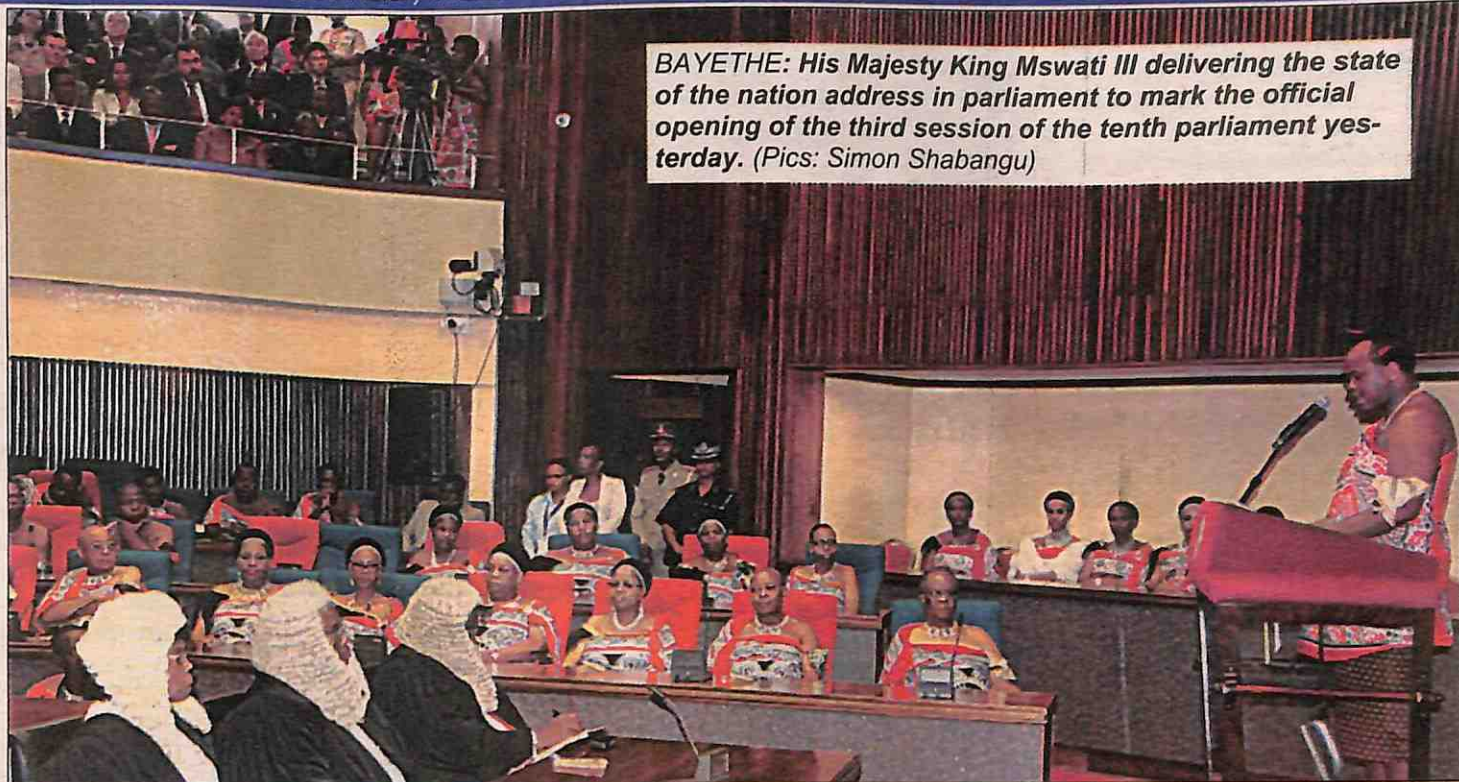
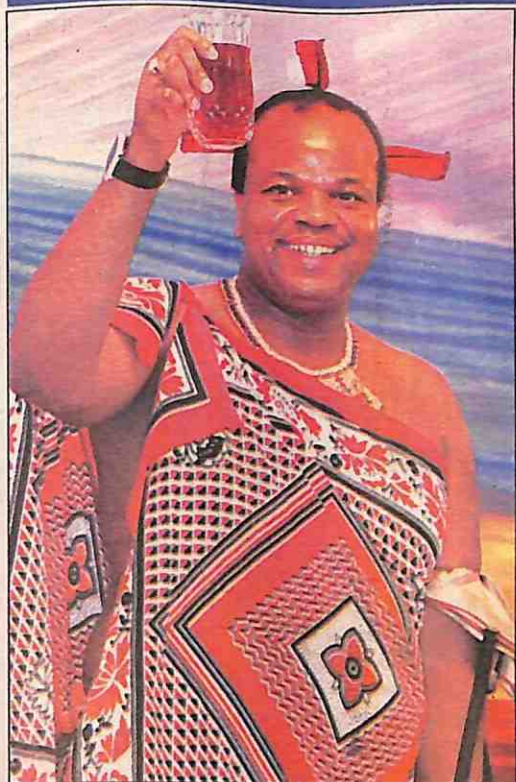


