wages of one thousand nine hundred Emalangeni (E1,900.00) or less during any calendar month;
 - (b) the year 2016 shall be payable by a contributing employer in respect of wages of two thousand one hundred Emalangeni (E2,100) or less during any calendar month;
 - (c) the year 2017 shall be payable by a contributing employer in respect of wages of two thousand three hundred Emalangeni (E2,300) or less during any calendar month;
 - (d) the year 2018 shall be payable by a contributing employer in respect of wages of two thousand five hundred Emalangeni (E2,500) or less during any calendar month; and
 - (e) the year 2019 shall be payable by a contributing employer in respect of wages of two thousand seven hundred Emalangeni (E2, 700) or less during any calendar month.
- (2) The wages of eligible employees in excess of the amounts stipulated in subsection (1) (a) to (e) during any calendar month shall be disregarded for the purpose of statutory contributions in respect of wage limits outside those stipulated for the year under reference.

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SNPF 50



Swaziland National
Provident Fund

SHISELWENI NEWS

Nhlanguano office

Tobacco Complex, Cnr King George Masengule Streets
Opposite SEDCO PremisesTel: 2207 5159 Cell: 7621 5081
Email: Starsky@realnet.co.sz

...With

Starsky Mkhonta

SWADE HOSTS 16 DAYS OF
ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE AT MATSANJENI

MATSANJENI (South) Member of Parliament (MP) Sikiza Mhlungu is thankful to SWADE for hosting the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence at the Inkhundla, an event which was held last Friday which was also graced by Shiselweni Regional Administrator (RA) Themba Masuku.

MP Mhlungu said the event was a success adding it was an eye opener to some of the residents.

He said SWADE's involvement in the projects benefitted communities in a number of ways.

Life

"There are developmental projects which SWADE is busy with in this constituency. It is pleasing that such a parastatal is also taking it upon itself to assist communities thus reminding families to live a harmonious life. It's

a social responsibility which other organisations do not even bother to consider. It is encouraging to see SWADE finding it a good thing to spread the gospel that we do away with violence whether it's at community level or within families," said the MP.

Support

The MP said the European Union (EU) was also represented as well as many other organisations, some which work closely with the police in seeing peace and harmony prevailed in families.

He said as there were other entities involved in various projects such as SWADE, it was encouraging to see them also being part of the event.

"We have NAMBOARD which is busy with projects in this constituency. The Regional Administrator (Themba Masuku) was in attendance and he was

one of the speakers.

Police under the Domestic Violence Against Woman and Children's wing were represented," said the MP.

The MP said though the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence ended over the weekend, however it does not mean violence of any form would be allowed. Adding, he said it was the duty of the head of the family to protect members of his family and should be in the forefront in addressing any of the cases related to violence.

"Men should do what is expected of them. What we should also take into consideration is it should not only be 16 days to rebuke violence in families but it should be everyday. Let's practice this, for the whole year and by this I mean it should be year in and year out that we rebuke any form of violence," said MP Mhlungu.



AYIBUKELWA: Shiselweni Regional Administrator Themba Masuku (far left) with 'lacwebetelako' at Mbangweni Royal Residence during the build up of Incwala.

Shiselweni gets ready for Incwala

REGIMENTS from the Shiselweni region are gearing up for Incwala. The build-up has started at Mbangweni Royal Residence.

Lacwebetelako have shown the zeal and enthusiasm with some already itching for the main Incwala to be announced.

Chiefs; Nzameya Nhlabatsi of Kanzameya, Sibane of Mampondweni as well as Malambule of Mbilaneni are amongst the many other leaders who have been involved in the build up since it began nearly two weeks ago. Themba Masuku, Shiselweni Regional Administrator, Sonnyboy Masende Zwane, member of the King's Advisory body have also been among those found in 'action' at Mbangweni.

Indvuna of Inkhanyenti libutfo Gencege Tsabedze said it has been an exciting build up from the first day.

He said the presence of chiefs and other community leaders was encouraging which made the whole exercise interesting.

He said even the business people, their participation in the build up of the event was important.

"There are also church leaders who are also part of us. It is an indication that indeed such an event is taken seriously.

The attendance has been improving daily and should we know the date when the main day is going to be, then I see a full house," said Gencege.

Gencege also noted that the presence of security forces including their leaders also encouraged them.

"It is important we get down to serious business so when the main day arrives, it finds us geared up. Swazis

love their culture and it is not going to come as a surprise when you find that this year's attendance has improved compared to last year," said Gencege.

Masende Zwane said he was also impressed that such an event was now taken seriously by many Swazis.

"There is no way we can be misled and adopt foreign things that might end up dividing us. It's big up to such an event and we are now looking forward to the big day," said Zwane.

Shiselweni RA Themba Masuku said the build up in the region excited him. He said there was no doubt Incwala remained one of the cultures that makes Swazis stick together. "Our only humble thanks are directed to Their Majesties for promoting such events which are now also boosting our economy," said Masuku.

High Praise Assembly's festive services

HIGH Praise Assembly is starting its festive season services this week with a convention which will also include a live DVD recording, the church's founder Apostle Jethro Malindzisa has announced.

The Apostle said their services would start on Wednesday, December 14 and everyone was welcome to be part of the church's historic festive season services which were aimed at blessing attendants.

He said all was now in place to see things rolling with all the programme for the activities to take place ready.

He said to share the Word of God were known respected clergymen, some being from beyond the country's borders.

One of them would be a respected Pastor from Kenya, Jimmy Macharia who is believed to be God's servant anointed to heal through prayer any ailment. Bishop Steven Masilela is one of the local pastors to be sharing the pulpit with the Kenyan preacher as well as many other men of God including the man himself, Apostle Jethro.

"It's going to be a red hot festive season church service. We have lined up a number of activities starting Wednesday. There will be a live DVD recording, which is a first in the region. It is going

to be a memorable festive service and all we have done is seeking God's guidance," said Apostle Jethro.

Expert in recording, Tom Ling will produce the first album that will be recorded by the church.

"We call upon Shiselweni folk and all brethren to be part of this history," said the Apostle.

The Convention, said Apostle Jethro, would start at 18:00 hours to 21:00 hours.

For recording of the DVD on Friday, the Apostle said the gates would open 16:00 hours with the show starting at 18:00 hours till late. He said over 1 000 people would be expected to be part of the services.

"The show has sold out already, and we have other people coming from as far as South Africa coming just for the show," said the Apostle.

Entrance to the show, is just only E100 for adults and E50 for children below the age of 12. The tickets are available at Destiny Music in Manzini and Mbabane as well as to any of the church's branches.

Transport will be made available to all those staying around Nhlanguano. For further details, people can contact the church's Public Relations Officer Phendulile Zikalala at 7631 1125.



POSE: From left Umbutfo Mncele Shiba, member of King's Advisory Council Masende Sonnyboy Zwane, Shiselweni RA Themba Masuku and Leader of Inkhanyenti regiment Gencege (Tsabedze).



SAFETY FIRST: Members of the security forces at Mbangweni.



FARE THEE WELL: Sifiso Shabangu chairperson of Mayiwane sub-branch of the Pigg's Peak branch of SNAT next to retiring teacher Sophie Maseko, Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo (centre) next to, retiring teacher Ellina Mlangeni and Mbuso Kingdom Mkhonto secretary of the Pigg's Peak branch of SNAT at St Peregrine's Primary School at Bulandzeni last Thursday.

MINISTER OWEN A PRODUCT OF ST PEREGRINE'S PRIMARY

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

MINISTER of Public Service Owen Nxumalo said he was disappointed that he obtained a third position in Grade Six instead of position one, way back in the 1970s.

The minister was guest speaker at the St Peregrine's Primary School during a farewell function for two retiring teachers last Thursday.

He further donated E1 500 to the two retiring teachers Ellina Mlangeni and Sophie Maseko who also received blankets from The Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT).

Nxumalo stated that his presence at the primary school brought back fond memories of the days he spent at the school as a pupil. He said he was also appointed a prefect which shaped him



BEFORE SPEECH: Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo before giving his speech at St Peregrine's Primary School at Bulandzeni last Thursday. (courtesy pics)

into the leader that he is today.

"It is without a shadow of doubt that

my leadership skills were perfected within the confines of this school under the leadership, guidance and supervision of our head teacher Joseph Ceko," he said. Nxumalo said as a prefect, he would often represent the school in academic, sporting and cultural activities against neighbouring schools in the area.

"I do not want to be misconstrued as a person who is blowing his own horn, but I want to use my story as encouragement to any pupil who can follow in my footsteps and become someone of value as it all starts in primary schools with teachers like these ones," he said.

Also at the event was Sifiso Shabangu chairperson of Mayiwane of the Pigg's Peak sub-branch of SNAT and Mbuso Kingdom Mkhonto secretary of the Pigg's Peak branch of SNAT who presented the retiring teachers Sophie Maseko and Ellina Mlangeni with blankets.

6 900 GBV cases reported this year

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

AS the year comes to an end, over 6 900 cases of gender based violence have been reported to the police, with 600 of the cases being of children who are under 12 years.

These statistics were revealed by the National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula during the 16 days of activism against gender based violence campaign at Millenium Park, Manzini.

Magagula said illustrating the seriousness of gender based violence was that over the period from January 2016 to date, more than 6 900 cases have been recorded in the country.

"Disturbingly, 600 cases involve children victims younger than 12 years of age which is a serious indictment to our society as it imperils the future of the nation given that children are seen as the embodiment of any nation's future," said Magagula.

He said it was therefore evident that if the phenomenon of gender based violence was allowed to proliferate, the country would not be able to achieve its noble development targets.

Magagula said the consistent reference to women does not necessarily mean that as people advocating against gender based violence they are gender insensitive, as gender based violence cuts across and also affects men.

Magagula said however, the

fact of the matter was that the fairer sex was the one preponderantly at the receiving end.

The national commissioner said such cast serious aspersions on police commitment when during this year's observance of 16 Days of Activism, two cases of GBV related murders were recorded which could have been avoided if they had been vigilant enough and embraced the principle regarding the sanctity of human life which is central to the church's message.

Magagula added that gender based violence and HIV and Aids were a serious cause for concern given that they affect victims in a multi-faceted manner covering both the physical and mental aspects. He said violence and abuse against vulnerable categories in society requires a consented joint effort to curtail as it is highly undesirable and affects communities in both the socio and economic perspectives.

Magagula noted that the vagaries of abuse and violence often called gender based violence, manifest in various ways such as rapes, grievous assaults, and in most chilling cases, even murder. He said the starting point as per their theme was supporting the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill which was intended to serve as a deterrent mechanism. He added that although on its own it cannot be a panacea if they are not active enough in the other aspects of fighting this scourge.

MOB BEATS UP SUSPECTED THIEVING REFUGEE

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

A refugee who was suspected of house breaking sustained a fractured leg after he was severely beaten by a mob after finding him inside a house he is suspected to have broken into.

Ally Djuma of Mpaka Refugee Camp appeared before the Magistrate's Court after he was arrested and charged with house breaking with intent to commit a crime. It was however stated on the charge sheet that the crime intended by the accused person was not known to the prosecution.

He was said to have wrongfully and intentionally broken into a house belonging to Nkosingiphile Malindzisa.

The accused appeared before Senior Magistrate Mavuso Mavuso while limping. When asked on what was wrong with his leg, he reported that he was severely beaten by a mob after he was found inside the house.

He stated that however, he did not



intend to commit a crime at the house.

He alleged that he was drunk when he entered into the house which he had mistaken to be that of his friend.

He said he forced his way in as there was nobody at the house.

He said while sleeping inside the house, he was woken up by a group of people who assaulted him with knobsticks and fists, resulting to his injuries.

Paramedics had to be called and

rushed him to hospital after he lost consciousness. Upon this report, Mavuso then ordered the police to conduct an investigation on the assault of the accused. The senior magistrate said the perpetrators will have to be brought to book if there was evidence of committal of the offence. Meanwhile, the accused was not asked to plead to the charge. He was also released on his own recognisance.

ELECTRICITY BLACKOUT AT PUBLIC WORKS, RURAL WATER DEPOTS

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

AMID reports that government is facing financial problems, Siteki Public Works and Transport, and Rural Water depots are currently without electricity.

Apparently, the rural water depot is reported to be currently having electrical faults which have now taken a week while the public works and transport depot is without electricity. Moreover, the rural water depot which is under the ministry of natural resources and energy has been without electricity for the past two months.

Information gathered was that the ministry has been reporting financial constraints, a situation which saw operations being disturbed.

Such operations which were disturbed included the use of computers and other machinery which

require the use of electricity. Senior officials at the depot reported that the situation also saw some employees having no work to do in the past two months. The electricity units were eventually bought at the beginning of December, upon which operations resumed. However, this lasted a few days as the depot then experienced electricity faults. This saw some appliances being damaged. It has been gathered that the depot structure which is also dilapidated has faulty plugs.

Meanwhile, the department is reported to be still without sufficient working equipment. It was recently reported that the depot is without motor vehicles and other machinery which are needed in carrying out projects in the rural communities. For the past months, workers come to their work place only to register their presence at work and return home before mid-day.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR APPLAUDS HIV PROGRAMMES AT WORKPLACES

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

THE ministry of labour and social security has applauded employers in the country for introducing HIV wellness programmes in the workplace.

Speaking at the George Hotel during the Swaziland Business Coalition on Health and AIDS (SWABCHA) awards ceremony, Minister of Labour and Social Security represented by Principal Secretary Norman Gamedze said most people were in the world of work for a large part of their life.

She said the world of work could play a critical role in many aspects of the AIDS response; reducing discrimination and ensuring people were not denied the right to work; enhancing access to HIV information facilitating access to HIV testing and treatment and expanding the coverage of social protection. The minister said the International Labour Organization (ILO) continued to build on its past efforts to contribute to the goal of zero AIDS discrimination.

She said the political declaration on ending AIDS recognised the importance of workplace initiatives.

Magagula said it highlighted the role of employers, unions and governments in protecting workers from discrimi-



WINNER: Inyatsi Constructions CEO Carl Smith (centre) walked away with best CEO of the year Award during the SWABCHA Award ceremony at the George Hotel on Wednesday night (Pic: Sifiso Nhlabatsi)

nation associated with HIV and AIDS in line with the recommendation on HIV and AIDS and the world of work, 2010 (No.200).

As the ministry of labour and social security, they appreciated the growth in ensuring HIV was mainstreamed into wellness programmes, and they further ask SWABCHA to continue with its crucial and important role of coordinating the private sector's response on HIV and wellness programmes.

She applauded the role of SWABCHA in ensuring companies in Swaziland

had wellness programmes, thus making the country comply with the ILO recommendation number 200 on HIV.

Magagula said with the decline of donor funds, she urges companies to continue to fund the national response on HIV. She stated Vision 2022 of an AIDS free Swaziland would be possible if companies take a lead in supporting and engaging their staff members.

About the Best of the Best Awards

SWABCHA's Best of the Best Awards Programme was meant to give recognition to the best performing businesses and individuals in the Swaziland private sector in the response to HIV/AIDS.

The programme gave all in Swaziland the opportunity to nominate businesses and individuals they believe are worthy of winning an award.

It was launched in 2011, the programme culminates in an Annual "Best of Best Awards Ceremony" that is held in conjunction with our Private Sector World AIDS Day celebrations.

A black tie event, the night combines the awards presentation with a guest speaker line up to entertain and deliver information on developments and best practices in workplace programming.

Speaking during the event, SWABCHA Chairman Nick Jackson said testing positive these days was no longer a big deal as it used to be in the past, he said nowadays one can get tested and receive medication that will make them to leave longer.

He encouraged people to get



REMARKS: Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security Norman Gamedze making his remarks during the event.

tested and not be afraid. Jackson told employers that their businesses are nothing without people. He said it was important to include wellness programmes in their places of work because at the end of the day if businesses do not take care of their employees, they would end up replacing people every day because of death which is something that would rob companies of people with experience.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISSOLUTION OF BAPHALALI SWAZILAND RED CROSS SOCIETY PENSION FUND

Notice is hereby given in terms on Section 40(9) of the Retirement Funds Act, 2005 that the BAPHALALI SWAZILAND RED CROSS SOCIETY PENSION FUND is being liquidated and dissolved effective from 31 December 2013. The liquidator's report shall be open for inspection by any interested person for 30 days from 12 December 2016 to 11 January 2017 at the following locations:

1. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society's Head Office at 104 Dzeliwe Street, Red Cross Building, Mbabane;
2. The office of the Registrar of Insurance and Retirement Funds at the 5th Floor, Ingcamu Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane.

Any interested persons who have objections to the aforesaid accounts and report may lodge such objections with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), no later than **Wednesday, 11 January 2017**.

For more information, please contact any of the following:

Queen Maziya Group Life and Pensions Manager Mobile: 7602 0423 Direct Line: 2404 9734	Mduduzi B Dlamini Assistant General Manager - Life & Finance Mobile: 7602 9711 Direct Line: 2404 6506
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Issued by SRIC

Somhlolo Road Mbabane,
P.O. Box 917, Mbabane,
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Tel: (+268) 2404 3231/9,
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INVITATION TO TENDER

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLY AND CUSTOMIZE AN INTEGRATED MICROFINANCE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

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The Swaziland Industrial Development Company (SIDC) is committed to supporting its customers with quality service through:

1. Loans and equity
2. Asset leasing
3. Advisory service and
4. Leasing of industrial buildings

In order to continue to be effective in the industry, SIDC is looking at improving its business process by implementing an integrated information management system to manage its service offerings i.e.

1. Credit Management
2. Finance / Accounting as well as,
3. Property Management

Applications are hereby invited from suitable and qualifying firms/companies to tender for the **Supply, Customization, Implementation, Training and Support** of an integrated Microfinance and Property Management Information System.

Full information, including the tender documents can be obtained from SIDC situated at **Corner Mdada & Lalufadiana Street, Dianubeka House, 5th Floor Mbabane**, on business day from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs before the close of day on the **6th of January 2017** or requested by email from info@sidc.co.sz.

Tenders are to submit a Technical and Financial Proposal. Completed tender proposals, signed and sealed marked "Request for Proposal to Supply and Customize a Microfinance & Property Management Information System" must be submitted (hand delivered) by 15:30 hrs, on the 12th of January 2017 and addressed to: **The Chief Executive Officer, Swaziland Industrial Development Company, P.O. Box 866, Mbabane H100, Kingdom of Swaziland.**

Technical evaluation can be done separately and independently of any financial consideration. Bidders should submit four (4) copies of tender document.

SIDC reserves all rights, including rejecting any or all tenders and is not bound to accept any or the lowest offer. Late or faxed tenders will not be considered.

YES! NO?



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz

Resident Alien



Rev Carl Brook
(1 Peter 2:11)

'WHO, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.' Phil 2:6

34 kg, the weight of the largest pearl in the world discovered just a few months ago in the Philippines. It is in fact a 'giant clam' pearl, as one may deduce from its shape. Apparently, it was found ten years before by a fisherman who kept it as a good luck charm!

Before the advent of cultured pearls in the 20th century, the only way to obtain natural oyster pearls was by diving for them.

Pearl-diving was popular in Asia, especially the Persian Gulf, the Mannar Gulf (between India and Sri Lanka), Japan and the Philippines. In the west, native Americans sought freshwater pearls in lakes and rivers while marine pearling was popular in the Gulf of Mexico.

Jumping

In these early days, courage and a good set of lungs were the main job requirements for this enterprise. Free-divers would strip off their clothes, grease their bodies (to conserve heat), stuff cotton in their ears and wear a clip over their nose before taking a very deep breath and jumping into the water with a heavy rock to pull them down, down, down into the dark depths – sometimes 40 metres below the surface.

As you might imagine, such work

THE PEARL DIVER



is extremely hazardous to one's health. The threat of underwater injury, shark attack, strong currents, and the possibility of blacking out while resurfacing put the diver at great risk. Consider the damage to one's eyes caused by repeated exposure to salt water – silicon goggles weren't around in those times!

Open wooden frames were experimented with, the diver keeping one's head facedown so bubbles of air pre-

vented the seawater making contact with the eyes.

Unfortunately, loads of oysters had to be brought to the surface in order to find just a few pearls. Typically, a ton might yield just three or four pearls – hardly efficient.

Once the pearls had been extracted, the price one could get for them varied wildly, depending on the state of the economy.

In some countries like the Philippines,

the largest pearls belonged by law to the ruler of that land. If one happened to be caught selling these fine specimens, one would face the death penalty.

Two thousand years ago, our God desired a pearl of great price – a right relationship with his creation. This prize was so dear to him that he commissioned his best diver – his own Son – to secure it for him.

Like the pearl diver, the Son had to

strip off the clothes of heaven in order to descend – down, down, down – to reach his goal. It took great sacrifice for him to grasp the prize but, with the pearl firmly in his grasp, he rose triumphantly – up, up, up – to present it to the one who sent him.

You are that treasure, dear friends. Never take your salvation lightly. Remember what it cost.

Carl Brook is pastor of Mbabane Chapel

HOW TO FIND US:

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo
e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564
P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza,
Mbabane, Betsile Street
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436, 2404 9600,
2404 9797, 2404 0706
Email: info@observer.org.sz
Website: www.observer.org.sz

NHLANGANO OFFICE

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

EDITORIAL CONTACTS

EDITOR: Thulani Thwala - 7605 0985 editor@observer.org.sz
NEWS EDITOR: Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 newseditor@observer.org.sz
SPORTS EDITOR: Mphikeleli Msibi - 7605 8044 sports@observer.org.sz
BUSINESS SENIOR REPORTER: Mangoba Makhubu - 7670 4606 business@observer.org.sz
ENTERTAINMENT SNR REPORTER: entertainment@observer.org.sz
SENIOR SUB EDITOR: Paradise Mamba - 7603 5639 subeditor@observer.org.sz

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



Swazi Observer

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, Office No:25
Sifiso Nhlabatsi Cell: 7674 6378
Tel: 2505 2320, Fax: 2505 7220

SITEKI OFFICE

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

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ON THIS DAY

...DECEMBER 12

1997 - The US Justice Department ordered Microsoft to sell its Internet browser separately from its Windows operating system to prevent it from building a monopoly of Web access programmes.

1997 - Denver Pyle received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

1998 - The House Judiciary Committee rejected censure, and approved the final article of impeachment against US President Clinton. The case was submitted to the full House for a verdict.

2000 - The US Supreme Court found the recount ordered by the Florida Supreme Court in the 2000 US Presidential election was unconstitutional. US Vice President Al Gore conceded the election to Texas Gov. George W. Bush the next day.

2000 - Timothy McVeigh, over the objections of his lawyers, abandoned his final round of appeals and asked that his execution be set within 120 days. McVeigh was convicted of the April 1995 truck bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK, that killed 168 and injured 500.

2000 - The Texas Rangers signed Alex Rodriguez to a record breaking 10-year, \$252 million contract. The contract amount broke all major league baseball records and all professional sports records.

2001 - The US House of Representatives passed legislation that would implement minimum federal election standards and provide funding to help states modernise their voting systems.

2001 - Gerardo Hernandez was sentenced to life in prison for being the leader of a Cuban spy ring. His conviction was based on his role in the infiltration of US military bases and in the deaths of four Cuban-Americans whose planes were shot down five years before.

2001 - In Beverly Hills, CA, actress Winona Ryder was arrested at Saks Fifth Avenue for shoplifting and possessing pharmaceutical drugs without a prescription. The numerous items of clothing and hair accessories were valued at \$4 760.

2002 - North Korea announced that it would reactivate a nuclear power plant that US officials believed was being used to develop weapons.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Lincoln Melcher
(movie actor) -
December 12 2003
13 years old.



Regina Hall
(TV actress) -
December 12 1970
46 years old.

Lord we are Grateful - GBR/GFFJ

The Global Business
ROUNDTABLE
Platform

FACT: One of the challenges facing modern business and private sectors globally is the fact that the current financial and economic systems and organisations, unless inspired by God and led by the Holy Spirit, will not prevail in solving the deepening economic problems of the world.

STILL in the Thanksgiving spirit of being grateful to God for all the things He has done for GBR/GFFJ worldwide in this the year 2016, it is of note that pouring Thank You's to God once in a while is never enough, thus an assignment that needs to be fulfilled ceaselessly, day in and day out, individually, at family level, corporately and otherwise.

Brief flashback to last weeks auspicious event full of love, at the World of Yamaha, upcoming GBR/GFFJ events which kicks off January end, were also strongly prayed for.

This, being in line with the scrip-

● "We believe God will use organisations like the GBR- Global Business Roundtable to ensure that His people take over and control the economies of the world."

ture of "thanking God for that which has even not yet happened" and "claiming it by faith". It is worth noting prayer has always been the main tool behind the ever successful GBR/GFFJ events.

MATSAPHA ROUNDTABLE
LAUNCHED

GBR/GFFJ's Vision 2020 is fast approaching and having it in nations, cities, towns, townships, communities has to be fulfilled by planting the chapters and nurture their growth time and again. Matsapha Roundtable under the outgoing National Chairperson, HE Hezekiel Mabuza was launched last Friday at the S & B Restaurant and the event saw even MPs attending. In his remarks, the Matsapha chairperson noted how GBR is determined to transform people spiritually, economically and socially by revealing Christ through business, adding when that is done effectively, the outcome becomes transformational. "GBR is manifesting the Kingdom of God in the market place in today's knowledge economy", he stated.

HE Mabuza, one of the stalwarts in GBR, has for the past six years, been in the forefront as Swaziland's National Chairperson, which also elevated him to being appointed the

SADC chairperson, making him oversee about 15 countries. In his remarks he expressed gratitude to everyone who supported him while still pushing the mandate of the organisation.

Member of Parliament for Zomdote Emuva, HE Titus Thwala hit the nail when outlining how GBR is the palatial of a time that will change Swaziland and the entire globe for the better.

Thwala spoke like a seasoned GBR member when he outlined how a God centred organisation like GBR was the answer to the current societal, economical ills, for the mere fact that God has been made the main factor in the running of the organisation. He urged everyone to apply that which has been taught to them when it comes to doing effective business.

SIMUNYE MEETS
TOMORROW

It being the last roundtable session in the year 2016, the Simunye Roundtable will tomorrow host Dr Ndlovu and Ms Futhi Sibiya tackling the topics "The X-Factor Mentorship Programme" and "The Art of Networking". After Simunye's session, GBR locally goes on a break until the second week of January. However the column will contin-

ue to share the GBR/GFFJ news during the break.

GBR/GFFJ WEEKLY
MEETINGS

● We have our sessions, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from the different regions of the country. Everyone is free to attend these sessions, at no cost and anyone can become a member free of charge.

● Every after the session, we network..., a powerful session where business deals are clinched and sealed over a meal. Our evening sessions start promptly at 6pm-8pm and the venues and days are as follows:

● In Mbabane - City Court-last Tuesday of the month

● At Ezulwini - Bethel Court-first Tuesday of every month

● At Simunye-Simunye Club-second Tuesday of every month

● Manzini - third Tuesday of the month, at The George Hotel

● Mpaka - Tio Ze Restaurant, third Thursday of every month

● At Nhlalango- Ngwane Teachers Training College-every last Thursday of the month

● Siteki - second Thursday of the month, new building next to Baceth Hardware

● Ngculwini-currently at Mhubhe High School, second Saturday of the month 11:00-1:00p.m.

● For more information log in to the GBR and GFFJ websites: www.globalbusinessroundtable.com/ www.globalfundforjesus.com/ or send an SMS to: +268 7872 2063 for questions and clarifications.

EDITORIAL: SABC IS FINALLY HAULED IN

CAPE TOWN - Parliament finally took a no-nonsense stand against the SABC when its ad hoc committee - set up to inquire into the board's fitness to hold office - tackled the public broadcaster head on this week.

The committee held firm even as SABC board Chairperson Mbulaheni Maguvhe - the only remaining nonexecutive board member - desperately tried to resist accountability by going to court to try to stop the inquiry from going ahead.

When the court turned him down, he and his SABC cronies tried to cripple the committee's inquiry by refusing to hand over crucial documents and walking out. But keeping their dignity, the parliamentarians stood firm.

For too long, Maguvhe and SABC strongman Hlaudi Motsoeneng have cocked a snook at everyone who has highlighted the irregular and improper manner in which the broadcaster is being run.

Even this week, as their world was crumbling around them, these SABC bosses cheekily held a two-hour press conference, where they sought to show they were unshakable and still in charge.

But the inquiry has laid bare the abuse of power and the involve-



ment of politicians in running the SABC's affairs, which explains the unbridled arrogance and impunity demonstrated on a regular basis by Motsoeneng and his crew.

It has also exposed the hidden hand of Communications Minister Faith Muthambi in the chaos. Her famous statement - "uBaba loves Hlaudi" - was unpacked to show Motsoeneng acted in the way he did because he believed he had

President Jacob Zuma's protection. Zuma has belatedly tried to admonish the arrogant SABC executive body, saying they should subject themselves to Parliament accountability.

Despite his having allowed this soap opera to play out, unhindered, for so long, the president can still make a difference - by compelling Muthambi, who accounts to him, to play a more constructive role in

rebuilding this institution.

Having taken charge now, Parliament must use this opportunity to put in place institutional mechanisms to ensure the public broadcaster never again falls into the hands of a few.

It is time to return the SABC to its proper mandate of serving the majority, rather than being servile to the politically connected.

City press



I SWEAR: Justice Sisi Khampepe swears in Des van Rooyen as Minister of Finance while President Jacob Zuma looks on at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Days later, following a public outcry, Van Rooyen was replaced in his position by Pravin Gordhan. (GovernmentZA)

A YEAR IN THE LIFE: DECEMBER 9 2015 - DECEMBER 9 2016

THE phrase has been revived by the return of a banal US television series which ran for the larger part of the first decade.

But some of us recall it from an earlier moment in television from the previous century. And it is a useful phrase to think through the political and other events of 2016, a period on the calendar many of us increasingly regard as an annus horribilis.

In *A Year in the Life* (1987), viewers follow the life of the Gardner family over the course of a single year during which the death of Ruth, wife and mother, constitutes the major event. We trace the mourning rituals observed by the family, and how the husband-lover and adult children she left behind cope with her passing.

In some respects one can read the story arc of the series as an allegory through which to think about the year in the political life of this corner of the planet, South Africa, in the year since '9/12', or 'Nene-gate'.

Consequences

The economic consequences of the axing of Nhlanhla Nene from his cabinet post as finance minister have been widely reported. The political turmoil which followed the brief appointment of Des van Rooyen to replace him have also been subjected to public scrutiny, both by analysts and commentators in the media, and in the private conversations of ordinary South Africans. The return of Pravin Gordhan to the position of finance minister less than a week after Nene's removal set off much of the political turmoil which has occupied us in South African politics in 2016.

It has indeed been a tumultuous year in the life of the post-apartheid republic. The unfinished business of dismantling colonial and apartheid legacies has led many young people to confront all of us with serious reminders of the political failures of the post-1994 settlement. With serious unemployment and

economic stagnation in their present, young people across the country demanded a change in the cost of public education. The response by the most powerful sectors of this society across the last year revealed much about our political priorities twenty-two years after officially abolishing totalitarian Christian nationalist white supremacist rule.

Throughout the year, Gordhan, the finance minister who came in from his portfolio in cooperative governance and traditional affairs, the very position to which Nene's replacement was re-deployed after four days, was embroiled in political and legal conflict, both inside his portfolio managing the country's finances, and in his relationship with the rest of the executive. We can hardly forget the long and bumpy, winding road which led to the National Director of Public Prosecutions Shaun Abrahams, announcing charges against the finance minister, and then withdrawing them.

Legislative

The Constitutional Court's judgments against the executive and legislative arms of government for their actions on 'Secure in Comfort', the Public Protector's report on upgrades at Nkandla, the president's private homestead in KwaZulu-Natal, were damning, though quibbles about the word misinterpreted the weight of Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng's oration.

And then there were the results of the local government elections in August, with the governing party losing control of three crucial metropolitan municipalities by failing to secure an outright majority of voters' support. This is of course standard fare in democratic societies in which elections test support for government policy. But the ANC's response to being ousted from power in these centres – the country's administrative capital, the economic powerhouse of the economy, and the municipal area named

for the country's most prominent icon, South Africa's first democratically elected Black president – revealed its internal troubles only too spectacularly.

The resilience of the independent structures meant to ensure administrative oversight and place checks on the scope of political power in a Constitutional democratic order was indeed tested, and reaffirmed this year. But we ought not to be too self-congratulatory about the ways the architecture of political solutions – worked out in the dying years of the last century – is enough to keep us on track as we struggle to undo the consequences of the past and make a better future for ourselves and our children. Plans are not enough, however good they seemed then and however valuable we still find them.

Change

Our behaviour must change. We ought to hold ourselves and our elected officials to account, not just to the letter of the law, but to its spirit. Accountability to the people of South Africa ought to be something that is not just given as an indulgence or a whim; it ought to be a matter of principle and a matter of course. Despite several answers, many of us are still not clear on why the president fired Nene, replaced him with van Rooyen, and four days later, replaced him with Gordhan. And then, bafflingly, proceeded later to insist that Van Rooyen was a better man for the job than his replacement.

Of course, the year is not done, neither on the calendar, nor with us. A cabinet minister allegedly raised the question of the removal of the president of the country from his position as president at the party. It sounds like something out of the Book of Revelation: rumours of rumours...

The sulphurous wind carries still more rumours of an imminent cabinet shuffle. None of it may be true, but in the year in the life of this

country we have just lived through, in some senses merely survived, many of us are keeping our loins girded.

How much more, we wonder, and for how much longer, will we have to brace ourselves for even more politically baffling and yet unexplained actions by elected officials? In the year since President Jacob Zuma fired Nhlanhla Nene from cabinet, appointed Des van Rooyen as his replacement, and then swapped out the ministers of finance and cooperative governance and traditional affairs over a period of five days, we are only dimly more aware of the real reasons behind these events. The president's answers when questioned have not fully clarified the issue. He appoints, we were told, and so he can 'disappoint'.

Stantiated

We, the citizens, have a right to more than sound-bites. Answers to our questions, and explanations for political actions, ought to be substantiated with citation of the evidence record, and stand up to rational examination. Quotable quotes may amuse, but they do not serve the deepening of democracy by holding elected and paid officials to account. So, yes, in the last year we have seen the structures of our democratic order tested, and they have shown themselves to be resilient. But we must also change our behaviour in those structures. They ought not to be tested as they have been. We have too much work to do elsewhere, work to undo the legacies of the past, work towards building a better future.

Our time and political resources must be better spent. The last year in the life of the post-apartheid order hold many lessons, not least for those of us who are dedicated to improving the life of many more people here in South Africa. It is too soon to do the work of mourning. Our re-invented country lives, as does the body politic.

eNCA

Wit and Wisdom

"I wouldn't be caught dead sacrificing myself for this country."

— Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

"Spanish—how shall I say this?—is like Portuguese spoken with a speech impediment."

— Sol Luckman, *Snooze: A Story of Awakening*

"The height of cleverness is in one's ability to be very clever without seeming clever at all."

— Criss Jami, *Killosophy*

"Have you ever noticed how good things go to those who hate?"

— Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

"Some things are so silly they have a certain brilliance to them. Other things, set as standards for brilliance and therefore exalted by many who don't know why, become tarnished because of it."

— Criss Jami, *Killosophy*

"Every little action of the common day makes or unmakes character."

— Oscar Wilde

"They are fond of fun and therefore witty, wit being well-bred insolence."

— Aristotle, *The Rhetoric & The Poetics of Aristotle*

"The poet is a faker / Who's so good at his act / He even fakes the pain / Of pain he feels in fact."

— Fernando Pessoa

"I am not gamesome: I do lack some part of that quick spirit that is in Antony."

— William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*

"Jimmy Murray, you are an ass," said Aunt Ruth, angrily

"Well, we're cousins," agreed Cousin Jimmy pleasantly."

— L.M. Montgomery, *Emily Climbs*

"A good sherris-sack hath a twofold operation in it. It ascends me into the brain, dries me there all the foolish and dull and crudy vapors which environ it, makes it apprehensive, quick, forgetive, full of nimble, fiery, and delectable shapes, which, delivered o'er to the voice, the tongue, which is the birth, becomes excellent wit."

— William Shakespeare

"Nobody ever goes to that store to shop because it's too crowded."

— Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

"True, beneath the human facade, I was an interloper, an alien whose ship had crashed beyond hope of repair in the backwoods of Southern Appalachia—but at least I'd learned to walk and talk enough like the locals to be rejected as one of their own."

— Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

CONTACTS

Manqoba Makhubu
(7670 4606)
business@observer.org.sz
Linda Dlamini
(7844 2025)
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503
2404 6463

VITALS

Prime Rate	10.5%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	7.4%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.5%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E11.00 per litre
Replacement	E11.05 per litre
Diesel	E10.95 per litre
Paraffin	E 7.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES



Correct as at 09 DEC 2016

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.6796	13.7296
British Pound/SZL	17.2240	17.2869
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.3360	8.3650
Swiss France/SZL	13.4695	13.5067
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2873	1.2961
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.2187	10.2574
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.3704	10.4028
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	14.5202	14.5733
Gold	1,168.9500	
Oil	51.1400	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: +268 2404 1543 / 1544
Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Moving Forward

SMI BUYS 6 500 CATTLE FROM RURAL FARMERS

By Linda Dlamini

IN the last 12 months, 2 440 rural farmers have sold 6 500 cattle to Swaziland Meat Industries (SMI) Limited.

This was revealed by Swaziland Meat Industries (SMI) Managing Director Jon Williams during the prize giving ceremony for meat farmers last Friday held at SMI in Matsapha.

He said that's just less than three cattle for each farmer, but for Embiveni each farmer was important to help them meet the demand for beef from their international customers in Norway and the European Union (EU).

Each year Embiveni holds quarterly lucky draws and gives prizes to farmers who supply the most cattle. Williams said as a reward SMI gives these farmers cash bonuses each December of E150 per slaughter animal and E100 per feeder animal supplied during the year.

"This year those bonuses will total E909 150.

"Today we will personally give bonuses totaling E136 150 to 33 of the farmers who have supplied Embiveni in 2016," he said.

The MD invited all other farmers who have not yet received their bonuses to contact the company.

He noted that the recent drought has caused severe hardship for Swaziland's rural farmers and their cattle herds.

"It has been forecasted that there will be droughts more often in the future due to global warming. Grazing lands are getting smaller as they are taken over by housing or other developments or by crops.

For people living in rural areas the economic circumstances are not improving.

For these reasons we believe it is



MY SHARE: Parliament Sikhondze receiving his E6 000 from SMI Managing Director Jon Williams during the prize giving ceremony for cattle farmers at the company's premises in Matsapha last Friday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



LISTENING: The farmers who participated in the awards ceremony. **RIGHT - ACHIEVE:** One of the farmers Mandla Mncina sharing his experience with the others.



a good time for farmers to look at ways of making their cattle herds more productive and profitable," he said. "We hope this year's rains

will be good and that the drought will end," he further stated.

The company also gave out 12 cash prizes worth E40 000 for the

lucky draws and 21 prizes worth E14 000 to farmers supplying Embiveni the most with cattle in each quarter.

SwaziBank to soon usher customers to online banking

By Manqoba Makhubu

SWAZIBANK anticipates ushering its customers to online banking at least before the end of this month.

Board Chairperson Sibongile Mdluli said this was part of the bank's efforts to deliver on its strategy, to keep up with global markets and to strive to remain competitive in the market.

Mdluli was speaking during the bank's end of year function held at



the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre on Saturday.

She said the bank's performance

record shows that it has continued to grow in the past year and has made significant strides in shaping

BEAUTIES: SwaziBank staff members Hlengiwe Mashaba, Andile Slenge-Ngcampthalala and Hloniphile Ndzimandze during the event.

the development finance in the country.

"The bank has continued on a sustained growth path in terms of maintaining a strong balance sheet despite a decline in net profits for the year ended March 2016. A number of factors led to this position includ-

COLLECTIVE SCHEME ASSETS DECLINE SLIGHTLY TO E23BN

By Linda Dlamini

TOTAL assets held by Collective Investment Scheme Managers (CISM) and Investment Advisors (IA) declined to a low E23 billion in the third quarter of 2016.

According to the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) Capital Markets Development Division Quarterly Statistical Bulletin, this represents a 0.07 per cent decrease in assets under management from the second quarter of 2016.

"Funds sourced from the Pension Funds continued to dominate the Capital Markets industry accounting for 67 per cent of the total value of funds.

This illustrates the important role that pension funds play in the long-term development of capital markets in Swaziland," the division said.

The FSRA said in the quarter under review, domestic gross assets increased to E6.2 billion illustrating a 10 per cent increase from the second quarter, the quarter under review also saw a decrease in offshore gross assets.

"This signals progress made by all entities in their bid to shift towards complying with the 50 per cent local asset requirement," the division said.

The bulletin said the enforcement of the 50 per cent local asset requirement for CISM and the possibility of the pension funds' local asset requirement increasing to 50 per cent would help address the issue of liquidity and size of the capital markets industry.

"Which could encourage private companies to publicly list on the Swaziland Stock Exchange (SSX).

However, to motivate private companies to go public would require further legislation which compel pension funds to channel a portion of their funds to the local stock market," the division said.

The bulletin noted that in the third quarter fund managers still sought investment instruments locally amid the size of the Swazi Stock Market, Treasury Bills, Negotiable Certificates of Deposits, Property and Bonds remained the instruments of choice with Equity with primary listing and index linked securities outside the country being instruments of choice.

"This again as previously mentioned illustrates the importance of a liquid and sizable local stock market, as a majority of funds are channelled to jurisdictions with well-developed capital markets," the bulletin said.

JMLED denies demanding E2m from local partner

By Manqoba Makhubu

FOLLOWING a business deal that eventually turned bad between a resident company and a Taiwan based company, the Taiwan partner has disputed allegations that they demanded E2 million from the resident company.

The resident company, Supa Savers and the Taiwan based company, JMLED reached an agreement through a contract that was signed by both parties on March 18 at Happy Valley Hotel, Ezulwini.

Following the agreement, the shipment that Super Savers had ordered was expected to arrive in Swaziland at the beginning of April 2016, but that did not happen.

When Supa Savers Managing Director Warren Henwood was asked about the shipment in November 3, he said the deal failed to take off after 'they tried hard to make it possible.'

He also alleged that the partner company, JMLED demanded that he should hastily deposit E2 million to their account, without even proper documentation, something he couldn't do. "I think these guys were just a fly by night," he told this publication.

But, JMLED said they were the victims in this incident.

"It is entirely false that JMLED demanded a sum of E2 million from Henwood, the director of Super Savers. When JMLED executives visited Swaziland in March, 2016, the purpose was for market analysis and development with the assistance of the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA), and during that time, JMLED proudly chose Supa Savers as its long term local partner in Swaziland," said JMLED Lighting Alliance Vice President Bob Chen in a responding statement sent to this publication.

The partnership meant that JMLED was going to sell its LED products in the Swazi market through its new local partner Super Savers. Depending on how the products performed in the market, JMLED said it would later open a local branch with an assembly line/plant and use the country as a distributing point to other African countries and beyond. Chen said part of the agree-



EXHIBIT: Part of the shipment that was said to have been ordered by SupaSavers.

ment was that Super Savers would place an order of a 720 units/container of LED industrial lights worth E2 million.

"Part of the signed agreement was that Super Savers would first pay 50 per cent of the order and then the other 50 per cent would be paid after the complete sale of the goods. This was a fair deal to Super Savers and the E2 million was a reduced price as per Henwood's request.

Shipment

The shipment that Super Savers had ordered was expected to arrive in Swaziland at the beginning of April 2016 as per Henwood's promise to JMLED and the media at Happy Valley Hotel. Everything was going smooth, until Henwood started to delay with the first payment. He kept making excuses that the delay was due to one of the country's banks in terms of processing his request on time to transfer the first payment to JMLED's bank account in Taipei Taiwan," he said.

"After weeks of delays, Henwood kept assuring JMLED that he would pay because his company Super Savers has E6 Million in its company account.

However, after five months of JMLED's waiting, the company decided to terminate its business relationship with Super Savers because it was obvious that Henwood was not serious. As we speak, the 720 units that Henwood ordered are still lying idle at JMLED's factory waiting for new buyers," he further stated.

He said the company remains optimistic to the development of the LED industry in Swaziland, "and as already stated the company would very much like to see Swaziland as a base to penetrate other African nations."

However, he said due to Super Saver's act of breaking mutual trust, their attitude has slightly changed to hold a bit of a more conservative attitude.

He said the company was in communication with the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) and other relevant stakeholders to protect its corporate reputation going forward.

"We are still very much serious about investing in Swaziland and the rest of the African continent and with the right local company willing to partner, this can be possible," he said.

I was not offered any documentation, insist Henwood

MEANWHILE, Super Savers Managing Director Warren Henwood insists he was ready to secure the container, but he was not given any proper documentation to complete the transaction.

"As I said before, I couldn't make such a huge payment without involving the

Central Bank, but I was not offered the appropriate documents, whereas the Central Bank requires clarity on such transactions. But, I was not given anything, not even through their resident representative, everything was through the phone," he said during a telephonic interview.

Adding, he said he also negotiated at least for the shipment to be sent first, then pay after receiving it, but even that was not successful, therefore, he said he decided to opt out of the deal.

JMLED also furnished this publication with a last notice of payment, but Henwood said he never received it.



REASON TO SMILE: Dumsani Nkambule smiling after receiving his cheque from the MD.

ing, among other reasons, the effect of the drought, which affected agricultural finance, provisioning requirements and some slight impairment of the balance sheet arising from the fire which occurred in 2015," she said. She said amid the sluggish economic growth, it was gratifying that the bank has sustained 'a clean bill of health.' However, she said mobilising and sustaining resources including deposits growth has remained a challenge for the board and management.

Therefore, she said the bank would focus on these issues amongst others as they embark on the third year

strategic cycle to commence in April 2017.