OBSERVER ON SATURDAY

February 13, 2016

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BAYETHE: His Majesty King Mswati III delivering the state of the nation address in parliament to mark the official opening of the third session of the tenth parliament yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

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TOUGH FINANCIAL TIMES AHEAD FOR SD AND...

KING CALLS FOR BELT- TIGHTENING

STORY
ON
PAGE 2

- Warns against confrontational approach to issues
- Announces water harvesting technology
- Talks hard on corruption and implores nation to fight it
- Full King's Speech from the throne (**PAGES 14-15**)

**LIMPING
GELANE
SPEAKS
ON KING'S
POWERS**

PAGE 3

**MINISTER
MASHWAMA'S
EGG ON
HER FACE**

PAGES 10 - 11

**LAWYERS
LAY CRIMINAL
CHARGES
AGAINST
SIKHATSI**

PAGE 6

King calls for belt tightening

- His Majesty says government should ensure less expenditure on procurement of services, government property
- Says SACU revenue dropped to E5.6 billion during the year 2015/16

COVER STORY

Stories by Sandile Nkambule

His Majesty King Mswati III has implored government to tighten belts in order to fight the tough economic challenges the country is facing and those ahead of us.

The King said to make sure that this was possible, cutting of expenditure in as far as procurement of services and government property was concerned, was pivotal. He said everyone should make sure that the country improves in its economic status owing to the fact that the country's fiscal stability continued to be affected due to the South African Customs Union (SACU) drop in revenue. Speaking when delivering his Speech from Throne at the State Opening of the Third Session of the 10th Parliament yesterday, the King said the high inflation rate indicated an increase in the 2014/15 fiscal year with 4.7 percent in 2014 to 5.7 percent in 2015. "The local currency was affected following the massive loss against major currencies due to the rands behaviour as we are pegged with it, while we rely on the medium term growth development on exports and agreements we have with European countries, the SACU revenues fell to E6.9 billion for the year 2015/16 and this calls for us to tighten our belts since we will experience the same in the 2016/17 financial year, let us prepare ourselves for this," His Majesty said.

He also called for insurance companies to place the 30 percent asset holding to the country in order to encourage domestic investment from monies generated from these companies. He implored all Swazis to work hand in



UNITY: His Majesty King Mswati III addressing the nation during the State opening of the Third Session of the 10th parliament yesterday as Her Majesty the Indlovukazi listens (Pics Simon Shabangu)



LOVE AND PEACE: His Majesty, Emakhosikati and Emazinyane toasting.

hand in improving the country's current economic situation, stating that we should actually double our efforts in making sure the economy is improved.

One should ask the question, according to the King, on how he or she could

contribute to meaningful development of the country and its economy as microscopic indicators pointed towards a decline in the gross domestic product (GDP) that had decreased from 2.5 percent in 2014 to 1.7 in 2015.

'The corrupt should be ashamed of themselves'

While speaking strongly on belt tightening, His Majesty castigated those involved in corruption and said they should be ashamed of themselves.

The King said the country's economy was seriously affected by corruption and called upon the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) to sharpen its 'teeth' more and those involved in corruption dealt with accordingly.