Adding, she said whilst the board and management continues with its key strategic initiatives of revenue enhancements, through improved collections and pricing for risks, broadening customer base by maximising growth for customer deposits in order to maintain sufficient liquidity, it was imperative that this should go hand in hand with cost containment and strive for improved efficiencies in internal business processes.

"In order to deliver on our strategy in this competitive market, we

need to keep up with global market trends by moving quickly into the digital and electronic banking, that is internet and mobile banking. In this regard, we are hoping that internet banking will go live before the end of this month," she said.

This was also alluded to by Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele. Lukhele said they were working hard to finalise the new service and products which hinged on three pillars; productivity, risk management and increasing revenue.

"We anticipate to launch the new services and products in the next two or three weeks," he said.



THANK YOU: SwaziBank Board Chairperson Sibongile Mdluli making her remarks during the bank's end of year party held at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre on Saturday. RIGHT - ADDRESS: SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele speaking during the event. (Pics: Manqoba Makhubu)



Inflation has slowed down mortgage loans

By Manqoba Makhubu

INCREASING inflationary pressures have consequently strained the uptake of mortgage loans according to the Swaziland Building Society.

This follows an upward trend recorded in the country's inflation rate which has consequently pushed up the mortgage rate up to 9.5 per cent currently.

To contain inflation, one of the measures available to the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) is to increase interest rates; at least inflation should be around 3-6 per cent. Once it's outside that bracket, then it is a problem.

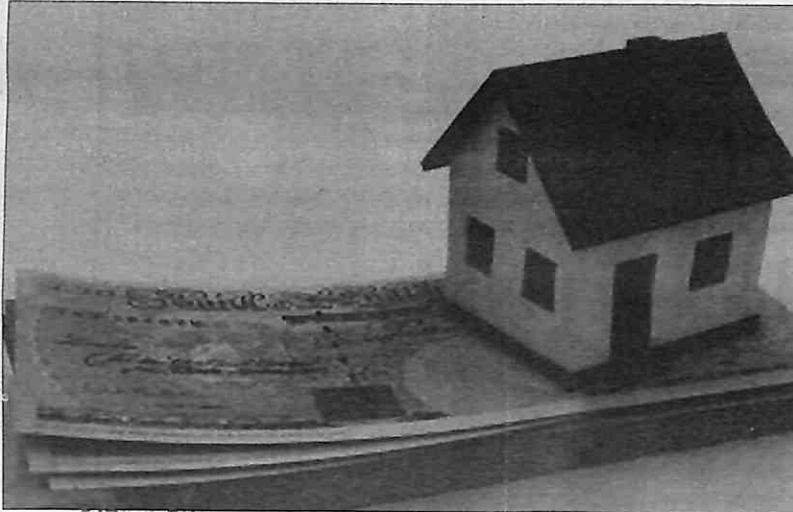
SBS Managing Director Timothy Nhleko said once inflation becomes on the high side, it increases inflationary pressures and the value of the money becomes depleted.

Interest

Adding, he said if interest rates go up then it means the price of money also goes up, therefore it becomes difficult for a lot of people, the affordability levels are affected, "people can pay certain instalments, but beyond reach it becomes difficult. So the higher the rate of inflation, the fewer people we can assist in terms of the mortgages and so forth, even for existing customers. Therefore, it affects our businesses because it reduces the number of people that can afford our services or cap their affordability."

He said if that happens it also has a multiplier effect on the economy, because the rate of growth in the economy could be reduced.

"If there is a low rate of money circulation in the economy, growth prospects are reduced, inflation exactly



does that," said Nhleko.

We have also seen that government is experiencing liquidity challenges, unable to pay services that it has consumed, postponing payment, thus affecting quite a lot in terms of economic growth, so if the rate of circulation of money in the economy drops it has got dire consequences for everybody. Everybody is affected," he further stated.

He said what caused the most challenge for the Swazi economy was imported inflation as the country source most of its products from South Africa, "so if the inflation rate in South Africa is high, it gets imported to us, so we get affected by those exogenous factors which we have no control of, so that is why you sometimes find that South Africa has a lower inflation rate while we have a higher inflation rate."

Nhleko said inflation could be defined in various ways, it can be money chasing too few goods, or it can also be a result of shortages in the econ-

omy. For example with the current drought, maize is in shortage, yet the demand for the produce is high, so as the prize for maize increases it will have an effect on inflation due to its high weighting on the economy. There are other goods like oil, oil has a got a multiplier effect in the economy because it affects a lot of other things. If oil increases, petrol increases, so it feeds on inflation.

He said high inflation is not good for an economy.

"It needs to be managed, tracked, and appropriate policies need to be applied so that it is contained to achieve economic growth," he said.

The managing director said in the last five years the country's economic growth has been dwindling. He said that was a challenge, "those who have children need their kids to be employed, even if you are in business, you need an increasing market, where will that market come from if the economy is not growing."

Railway seek to be the benchmark of rail transport

By Linda Dlamini

SWAZILAND Railway says it strives for efficiency and excellence not only to succeed, but also to be the benchmark in rail transportation in the region.

These were the words of Swaziland Railway (SR) board of directors chairman Zithulele Gina during the SR service excellence awards last Friday held at the Royal Villas.

He said for an organisation to succeed it needs to be efficient in its operations and it needs to have strong leadership.

"An organisation does not succeed by accident for an organisation to succeed there needs to be a certain kind of leadership, human capital and culture," he said.

Gina said there were so many forms of leadership and it was up to the leader

of the organisation to determine what kind of leaders they want to be.

"The prevailing kind of leader today practices what is called transformational leadership. This kind of leadership it is said helps organisations to excel and succeed," he said.

Gina said this kind of leadership was characterised by leaders

who are not feared but are inspired. "Miles Munroe was one of the proponents of this kind of leadership. This kind of leadership calls on leaders to make themselves irrelevant," he said.

Gina said for SR to excel for efficiency, productivity and excellence this was the kind of leadership the organisations should strive for.

The chairman said the interests of the organisation and its members need to be aligned, saying such was a task of a transformational leader.

"In contrast to the transactional leader who practises contingent reinforcement of followers, the transformational leader inspires, intellectually stimulates, and is individually considerate of them," he said.

Gina said transformational leadership refers to the leader moving

the follower beyond immediate self-interests through

idealised influence inspiration, intellectual stimulation, or individualised consideration.

"It elevates the follower's level of maturity and ideals as well as concerns for achievement, self actualisation, and the well-being of others, the organisation,

and society," he said.



BENCHMARK: Swaziland Railway (SR) board of directors chairman Zithulele Gina

FOREIGN EXTRA

Standard Banks snaps up SnapScan maker

JOHANNESBURG – Big four bank Standard Bank has bought a majority stake in Firepay – the team behind SnapScan.

In a statement on Friday, the bank said the deal – for an undisclosed amount – was "testament" to its commitment to innovation.

Firepay launched in 2013 to take advantage of mobile payments technology and is an app-based solution to carrying around cash or credit cards.

A year after launch, Firepay, in partnership with Standard Bank, launched SnapScan to allow customers to pay for goods and services using only their mobile phones. SnapScan now has more than 32 000 merchants signed up, as well as what it calls a vast user network across South Africa, according to its website.

The app supports credit cards and most debit cards from any local bank, as well as 3D Secure-enabled international bank cards.

To make a payment using SnapScan, you call up the app, scan in the merchant's QR code (QR stands for quick response, and the code looks like a mosaic bar code), enter the amount payable, enter your unique PIN and hit "pay". *Business Report*

Sibanye Gold to pay R30bn for Stillwater mining company

JOHANNESBURG – Sibanye Gold will pay \$2.2-billion (R30bn) to buy American platinum and palladium producer Stillwater Mining Company, cementing its role as a major player in the platinum industry and giving it a much-wanted processing plant to deliver finished metal.

Sibanye has bought the whole of Aquarius Platinum and the Rustenburg mines that belonged to

Anglo American Platinum, consolidating a chunk of the Western Limb of the Bushveld Igneous Complex, which hosts the world's largest known platinum group metal deposits. The two acquisitions did not come with any refining capacity and both sets of assets could only get metal up to a concentrate level, which had to be toll treated or sold to a third party, in this case Anglo American Platinum. *iNet Bridge*



ACQUISITION: Sibanye Gold to pay R30bn for Stillwater mining company.

Gupta wealthier than Johann Rupert

JOHANNESBURG – Atul Gupta, close friend to President Jacob Zuma and chairperson at Oakbay Resources and Energy, is wealthier than Richemont chairperson, Johann Rupert.

This is according to the Business Times Rich List 2016, released yesterday. According to the report by Sunday Times, Atul Gupta is the seventh wealthiest South African and the top earning black businessman.

Gupta's personal wealth is valued at R10.7bn, more than Rupert's R10.6bn. Gupta did not feature on the list last year as Oakbay Holdings was only listed in November 2014, according to the Sunday Times. Earlier this year the five major South African banks closed the Guptas' business accounts on suspicion of money laundering. An affidavit submitted by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan in October highlights 72 suspicious transactions by the Gupta family worth R6.8bn.

According to the list, Rupert's R10.6bn is attributed to his 100% stake in Remgro. Last month Rupert announced the abolishment of the CEO position at his Swiss



WEALTHIER: Atul Gupta.

business Richemont, as part of a largescale management overhaul. This was subsequently followed by the announcement of 210 job cuts at the Swiss watchmaking business as demand for gold and jewellery watches declines.

Politicians also took a dig at Rupert this year, raising suspicion over his wealth. EFF leader Julius Malema accused Rupert of having influence over the South African Revenue Services (Sars).

Fin24

World News

UN Security Council demands Jammeh hand over power

NEW YORK - The UN Security Council on Saturday demanded that Gambia's leader Yahya Jammeh hand over power to the president-elect after he rejected the election results in a dramatic political U-turn.

In a unanimous statement, the 15 council members called on Jammeh to "respect the choice of the sovereign people of the Gambia, as he did on December 2, and to transfer, without condition and undue delay, power to the President-elect, Adama Barrow."

In power for the past 22 years in the West African country, Jammeh surprised his critics when he accepted defeat a day after the December 1 vote. But he reversed course on Friday, announcing he no longer accepted the results. Council members "strongly condemned" Jammeh's decision to reject the results and call for a new election.

The appeal to Jammeh was issued after Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was dispatched to Banjul by the West African ECOWAS group to defuse the crisis, but was prevented from entering the country. **AFP**

Dozens killed, wounded after church roof collapses in Nigeria

LAGOS - A church roof has collapsed in southeastern Nigeria causing "many deaths and injury" the country's president said on Saturday, with state media reporting that up to 200 people could have been killed.

The evangelical Reigners Bible Ministry in Uyo, capital of Akwa Ibom state was packed with worshippers when the roof - which was still under construction - collapsed, local media said, with the state-run Nigerian News Agency saying "between 50 and 200" people could have been killed. A rescue operation is under way, the report said. President Muhammadu Buhari expressed his condolences, telling "the governor and the people of Akwa Ibom State, the deep sorrow of his family, the government and the entire people of Nigeria over the many deaths and injury recorded following the incident," presidential spokesperson Garba Shehu said in a statement. **AFP**

Over 30 dead as fuel tanker crashes, explodes

NAIROBI - More than 30 people died when a fuel tanker crashed into other vehicles and burst into flames outside the town of Naivasha in Kenya late on Saturday night, officials said.

"At 5am the death toll was 33 but the search is still on," said Pius Masai of Kenya's National Disaster Unit. He added rescuers were continuing to comb the area for bodies. Masai said the accident involved "over 11 vehicles burnt" when the tanker rammed into others on the road and caught fire. Kenya's Red Cross said the driver had lost control of the fuel tanker which then crashed into other vehicles and burst into flames. A passenger minibus and a police truck were among the vehicles gutted by the ferocious flames. **AFP**

JOHN KERRY AWARDED FRENCH LEGION OF HONOUR

PARIS - US Secretary of State John Kerry is now an officer in France's Legion of Honour.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault bestowed the award on Kerry on Saturday after the two held talks on Syria's war.

Earned

Calling him a "friend to France," the Foreign Ministry said he earned the distinction for "his indefatigable efforts in favour of peace."

Accepting the award, an emotional Kerry recalled visiting Normandy D-Day beaches as a child with his French mother and watching her cry.

"That's when I began to understand the cost of war and the need for all of us to keep fighting for peace, always." He also hailed Napoleon for creating the Legion. Kerry has visited Paris countless times as secretary of state for high-level diplomatic meetings on Syria, Ukraine and other hot spots.

AP



HONOURED: US Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with France's Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault after being awarded the Legion d'Honneur medal.

Gambia's Jammeh reverses election concession, calls for new polls

BANJULI - Gambia's leader of 22 years Yahya Jammeh announced late Friday he would no longer accept defeat in recent elections, plunging the West African country into turmoil with a demand for fresh polls.

Investigations into the December 1 vote have revealed a string of "unacceptable errors" on the part of electoral authorities, Jammeh said in a speech broadcast on state television, adding he would no longer concede to opponent Adama Barrow.

"In the same way that I accepted the results faithfully believing that the Independent Electoral Commission was independent and honest and reliable, I hereby reject the results in totality," he said.

"Let me repeat: I will not accept the results based on what has happened," he added, warning Gambians not to take to the streets to protest his decision.



WANTS NEW POLLS: Gambian incumbent Yahya Jammeh speaks to journalists after leaving a polling station in the capital Banjul.

Soldiers were seen placing sandbags in strategic locations across the capital Banjul Friday, a development which triggered widespread unease among the already-spooked population, who had been panic-buying food before the vote due to fear of unrest.

As the military deployed onto the streets of the tiny nation, the

US Embassy in Banjul urged the army to continue to show "respect for the rule of law and the outcome of the presidential election." "The Gambian people have made a clear choice for change and a new start," the embassy added.

Votes

Latest official figures gave Barrow 43.29 per cent of the votes in the presidential election, while Jammeh took 39.64 per cent. The turnout was at 59 percent.

Opposition spokeswoman Isatou Touray criticised on social media a "violation of democracy" and called for people to "remain calm, lucid, vigilant and not retreat."

On December 2, Jammeh made a magnanimous concession speech on television and promised -- to general surprise -- a peaceful and swift handover of power to President-elect Barrow, sparking celebrations in the country.

AFP

BRIEFS

Chief announces 200 more US troops

WASHINGTON - Washington will send another 200 troops to Syria to help an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters seize the Islamic State group bastion of Raqqa, Defence Secretary Ashton Carter said. They will join 300 US special forces troops already deployed in support of the Syrian Democratic Forces alliance in the drive on the jihadist stronghold it launched on November 5. The operation coincides with a vast US-backed offensive to retake Iraq's second city of Mosul from the Jihadists, forming a twin-pronged campaign intended to deliver a knockout blow to the "caliphate" they declared across Iraq and Syria in 2014. **AFP**

Sirleaf refused entry into Gambia

DAKAR - The Gambia stopped Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, leader of a regional mission, from entering the country on Saturday after a U-turn by the former's long-term ruler over election results, an official said. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Gambia for 22 years, announced on Friday he would no longer accept defeat in a recent ballot, plunging the west African nation into turmoil and demanding fresh polls. Sirleaf, who currently heads the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), was headed to the Gambia but her plane was not allowed to land, amid a heavy deployment of security forces. "Yahya Jammeh has prevented the landing of the ECOWAS president's plane," Senegalese Foreign **AFP**

Italians concerned over banking crisis

ROME - Talks on creating a new Italian government entered a decisive phase on Saturday as fears mounted that any new premier will



have to handle a politically toxic banking crisis. President Sergio Mattarella is trying to broker a deal among political parties on the creation of a caretaker administration to guide the country to elections. A nationwide vote is due by early 2018 but could take place up to a year earlier if there is no deal. **AFP**

Seven killed in train explosion

SOFIA - Seven people were killed in a village in northeastern Bulgaria when a cargo train derailed and exploded, demolishing about 50 houses and public buildings, officials said. Several dozens were injured and at least five of the victims remain in critical condition in hospital, health authorities said. Bulgaria's government will announce today as a day of mourning following the deadly incident. Twelve of the private train's tanks, carrying propylene a very volatile and highly flammable gas, derailed at the rail station. **Reuters**

Exxon CEO is top pick for secretary of state

WASHINGTON - Exxon Mobil President and CEO Rex Tillerson is President-elect Donald Trump's top pick for secretary of state, US media reported Saturday, with NBC reporting Tillerson has already been chosen. Tillerson, 64, is an oil executive with extensive experience in international negotiations and a business relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump has already made the choice, according to NBC News, citing two unnamed sources close to the transition process. **AFP**

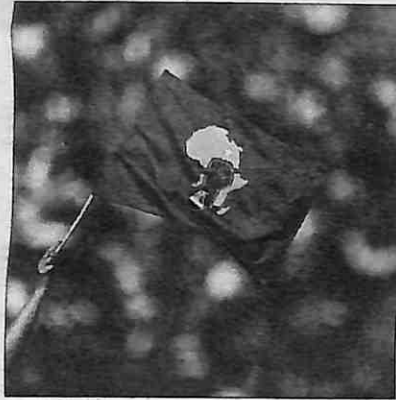
Focus on SA scene

ANC is the biggest threat to constitutional order in SA

JOHANNESBURG - The Economic Freedom Fighters have accused the ANC of being the biggest threat to constitutional order in South Africa, charging that the ruling party has normalised corruption and lawlessness within its ranks.

Speaking on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing into law of the country's democratic constitution, the EFF said that it was a fact that in the past five years under the rule of President Jacob Zuma, the democratic ideal of the rule of law had been eroded.

"On two occasions, the ANC government violated the rule of law by ignoring rulings of the Constitutional court. First, was in relation to the Nkandla court judgement which ruled that Zuma has failed to uphold and protect the constitution. This should imply that he must step down from the



high calling and office of President, yet he did not.

"Secondly, it was in relation to the matter of the Sudanese President Al Bashir. The court ruled that he should be arrested and handed over to the International Criminal Court and the ANC Zuma government ignored the court.

"On both occasions, even despite the merits of the Al Bashir matter, the

ANC government set a precedent that the highest court in the land can be ignored, thus eroding the rule of law," the EFF said.

It said it was also a fact that in the last 20 years, the country had witnessed a gradual corruption of state institutions and corporations.

"This has taken historic and unbearable proportions under the ANC Zuma regime in particular considering the Public Protector State of Capture Report. It is a fact that Zuma has relegated the running of the country, from appointment of ministers to CEOs and board members of state institutions and corporations to a foreign family of the Guptas, who are also his personal business partners," the EFF asserted.

"The ANC government's failure to uphold the constitution must be seen as a marker of moral degeneration and degradation on their part," it added.

Tmg Digital

Naidoo tells MPs of attempts to remove him from SABC

JOHANNESBURG - Former SABC board member Krish Naidoo has told a parliamentary committee about governance lapses at the broadcaster that allowed decisions to be made without input from the board.

Parliament's ad hoc committee conducting an inquiry into the SABC held its third day of hearings last Friday. Naidoo also told MPs of two attempts to remove him from the board. First Communications Minister Faith Muthambi summoned him to a meeting where he was accused of not attending meetings. "I told her representatives that I did not believe the information shared at meetings was correct. I asked her to remove me if she differed.

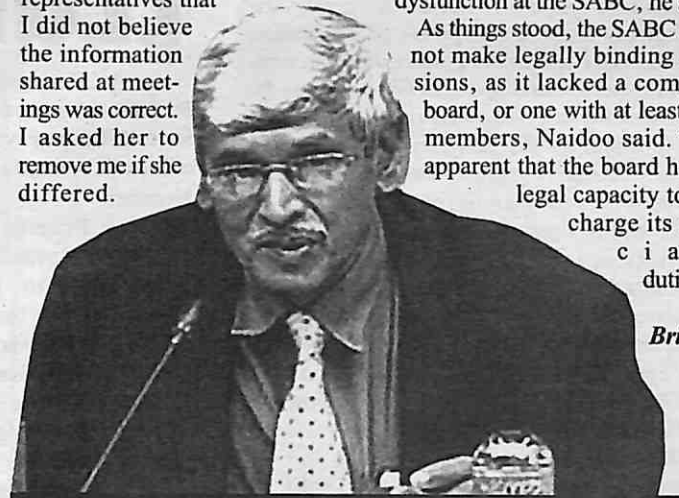
"She called me later and apologised, and said she never contemplated removing me. However, she wrote to me asking to give cause to why I should not be removed," said Naidoo. This was the second attempt to remove him. Naidoo said the constant filling of senior positions with people in an acting capacity created room for decisions to be made without the board being able to influence or change them.

"There used to be a process of appointing executives that was strictly followed," he said.

Acting appointees holding senior positions had contributed to the dysfunction at the SABC, he said.

As things stood, the SABC could not make legally binding decisions, as it lacked a complete board, or one with at least nine members, Naidoo said. "It is apparent that the board has no legal capacity to discharge its fiduciary duties."

iNet Bridge



UNWANTED: Former SABC board member Krish Naidoo.

Cyril steps up for Pres

JOHANNESBURG - The presidential succession race is set to heat up in less than a month's time as Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa takes his fight to his opponents in KwaZulu-Natal.

High-level strategy meetings including Ramaphosa's key senior supporters are said to have been planned for the days following the ANC's birthday celebrations on January 8.

Enjoyed

KwaZulu-Natal has now become the battleground for the race between Ramaphosa and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who has enjoyed an early lead.

But City Press has learnt that some of KwaZulu-Natal's ANC big guns are increasingly lining up behind Ramaphosa.

The involvement of ANC treasurer-general Zweli Mkhize, national executive committee (NEC) member Bheki Cele, former KwaZulu-Natal premier Senzo Mchunu and former eThekweni mayor James Nxumalo has thrown the race for Zuma's successor wide open.

Dlamini-Zuma, who seems to have been anointed by President Jacob Zuma, has long appeared to have the position in the bag in the absence of an outright challenger.

However, this week, Ramaphosa gave a strong indication that he was ready for the contest. *City Press*



STEPS UP: Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Use Chapter 9 institutions: Zuma urges South Africans

JOHANNESBURG - President Jacob Zuma on Saturday urged South Africans to use the Chapter 9 institutions to highlight any possible violations of their rights as stated in the Constitution.

"We also urge all arms of the state to support the Chapter 9 institutions in their work," he told a crowd gathered at a stadium in Sedibeng south of Johannesburg to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing into law of the Constitution. He said a key feature of the Constitution was a well-developed system of checks and balances. These included judicial review, the independent judiciary, legislative oversight over the executive and the establishment of Chapter 9 institutions, which were

mandated to promote and protect various human rights.

"Our courts are trusted final arbiters in disputes in society. To maintain this role, our judiciary needs to jealously guard its independence, impartiality, dignity, accessibility and effectiveness. Other arms of the state must support the judiciary to maintain this role," Zuma said.

He added that the Bill of Rights remained one of the fundamental features of the Constitution, affirming the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

"One of its key features are the rights of assembly and association as well as the freedom of expression and the freedom of the media, which key cornerstones of our democracy. *TMG DIGITAL*

Court orders minister to fire Dudu

JOHANNESBURG - Dudu Myeni's wings have been clipped by the Pietermaritzburg High Court in KwaZulu-Natal, which last week ordered Water Affairs and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane to axe the board of the Mhlathuze Water authority - situated in Richards Bay - which Myeni heads.