"Those who benefit from corruption should be ashamed and I call upon the ACC and its relevant stakeholders to sharpen its 'teeth' and make sure that all the corrupt are brought to book," His

Majesty said much to shouts of Bayethe from the members of parliament and invited dignitaries and guests.

The King said the scourge of corruption should be eliminated at all costs, calling upon Swazis to join hands in its fight. Former Minister of Finance, now Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole once stated in one of his budget speeches that government lost about E80 million per month through corruption something he said seriously crippled the country's economy.

The King stated in no uncertain terms that corruption should be rooted out

completely. He called upon everyone to look at means of eradicating it, stating that the country should fight corruption head on. He said where there was no pain, there was no gain hence Swazis should practise the culture of 'kutikhandla' and work hard to improve the economy and further develop the country and take it to greater heights by the year 2022.

"Laziness may pay off for one night, but hard work will pay off for a lifetime, therefore from this day, may we double out efforts in everything that we do," His Majesty said.

..renews commitment for AIDS free SD by 2022

Last year His Majesty declared and called for an HIV/AIDS-free Swaziland by the year 2022.

This year, the King said he was renewing the same vow and called upon all Swazis to make sure that such a dream is attained. He said all efforts should be made in the fight against the scourge and implored Swazis to test and know their status as this was the first step to HIV/AIDS treatment, adding that by taking the necessary medication, one was assured of a

longer life. "Since HIV/AIDS drugs have proved to be expensive, we should also consider ways of manufacturing our own drugs, but we laud organisations and countries that have assisted us in making sure that we conquer the fight against the scourge," the King said. He said he was happy to note that there had been a decline in new HIV infections, but this should not make the country relax, but work for a better improvement in totally eliminating new infections, assuring that the good med-

ical relations the country had with others would be strengthened with more medical experts coming in.

The construction of a referral hospital for the terminally ill, according to the King, was at an advanced stage, stating that this would in turn cut on expenditure and trips for referring patients to South African hospitals.

Meanwhile, the Breast Cancer Unit has been completed, but also needs to be improved in order to cut down on referral expenditures.

King gives hope to the elderly, investment on children a priority

While the King acknowledged the fact that the country's fiscal position is not good, he however gave hope to the elderly. He said the elderly had played a major role in shaping up the country and that they should not feel neglected hence government will look at ways at improving their social welfare and grants. Currently, the elderly are paid E240 per month which, however, is paid quarterly. This means they are paid E720 after three months. The King said the elderly should not be neglected and called upon everyone, especially those who still have the elderly as their parents to look after them. He also said there was a need to invest on children since they were the main driving force

towards achieving the 2022 vision as they were the future of the country. He expressed his appreciation that there had been reduced cases of abuse against children both at home and at school. Job creation was also on His Majesty's lips as he said government should look at ways of creating jobs and plans made for food security and fight against poverty, noting that the current drought situation left the country ravaged as livestock, vegetation and maize were adversely affected.

The King said there should be a cut in different lifestyles. He stressed that there should be no margin between the poor and the rich, calling for everyone to assist those in need.

Serious need to improve water harvesting technologies – King

With the current drought situation having taken its toll in the country, the King has noted a serious need to improve water harvesting technologies.

Affected

The country's capital city is one of the most affected following the drying up of Hawane Dam, which has seen water rationing within the city.

The King said ways should be

devised to make sure that the current water shortage situation does not repeat itself.

"As much as we have learnt the hard way, we should, however, look at ways that this does not repeat itself by improving our water harvesting," the King said.

He said this should start at family level with those able to harvest well offering those who do not have.

Terrorism hinders travelling

Terrorism is one of the scourges that is killing world tourism and travelling of late, as observed by His Majesty. From his Speech from the Throne, the King said the world had actually been held under siege as it was now difficult for people to travel since they never know when terrorists would strike.

Terrorists

Most terrorists, as seen and heard in the international media, target airlines, busy shopping malls, schools, churches and other buildings that accommodate a

large number of people.

Convenient

The King said people were now travelling in fear of the unknown as terrorists would strike any time they felt it was convenient to them.

Noted

He noted that the world was faced with raging wars, where people were killed while others were left homeless, leaving most war affected countries in shatters. He appealed to bodies such as the United Nations to intervene and bring peace in war-stricken countries.