The judgment means Myeni - who is also the SAA board chair and head of the Jacob G Zuma Foundation - will have to step down. The ruling follows an application by Mhlathuze Water's suspended chief executive officer (CEO), Sibusiso Makhanya, who accused Myeni in court papers of having captured the water authori-

ty. In November last year, Myeni's board suspended Makhanya, citing allegations of corruption. In June, Makhanya approached the court to have his suspension overturned.

In court papers, Makhanya argued that the board had no right to suspend him on the grounds that, having served a four-year term, its mandate had expired the previous February - and that Mokonyane had illegally extended it.

He also asked the court to declare Mokonyane's extension of the board as illegal and unconstitutional. He argued that Myeni, who was appointed in 2002, was an illegitimate chairperson who had served her maximum three terms.

City Press

SA needs full transparency on the Guptas' net worth

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa needs full transparency on the Guptas' net worth and how they acquired it, the convenor of the Save South Africa campaign and renowned businessman Siphos Pityana said yesterday.

He was responding to the lead article in the Sunday Times which said that Atul Gupta, a close friend of President Jacob Zuma was now the seventh-richest South African and the country's richest black businessman, with his personal wealth estimated at R10 billion.

"The information in the Sunday Times 'Rich List' about the wealth accumulated by Atul Gupta is

shocking news. For one man to have acquired so much wealth, so fast, is in itself very disturbing.

Questioned

But when it is Atul Gupta, a man whose every business activity is being questioned because of corruption, money-laundering and his penchant for peddling posts in public office, we really have to say: there is something fundamentally wrong here, and it needs a full and proper investigation," Pityana said. What was equally disturbing was that the Sunday Times' assessment was probably just the tip of the iceberg, he said.

Tmg Digital

MK veterans plan to boycott anniversary celebrations

JOHANNESBURG - Some former Umkhonto we Sizwe soldiers plan to boycott the organisation's upcoming 55th anniversary celebrations.

The group says it's an insult to the legacy of former soldiers.

The aggrieved veterans say people, who were never MK soldiers, are set to be honoured at the celebrations. They claim that Brian Molefe, Dudu Myeni, Hlaudi Motsoeneng and

Mzwakhe Mbuli are among the recipients. One of the veterans, Archie Mogodiri, has called on others to boycott Friday's event.

He's calling for a cadres' assembly, that will



NOT HAPPY: Former SANDF chief, Siphos Pityana, is one of a number of Umkhonto we Sizwe veterans who have spoken out against the ANC's current state of leadership.



PAID THROUGH MOM: Zhao Yimin, 15, has been working at the Xin Shua tinsel factory since she was just 11. All her wages are paid directly into the pay packet of her mother, who also works at the factory.



AT WORK: A masked labourer assembles artificial trees for an average salary of 42p an hour. (Daily Mail)

INSIDE SANTA'S SWEATSHOP:

China's 'Christmas Town' where 60 per cent of the world's festive decorations are made by low-paid migrants working 14-hour days

CHINA - Fake fir trees, novelty antlers and brightly coloured tinsel are a disposable, but essential, part of the modern British Christmas. But spare a thought for the thousands of migrant labourers from rural China, some as young as 15, who are paid just 42p an hour to make your festive season sparkle.

For them, there will be no Christmas holiday – not even on December 25.

Welcome to 'Christmas Town' in China's Zhejiang province, an anonymous and rather shabby city which produces an astonishing 60 per cent of the world's seasonal decorations, including £3 million worth of tinsel, and everything else from Father Christmas hats to fibre-optic trees.

Yiwu, 200 miles from Shanghai, takes its nickname from its 600 factories that make Christmas toys and decorations for sale around the world, but particularly in Europe and America.

A vast industry in festive goods has blossomed around the town's gargantuan retail market – the world's biggest at 826 acres – with a dedicated section of more than 3 000 booths selling shiny, multi-coloured tat at unbeatably low prices, much of it destined for Britain.

They are supplied by dingy factories

staffed by a stream of workers who leave their families behind in poverty-racked rural towns and villages to live in dormitories for 50 weeks of the year.

Their gruelling work often stretches from 7am to 9pm and many are paid piecemeal, according to how many artificial Christmas tree branches or metres of tinsel they can produce in a day. They moved to Yiwu from Yunnan province on China's south-west border with Burma and Tibet, where wages and job opportunities are among the country's worst. Zhao Yimin, 15, has been working at the Xin Shua tinsel factory since she was just 11. All her wages are paid directly into the pay packet of her mother, who also works at the factory.

She surreptitiously studies a school textbook as she works. "We came because it was a place where we could have a better life," she says. "I won't work here forever."

Another is Yang Gui Hua, 18, who earns £6 for a 14-hour working day making intricate replica Christmas tree branches.

"It is hard work but when I get faster at making the branches I will earn more," she says. "Some women here earn more than 100 RMB (around £10) a day but it takes time to be as fast as they are."

The consumer frenzy of the modern

Western Christmas has, however, made multi-millionaires of those factory owners who have been smart enough to latch on to the booming global demand for ever-cheaper festive goods.

These artificial Christmas trees, complete with spray-painted fake snow, are made in the Chinese town of Yiwu, which has earned the nickname 'Christmas Town'.

The Christmas trees are sold under the Premier brand in British garden centres.

One of them is 42-year-old Reng Guoan, regarded as the Christmas tree king of Yiwu. Reng is the founder and general manager of the Sinte An factory, which makes one million trees each year for export around the world, some 100 000 of them to Britain.

Reng set up his factory on the outskirts of the city a decade ago and now employs more than 300 migrant workers, who make an extraordinary variety of artificial trees from authentic-looking versions to the sparkling fibre-optic models, which he says are favoured by British customers.

In his factory showroom, Reng points to the gaudiest imitation tree, with the brightest of twinkling colours, with a baffled expression. "This is the kind of tree that English people like the most," he says.

"I don't know why. I suppose English

people just like the lights and the sparkle – the brighter the better.

"They have very different taste to Americans. Americans like their Christmas trees to look as natural as possible."

In the courtyard of the factory, a worker wearing a face mask and overalls is spray painting trees with fake snow.

A masked worker walks amongst Christmas trees sprayed with artificial snow outside the Sinte An Christmas tree factory.

Each costs about £10 to produce – £5 of which is labour. Reng sends five shipping containers of Christmas trees a year to Britain, dealing mostly with a company called Premier, which supplies artificial trees to garden centres and shops around the country.

Visit

"They came to visit us in September 2015 and placed their order for Christmas 2016," said Reng. "We will be making even more trees for Britain next year than this year."

Production of the trees is a noisy, labour-intensive process, with spindles producing artificial branch after branch, and chopping machines echoing around a largely empty factory floor.

The factory is busiest from April to September when production for Western markets is at a peak.

Christmas decorations on display inside the Festival Arts section of the Yiwu International Trade Market

- Welcome to the gargantuan Christmas Town found in China's Zhejiang province
- Fake fir trees, novelty antlers and brightly coloured tinsel made at the factories
- Items put together by migrant labourers from rural China, some as young as 15
- For them, there will be no Christmas holiday days off – not even on December 25

Workers sleep four to a dormitory and work from 7am until 9pm every day, six days a week. As wages rise across China, employee retention is one of the biggest issues for factory owners like Reng.

"Next year we will move to a new factory that's twice the size and conditions for workers there will be better," he says.

"Workers will all have TVs and internet in their dormitory blocks. We are trying to make them feel happier so they don't switch jobs so often."

Back in the labyrinth of Yiwu's wholesale market, huddles of foreign buyers meander up and down the long avenues of packed stalls as the first orders for the 2017 season are placed. The buying frenzy will begin in the spring, stall holders tell us.

Businesswoman Wang Shao has watched the popularity of Christmas grow year by year since she started producing novelty Santa hats and Christmas stockings nearly 20 years ago. *Daily Mail*

LONDON - Is this the most festive pub in Britain? Popular boozier in Notting Hill is decorated with an incredible 21 000 lights and 90 Christmas trees

With the festive season well and truly under way, the competition for this year's best Christmas displays is hotting up.

A strong contender is The Churchill Arms in Notting Hill, west London, which has been decked out with a record 21 000 lights and 90 trees.

Landlord Gerry O'Brien has made the pub famous for its festive display, adorning the pub with lavish decorations for over 30 years.

The Churchill Arms in Kensington, west London, has been decked out with a record 21,000 lights and 90

IS THIS THE MOST FESTIVE PUB IN BRITAIN?

trees this year. He said the pub had managed to outdo itself again this year, with the impressive display – which includes reindeer lights and stars on the roof – taking a week and a half to put up. O'Brien said: "We want to make the lights look better every year and it really does make a striking impression."

Picture

"This year we've got a lovely reindeer outside the door in front of the Queen's picture, so it looks like she's taking a ride to Buckingham Palace on the sleigh."

"We're still finishing off inside, but we've got the 18ft tree outside, five

inside, and then all the others, with 21 000 lights.

The landlord said they were still finishing off the decorations inside the pub, but already have five trees inside.

The Churchill Arms spends over £30 000 a year on decorations, including £25 000 spent on the flowers adorning the pub in the summer.

He added: "We do it for our area – it's lovely to see people's reactions, and Christmas is such a special time of year. It's only once a year and we should make the most of it and enjoy it. It's good for business too, people come from all over to look at the lights." *Daily Mail*



THE MOST FESTIVE PUB: The Churchill Arms in Kensington, west London, has been decked out with a record 21 000 lights and 90 trees this year.



- NEWS
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- CARTOONS



GRAND PRIZE: Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini flanked by the car sponsor Syed Zain Ul Abideen and Redemption Story's Zambane Simelane and Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu during the presentation of the seven-seater Toyota Vox at the Gospel Awards on Saturday.



FEEL GOOD: Redemption Story committee members in a jovial mood as Zambane test drives their new car. (Pics: Nomfundo Sifundza)

REDEMPTION STORY SCOOPS GOSPEL AWARDS CAR

Stories by Nomfundo Sifundza

REDEMPTION Story scooped the most coveted prize at the Gospel Awards on Saturday as they won the seven seater Toyota Vox vehicle.

The choir won the car based on the total number of votes in the entire voting criterion.

They also walked away with the

... Crowned overall winner after being most voted for nominee

Best Gospel Classic of all time award ahead of fellow nominees; Frans Dlamini for 'Liph'ithikithi lakho' and Correctional Gospel group for 'Yehla Moya'.

They won this award for their song 'Holy, Holy-Worthy is the Lamb', which has a video.

As soon as the name, Redemption Story was called out by the Premier

Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, committee members Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu and Zambane Simelane jumped to the stage to receive the award and car keys.

An overjoyed Zambane took to the driver's seat immediately after being ushered into the car for the actual presentation by the premier and said "oh yes the choir's car,

thank you Lord".

The vehicle was sponsored by OS Motors, a car retail company based in Matsapha.

Mayibongwe added that it would now be easier for the choir and the committee to run errands for the entire choir.

Last year she drove off in the same prize, a BMW then, as the overall winner. In his speech, the premier said he felt honoured to be part of the Gospel Awards event as it was a true reflection of the massive talent possessed by Swazis.

"The standard of music is undeniably high in the country; the only thing left is for the Copyright Bill to be promulgated", he said.

Upon saying this audience ululated in appreciation of his words.

The premier promised that this would be effected as soon as possible as it seemed saddening how people enjoy music but refused to pay for it.

**List of winners on page 29*

NOTHANDO GOES HOME EMPTY HANDED

NOTHANDO Hlophe of 'Khululu'ugcobo' fame went home without a single award despite her name and song being screamed by the audience every now and then.

The gospel sensation held three nominations in the Best Song of the year, Best Gospel Artist of the Year and the Most Selling Artist categories respectively.

The singer did not seem fazed or disturbed by the results of the night as she was heard saying "award or no award, God is still God".

Much to the agreement and affirmation of those around her who gave her hugs and the songstress moved on with her usual bubbly self throughout the night.

Looking gorgeous in a tight colourful dress and shiny shoes Nothando did however mount to the stage to accept an award on behalf of Siyabonga Sukati, writer of the hit song 'Khululu'ugcobo'.

"Siyabonga is not in the country and since we have a good relationship as he is the one who wrote 'Khululu'ugcobo', I will take the award for him and surely hand it over upon his return", she said.

LINDA DLAMINI BIG WINNER, EMOTIONAL

WELL known as the 'Live Wire' for his electrifying performances, Linda Dlamini walked away with two awards and was left emotional after being called up for the second award.

The energetic singer won Best Male Artist and Best Gospel Artist of the year but it is the latter that got him singing 'Siyabonga Nkosi' as he seemed surprised by the win.

He was nominated in the category with Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group and Nothando Hlophe.

Emotionally out of words, Linda said he was more than humbled by the love Swazis had shown him thus far, the voting and singing along to most of his songs.

In attendance was the artist's manager Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe whom he did not leave out in his speech and Bishop Nash Shongwe.

Oskido, Glen Lewis set 'crazy' festive mood

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THE two South African most celebrated masters of the decks threw lovers into frenzy on Saturday night at the Déjà vu cocktail lounge.

The two were in the country,

courtesy of SwaziBoy in the usual fun ground Esibayeni Lodge, Déjà vu Cocktail Lounge.

Revellers danced the night away when the DJs took to the turntables, proving that indeed they were ready for the festive breeze. SwaziBoy in partnership with four other entertain-

ment stables in the country is gearing towards yet another crazy party on December 31.

The partners collaborating under the name 'The Big Five' will host the crossover party at Esibayeni Lodge and will have three stages set alight with only local performers.



PACKED: Revellers dancing to DJ Oskido's mix. (Courtesy pics)



LAHL'ULENZE: SA's Zodwa Wabantu doing her thing on stage.



WHOOOA: DJ Oskido reacts as a picture of him is taken. This was at the Ocean Eleven Party at Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge on Saturday night.

SA GOSPEL STARS DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE 'uhambenatsi' concert held at Swedish Free Church in Manzini on Friday night saw Zaza Mokhethi and Vincent Ramalepe displaying amazing dancing skills whilst singing their hearts out on stage.

The event was packed with high energy as Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe was the MC for the night and he kept the audience of about 200 people the entire time in stitches of laughter. Performances on the night were well prepared as it was evident in their renditions. Vincent Ramalepe got a hero's welcome on stage as the MC for the night welcomed him in a countdown with the audience. As soon as he climbed the stage at 22:50 it was nothing but praise songs that had more than half the house dancing with him in front of the stage.

The Worship House member gave

his heart out and performed with the audience at some point away from the stage. His rendition of 'Gelekece' got him sweating it out with young people who were having a lot of fun during the event.

This was shortly followed by Pastor Sdumo Vilane who briefly preached on the importance of praise and worship and how the church nowadays was missing the point in praise and worship. His brief sermon got the whole house dead silent with a new understanding of the power of praise and worship. Vincent Ramalepe had a brief moment after his performance and expressed his love

for the country: "I had a magical experience on stage, Swazi people are so loving and they connect so easily. I loved the presence of God and interacting with the audience, Swaziland feels like a home to me as I have been coming here time and again. I am yet to return on December 25 to minister again." The energy levels went up again as Zaza Mokhethi was introduced, the whole house went into a frenzy mode as there were screams of excitement inside the room. She went on stage at 00:00 and opened with one of her hit tracks, 'Dwala elimiyo'.

Her performance lasted for 45 minutes and her fourth rendition of 'Ngena' saw Sizwe Mabuza on the drums displaying superb skills. Throughout her rendition, the whole house was on their feet with more young people dancing along to her moves. She closed her set with a collaboration with Linda Dlamini as they sang 'Bayeke Bahleke' taken from her newest offering 'Umoya oyingewe'.

KONKHE KUZOLUNGA: Linda Dlamini captured singing one of his hit tracks 'Konke Kuzolunga'. This was at the Swedish Free Church.



HALLELUJA: Bhelekazi Shabangu giving it her best during the event.



WELIKWEZI: Sihle Zwane captured singing during the event in Manzini.



SWEATING IT OUT: Vincent Ramalepe sweating it out on stage.



IN HIGH SPIRIT: Linda Dlamini with Zaza Mokhethi doing a collaboration during the concert.



DAB: Zaza Mokhethi flanked by fans doing the dab dance during her performance.



CAPTURED: Macford Sibandze seated with Bishop Nash Shongwe whilst Apostle Sdumo Vilane preached.



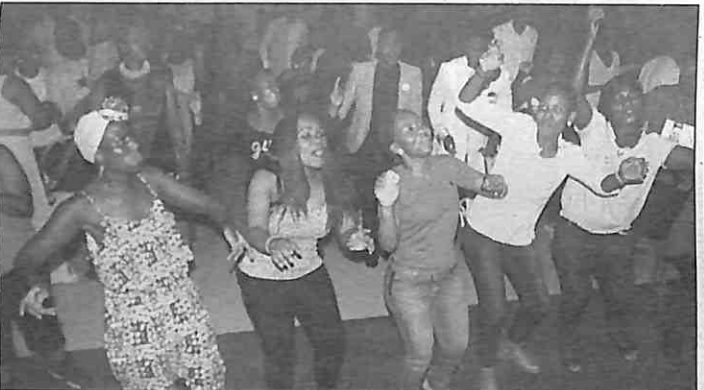
BACK-UP: Linda's backing vocalists captured singing during his performance.



WOZA: A section of the audience dancing to one of the performances during the event.



IZINTOMBI ZE VANGELI: These three sisters were captured dancing whilst Vincent Ramalepe was on stage at the Swedish Free church.



HAVING FUN: A section of the audience captured singing and dancing to one of the performances on stage.



TRIBUTE TO SFISO NCWANE: Mhlonishwa Motsa and Bheksisa leading Sfiso Ncwane's befitting tribute as they imitated what he used to do with his jackets when he performed.



ALSO THERE: Reverend David Chaliyumba with wife Bonile and their daughter Ruth at the ceremony.

SWAZILAND GOSPEL



GREAT EVENT: The Premier Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini congratulating ACASWA President Zakhele Masilela on a world standard event held on Saturday night.



YES WE WON: Mduduzi Simelane and wife LaZwide running to the stage to accept the Most Selling Artist of the Year award after having received an honorary award at the beginning of the ceremony.



YALA NAMI NKHOSI: MP Frans Dlamini singing his song 'Yala nami Nkhosi' after winning the award. Dancing behind him is Fisiwe Vilane.



PROUD FEELING: Linda Dlamini rendering an acceptance speech whilst African Alliance CEO Nelsiwe Mabuza, Pastor Skhumbuzo Shongwe and Phesheya Dube look on.



GELEKECE: Nduduzo Matse joined by gospel music lovers as he performs the song that made him a winner 'gelekece'.



GORGEOUS: Nothando Hlophe upon arrival.



PERFECT COMBINATION: MCs Sandile Makhanya and Nozipho Shabangu kept the audience entertained as they joked about the former's car which she won when she was crowned Miss Swaziland.

TOTAL GOLD SERIES

DJ ZINHLE

•FRI-16-DEC•

TICKETS
Earlybird E150 | General E200 | VIP E500

OUTLETS
Dappers, Modane & Gabane
Mabasa & Mphahlele

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DOC 12553

MUSIC AWARDS



BEAUTIFUL: Singer Symphony looking great in a black number.



THERE YOU GO: Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu receiving an award for being the Best Female Artist of the Year.



MY TEAM: ACASWA President introducing his committee members to the prime minister. Next to him is his Vice Terrence Matse, Treasurer Mbongwa Dlamini, Secretary General Sikelela Thwala, Organiser Mandla Mtsetfwa and PRO Ronnie Dlamini.

THE LIST OF AWARD WINNERS

By Nomfundo Sifundza

ARTIST OF THE YEAR
Linda Dlamini

SONG OF THE YEAR
Nduduzo Matse - Gelekece

BEST GOSPEL GROUP
Police Gospel Messengers

BEST NEW COMER
PD & Family Gospel Wagon

BEST MALE ARTIST
Linda Dlamini

BEST FEMALE ARTIST
Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu

GOSPEL CLASSIC OF ALL TIME
Redemption Story

BEST WORSHIP
Pastor Chris Shabangu

BEST GOSPEL RADIO PROGRAMME
Impilo Yelikhaya nek-wakhiwa kwalo- Rev J.V Mazibuko

BEST GOSPEL TV PROGRAMME
Discovery Word- Apostle Robert Kasaro

BEST PRAISE
Ncamiso Mavimbela

BEST ZION
Gcina Masuku

BEST AMADODANA
Amadodana AseLwandle

BEST COLLABORATION
Phetsila ft Mzamo

BEST TRADITIONAL SONG
Apostle Vusumuzi Maculuve

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

Praise Unlimited

BEST GOSPEL GROUP PRODUCER
Siyabonga Sukati

BEST SONG WRITER
Frans Dlamini

MOST SELLING ARTIST
Mduduzi Simelane

BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR
Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group

BEST CONTEMPORARY
Pastor Chris Shabangu

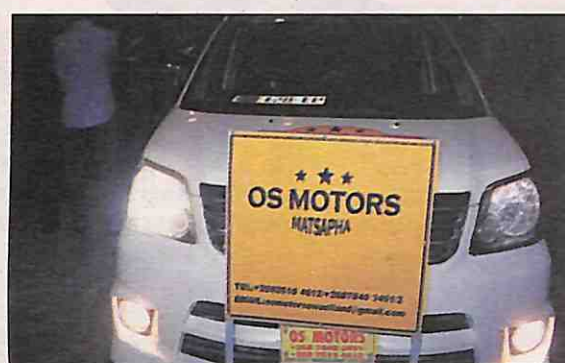
BEST STYLISH
Nduduzo Matse

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Rev. Elias Shongwe



THE BEST: Linda Dlamini.

Redemption Corner



THE CHOIR DID IT: Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu looks on as the choir lifts up the miniature trophy. The Premier joined in helping open the driver's seat door for the winners to climb on. The front view of the Toyota Vox that now belongs to Redemption Story.

WIN DOUBLE TOTAL GOLD SERIES TICKETS!

Win one of three double tickets to the final instalment of the Total Gold Series at House On Fire happening on the 16th of December. To win yourself double tickets (general) answer the 2 simple questions correctly and drop your entry form at the Swazi Observer Offices in Mbabane. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 14 December 2016. Remember to bring your ID when collecting your tickets. GOODLUCK!

NAME: _____

CELL NUMBER: _____

QUESTION 1: Who is the Tittle sponsor for the Total Gold Series?

QUESTION 2: Who is the main act for the final instalment of the Total Gold Series?