About 36 SADC leaders coming for big meet

With the country expected to host the Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting this year, the King said about 36 leaders were expected to take part.

He invited all Swazis to contribute towards the historic event which is expected to take place in August.

Swaziland, according to the

King, benefits a lot from SADC. He said no country could survive alone since all the countries needed each other.

He appealed to Swazis to offer a warm welcome to the visiting leaders and their delegations, and give them the hospitality they deserve and all the facilities they would need in order for them to feel at home away from home.

Education key to a developed country

In order for a country to be developed, education should be prioritised and His Majesty has assured that Swaziland's education curriculum will be improved. As part of this initiative, the King said the University of Swaziland was working closely with the Science and Bio Technology

Park. The Innovation Park will also come in handy as this is where agricultural projects will be innovated, according to the King, which in turn will lead to job creation. He said he was looking forward to the official opening of the first phase of the park this year. NB: See full speech on pages 14&15

PARLIAMENT OPENING

Gelane talks about King's powers

● In this connection, BakaNgwane must guard against any 'lopsided' and unconstitutional restoration of the power relations of 1968 in the total absence of any semblance of a popular mandate this time around

By Bodwa Mbingo

Recovering Senate President Gelane Zwane yesterday limped to the podium to warn His Majesty King Mswati III about his powers.

This was during the State Opening of the 10th Parliament at Lobamba yesterday.

Ditching what was recently growing to be known as her trademark crutches to assist her walk and instead electing the use of a walking stick, she defied all odds to make it to the official opening of the August House to welcome Their Majesties the King and Indlovukazi. Zwane told the King that she was lucky to have been part of the country's constitutional review process as a member of the then Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) that came up with a comprehensive report that pointed out that the Swazi nation desired even greater powers for the King. She said as a result of this, the constitution promulgated on July 26, 2005 provides that the executive authority of Swaziland vested in the King as head of state.

This is in sharp contrast to the position of the prime minister which is defined as 'chairman of cabinet and leader of government business in parliament.' "In this connection, BakaNgwane must guard against any 'lopsided' and unconstitutional restoration of the power relations of 1968 in the total absence of any semblance of a popular mandate this time around," said Zwane. In simpler terms, the Senate president warned the King against any elements that sought to use parliament to clip some of his powers.

She said the Westminster core and substance the country inherited at independence in 1968 had been removed from the country's constitutional dispensa-



MORE POWERS: Senate President Gelane Zwane(r) addressing His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Majesty the Indlovukazi.

tion and only the appearance, pomp and circumstances remain, as the past vividly shows.

"Indeed in 1968 our late King Sobhuza the II was a constitutional monarch while executive authority deriving from an overwhelming electoral victory and popular mandate vested in the then prime minister, the late Prince Makhosini," she added.

Praise

The Senate president went on to praise the king for the historical appointment of Justice Bheki Maphalala as the country's first Swazi Chief Justice (CJ), ironically reflecting that he was her colleague in the CRC with the Speaker of the House of Assembly Themba Msibi. "At this particular point it is fitting to recall the moment of our report briefing after the completion of the constitutional review process, which was that: the overall view of the nation was that the powers of His Majesty the King should, in no way, be diminished in the projected constitution. And Chief Justice Maphalala's own take on this issue was, and I quote, 'Sive sitsi ungatsi ngabe ayengetwa lamandla enhkosi' – the nation desires even greater powers for the King. Meanwhile, much against suspicion

that there would be drama at the event amid earlier reports that the Senate President and Speaker were continuously shunning some of the preparatory meetings for the State Opening of parliament, the event ran smoothly. Even much against events of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) by President Jacob Zuma in the neighbouring South Africa that was marred by chaos coming from the usual culprits, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) members who were led by Julius Malema in calls for the fall of Zuma on Thursday night, the King delivered his speech without any glitches as expected.

However, the build-up to the opening had its fair share of drama. Both Zwane and Msibi were reported to have shunned the visit of Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini and his Cabinet to assess the preparations on Thursday and many waited to see what would unfold on the actual day.

However, as soon as Her Majesty the Indlovukazi had entered the parliament chambers and while the King's arrival was awaited, both the President and Speaker were seen in a conversation with the prime minister, who is the minister in charge of parliament affairs.