TOTAL GOLD SERIES

•FRI-16-DEC•

8pm

DJ ZINHLE

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HOUSE ON FIRE
WASHA UMKHUKHU



HIGHLIGHTS

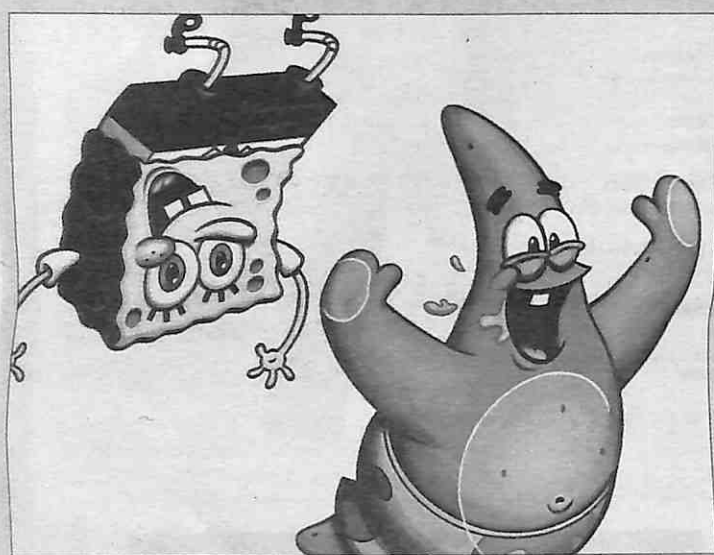


Littlest Pet Shop

Today 13:30 | NickTOONS (308)

"S2/E14 - Sweet Pepper". Pepper is smitten with a visitor to the day camp, but has no idea

how to express herself around him and Blythe has her hands full babysitting Buttercream while trying to finish reading a new book.

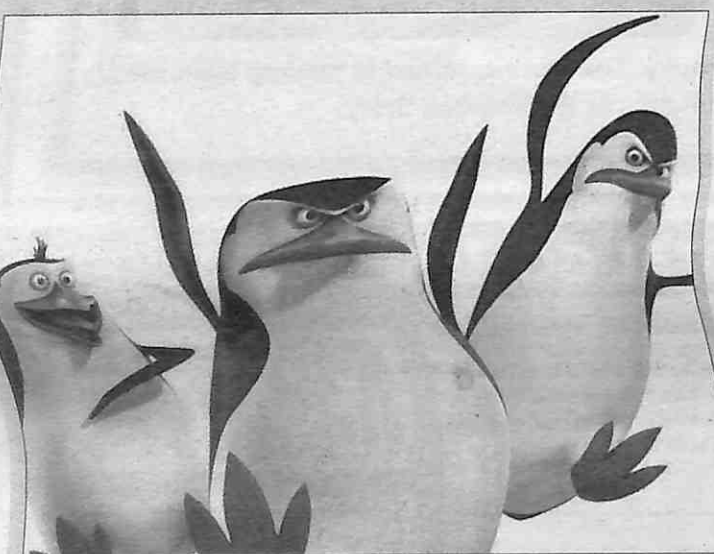


SpongeBob SquarePants

Today 14:45 | Nickelodeon (305)

S9/E197 - Two Thumbs Down/Mall Girl Pearl". Pearl gets a job to be cool like her

friends, but the only store that's hiring is the lamest store at the mall. SpongeBob loses the use of his thumbs and must get them back.



The Penguins of Madagascar

Today 16:25 | NickTOONS (308)

'S2/E36 - Gut Instinct / I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings'.

These penguins are an elite strike force with unmatched commando skills. Watch them tackle their missions.

SPECIAL TREAT FOR TV FANS

M-NET EDGE - The home of highly acclaimed, award-winning and cutting-edge television series - will showcase first-class foreign-language series in future, in addition to its sizzling Hollywood fare.

The first series to occupy this specially curated foreign-language slot on M-Net Edge (Saturdays at 21:00 CAT) is the much talked-about German spy series *Deutschland '83*. Lauded for its aesthetics, tight story lines, phenomenal 1980s soundtrack and unique humour, this eight-part drama became the most popular foreign-language series in the history of UK television when it was screened on Channel 4 this year. It was also the first-ever German-language series to make it onto American network television and raked in rave reviews from critics and viewers alike.

Series

Apart from the Saturday night foreign-language series slot, M-Net recently announced that viewers who love sophisticated story-telling will have access to the very best foreign-language movies in future on M-Net Edge as well.

These will be screened on Sunday nights at 21:00 CAT, starting with the Palestinian film *The Idol* December 18.

"We have been re-looking our schedules to add more fresh content to our channels than ever before and are particularly excited about these additions to M-Net Edge," says Jan du Plessis, Director: M-Net Channels. "The foreign-language content fits perfectly into M-Net Edge's promise



to host content that's a thrill-a-minute for discerning viewers. Over the years, we have had plenty of requests to include foreign-language programming onto our schedules and it's fantastic that we could include these treats on our M-Net Edge schedule, going forward."

Deutschland '83, set at the height of the Cold War, centres on Martin Rauch, a young spy caught between two worlds, sent by the East German Intelligence Service on a high-stakes mission to recover Nato's military plans.

Against a backdrop of fervent political feeling and the imminent threat of nuclear war, Martin must leave every-

thing he knows for a new life undercover in the west. It's not long before this young prodigy discovers that nothing and no one is as they seem, and every friend is a potential enemy; every enemy a possible asset.

Created

The series, which won the International Emmy Award for Best Drama Series this year, was created by Anna and Jörg Winger, written by Anna Winger and executive produced by Jörg Winger and Nico Hoffman. It was announced in October that a second season, *Deutschland '86* has been commissioned and there are already talks about a third season, titled *Deutschland '89*.

BBC Brit to simulcast African Footballer of the year

BBC Brit (120) will simulcast the live announcement of African Footballer of the Year from BBC World News for the first time on tonight at 19:30.

It will broadcast a 15-minute programme fronted by World News' Focus on Africa presenter Peter Okwoche and feature player profiles, highlights from the award's launch programme and the live reveal of this year's winner.

The hugely popular award, which celebrates the best African footballer of the year, has been run by the BBC for over two decades. This is the first time that

BBC Brit has shown the announcement live on the channel.

Advertised

It will be a change to the advertised schedule featuring a double bill of popular quiz show *Pointless*. Joel Churcher, Vice President and General Manager for BBC Worldwide Africa, said: "We're delighted to bring such a key sporting moment to the BBC Brit audience in Africa. We're looking to increasingly stretch our channel offering to viewers, and this event TV moment is a start of more exciting things to come."



UNCLE BUCK

Tonight 19:00 | Vuzu (116)

"S1/E1 - Pilot. Uncle Buck is a charismatic hustler who has gotten by on his charm for years. But when his brother Will and sister-in-law Alexis move to town, things change.



International
Celebrity News

Janice Dickinson marries fiancé Dr Robert 'Rocky'

LOS ANGELES - Janice Dickinson has married her fiancé of four years Dr. Robert Gerner.

The couple tied the knot in an intimate ceremony at the home of Janice's friend Suzan Hughes.

Entertainment Tonight confirmed the news along with photos from the big day showing the 61-year-old bride looking emotional and wearing a white dress and veil.



MARRIED: Janice Dickinson with Dr. Robert Gerner.

"I am so delighted, ecstatic, over the moon, out of body, a runaway bride," the former model told ET before the ceremony.

"When Rocky first introduced himself to me, I felt like I had seen a unicorn, one of a kind. He's the brightest, the best, funniest and the most exciting man I've ever met in my life."

The ceremony was attended by Janice and Robert's close friends and family, who enjoyed a selection of sandwiches, salads and pastries as well as mini quiches and chicken skewers at the celebration. **MTO**

Kirk Douglas celebrates 100th birthday

HOLLYWOOD - At 100 years old, Kirk Douglas knows how to party. The iconic Hollywood actor, who appeared in movies such as *Spartacus*, celebrated his birthday milestone Friday at a bash in the Sunset Room of the Beverly Hills Hotel with his family and friends.

Guests included his wife Anne Douglas, 97, son Michael Douglas, 72, his wife Catherine Zeta-Jones, 47, and their children, Dylan, 16, and Carys, 13, Kirk's Rabbi, plus Jeffrey Katzenberg, 65, Steven Spielberg, 69, and insult

comedian Don Rickles, 90. He and Kirk had worked together several times.



CELEBRATION: kirk Douglas.

The theme from Rocky was played as Kirk entered the party, reports said. The room was decorated with portraits of Kirk throughout the years and a giant magenta "100"-shaped flower display.

The actor received a three-tier Roman-style cake decorated with golden accents and a golden bust of his face as a topper. He also received a double kiss from Michael and Zeta-Jones! Michael also gave a speech. **TMZ**

JLS singer Oritse Williams accused of rape

WOLVERHAMPTON - A woman has claimed JLS star Oritse Williams raped her after he performed in a nightclub.

He was singing at the Gorgeous club in Wolverhampton when he met her, it is alleged. She told police that Oritse, 30, invited her and a friend back to a hotel where they



IN COURT: Oritse Williams.

along with another man. After socialising in the room, the girls claim they left to get a taxi home. But they then realised they had left a handbag containing a purse and one of them went to retrieve it. It was then when the rape took place, it is alleged. Police have confirmed they are investigating an allegation of rape on December 2. **Dailymail**

Troian Bellisario & Patrick J. Adams marry

CALIFORNIA - Congrats to Troian Bellisario & Patrick J. Adams! The 31-year-old *Pretty Little Liars* actress and the 35-year-old *Suits* star got married Saturday, E! News can confirm.

The two tied the knot in a rustic ceremony near California's central coast in front of family and friends. Guests included



TIE THE KNOT: Troian Bellisario and Patrick J. Adams.

Chris Pine, Dallas reboot, actress Alex McKenna, Bellasario's co-stars such as Lulu Brud and Keegan Allen and Adams' co-star Brendan Hines. Allen shared a heartwarming photo of the newlyweds, dressed to the nines in their own bohemian-inspired ensembles, sharing a kiss in front of the ocean. The latter actors also performed with the couple onstage at their rehearsal dinner during their wedding weekend, which was also a camping trip. **Dailymail**

SA Celebrity News

Ayanda Ncwane's letter to her deceased husband

JOHANNESBURG - Although Ayanda wrote the letter, she herself was not the one to read the heart felt letter

She had asked her sister to read the letter she wrote to hundreds of mourners who gathered at the Grace Bible Church in Soweto to pay tribute to the former gospel star Sfiso Ncwane. Parts of the letter read as follows: "Mission accomplished dearest



TOUCHING LETTER: Ayanda and her late hubby Sfiso Ncwane.

husband. Who am I to question God after I have seen Him through you my love. "You declared me the most beautiful woman you ever laid your eyes on. You treated me like a queen. "I didn't know what you meant when you said, love 'I need you to be strong because I'm about to go away on a world tour now that I am not afraid of flying. I am sure your death was a secret plan between you and God. A perfectly designed plan. (Soweton)

Herbalist gets tongue waggings with 'money suit' at funeral

JOHANNESBURG - Durban herbalist, Andile Dlamini has drawn major criticism on social media, after he arrived at Sfiso Ncwane's funeral in his trademark money suit. Andile who is no stranger to making headlines joined thousands of mourners in



MONEY SUIT: Durban herbalist, Andile Dlamini.

paying their last respects to gospel star, Sfiso Ncwane. The well-known herbalist arrived at Moses Mabhida Stadium at around 9.45 am on Saturday morning dressed in his popular suit. As funeral proceedings got underway and pictures of Andile circulated on social media, Twitter users roasted him for the outfit. (Soweton)

I've made wrong choices in my life - Melusi Yeni

JOHANNESBURG - Actor Melusi Yeni has had to overcome many hardships in his life and says he has made many decisions which he regrets.

The veteran actor has for years been plagued with financial and health issues, which saw his private life steal the headlines.

The star, who has acted in several popular soapies, has also been surrounded by a slew of rumours, but is determined to show fans he has turned over



REGRETS: Melusi Yeni.

a new leaf. Speaking to *Move* magazine recently, Melusi admitted that he was "not proud" of the things which had happened to him and he had made some wrong choices in life.

"Truth be told, I am not proud of certain things that happened in my life, but as a human being I've made wrong choices when it comes to life.

I have grown to learn that in life there is no one who is perfect. I have realised I can be a better person," he said. **Timeslive**

Uyanda Mbuli stages her comeback

JOHANNESBURG - She scaled the heights of fame, celebrity and notoriety as a flashy socialite and a red carpet queen, and now Uyanda Mbuli is ready to stage a comeback.

Mbuli has been quietly putting together a reality show for SABC3.

The reality show explores her fashion sense as she lives it up in Las Vegas, Miami, US and the high end Melrose Arch in Johannesburg among other places. A trailer of the show promises "one girl from a way



COMING BACK: Uyanda Mbuli.

list. **SundayWorld** out land sharing excitement, inspiration, love, sex and feelings". The flamboyant and high rolling personality shot some snippets in Hollywood, Abu Dhabi and other exotic locations she travels to as she jets from one destination to the next across the continents and time zones whilst sampling some of the most exotic dishes. She also went skydiving in Witbank, something she's had on her bucket

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

Zama narrowly escapes being caught out by Judas. Ngwebedla is back to his old tricks. Thandeka confronts Melusi about his misdeed and Sunday unleashes Lerato upon his unsuspecting adversaries.



ESCAPES: Zama.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

Angelique realises just how big a monster Lincoln is. Nina is worried when she sees Kamogelo is not really thinking of solving their problem as per Nina's suggestion. Lerato is struggling with living with Thulile and her kids.



CONCERNED: Nina.

Muvhango

TODAY

Susan can't wake up. Onika ruins Ndalamo's date. Pule and Nonny can't have a decent conversation without arguing.



RUINED: Ndalamo.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY

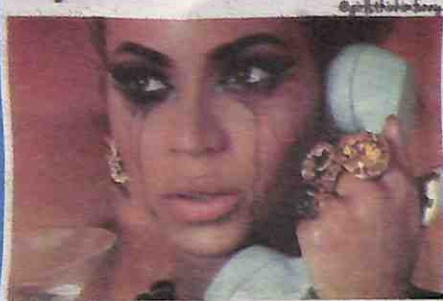
Mampho and Rene attract some interest in their band from another label. David is still confounded by his lack



MOVE OUT: Zinzi.

of mojo. Dumisani tells Sabelo he has decided to move out. Zinzi and Lungile bond.

Assistant: Phone call for you..
Beyoncé: Who is it?
Assistant: ..Monday..
Beyoncé:



Monday calling like..

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn
 December 22 – January 19



You or someone close to you finds mistakes today. Some people say people are not really trying unless they discover mistakes from time to time. Besides, if we were not meant to start over, we would not continue to have Monday mornings. You have an innate love of the law and working through things. You are not discouraged by problems and obstacles—you may look forward to solving them.

Aquarius
 January 20 – February 18



You are a terrific businessperson and you exhibit your ability to get past the surface of things and separate the things that have real worth. Ideas are in the air. Tap into that universal mind through some quiet meditation during a break time. Your presence in a group situation today has a very decided effect. Others may feel nothing is a secret from you. Family, home and security seems just about ideal. Your family life has gone through some big improvements lately and may continue to improve.

Pisces
 February 19 – March 20



This is a time of good fortune. Good surprises are plentiful. Situations are almost perfect and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. The challenge comes when you work to keep your concentration strong. Continual discovery, persistent search and persistent change and transformation keep you on the move and growing. You are able to penetrate and get to the very heart of things. Research into when, what and where you really want to make your changes may be beneficial.

Aries
 March 21 – April 19



You are interested in helping others today. Teaching or helping others to be more original when it comes to the words or thoughts is a good thing. Your eye-hand coordination is excellent and your laser-like mind makes conversations fast-paced and illuminating. You can be very funny in your conversations today.

Taurus
 April 20 – May 20



You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in speech and communication. The initiative is yours and you will find positive results will develop from your actions. This is a day to take risks and dare to be a little unconventional. There are new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled, or by daring to be the oddball. Growth and success could be tied to your possessions or to the way you respond to the various ideas and impulses operating in your life now.

Gemini
 May 21 – June 21



You may find yourself having a difference of opinion with others this day. You could be going against tradition if you become too independent for group approval. This could actually slow your progress. You could have difficulty getting your ideas across to others, sometimes feeling inadequate in matters that require logic or the use of your mental powers. You may have

doubts about those who talk too much and seems long on ideas.

Cancer
 June 22 – July 22



Throwing caution to the wind, you could ignore whatever responsibilities you have this day, and pursue a particular objective. Your animal-like instincts come in handy when it comes to big business. You are where the action is most intense. Your mind will get through the unimportant and move straight to the bottom line. Some may even respect your tenacity and it becomes exciting to be near you.

Leo
 July 23 – August 22



This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. You will be feeling successful and able to cope with whatever comes across your path today. Good advice from a guide or older person may be forthcoming. You are very fortunate in being able to grow and progress throughout your life without major difficulties.

Virgo
 August 23 – September 22



You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste and emotion. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities and common sense. There is a need to be respected, which is an emotionally charged issue in your life at this time, and you may find yourself wanting to say things you might regret—bite your lip.

Libra
 September 23 – October 23



You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone at work. A report with facts may help you to prove your point without having to spend time in argument. Having these facts to back up your ideas will gain you much. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others and you enjoy having problems to solve. You know just what to do and you can act without haste and emotion.

Scorpio
 October 24 – November 21



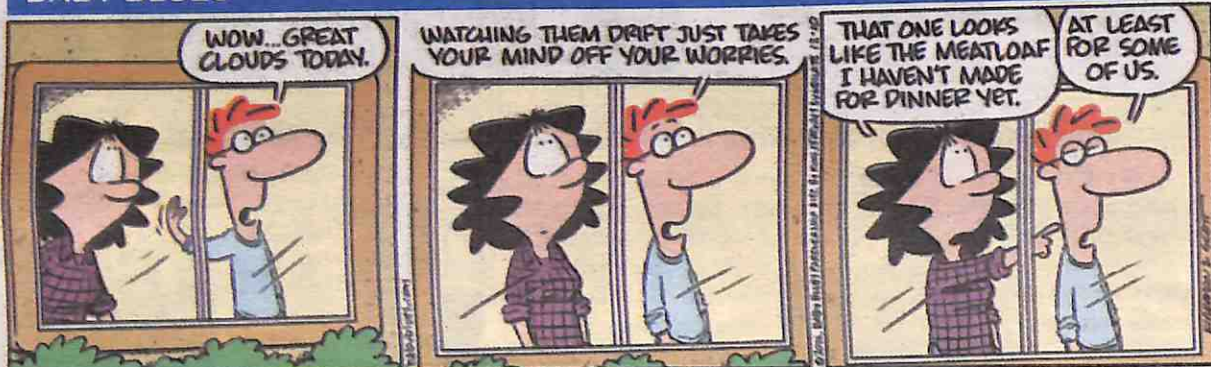
A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies. This may become a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days.

Sagittarius
 November 22 – December 21



There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections that unite. Something new has your attention today and this could mean a new boss as much as it could mean a new piece of equipment or even a new job. A new system of working may put you in the leadership role and you know people are watching. You will succeed at whatever you take on so relax.

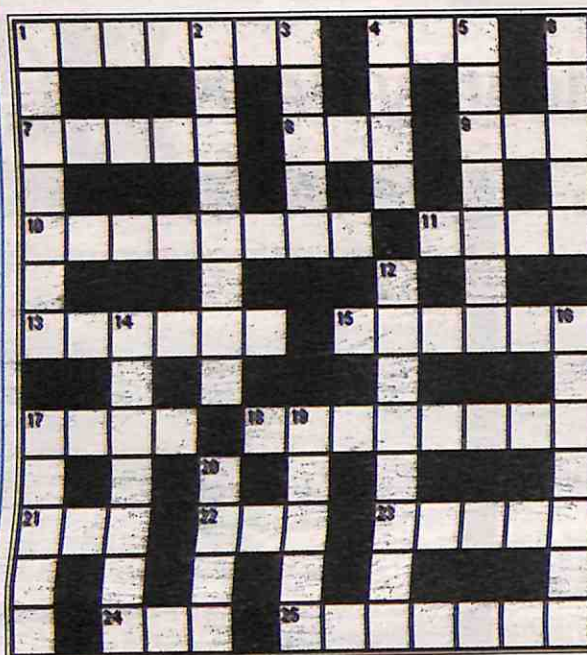
BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

MINI CROSSWORD - 37
PUZZLE CHOICE

Across

- Pungent leaves used as seasoning (7)
- Type of lettuce (3)
- Herbaceous plant of mint variety (5)
- Frozen water (3)
- Strong-scented perennial herb (3)
- Sandglass used when boiling (3-5)
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese (4)
- Round flat edible seed (6)
- Aromatic bulbous herb (6)
- Small cut of meat (4)
- Sieve (8)
- Liquid edible fat obtained from plants (3)
- Kitchen appliance (3)
- Variety meat (5)
- Thin sauce made of fermented beans (3)
- Sweet medicinal liquids,

usually containing a small amount of alcohol (7)

Down

- Kind of porridge (7)
- Alcoholic beverage taken before a meal (8)
- Small ovoid fruit (5)
- Professional cook (4)
- Thin sheet of thin dough rolled and baked (7)
- Dairy product (5)
- Pasta in the form of slender tubes (8)
- Ribbonlike strips of pasta (7)
- Goes bad or sour (7)
- Aromatic flower bud, yields a spice (5)
- Reserve one at a restaurant (5)
- Watery part of milk (4)

DEAF MAN IS THE MAN



A man tells a doctor, "I think my wife's going deaf. What can I do?" The doctor says, "Well, try to test her hearing. Stand some distance away from her and ask her a question.

If she doesn't answer, move a little closer and ask again. Keep repeating this until she answers. That way we can see how bad the problem is." The man goes

home, sees his wife and says, "Hi honey, what's for dinner?" He doesn't hear an answer, so he moves closer. "Honey, what's for dinner?" He repeats this several times, until he's standing right next to her.

Finally, she answers, "For the tenth time, I said we're having pot roast!"

USELESS FACTS

1. Unlike dogs, cats do not have a sweet tooth. Scientists believe this is due to a mutation in a key taste receptor.

2. When a cat chases its prey, it keeps its head level. Dogs and humans bob their heads up and down.

3. The technical term for

a cat's hairball is a "bezoar."

4. A group of cats is called a "clowder."

5. A cat can't climb head first down a tree because every claw on a cat's paw points the same way. To get down from a tree, a cat must back down.

BRAinteasers
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRIDAY'S BRAIN-TEASERS

1. What has hands but no feet, a face but no eyes, tells but does not talk?

Answer: A clock

2. How many months have 28 days?

Answer: All

TODAY'S BRAIN-TEASERS

1. What do you drop when you don't need it and take it back when you don't?

2. What do tigers have that no other animals have?

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SERGIO RAMOS RESCUES STOPPAGE TIME WIN AGAIN

MADRID - In England it was always referred to as 'Fergie Time' in Spain it should just be called 'Sergio Ramos time'.

The Spain defender headed in Toni Kroos' 93rd minute corner to give Real Madrid a dramatic 3-2 win over Deportivo to stay six points clear of Barcelona before they head off to Japan for the Club World Cup.

"It's all a coincidence isn't it?" he said mischievously on the final whistle. "When you fight to the very last kick this is what can happen. We didn't always play well and there is a lot to improve but we got the win."

"We had the chances in the first half but we left space in behind and they came back. But in the last game of the year we got the win and now we go off to try to win the World Club Cup."

Ramos raced to celebrate with Zinedine Zidane after the ball hit the back of Przemyslaw Tyton's net in injury time. The Real Madrid manager would have had some serious questions to answer



IT'S MY TIME: Sergio Ramos.

after the game after leaving Cristiano Ronaldo in the stands and also resting Luka Modric and Karim Benzema and leaving Marcelo on the bench for a game in which he was also without the injured Gareth Bale.

But who needs £250million worth

of attacking talent when the centre-half can go up front in the dying moments and be guaranteed to grab a goal? He did it in the European Cup final in 2014, the Super Cup last summer, last week in the Clasico and he had done it again here. *Daily Mail*

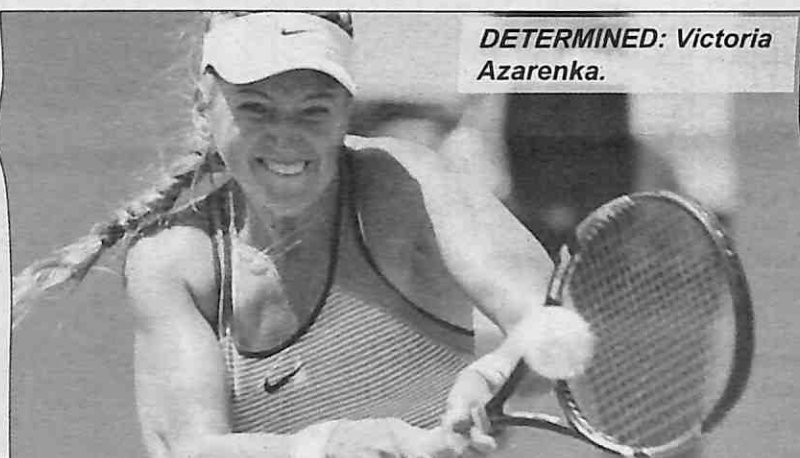
Azarenka vows to return after pregnancy

LONDON - Victoria Azarenka has insisted that she will be back on the tennis court shortly after her pregnancy.

The former world No 1 cut her season short in July after announcing that she was pregnant, but she enjoyed a lot of success prior to that as she triumphed at the Brisbane International, BNP Paribas Open and Miami Open.

With her child expected to be born next month, Azarenka is confident that she will return in time to compete for most of the tournaments in the 2017 season.

"My pregnancy's been a completely different experience from anything I've done before," she told the Tennis Channel. "In theory, you know the process, but to actually go through that you truly



DETERMINED: Victoria Azarenka.

start to deeply understand the magic of it. And it's been quite a ride, I have to say. "I don't feel I'm missing out on something I won't be able to do again."

For me, it's about getting to where I want to be and be back there again. That's my ultimate goal." *Sport24*

Joshua retains world heavyweight title, targets Klitschko

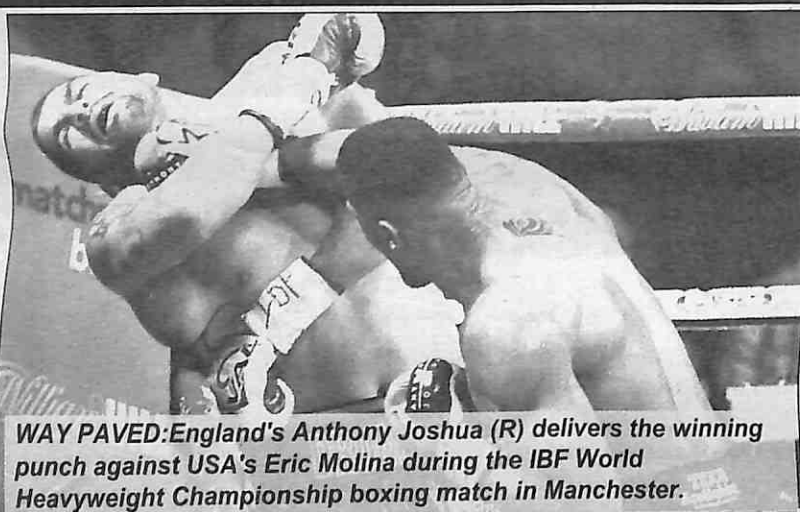
MANCHESTER - Anthony Joshua paved the way for a fight against Wladimir Klitschko next year by making quick work of Eric Molina in a third round win on Saturday.

The Briton successfully defended his IBF world heavyweight title for a second time with another brutal demonstration of his power-punching to claim an 18th stoppage win from as many professional bouts at the Manchester Arena.

Joshua forced the stoppage in two minutes, two seconds of the third round after first flooring American Molina with a right.

Klitschko, the former world No 1 who lost three titles on points to Joshua's fellow Briton Tyson Fury last year, was ringside to check on Joshua and could not have failed to have been impressed.

Klitschko, 41 in March and Joshua are being lined up to meet on April 29 at Wembley Stadium in London, and the Ukrainian will be a big step up in class to Molina.



WAY PAVED: England's Anthony Joshua (R) delivers the winning punch against USA's Eric Molina during the IBF World Heavyweight Championship boxing match in Manchester.

"I was patient and we move on. This is not the end of the story," said Joshua in the ring. "You will realise what I'm all about now. Klitschko wants his belts back and may the best man win. I will worry about myself and training." Klitschko then got into the ring and promoter Eddie Hearn confirmed Joshua's

next fight would be against the Ukrainian. "You want a big fight and you've got it," said Klitschko to the crowd. Joshua, the 2012 Olympic gold medalist, made a measured start against Molina and was content to take his time behind his jab in the first two rounds.

AFP



CLASS ACT: World-class swimmer Chad le Clos.

CLOS CLAIMS A THIRD WORLD TITLE IN NEAR RECORD TIME

WINDSOR - World-class swimmer Chad le Clos bagged another gold on day five of the 2016 Fina Short Course World Championships (25m) in Windsor on Saturday.

In the men's 50m butterfly final, the South African swimmer flew away from the competition, posting the only sub-22 second swim of the night. Le Clos flirted with his own championship record of 21.95, stopping the clock at a 21.98 to add a second gold to his collection. The USA's Tom Shields finished second overall with a time of 22.40, while Australia's David Morgan grabbed the bronze with a time of 22.47. This was the third world title for Le Clos here in Windsor, after his wins in the 100m fly and 200m fly; the South

African star was also a silver medalist in the 200m free. Anchored by a fast (20.46) Vladimir Morozov, the team of Russia got the first title of the evening, touching for gold (1:31.52) in the men's 4x50m medley relay.

Already the best of the heats, the European quartet was faster than the US silver medalist in 1:31.97.

The bronze went to Belarus in 1:32.49. This outcome is significantly different than the 2014 scenario, when this event was first contested at the Fina World Swimming Championships (25m): in Doha (QAT), the quartet of Brazil (did not take part in Windsor) got the gold, followed by France (ninth of the heats here in Canada) and by the US. *Africa News Agency*



PREPARED: Everton are attempting to beat Real Madrid to the signing of AIK prospect Alexander Isak(R), 17.

Everton looking to pip Real Madrid to the signing of Isak

LONDON - Everton are attempting to beat Real Madrid to the signing of AIK prospect Alexander Isak.

Madrid are understood to have had a £9million proposal rejected for the 17-year-old though AIK are prepared to sell for a Swedish record of £14million.

Isak is an exciting prospect. He is 6ft 3ins tall, quick, versatile and has scored 10 goals in his first 24 senior games in the Swedish Allsvenskan.

The complication for Madrid is, due to their pending transfer sanctions, any move to the Bernabeu for Isak would have to be put on hold.

Chelsea have also asked to be kept informed while Bayern Munich, Juventus and Paris Saint-

Germain remain in the frame. The advantage Everton hold is that they may be able to offer a quicker route to the first team and that is sure to appeal to Isak and his agent Vladica Lemic.

Everton are keen to take Memphis Depay on loan from Manchester United but Isak could prove a shrewd long-term investment should he fulfil his potential.

Ronald Koeman has admitted Everton's need to strengthen in January has assumed greater significance after Yannick Bolasie was ruled out for the season.

The Toffees boss said: "We know we need competition for places and a big squad. It's a big month coming up with a lot of games and we need everybody at a good level." *Daily Mail*



ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



What are tackles?, asks Guardiola

LEICESTER - Manchester City Boss Pep Guardiola shrugged off his team's woeful defending in a 4-2 defeat at Leicester, insisting that tackling opposing players were not high on his list of priorities.

Premier League champions Leicester claimed victory at the King Power Stadium with Jamie Vardy ending his 16-match club goal drought with a hat-trick.

Leicester were 2-0 up after just five minutes and 3-0 ahead by the interval.

In a snapshot of City's problems, Vardy completed his hat-trick with 12 minutes left after latching onto John Stones' poor back-pass.

Guardiola, though, promised only minor tweaks despite statistics revealing his side failed to win a tackle in the opening 35 minutes.

"I am not a coach for the tackles. I don't train for tackles. What I want is to try to play well and score goals. What are tackles?," said the City boss.

"You have to win the duels, that is true. But normally when you play well, you win tackles but after four minutes, at 2-0, the players ask themselves 'what is going on? What happened?'"

"It is another aspect of football but in the end we are not going to win or lose because of the tackles." AP

WELCOME BACK TO VARDY

LONDON - Former England striker Gary Lineker, Leicester City's most famous and perhaps favourite son, wondered aloud last week whether last season's Premier League triumph had all been a crazy dream, so dismal had their defence of the title been.

The collective will seemed to have long evaporated, along with Jamie Vardy's goals and Riyad Mahrez's magic.

Yet on Saturday, on a rainy December night, the King Power Stadium was transported back to those balmy, wonderful May days.

Mahrez looked like the player of the year again with his exquisite assists, Vardy scored his first-ever hat-trick for the Foxes and Claudio Ranieri's men seemed to be infused with their old spirit as they beat Pep Guardiola's Manchester City 4-2.

When Vardy returned to the dressing room afterwards, Ranieri smiled that he had told his key striker who had not scored for

the club in 16 matches: "Oh, welcome back!"

Redolent

He could have been speaking to the entire team whose performance, so redolent of the steel and style that had earned them the title, made a mockery of their unwanted possession of the worst record of any defending English league winners since Ipswich Town in 1962-63.

"It was the true Leicester today," Ranieri said proudly.

Reuters



Press Statement

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

As United Nations Secretary-General over the last decade, I have repeatedly stressed the interdependence of the three pillars of the United Nations -- peace, sustainable development and human rights. Together, they form the basis of resilient and cohesive societies rooted in inclusion, justice and the rule of law.

I have also underscored that human rights are at the heart of the work and identity of the United Nations. This understanding is at the core of our Human Rights up Front initiative.

At a time of multiplying conflicts, intensifying humanitarian needs and rising hate speech, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reminds us that recognition of "the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". Step by step, we can build a future based on our shared values of equality and human dignity.

That is the spirit that underlies our recently launched "Together" campaign to fight the xenophobia faced by so many refugees and migrants. That is also the spirit we will need to combat extremism, halt the erosion of respect for international humanitarian law, and defend civil society groups facing increasingly harsh measures aimed at preventing them from fulfilling their vital role.

Upholding human rights is in the interest of all. Respect for human rights advances well-being for every individual, stability for every society, and harmony for our interconnected world.

And this work can be done by all, at every level of society. States have the primary responsibility for upholding human rights. The United Nations, along with partners around the globe, must continue to strengthen responses to abuses, and work better to prevent human rights crises.

All of us can -- and must -- act in our daily lives to advance the human rights of the people around us. This is the driving force behind a new global campaign being launched by the UN Human Rights Office -- "Stand Up for Someone's Rights Today."

Wherever we are, each of us can make a difference for human rights -- in our neighbourhoods, in school, at work, on social media, at home and even in sporting arenas across the world.

Together, let us stand up for someone's rights. Today, tomorrow, and every day.

UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon

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Middlesbrough keeper Brad Guzan set to return to US

LONDON - Middlesbrough goalkeeper Brad Guzan is in talks over a return to the USA with Atlanta United.

The 32-year-old has had a frustrating campaign so far after joining Boro from Aston Villa on a free transfer in the summer.

Guzan has had to play a supporting role to Victor Valdes and is keen to gain more game time. He is on the MLS select list of players as a USA international who is scheduled to return for the new season and Atlanta, as one of the expansion teams for 2017, have priority draft.

Guzan, who has played two Premier League games for Boro, began his career with Chivas USA in 2005.

Meanwhile, Middlesbrough are determined to rebuff offers for emerging centre-back Ben Gibson in the January transfer window.

Gibson is attracting interest from a host of Premier League clubs following a string of impressive displays on his first season in the top-flight. *Daily Mail*

Wenger confident of title challenge

LONDON - Arsenal Boss Arsene Wenger is certain his side will be in the running for the Premier League title this season, after recording a come-from-behind 3-1 win over Stoke City on Saturday.

Stoke City claimed the lead after Charlie Adam was successful from the penalty spot, but goals from Theo Walcott, Mesut Ozil and Alex Iwobi fired Arsenal to the summit of the Premier League, albeit having played a game more than second-placed Chelsea.

Following Saturday's match at the Emirates, Wenger told the press his side had been consistently playing at a high level, ever since going down to Liverpool in their opening game of the season.

"We are there for the fight and we have been consistent after the first game," Wenger said.

"It is down to us to maintain the focus and the desire to improve. We have a chance to fight at the top." *Sport24*





'Downs crash out of Club World Cup

CAPE TOWN - Mamelodi Sundowns have crashed out of the Club World Cup, losing 2-0 to Kashima Antlers of Japan.

Pitso Mosimane, put out an extremely strong side as Sundowns became the first South African team to play in the tournament which takes place each year and features teams crowned as continental champions from around the globe.

The SA side were not without a host of chances, especially in the first half as Percy Tau, Tiyani Mabunda and Thape-lo Morena all saw their efforts brilliantly saved by the Antlers goalkeeper.

Those missed chances came back to haunt Sundowns as Antlers found the back of the net twice in the second half through Yasushi Endo in the 63rd minute and Mu Kanazaki just before full time.

Sport24

TEAMS

Mamelodi Sundowns: Tau, Onyango, Morena, Nascimento, Arendse, Langerman, Kekana, Mabunda, Dolly, Billiat, Castro.

Kashima Antlers: Sogahat, Shoji, Nagaki (C), Shoma, Shibusaki, Nakamura, Shuto, Akasaki, Daigo, Ueda, Endo.

THULANI SERERO LINKED WITH CHIEFS

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs are reportedly looking to sign Ajax Amsterdam attacking midfielder Thulani Serero on a short-term contract in the January transfer window.

Serero was linked with a possible exit at Ajax Amsterdam at the start of the current campaign, but his salary package made it impossible for him to find a new club.

Serero has had a difficult season in the Dutch Eredivisie after he was left out of the squad at the beginning of the 2016/17 season, but Chiefs are believed to be keen on his services. According to iLanga newspaper, Amakhosi are preparing to bid for the 26-year-old in an attempt to turn their Premier Soccer League season around.

However, they are believed to be interested in signing the

South Africa international on a six-month loan deal until June 2017.

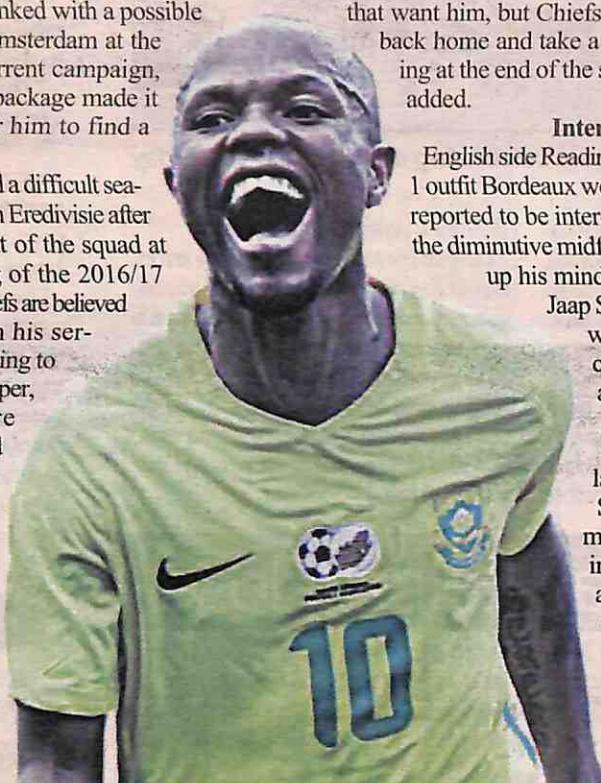
"Motaung has heard the fans and he wants to loan Serero from Ajax," a source told the newspaper. There are several European teams that want him, but Chiefs want him to come back home and take a break before leaving at the end of the season," the source added.

Interested

English side Reading and French Ligue 1 outfit Bordeaux were earlier this week reported to be interested in Serero, but the diminutive midfielder is yet to make up his mind. Reading manager

Jaap Stam admitted that it would be very difficult for Serero to acquire a UK work permit given Bafana Bafana's position in the latest Fifa rankings. Serero has always maintained that he intends to soldier on and make his mark in Europe, and whether or not he would consider a return to the PSL remains to be seen.

Goal



Arrival of wide players key for Ajax Cape Town

CAPE TOWN - One of the key factors in Ajax Cape Town's recent turnaround has been the effectiveness of their wide players Mark Mayambela and Thabo Mosadi.

The pair have provided a significant goal-threat and been instrumental in the side winning three matches in a row - including a 2-0 success over champions Mamelodi Sundowns - that has lifted them off the foot of the table and towards the top eight.

Idea

One player who appreciates their efforts is playmaker Bantu Mzwakali, who says the arrival of the players has lifted the whole squad.

"I think it was a good idea to bring the guys to the club. They brought a different dimension to the team and everyone can see it," Mzwakali said.

"They have pace, trickery, good vision and can push the team to play. We do understand them and you can see we have changed now."

Communicators

"They are good communicators and when things are not going well, we talk and see where we can rectify. On the other hand, the coach [Stanley Menzo] is also someone who worked with our minds and the results are there. I am happy to be an Ajax player once again."

"However, the mission is to remain disciplined for us to keep winning our games - that's very important now as we head to the Christmas break."

Next up for Ajax is a trip to bottom side Highlands Park on Wednesday.

Mzansi Football

Mosimane nominated for CAF coach of the year

JOHANNESBURG - Banyana Banyana's Janine Van Wyk and Pitso Mosimane were the highlights for South Africa in the Caf awards

The Confederation of African Football (Caf) has released the nominees for the other categories for the 2016 Glo-Caf Awards. The categories Women's Player of the Year, National Team of the Year, Club of the Year, Coach of the Year, Women's National Team of the Year, Youth Player of the



Year, Most Promising Talent, Referee of the Year, Football Leader of the Year, Fair Play Award, African Legend, Platinum Award, Africa Finest XI.

The winners will be decided by votes from the Caf Technical and Development, Media

Committees and a panel of 20 experts (Journalists, TV consultants) except Fair Play, Legend and Platinum awards, which are not subject to vote. For this year, there will be no votes for the Youth National Team of the Year.

Meanwhile, the Referee of the Year will be voted only by the CAF Referees Committee. The winners will be announced at the Glo-CAF Awards Gala scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria.

Goal

Defeat will motivate us - Baxter

PRETORIA - Stuart Baxter was gracious in defeat as his SuperSport United side failed to claim the Telkom Knockout title on Saturday evening.

Matsatsantsa were beaten 2-1 by Cape Town City at the Peter Mokaba Stadium as Baxter's wait to lift the TKO trophy - the only piece of domestic silverware he has never got hands on - continues.

"I thought the first-half was probably quite even with chances both sides. I think they probably edged a number of chances but I thought the play was quite even in different ways. I wasn't happy with the way that we were playing both defensively

and offensively," he admitted to SuperSport TV following the game.

Happy

"I thought we came out in the second-half and did a little bit better and they were resting a little bit more and hitting on counters because they were happy with the 1-0 scoreline and we gradually got to a bet-

ter game around their box which meant we got an equaliser and if we had kept it for ten minutes I think we would have had a chance of going on to win it but we didn't. We know that's a critical phase of the game [after scoring] and they scored a goal immediately."

Credit

The veteran coach was more than willing to give credit where it was due and praised the opposition coach for his role in helping the City Boyz to a first ever piece of silverware.

Sports24



NGOMA DELIGHTED WITH TKO WIN

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City winger Aubrey Ngoma was left overjoyed after his match-winning performance steered the Mother City club to the Telkom Knockout title.

Ngoma provided a goal and an assist in their 2-1 win over SuperSport United at the Peter Mokaba Stadium on Saturday to bag the man-of-the-match award.

"I'm so emotional right now, the hard work that we've been putting in in training is slowly being rewarded. I

think we deserve it," Ngoma told SuperSport after the match. "If we could have chosen 11 man of the match then we would have chosen 11."

Everyone put in a good shift. "We knew they were going to come. They are experienced in all areas. We always rely on our speed and counter attacks. We should have buried the game with the chances that we had. Mentally we managed to come back immediately after the goal."

Sport24

GOAL: Aubrey Ngoma (r) celebrates with Lebogang Manyama after scoring a goal.



WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Asisat OSHOALA (Nigeria & Arsenal Ladies)
Elizabeth Addo (Ghana & Kvarnsvedens IK)
Gabrielle Aboudi Onguene (Cameroon & Rossiyanka)
Janine Van Wyk (South Africa & JVV)
Raissa Feudjio Tchuanjo (Cameroon & Aland United)

MOST PROMISING TALENT

Elia Meshck (DR Congo & TP Mazembe)
Kelechi Iheanacho (Nigeria & Manchester City)
Naby Keita (Guinea & RB Leipzig)
Oghenekaro Etebo (Nigeria & CD Feirense)
Ramadan Sobhi (Egypt & Stoke City)

YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Alex Iwobi (Nigeria & Arsenal)
Eric Ayiah (Ghana U-17)
Franck Kessie (Cote d'Ivoire & Atalanta)
Sandra Owusu-Ansah (Ghana & Supreme Ladies)
Sidiki Maiga (Mali U-20)

COACH OF THE YEAR

Florent Ibenge (DR Congo)
Milutin 'Mico' Sredojevic (Uganda)
Pitso Mosimane (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Nacer Sandjak (MO Bejaia)
Florence Omagbemi (Nigeria women's national team)

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Papa Gasama (Gambia)
Grishea Gehead (Egypt)
Malang Diedhiou (Senegal)

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa)
MO Bejaia (Algeria)
TP Mazembe (DR Congo)
Zamalek (Egypt)
Zesco United (Zambia)

NATIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

DR Congo
Guinea Bissau
Nigeria U-23
Senegal
Uganda

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

Cameroon
Ghana
Nigeria
South Africa
Zimbabwe

COSTA SENDS CHELSEA BACK TOP

LONDON - Diego Costa fired Chelsea back to the top of the Premier League as the Spain striker's late winner clinched a hard-fought 1-0 victory against West Bromwich Albion yesterday.