...Lidodana laseCalvary's grand entrance

Former Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Sibusiso Shongwe, who doubles as a senator, was one of the notable faces that drew the eyes of the public as he made his way into the



parliament chambers ahead of His Majesty's speech from the Throne.

Sacking

Before his sacking as a cabinet minister, Shongwe grew to be known as a minister that defied his superior, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini by not attending Cabinet meetings and was for some time missing in parliamentary sittings.

Mood

Yesterday, clad in traditional attire, he made his way into the chamber in a very jolly mood and took some time to joke with members of the media.

Although he did not want to state what his expectations were regarding the Speech from the Throne, Shongwe did take some time to speak to journalists.

Expected

He joked that he would have expected the journalists to congratulate him for dressing well for the occasion, causing some laughter from the media personnel.

Attendance

Also notably in attendance were journalists from the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), who took time to conduct some interviews on the day.

GRAND ENTRANCE: Former Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Sibusiso Shongwe arriving at the Parliament opening yesterday.

Confrontation not the Swazi way of life, His Majesty warns

By Sandile Nkambule

Although stating no case in particular, His Majesty yesterday issued a stern warning to the effect that confrontations whenever there are disagreements while working, are not and will never be the solution.

The King said confrontations were actually not the Swazi way of life as Swazis were known to be a peaceful nation, adding that solving issues through dialogue was the way to go.

This comes amid parliament confrontation that have gone to the extent of being in public as witnessed during the rehearsals of the State Opening of the Third Session of the 10th Parliament where the Speaker, Senate President, Clerk to Parliament did not see eye to eye, resulting in a public confrontation.

Immediately after the King's warning, members of parliament and guests were seen nodding and heard shouting Bayethe in appreciation, most citing the parliament impasse. However, another case that might have come to mind is that of the current impasse between public sector unions and government over the salary review report which government refuses to release to the unions.

The matter has gone as far as the courts amid marches to deliver petitions.

The King said the country's societal norms dictated that when there was a difference in opinion, people should come together and iron out whatever issues and see a way forward. Foreign traditions, according to His Majesty, should not come



WARNS: His Majesty King Mswati III warned the nation against confrontation during disagreements.

in between and change our societal norms, but instead Swazis should accept modern things and use them for the betterment of the nation. The King, however, thanked all members of parliament and staff for a job well done and encouraged them to continue upholding the integrity of the important institution in high esteem.

He said he had been following the lively debates during the second session, adding that the nation further encouraged them that they have been able to play their oversight role effectively and efficiently. He noted that they were able to pass a number of Bills that would propel the Kingdom to greater heights.

He encouraged them to put the interest of the country at heart, more especially above their own and hoped they would pass more bills and policies that would provide the required impetus towards the country's national 2022 vision.

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MONDAY TO SATURDAYS

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Step in the Right direction



FROM THE THRONE: His Majesty King Mswati III delivering the speech from the throne during a joint sitting to mark the state opening of the 3rd session of the 10th Parliament yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



ADDRESS: Senate President Gelane Zwane addressing Their Majesties and the nation.



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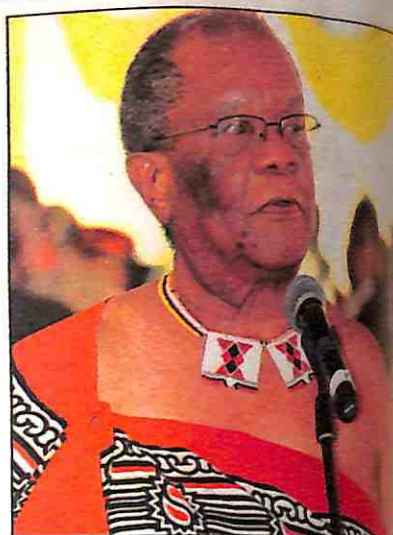
PLANNED POWER OUTAGE NOTIFICATION

Kindly note that there will be power interruptions on our electricity lines due to routine maintenance as per the following schedule;