Antonio Conte's side had been knocked out of first place by Arsenal on Saturday, but they reopened a three point lead over the Gunners thanks to Costa's superb finish in the closing stages at Stamford Bridge. Costa's 12th league goal in his last 15 appearances gave Chelsea a ninth successive league win for the first time since 2007. The west Londoners have scored 23 goals and conceded just two in that blistering streak, raising hopes of a Premier League title in Conte's first season in charge. While this was far from Chelsea's best effort under the Italian, their refusal to be denied by a stubborn opponent suggests they have the required character and class to last the pace in the title race. Conte made one change from last weekend's impressive win against title rivals Manchester City as Serbia midfielder Nemanja Matic replaced Cesc Fabregas despite the Spaniard's influential performance at



CELEBRATION: Diego Costa celebrating after scoring yesterday. (Daily Mail)

Eastlands. It was 38 years since Albion had left the Bridge with three points, but Tony Pulis's side arrived in confident mood after winning three of their last four matches. While Chelsea monopolised possession in the early stages, they couldn't break down Albion's well-drilled rearguard and it was the visitors who threatened first when Chris Brunt won a tackle with Marcos Alonso before

drilling a powerful strike wide.

Despite his reputation for costly errors, David Luiz has been the model of consistency since returning to Chelsea this season, but the Brazil defender reverted to his old bad habits when he allowed Salomon Rondon to brush him off the ball, presenting the burly Albion striker with a clear path into the penalty area.

Daily Mail

Bayern Munich go top as Leipzig lose

MUNICH - Robert Lewandowski netted twice as Bayern Munich returned to the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday with a 5-0 win over Wolfsburg after RB Leipzig lost their unbeaten record.

Leipzig's shock 1-0 defeat at bottom side Ingolstadt, who finished with ten men, ended their three-week stint as leaders.

Carlo Ancelotti's Bayern cut the three-point gap and regained top spot on goal difference with both teams on 33 points.

"We're top of the table again -- that'll be good for our Christmas party!" quipped Thomas Mueller, who scored his first league goal in 999 minutes, before Bayern's festive celebrations on Saturday night.

Second-placed RB had their 13-match

unbeaten run ended -- a record for a club at the start of their first Bundesliga season -- as coach Ralph Hasenhuetl endured a horror return to Ingolstadt, who he left last season.

"Defeats always hurt, it doesn't matter against who," said Hasenhuetl, whose side battered the Ingolstadt goal with 13 shots to the hosts' four. "The opponents forced their own game on us, we had little influence and didn't show enough courage. We were better after the break, but we couldn't make our 300 percent (more shots) count. The ball didn't want to go in."

"This is a set-back, but we can handle it." Ingolstadt had Australia striker Mathew Leckie sent off for two yellow cards in quick succession late on, but his team held on and the win took them off bottom leaving Darmstadt, who lost 1-0 at Freiburg, last.

Bayern and Leipzig are now six points

ahead of nearest rivals Hertha Berlin, who suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat to Werder Bremen after Germany striker Max Kruse scored the first-half winner.

Bayern host Leipzig on December 21 at Munich's Allianz Arena, where the hosts romped to a heavy win over Wolfsburg.

The 2015 German Cup winners have fallen from grace and defeat leaves Wolfsburg 15th, only clear of the relegation zone on goal difference.

Head coach Valerien Ismael, who took over after Dieter Hecking was sacked in October, left Germany's attacking midfielder Julian Draxler out of the squad.

The 23-year-old cost €35 million from Schalke in August 2015 and Wolfsburg say they are open to sell him in January's winter break.

Bayern started with Jerome Boateng on the bench with a shoulder injury and his centre-back partner Mats Hummels was missing with gastroenteritis.

Arjen Robben opened the scoring by curling his superb shot around Wolfsburg's goalkeeper Diego Benaglio on 18 minutes. Lewandowski netted five goals in a record nine minutes in the same fixture in September 2015. AFP

GOAL: Robert Lewandowski netted twice as Bayern Munich returned to the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday with a 5-0 win over Wolfsburg.

James on fire as Cavs go top

LOS ANGELES - LeBron James became the first front-court player to reach the 7 000 assist milestone as he scored a season-high 44 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 116-105 win over the Charlotte Hornets.

James hit the magic number on Saturday in front of a crowd of 20 500 at the Quicken Loans Arena by skipping a nifty pass to teammate Tristan Thompson who was driving to the basket.

"The last couple years this is the best I've felt. I've put a lot of work into my body, into my craft," James said.

The 44 points was his best outing since returning to Cleveland and equalled the 44 points he scored in a game one overtime loss against the Golden State

Warriors in the 2015 NBA finals.

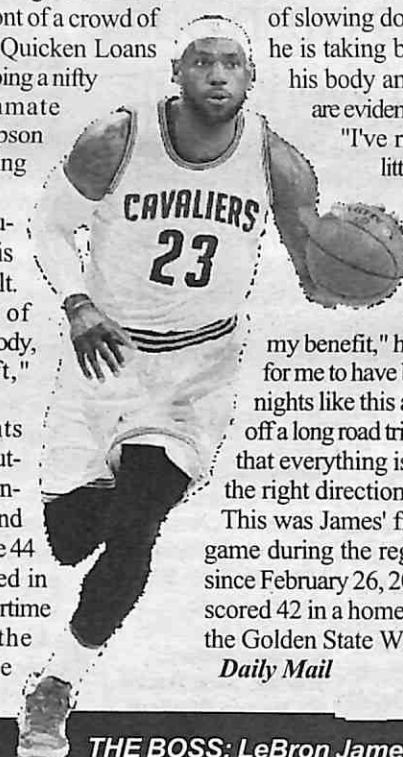
The Cavaliers delivered two home wins this weekend, and besides eclipsing 7 000 career assists, James also moved into ninth place on the all-time scoring list during the victories over the Miami Heat and the Hornets.

James is not showing any signs of slowing down. He says he is taking better care of his body and the results are evident on the court.

"I've re-arranged a little bit with my diet and things of that nature and it's worked to my benefit," he said. "And for me to have back-to-back nights like this after coming off a long road trip, just shows that everything is working in the right direction."

This was James' first 40-point game during the regular season since February 26, 2015 when he scored 42 in a home win against the Golden State Warriors.

Daily Mail



THE BOSS: LeBron James.

I would love to stay - Marquinhos

PARIS - The Brazilian has been linked with a move away from the French capital but says he has no desire to leave the club and is hoping to extend his contract.

Marquinhos has revealed he is keen to sign a contract renewal with Paris Saint-Germain.

The 22-year-old has a contract with PSG until June 2019, but is continually being linked with a move elsewhere, with Barcelona believed to be among his suitors.

However, Marquinhos has made it clear his future lies in the French capital.

"This is my fourth year at PSG. I have adapted to life here and speak French. Plus my family is feeling well in Paris," the defender told Telefoot.

"Things are going well and I would love to stay here. I hope to sign a renewal."

"It does not only depend on me, but it is looking good."

PSG have endured a difficult start to the 2016-17 campaign and are four points behind Ligue 1 leaders Monaco, but

Marquinhos is confident they will soon be back to their usual best.

"It is hard to explain this difficult spell," he added. "You always have to win at PSG. A draw is already regarded as a bad result."

"But PSG are capable of doing anything. We are aware of our abilities and we are confident the best is yet to come. We are working to get out of this situation. Everything will soon be forgotten."

Goal



Ronaldo awaits fourth Ballon d'Or coronation

Madrid - Come 8 p.m. (1900 GMT) tonight, what looks to be a poorly kept secret will officially be out - Cristiano Ronaldo will bag his fourth Ballon d'Or as the world's top footballer.

The Real Madrid and Portugal star won the Champions League for the second time in three seasons and third time overall after one title with

Manchester United in 2008.

He then led Portugal to their first major title at Euro 2016 - albeit he went off early through injury in the win over France.

As has been the case for almost a decade now, the 31-year-old's main rival will be Lionel Messi of Barcelona - but the Argentine maestro has had by his own exalted standards a less

than stellar year both for club and country with the top prizes eluding him on both fronts.

Ronaldo was spotted midweek in training having dyed his hair gold in advance and for his club coach, there can only be one man for the crown this year.

"For me there is no debate. The Ballon will be for him," Zinedine

Zidane said after his talisman's hat-trick saw off Atletico Madrid last month to underpin their domination in La Liga.

"He showed it last season and he shows it again and again. We expect a lot of him but he stands above everyone."

Despite such effusive praise, Ronaldo, rested at the weekend ahead of the

Club World Cup in Japan, has had some negative headlines - not least pertaining to accusations of tax evasion.

Denying any wrongdoing, he responded by publishing his financial records on Thursday - showing last year he earned a bumper 227.2 million euros (\$240 million).

"You believe I am worried? He who owes nothing, fears nothing," Ronaldo told broadcaster RTP.

AFP

LOGS

Absa Premiership	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Cape Town City FC	12	7	3	2	17	12	5	24
SuperSport United	12	5	6	1	18	6	12	21
Bidvest Wits	10	6	2	2	14	10	4	20
Polokwane City	12	4	6	2	15	15	0	18
Orlando Pirates	11	4	6	1	13	13	0	18
Golden Arrows	12	5	3	4	14	15	-1	18
Kaizer Chiefs	12	4	5	3	13	10	3	17
Mamelodi Sundowns	8	5	1	2	17	6	11	16
Maritzburg United	12	3	5	4	11	13	-2	14
Chippa United	11	3	4	4	12	10	2	13
Ajax Cape Town	12	3	3	6	12	16	-4	12
Bloemfontein Celtic	11	2	5	4	6	8	-2	11
Baroka FC	12	2	5	5	11	17	-6	11
Platinum Stars	11	2	3	6	10	15	-5	9
Highlands Park	12	1	6	5	14	24	-10	9
Free State Stars	12	1	5	6	9	16	-7	8

Italian Serie A	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Juventus	16	13	0	3	35	14	21	39
Roma	15	10	2	3	35	16	19	32
Milan	15	10	2	3	27	19	8	32
Napoli	16	9	4	3	32	15	17	31
Lazio	16	9	4	3	29	17	12	31
Atalanta	16	9	1	6	25	20	5	28
Torino	16	7	4	5	32	22	10	25
Fiorentina	14	6	5	3	22	16	6	23
Chievo	16	6	4	6	16	16	0	22
Sampdoria	16	6	4	6	20	22	-2	22
Internazionale	15	6	3	6	22	21	1	21
Udinese	16	6	3	7	22	24	-2	21
Genoa	14	5	5	4	17	15	2	20
Cagliari	16	6	2	8	23	37	-14	20
Sassuolo	15	5	2	8	20	26	-6	17
Bologna	16	4	5	7	14	22	-8	17
Empoli	16	2	5	9	7	24	-17	11
Crotone	16	2	3	11	14	30	-16	9
Pescara	16	1	5	10	13	29	-16	8
Palermo	16	1	3	12	11	31	-20	6

Premier League	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Chelsea	15	12	1	2	33	11	22	37
Arsenal	15	10	4	1	36	15	21	34
Liverpool	15	9	4	2	37	20	17	31
Manchester City	15	9	3	3	32	19	13	30
Tottenham Hotspur	15	7	6	2	24	11	13	27
Manchester United	15	6	6	3	20	16	4	24
Watford	15	6	3	6	21	26	-5	21
West Bromwich Albion	15	5	5	5	20	18	2	20
Everton	15	5	5	5	19	19	0	20
Southampton	15	5	5	5	14	15	-1	20
Stoke City	15	5	4	6	17	22	-5	19
AFC Bournemouth	15	5	3	7	21	25	-4	18
Burnley	15	5	2	8	15	25	-10	17
Leicester City	15	4	4	7	21	26	-5	16
Crystal Palace	15	4	3	8	27	29	-2	15
Middlesbrough	15	3	6	6	13	16	-3	15
West Ham United	15	3	4	8	17	31	-14	13
Swansea City	15	3	3	9	19	31	-12	12
Hull City	15	3	3	9	14	32	-18	12
Sunderland	15	3	2	10	14	27	-13	11

German Bundesliga	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Bayern München	14	10	3	1	34	9	25	33
RB Leipzig	14	10	3	1	29	12	17	33
Hertha BSC	14	8	3	3	22	14	8	27
Hoffenheim	14	6	8	0	25	14	11	26
Eintracht Frankfurt	14	7	5	2	19	11	8	26
Borussia Dortmund	14	7	4	3	32	16	16	25
Köln	14	6	5	3	19	13	6	23
Bayer Leverkusen	14	6	2	6	21	21	0	20
Freiburg	14	6	1	7	18	25	-7	19
Schalke 04	14	5	2	7	18	16	2	17
Mainz 05	14	5	2	7	23	26	-3	17
Borussia M'gladbach	14	4	4	6	14	22	-8	16
Augsburg	14	3	5	6	11	16	-5	14
Werder Bremen	14	4	2	8	18	32	-14	14
Wolfsburg	14	2	4	8	12	23	-11	10
Hamburger SV	14	2	4	8	11	27	-16	10
Ingolstadt	14	2	3	9	11	24	-13	9
Darmstadt 98	14	2	2	10	11	27	-16	8

Spanish La Liga	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Real Madrid	15	11	4	0	40	14	26	37
Barcelona	15	9	4	2	37	15	22	31
Sevilla	15	9	3	3	28	20	8	30
Real Sociedad	15	8	2	5	26	21	5	26
Atlético Madrid	14	7	4	3	28	11	17	25
Villarreal	14	6	5	3	19	10	9	23
Athletic Club	14	7	2	5	20	17	3	23
Eibar	15	6	4	5	21	19	2	22
Las Palmas	15	5	6	4	26	23	3	21
Málaga	15	5	6	4	24	22	2	21
Celta de Vigo	15	6	3	6	24	29	-5	21
Espanyol	14	4	7	3	17	17	0	19
Deportivo Alavés	15	4	6	5	14	17	-3	18
Real Betis	14	4	3	7	17	28	-11	15
Leganés	15	4	3	8	12	26	-14	15
Deportivo La Coruña	15	3	4	8	20	27	-7	13
Valencia	15	3	3	9	21	29	-8	12
Sporting Gijón	14	3	3	8	15	28	-13	12
Granada	15	1	6	8	14	31	-17	9
Osasuna	15	1	4	10	13	32	-19	7

BOUFAL STUNNER SEALS SAINTS WIN

LONDON - A superb strike from Sofiane Boufal helped Southampton to a first home Premier League win over Middlesbrough for 20 years as they claimed a 1-0 victory at St Mary's Stadium yesterday.

The winger had yet to score in the league following his big-money move from Lille during the close-season, but he broke his duck in fine fashion with a sweet long-range strike into the top-left corner early in the second half to secure the points.

Southampton were desperate to return to winning ways after last week's 3-0 defeat at the hands of Crystal Palace and their Europa League elimination on Thursday.

History was against the hosts, though, with Southampton having not beaten Middlesbrough at home in the Premier League since September 1996.

And Middlesbrough had good reason to be confident heading into the game, having lost just one of their last six Premier League



TACKLE: Saints nearly fell behind when Fischer rounded Forster after racing onto a poor backpass.

outings. But Aitor Karanka's men failed to build on their solid run of form as they were second-best for much of the game and were unable to mount a response after Boufal's ultimately decisive strike.

Middlesbrough had the first chance to open the scoring when Viktor Fischer found Jordan Rhodes after somehow squeezing past Cuco Martina, but the striker failed to beat goalkeeper Fraser Forster

from close range.

Jordy Clasie then threatened twice for Southampton, shooting wide on both occasions, before Jay Rodriguez tested Boro shot stopper Victor Valdes with a low shot at his near post as Southampton slowly grew into the game.

James Ward-Prowse should perhaps have broken the deadlock on the half-hour mark after a sublime cross from Dusan Tadic, but the unmarked midfielder sent his header wide of the target.

Saints nearly fell behind when Fischer rounded Forster after racing onto a poor backpass, only for the Denmark international to then hit the right-hand upright from a narrow angle, with Cristhian Stuani unable to find the net from the rebound.

Boufal was unfortunate to have an attempt blocked by Calum Chambers early in the second half, but there was no denying the Morocco international in the 53rd minute.

Goal

Gladbach win, Bayer edge Schalke

BERLIN - Borussia Moenchengladbach claimed their first Bundesliga win for 11 weeks yesterday to relieve the pressure on coach Andre Schubert with a controversial 1-0 victory over 10-man Mainz.

Danish defender Andreas Christensen netted Gladbach's crucial winning goal on 76 minutes when the ball flew his way after captain Lars Stindl's shot cannoned off a Mainz defender and the centre-back stabbed home.

But Mainz had a goal ruled out when striker Pablo De Blasis poked his shot into the Gladbach goal on 89 minutes after the ball rolled free of Borussia's goalkeeper Yann Sommer following a save.

De Blasis was already off celebrating, but referee Robert Hartmann

refused to give the goal, even though replays showed Sommer did not have a glove on the ball when De Blasis kicked it. "The ball was in my hand, but it all happened very quickly. It was a very difficult decision to make," Sommer told Sky after the final whistle. To add insult to injury, Hartmann sent off Mainz midfielder Jean-Philippe Gbamin for a second yellow card on 90 minutes. "It's a pity we have to talk about these things other than football," fumed Mainz coach Martin Schmidt when asked about the disallowed goal as his side suffered their fourth away league defeat in a row.

The result lifts Gladbach up to 12th, a point below Mainz and six from the relegation places after a first Bundesliga win since September 24.

AFP

PAYET FREE-KICK INSPIRES WEST HAM TO ANFIELD DRAW

LONDON - Liverpool were held to a 2-2 draw by struggling West Ham United as they let an early lead slip at Anfield yesterday afternoon.

Adam Lallana gave the home side a lead inside the first ten minutes, but the Hammers hit back with goals from Dimitri Payet and Michail Antonio.

Divock Origi brought the sides level again early in the second half, but Liverpool could not turn their dominance into three points.

But despite four goals all the focus was on the goalkeepers as Loris Karius and West Ham's Darren Randolph both made costly errors.

Karius was criticised for two of the four goals conceded at Bournemouth last weekend - pundit Gary Neville said the German was "miles away" and he will shoulder a fair share of the blame for both of West Ham's, particularly the first.

When Payet lined up his 25-yard free-kick Karius - whose response to the Sky commentator's comments was.

"He was a manager for a short bit and now he is back to being an expert again" generously offered him about 80 per cent of the goal to his right.

Teamtalk

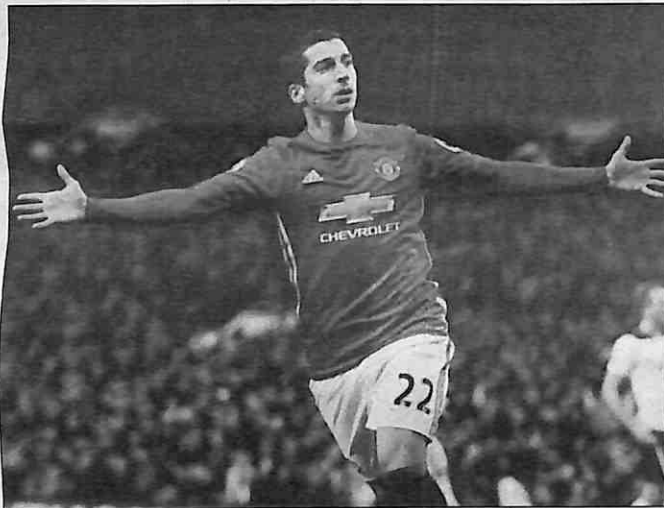
MKHITARYAN GIVES UNITED WIN OVER SPURS

MANCHESTER - Henrikh Mkhitaryan scored his first Premier League goal for Manchester United but was later stretchered off as the Jose Mourinho's side claimed a timely 1-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur yesterday.

Mkhitaryan converted Ander Herrera's through ball just before the half hour to end a frustrating run of four successive home draws and give United just a second win in nine league matches.

It was his second goal in two games, after he opened his account for the club against Zorya Luhansk on Thursday, but he exited on a stretcher after turning his ankle in a late challenge by Danny Rose.

United remain 13 points below leaders Chelsea, but closed to within three points of fifth-place Spurs and six off Manchester City, who occupy the fourth and



SCORED: Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

final Champions League berth.

United once again failed to convert their dominance into goals, but unlike in their recent 1-1 draws against Arsenal, West Ham United and Everton, they were not made

to pay.

Initially kept on the sidelines by Mourinho following his arrival from Borussia Dortmund, Mkhitaryan has become something of a lucky charm for the

Portuguese, who will hope his injury is not too serious.

Defeat curbed Spurs' recent revival, which had seen them beat Swansea City 5-0 and secure a Europa League place with a 3-1 win over CSKA Moscow.

Mauricio Pochettino's side remain without an away league win since September 24.

Tottenham centre-back Toby Alderweireld made his first start in eight weeks after a knee injury and he and his defensive colleagues quickly found themselves under examination.

It took United less than two minutes to carve Spurs open, Zlatan Ibrahimovic teeing up Paul Pogba for a left-foot shot that was parried by his France team-mate Hugo Lloris.

Mkhitaryan saw an effort blocked by Jan Vertonghen, Herrera gave Lloris some catching practice with a dipping volley and Michael Carrick whistled a shot over from range. **AFP**

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016



CHALLENGE: Sibovini F.C's Melusi Sibandze challenging Manzini Wanderers' Kola Aladeon during the Ingwenyama Cup grand opening at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Wanderers won 5-1. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



FOLLOW ME: Wanderers' Tafadzwa Jaravani chasing Sibovini's Sabelo Hlatjwako.



FIRST GOAL: Manzini Wanderers' first goal scorer Sifiso Matse joined by teammate Kola Aladeon in celebration.



BALL CONTROL: Wanderers' Sihle Mkhonta controls the ball while Hlatjwako closes in.



YES! Sifiso Matse and Njabulo Maziya celebrating their third goal.



NET: Wanderers fourth goal scored by Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya (r).



MAHHALA HHA! Wanderers supporters in song.



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN: Mbabane Swallows' Njabulo Ndlovu outpacing Hub Sundowns' Sphelele Dladla. Swallows won 5-0.



MY BALL: Tony Tsabedze winning the ball from Bongie Dlamini.



SAVE: Hub Sundowns goalkeeper Ndumiso Dlamini stops this shot.



WELL BEATEN: Mbabane Swallows' first goal scored by Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa (not in the picture).



CELEBRATIONS: Swallows players celebrating one of their five goals. (r) Second goal scorer Wonder Nhleko congratulated by teammates Sabelo Ndzinisa and Tony Tsabedze.



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016



CAN'T PASS: Ludzeludze Brothers' Mthobisi Nhlabatsi blocking Mbabeane Highlanders' Mohammed Sabela. Highlanders won 4-0.



CLEAR: Ludzeludze's Ncamiso Thwala clearing away the ball from Highlanders' Mpucuko Dlamini.



NOT THIS ONE: Ludzeludze Brothers goalkeeper Thembinkosi Magongo making a brilliant save.



NET: Highlanders' first goal against Ludzeludze Brothers.



MOVE: Sicelo Simelane negotiates to go past Mthobisi Mazibuko.



PUSHING: Thembinkosi Magongo marking Xolani Sibandze.



GWAZA NKUNZI: Highlanders' supporters celebrating their victory.



GREETINGS: Highlanders' players greeting their supporters before their clash against Ludzeludze Brothers.