DAY:	DATE:	MANTAINANCE BY (DEPOT)	AFFECTED AREAS:	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	PERIOD:
Sunday	14 Feb	Hluti	Mhlosheni, Nsalitje, Mantambe, Hluti and surrounding areas	On and Off Switching	8:30a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday	15 Feb	Manzini	Ngwane Park, Manzini CBD, Khoza, Sichelwini, Makholweni	On and Off Switching	11:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
		Matsapha	New Mbuluzi	Project Construction	10:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	16 Feb	Manzini	Gundwini and surrounding areas	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Stonehenge	Nkoyoyo Shopping Complex and surrounding areas, Mafutha, Motshane	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	17 Feb	Nhlangano	Khiza	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
		Big Bend	Nzevane, Gamula, Nisela Lodge	Closing Span	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Manzini	Ticantfwini	Pole Plantation	10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Mhlume	Lomahasha Matfuntini, Lomahasha Primary School, Lomahasha High School, Lomahasha Inkhundla	Routine Maintenance	10:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
		Hluti	Zampilo, Our Lady, Mkhwakhweni, Welcome, Ethemba, Hhuhuma, Masiphula	Repairing Switches	8:30a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	18 Feb	Nhlangano	Kwendzeni and Salem	Closing Span	9:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
		Nhlangano	Mahlalini, Sibovu, Mtfombe	Routine Maintenance	8:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
		Big Bend	Sibetsaphi, Logoba, Manzimnyama, Matjentima, St Phillips, Lompala, Mngongomaneni	Line Reconductoring	9:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
		Malkerns	Gebeni Clinic, Gebeni School and surrounding areas	Routine Maintenance	8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
		Manzini	Timbutini	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Manzini	Lwandle, Khesiya	Closing Span	10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Siteki	Sitsatsaweni Primary School, Kamshumayeli, Sitsatsaweni MTN	Closing Span	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday	19 Feb	Manzini	Timbutini, Vulamehlo	Closing Span	10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Siteki	Luhhwahhweni, Mankonkokwane, Mayenjane, Nzotho, Hlane MTN, Maphatsindvuko, Lonhlupheko	Closing Span	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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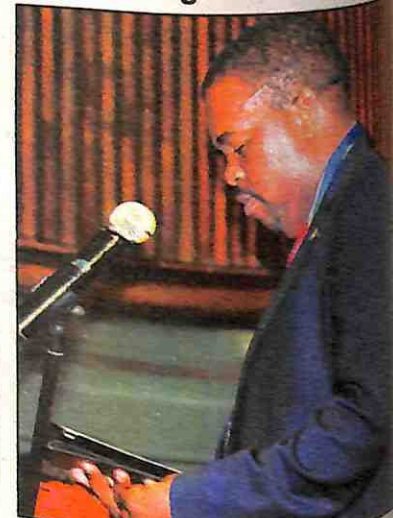
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SPEECH: Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini making a few remarks before proposing a toast.



SOMLOMO: Speaker Themba Msibi making his remarks at the marquee after the official opening by the King.



WORD OF GOD: Bishop Stephen Masilela leading the nation in prayer to mark the beginning of the proceedings.

THIRD SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT



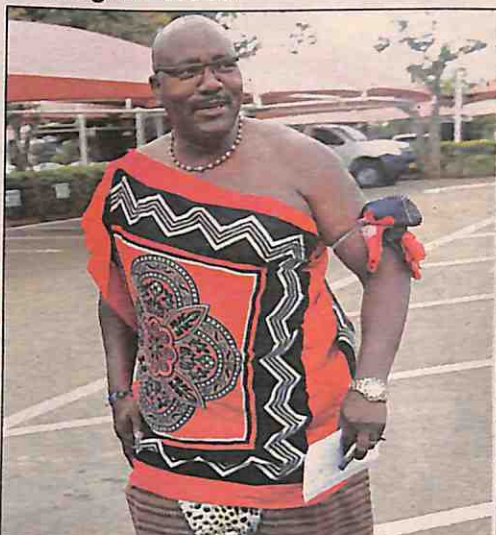
TOAST: His Majesty joined by Emakhosikati and Emazinyane during the toast.



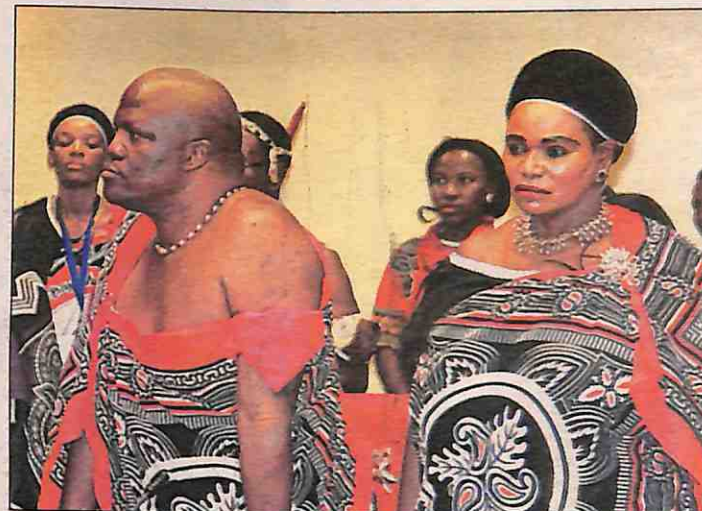
MHLEKAZI: Her Majesty Indlovukazi listening to the speech from the Throne.



ROYALTY: Princess Lomangisi and Senator Princess Phumelele also attended the state opening.



WUZ THERE: African Alliance Partner S'thofeni Ginindza on arrival.



SECOND IN COMMAND: Deputy Senate President Ngomuyayona Gamedze and Deputy Speaker Esther Dlamini in parliament.



PHOTO BOMB: Ministers Lindiwe Dlamini and Jabulile Mashwama capturing themselves on a camera.



ATTENTIVE: Presiding Officers, Senate President Gelane Zwane, Themba Msibi Speaker and Clerk to Parliament Ndvuna Dlamini listening to the speech from the throne.



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LAWYERS LAY CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST SIKHATSIS

By Linda Jele

THE Law Society of Swaziland has laid criminal charges against Mbabane businessman and Mbabane Councillor Sikhatsi Dlamini for acting as a lawyer when he is not qualified.

This follows Dlamini's appearance before the High Court on a number of occasions representing other people as their representative despite that he was never admitted as an attorney in the country.

Dlamini operates an establishment styled JCM Services situated at the Independent Building along Dzeliwe Street.

He recently represented one Phumulile Lokotfwako before the High Court in a civil case and claimed that he was her agent.

Lokotfwako is embroiled in a wrangle with her stepmother Phindile Zikalala over a motor vehicle.

Lokotfwako claimed that her stepmother was holding on a motor vehicle that was given to her by her later father Vusi Oupa Lokotfwako.

The society yesterday laid criminal charges against Dlamini and opened a case at the Mbabane Police station.

Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that a criminal charge had been laid against Dlamini.

"It is true, a case has been reported against Dlamini and Investigations have commenced," Vilakati said.

She said Dlamini had not been arrested yet. She was not in a position to specify the charges being investigated at the time of going to print.

A week ago, Dlamini made an appearance before High Court Judge Titus Mlangeni, but his appearance was stopped by lawyer Lucky Howe on behalf of the Law Society of Swaziland.

Howe submitted that Dlamini should not be allowed to make any appearance on behalf of another person before the High Court because he was not admitted to practise as an attorney.

Howe informed the judge that the Legal Practitioners Act stipulated that a person who was supposed to appear



CHARGED: Businessman and Mbabane Councillor Sikhatsi Dlamini.

in court and represent a client was an admitted attorney.

Dlamini tried to defend himself and cited Section 84(1) of the Constitution which stipulates that, "subject to the provision of the Constitution, the people of Swaziland have a right to be heard through and represented by their own freely chosen representative in the government of the country."

Judge Mlangeni dismissed Dlamini's application on the basis that it was not properly before court.

Judge Mlangeni, a former president of the Law Society of Swaziland, said it was a pity that most people wanted to play part of being lawyers when they were not qualified.

"What I have noticed is that nobody plays the part of being a medical

practitioner. The last time I heard of a person who played a part of being a medical practitioner was in the 70s," he was quoted saying.