FESTIVE SPECIALS

FROM THE 1ST OF DECEMBER WE OPEN MONDAY - SUNDAY 6am to 6pm

Rims and Tyres Combos

- 195/65 R15 - E1000.00 for 4
- 205/65 R15 - E1000.00 for 4
- 225/70 R16, 205/85 R16, 215/70 R16, 195/85 R16, 195/70 R16
- 225/70 R17, 205/80 R17, 225/80 R17,5 215/70 R17,5
- 205/60 R17,5 - E4000.00 for 4
- 245/45 R18 - R4000.00 for 4
- 245/70 R19,5 - E4000.00 for 4
- 285/55 R20

Rims Combo from E2800.00

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- Toyota Altezza 6 Cylinder with Gearbox E12,000.00
- Golf 2L without Gearbox E8,000.00
- BMW 2L with Gearbox E12,000.00
- BMW 1.8L with Gearbox E12,000.00
- Altezza Suspension E2,000.00

Our hours of operation this festive season will be:
Monday to Sunday
0600hrs to 1800hrs

LONLA INVESTMENTS

Manzini: Opposite Satellite Bus Rank Below Hub
Cell: 7639 8839 / 2505 8455

football talk

all your latest world football news

● Chelsea could be docked Premier League points after their players clashed with their Manchester City counterparts during their match at Etihad Stadium earlier this month. (*Sunday Mirror*)

● Arsenal are set to make a £30m move for Wolfsburg's 23-year-old Germany international midfielder Julian Draxler in January. (*Sunday Express*)

● West Ham manager Slaven Bilic has suggested he would like to sign Liverpool forward Daniel Sturridge, 27. (*Times - subscription required*)



● West Ham will try to sign 29-year-old Manchester City and England goalkeeper Joe Hart - who is on loan at Torino - if they avoid relegation. (*Sunday Telegraph*)

● Arsenal will combat Manchester United's interest in Germany playmaker Mesut Ozil, 28, by moving for their England winger Jesse Lingard, 23. (*Sun on Sunday*)

● Everton and Republic of Ireland midfielder James McCarthy, 26, is a £15m target for West Brom. (*Mail on Sunday*)

● CSKA Moscow and Russia playmaker Alan Dzagoev, 26, could replace McCarthy at Goodison Park. (*Liverpool Echo*)

● AIK's 17-year-old Swedish striker Alexander Isak is also a target for Everton, though they face competition from Real Madrid. (*Mail on Sunday*)

● Chelsea captain John Terry, 36, could earn £12m from a one-year contract at Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua. (*Sun on Sunday*)

● Atletico Madrid could move for Tottenham Manager Mauricio Pochettino if Diego Simeone leaves at the end of the season. (*Sunday Mirror*)

● Galatasaray and Portugal winger Bruma, 22, has revealed he held talks with Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho in pre-season. (*Fanatik - in Turkish*)



● More than 180 Premier League players are allegedly exploiting the tax system to avoid paying millions of pounds on their image rights earnings. (*Times - subscription required*)

● Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp has explained his preference for keeping young players at the club, rather than sending them on loan. (*Liverpool Echo*)

WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF ANY TEAM - 'KING CLAY'

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER - MANZINI Wanderers head coach Clement 'King Clay' Mdluli says the team is not afraid and ready to face any team they will draw in the last 16 of the Ingwenyama Cup.

This was after the Manzini giants devoured Sibovini 5-1 in the opening match of the Ingwenyama Cup triple header at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. "We are ready to face any team in the next round, no matter who we draw. We are not afraid of any team" he said. Coming back to the game against Sibovini, 'King Clay' said he was pleased with the



BOSS: Manzini Wanderers head coach Clement 'King Clay' Mdluli.

teams showing.

"I think the boys played very well and we earned a deserved win. Yes, I do admit there are things we need to work very hard on but at least we were able to record an impressive

victory. This is a knockout competition, so a win and one by this margin is very good when we look at the positives."

Meanwhile, his Sibovini counterpart Jabulani Nxumalo was not a very happy man after the game especially with the missed chances. Nxumalo said he would not read much into the result because he was building a team for the future. "We missed too many chances. We tried to play our normal game but we couldn't capitalise on the chances we created hence we got punished. I think I won't really stress myself much on the results of this game because we are still building a team for promotion and it takes time," he said.

We are ready for any team - 'Bull' coach

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER-MBABANE Highlanders coach Terisayi Changara says he is ready for any team in the Ingwenyama Cup last 16.

Interviewed after their 4-0 victory over National First Division side Ludzeldze Brothers at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday, the coach said he was happy with the performance displayed by his charges during the game. "The boys played very well during the game but we missed too many chances, which was unfortunate. We have made it to this stage of the tournament and will be ready to face any team we are pitted against. All we need to do is just prepare for the next game," he said. The coach said he was happy his charges were now creating chances and scoring the much needed goals.

"That we are creating chances is a good thing. We just need to work on our composure inside the box so we make good use of all our chances otherwise are all good," he said.

CAS AGM ALMOST CALLED OFF

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela

CYCLING - The Cycling Association of Swaziland Annual General Meeting was nearly called off after the former executive led by Mandla Simelane failed to deliver financial reports before the members.

Several speakers demanded the AGM should be postponed to another date where the executive would table reports before the members during the AGM held at the Olymp Africa Centre on Saturday.

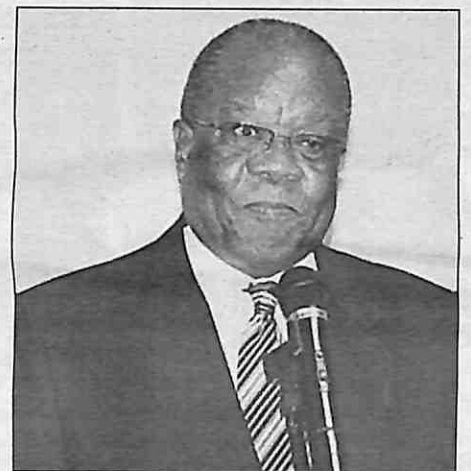
"We need the financial reports so we know where we stand as an association in terms of

finances. I know even the sponsors want to know how their money was spent," said MTN Khemani's Sihlangu Nhlabatsi. Sharing the same sentiments was Joe Warring, who said the executive's failure to table the reports would cause problems for the association in the future.

"I am worried the reports will not be discussed today and as the new executive will have to inherit problems that they did not cause. I, therefore, feel the AGM should not proceed until the reports are brought to the table," he said.

Another speaker, Mduduzi Kaudi called for the postponement of the AGM so the executive would bring the

reports. "I personally feel we should not proceed with the meeting because this would cause problems for the next executive, who will occupy office after the elections. They should not be made to inherit problems," he said. Responding to the grumble, former CAS president Mandla Simelane said a proper hand over to the new executive would be done. "We would like to apologise to members for not bringing the reports today after our Treasurer Mduduzi Mkhabela couldn't prepare them due to some work commitments. We will do a proper handover to the new office and possibly hold an extra ordinary meeting within the next three months where members would get the financial reports," said Simelane.



THANKED: Prime Minister Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini.

PM THANKED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORT

CYCLING - THE Cycling Association of Swaziland has thanked the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini for his contribution towards the development of the sport in the country.

Outgoing President Mandla Simelane said the premier had dedicated himself in seeing the sport grow through his continuous support. He said this when making his remarks during the AGM held on Saturday.

"We are humbled and honoured by the support we have been receiving from the Premier, who has devoted himself towards the development of cycling."

He also thanked the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala, whose passion for the sport has not gone unnoticed.

"The Minister has forever been gracing our events where he further participated in the races and provided competition to the cyclists," he said. Simelane further thanked their sponsors and other entities for supporting the sport. "We are very much grateful with the support we have been receiving from our sponsors and other organisations such as the Sports & Recreation Council among others, who have all contributed towards the development of cycling in the country," Simelane said.



TRIO: New CAS President Sihlangu Nhlabatsi with executive members.

CAS eyeing Commonwealth Games glory

CYCLING - THE Cycling Association of Swaziland is looking to conquer the 2022 Commonwealth Games to be hosted by South Africa.

This was revealed by former president Mandla Simelane when making his remarks during the Annual

General Meeting (AGM). "We are happy with the performance displayed during previous international competitions such as the All Africa Games where one of our cyclist Carol Du Point narrowly missed the gold medal in bunch sprint. We also note the success of Muzi Shabangu,

who won the 'Jock of the Bushveld' competition held in South Africa."

He said they were still working towards seeing the country doing well in upcoming international competitions with the Durban 2022 being their priority as an association.

Unstoppable 'Birds' fly over Hub

By Sibusiso Masilela

Hub Sundowns..... (0)0
Mbabane Swallows..... (3)5

SOCCKER - AS expected, Ingwenyama Cup defending champions Mbabane Swallows had no problems advancing to the next round after beating Hub Sundowns 5-0.

The red glamour side maintained their winning formula to brush the National First Division aside during a game played at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Braved

The match was watched by over 4 000 fans who braved the chilly weather to witness the triple-header which featured the country's big three teams.

It took Swallows 12 minutes to break the deadlock through their



TUSSLE: Bongie Dlamini and Sanele Mkhweli in a tussle for the ball.

quicksilver Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa, who received a Sanele Mkhweli long ball to make it 1-0.

Ndzinisa almost made it 2-0 four minutes later but was denied by the impressive opposition goalkeeper Ndimiso Dlamini for a fruitless corner.

Veteran winger Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko doubled the score line for the visitors in the 21st minute after tapping home a Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu threaded pass.

Benefitting

'Sikhali' completed his brace of the afternoon after benefitting from a 'D4D' pass to give the 'Birds' a 3-0 cushion going to break.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati-led charges continued to dominate proceedings in the second half as their DR Congo-born anchorman Papy Kabamba almost registered his name on the scorers sheet just before the hour mark when his pile driver hit the cross bar with the keeper well beaten.

Orthodox midfielder 'D4D' was finally rewarded for providing the

two first goals for his team when he made it 4-0 for the on-form swallows in the 63rd minute after combining well with 'Sikhali'.

Skipper Tony 'TT' Tsabedze then wrapped up the party six minutes later when he unleashed a thunderbolt from the edge of the box that left the keeper bemused.

Hub tried to pile pressure in search for a consolation goal in the 74th minute through their striker Sanele Dlamini, who forced a fine save from the holidaying Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza.

Teams:

Hub - Ndimiso, Nkosinathi, Moses, Siphelele, Colane, Sikolwethu (Andile), Bongie (Xolani), Njabulo, Andile Mazibuko, Clement, Sanele

Swallows - 'Nkomishi', Mabila, Mkhweli, Tyson, Siphmandla, D4D (Sandile), Wonder (Phathizwe), Papy, 'Sikhali' (Richard), 'Pupu', Tony



SECOND GOAL SCORER: Wonder Nhleko congratulated by teammates Sabelo Ndzinisa and Tony Tsabedze.

67 goals scored in Ingwenyama Cup round of 32

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER - IT was a festival of goals during the round 32 of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup as a total of 67 goals were scored during the opening games of the knockout tournament.

After the grand opening of the competition played yesterday at the

Somhlolo National Stadium, Young Buffaloes winger Sifiso 'General' Mazibuko is so far the current leading top goal scorer of the tournament with four goals in his account.

Mazibuko is followed by the quartet of Sifiso 'Mkhelele' Mdluli, Ugochukwu Ohakwe, Mfanifikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze and Sidumo Dlamini, who have three goals each.

The eventual top goal scorer in this tournament will get E10 000.

THE SCORERS:

Four goals

Sifiso Mazibuko

Young Buffaloes

Three goals

Sifiso Mdluli
Ugochukwu Ohakwe
Mfanifikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze
Sidumo Dlamini

Matsapha United
Tambuti
Mweni Pirates
Midas City

Two goals

Mphucuko Dlamini
Banele Dlamini
Phinda Ginindza
Bhekani Tsabedze
Sifiso Matse
Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe
Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa

Mbabane Highlanders
Green Mamba
Green Mamba
Mweni Pirates
Manzini Wanderers
Manzini Wanderers
Mbabane Swallows

Wasteful 'Bull' ousts Ludzeludze

By Qondile Ntiwane

L. Brothers..... (0)0
Highlanders..... (3)4

SOCCKER - A wasteful Mbabane Highlanders brushed aside Ludzeludze Brothers to advance to the last 16 of the Ingwenyama Cup.

The 'Black Bull' pumped in four goals to boot the National First Division side out of the knockout tournament.

Ludzeludze could have been first to score during the second clash of the Ingwenyama Cup grand opening at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday but a shot by Siboniso Gamedze bounced off the bar before being cleared away by the 'Landers' defence.

It was three minutes later when Highlanders scored their opener.

This was through former Royal Leopard midfielder Menzi Sithole whose left flank cross hit the bar before rattling the net.

Landers captain Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze added to the team's tally 23 minutes later when he fired from the left flank, a blazing shot straight into the net.

The black and white ensemble made it 3-0 two minutes before the breather through Mphucuko 'Smoothies' Dlamini, who easily

tapped in a well laid cross by 'Chocco'.

Highlanders could have scored two quick goals in the first seven minutes of the second stanza but efforts by 'Chocco' and Mphuchuko went wide.

The Terisayi Changara-led charges could have scored a flood of goals but striker Mohammed Sabela seemed to have completely forgotten his scoring boots at home as he squandered many glorious chances, something which resulted in the team's supporters calling for his substitution and their wish was granted.

Mphuchuko completed a brace at death following a blunder by Brothers goalkeeper Theminkosi Magongo, who had a really busy day in the field.

The goalkeeper and his defence failed to clear the ball but instead handed over the ball to the 'Landers' midfielder and he made no mistake but landed it to the back of the net, much to the joy of their hundreds of fans.

Teams

Brothers - Theminkosi, Mcebo (Zamokuhle), Mthobisi, Mzwandile, Lusanda, Ncamiso, Sandile, Thabiso, Siboniso, Ntokozi, Gwebu (Sakhile), Mbongeni
Highlanders - Sandile, Sifiso, Banele, Mzomuhle, Baimba, Menzi, Sicelo, Sibusiso, Mohammed (Sibusiso) Mphucuko, Xolani



GREETINGS: Highlanders players greeting their supporters before their clash against Ludzeludze Brothers.

'Koki' happy to advance next round

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER - SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup defending champions Mbabane Swallows head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati said he was happy his side advanced to the next round of the tournament.

Vilakati said this after watching his side beat Hub Sundowns 5-0 at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

"I am happy we are through to the next round even though I was not impressed by our overall performance. We were not aggressive enough and I must say we failed to play our normal game today (yesterday). I think we were a bit complacent due to the fact that we were playing a team from the lower division."

He said they would do well in the next match.

"We will continue working hard and prepare for the next game. We only take one game at a time and we will see where we end. We want to go all the way in this tournament," he said.

Meanwhile, Hub Sundowns' Mandla Shabalala said it was a good learning experience for his charges to play a strong opposition like Swallows.

"We wanted to gauge ourselves using this match since we are still fighting to avoid relegation in the league. I also think my players were affected by stage fright as they failed to play their usual game. We have seen our strengths and weaknesses and we know where we can improve going forward." He said he was impressed with the performance of their goalkeeper Ndimiso Dlamini.

"He was at his best and had it not been for him, Swallows would have scored more goals in this match," he said.

'WESLIANS' SEND SIBOVINI PACKING

By Sibusiso Dlamini

Manzini Wanderers..... (3)5
Sibovini..... (0)1

SOCCKER - HUB giants Manzini Wanderers booked their spot in the last 16 of the Ingwenyama Cup when they thrashed Sibovini 5-1 at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The maroon and white ensemble had a lively start to the game and it paid off as they broke the deadlock early in the 8th minute when Sifiso Matse blasted home the first goal after a pin-point through ball from dreadlocked striker Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe. The chances kept on coming for the 'Weslians' and this resulted to the second goal in the 23rd minute and this time it was the provider for the first - 'Taribo' tapping in a low cross from Njabulo Maziya. The match continued with Wanderers having an upper hand.

Sifiso Matse then grabbed his brace in the 34th minute when he headed in a Njabulo Maziya cross to make it 3-0. The match went to break with Wanderers enjoying a healthy lead. The Hhohho Super League outfit came recharged in the second half as they tried to change their fortunes, displaying some neat footwork. They were parading former Premier League stars in Sabelo Hlatjwayo and Sabelo Shongwe, who both tried their best on the day. Their good effort paid off in the 58th minute when they got their lone goal through Mphumuzeni Dlamini, who dribbled past Wanderers defender Sihle Mkhonta before unleashing a ground volley which the keeper saved but Dlamini pounced on the rebound to make it 1-3.

The goal seemed to wake the 'Weslians' from their slumber as they got their fourth in the 64th minute when captain Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya rose above everyone to head home a Tawana Chikore corner kick. Sibovini tried to come back to the game but their efforts weren't threatening in the final third.

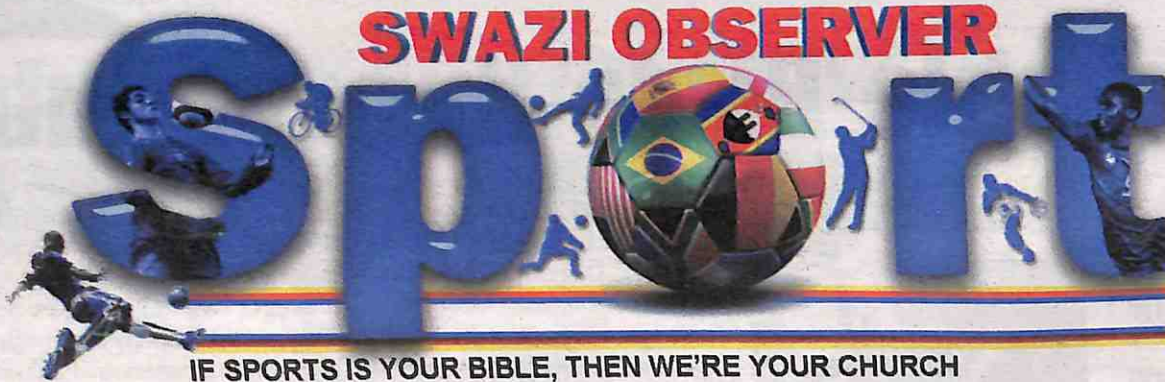
RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool	2 - 2	West Ham
Southampton	1 - 0	Middlesbrough
Manchester United	1 - 0	Tottenham
Chelsea	1 - 0	West Bromwich

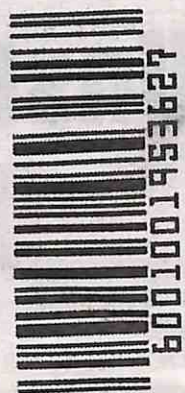
ITALIAN SERIE A

Atalanta	1 - 3	Udinese
Palermo	0 - 2	Chievo
Bologna	0 - 0	Empoli
Torino	1 - 3	Juventus
Cagliari	0 - 5	Napoli



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Monday December 12, 2016



'BIG THREE' CRUISE TO INGWENYAMA CUP LAST 16



By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER – THE big three – Manzini Wanderers, Mbabane Highlanders and Mbabane Swallows all cruised through to the last 16 of the Ingwenyama Cup in style as they claimed emphatic wins over minnows Sibovini, Ludzeludze Brothers and Hub Sundowns, respectively.

Manzini Wanderers and Sibovini were the first teams to lock horns in an encounter where the 'Weslians' imposed themselves very early in the game as they wanted to make sure they didn't suffer last year's unfortunates when they were booted out in the last 32 by the less popular Sisonkhe.

Sibovini paraded former premier league stars in former Manzini Wanderers skilful winger Sabelo Shongwe and former Malanti Chiefs lethal forward Sabelo Hlatshwayo. By the time they tried getting back into the game, it was already a matter of too little too late, and it was the Hub giants, who had the last laugh winning 5-1, sending the over 1 000 Weslians faithfuls, who cheered on all day long to 'Wanderville'. In the second game, it was the struggling capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders, who were up against Ludzeludze Brothers.

Chances

Brothers never really seemed to pitch in to the party against a relatively wasteful 'Bull', who could have doubled or even tripled their final score were it not for the missed chances by Ghanaian striker Mohammed Sabela, who seemed to have completely forgotten his scoring boots at home. He squandered a number of glorious chances, leading the teams' supporters to demand his substitution – something they were granted by coach Terisayi Changara.

Highlanders won the match 4-0.

Defending Champions Mbabane Swallows were next against former Premier League outfit Hub Sundowns. The glamour capital city giants, who have been nothing else but excellent this season continued with their precision and unmatched efficiency at the expense of the first division side. Worth noting is had it not been for Hub Sundowns goal keeper Ndumiso

- No upsets as all elite teams are through
- 67 goals scored in first games
- Draw to be conducted this week



CHALLENGE: Sibovini FC's Melusi Sibandze challenging Manzini Wanderers' Kola Aladeon during the Ingwenyama Cup grand opening at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Wanderers won 5-1.

Dlamini's world-class saves, Mbabane Swallows would have scored more than 10 goals. The shot-stopper was at his best on the day as he kept his team in the game. He would now and again make great saves with the Swallows fans already celebrating.

Struggling

The on-form Swallows were in their normal best as they won 5-0, brushing off the brave fight brought forward by the struggling first division outfit. Swallows did not take this match lightly as they fielded their best team.

Yesterday's wins completed a 100 per cent win record for Premier league teams in the last 32 round as none fumbled since the main tour-

namment began last week Friday.

This further sets up a fascinating round of the last 16 as the elite teams are now faced with the inescapable reality of playing each other in the knockout tournament.

The first round of the tournament was definitely a thriller as 67 goals were scored and Moneni Pirates were the highest scorers as they registered a 7-2 win against Milling Hotspurs at the Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday.

The 'big boys' have bossed proceedings in this year's first round, making sure there are no upsets, but let us see how they will play against each other in the next round. Buckle up; we are in for a thrilling round of 16!

RESULTS:

FRIDAY

Buffaloes	6	Ubombo Flyers	0
Matsapha	5	Luyengo Foxes	0
Vovovo	1	CPL	0
Sundowns	0	Bad Boys	0

(Sundowns won 4-2 on penalties)

SATURDAY

Leopard	1	Manchester Utd	0
Tambuti	4	Amalanda	1
Black Aces	0	Green Mamba	7
Citizens	1	Red Lions	2
Moneni	7	M. Hotspurs	2
H. Tycoons	0	Malanti	4
Madlenya	3	City Warriors	1
Sikhali	1	Sea Birds	1

(Sea Birds won 3-2 after penalties)

Midas City	4	Rangers	1
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YESTERDAY

Sibovini	1	Manzini Wanderers	5
L. Brothers	0	Mbabane Highlanders	4
Swallows	5	Hub Sundowns	0



NOT THIS ONE: Ludzeludze Brothers goalkeeper Thembinkosi Magongo making a brilliant save.



WELL BEATEN: Swallows first goal scored by Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa (not in the picture).



FIRST GOAL: Manzini Wanderers first goal scorer Sifiso Matse joined by Kola Aladeon in celebration. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)