It was the second time Dlamini represented Lokotfwako. He first appeared before High Court Principal Judge Stanley Maphalala about two weeks ago. Maphalala had also questioned the grounds on which Dlamini was representing a person in court, to which Dlamini said he was an agent.

He won an interim order to have the motor vehicle attached from Zikalala.

Efforts to get a comment from the Law Society of Swaziland Secretary General Nkosinathi Manzini hit a snag as his phone rang unanswered. Dlamini was also not available on his mobile phone.

NEWS EXTRA

POLICE REVEAL INCREDIBLE WAYS OF IMMIGRANTS

PARIS - Police officers in Spain's north African enclave of Melilla recently pulled off a car bumper to discover a 29-year-old from Guinea underneath held in place with ropes.

Guardia Civil spokesman Francisco Perez said he was in a very serious way when we found him. "Our priority was to make sure he got proper medical attention because he was having problems breathing and suffering numbness in several parts of his body."

Two Moroccans inside the car, a 46-year-old and a 24-year-old were arrested and questioned before being handed over to a judge expected to remand them in prison.

The unnamed immigrant was yesterday released from hospital after treatment and taken to a local holding centre.

Hours earlier, two Guineans, a 24-year-old and a 13-year-old, were found squashed into a spe-

cially-adapted hidden space under the passenger seat of a Mercedes trying to cross the same border.

The Moroccan driver fled the scene as police started a minute search of the vehicle but was stopped after a chase and arrested.

The younger of the two Guineans was placed in the care of local social services.

Other images taken by authorities at the border show a young boy crammed into a suitcase and a man hidden underneath a car's dashboard.

In one particularly shocking instance, a man had to be cut from inside a car's fuel tank and rushed to hospital when it was realised he had been inhaling toxic petrol fumes.

Many of those who try such hiding places require hospitalisation when found due to the breathing difficulties caused by breathing in such tight spaces.

(Daily Mail)



UNBELIEVABLE: This migrant from Guinea was found attempting to cross into Spain while tied underneath a car bumper. (Daily Mail)

Supreme Court dismisses KaZakhali teacher's bail appeal

By Linda Jele

KA Zakhali school teacher Mathias Moyo, who is suspected of raping a 15 year old girl has lost his appeal and will continue to stay in jail.

Three acting Judges of the Supreme Court Stanley Maphalala, Mbutfo Mamba and Nkululeko Hlophe said High Court Judge Titus Mlangeni correctly refused to grant Moyo bail because he was a foreigner and a flight risk.

Judge Hlophe who prepared the judgment said the appeal was not supposed to have been moved before

the Supreme Court, but Moyo should have applied for bail pending appeal before the High Court whose judgment was being appealed against. He said the High Court had inherent power to control its processes and determine whether or not to grant Moyo bail pending appeal.

"This court, the Supreme Court, has no original jurisdiction to hear applications except in those few instances set out either in the constitution or the Court of Appeal Act or the rules of the court of Appeal, which the current matter is none," Judge Hlophe said.

He said the Supreme Court would

have entertained the appeal had the High Court dismissed Moyo's application for bail pending appeal.

The Supreme Court said relied on an affidavit that had been submitted by the investigating officer Constable Sithembile Dlamini who denied Moyo's claim that the teenager was his girlfriend.

Friend

Dlamini claimed that the complainant used to work for Moyo sometime ago and on the day she was allegedly raped, she had gone to Moyo's flat with a friend to fetch something. It was claimed that the teenager had stopped working for the

teacher after he had made sexual advances to her. The officer claimed the teenager was tricked by a friend to accompany her to Moyo's flat to fetch something, but when they arrived the friend left her with Moyo in the house.

The Supreme Court said the position of law was settled that matters of bail were decided on likelihood on the part of the applicant. Judge Hlophe said the High Court took into account the fact that Moyo had strong family, emotional and community ties in Zimbabwe, that he could easily start a professional life elsewhere as he was a teacher by profession. He

also said a possibility that Moyo could escape through the country's porous borderline was likely since the charge he was faced with attracted a heavy sentence.

"I have not been shown any error nor misdirection in this finding by the court a quo. For these reasons, the appeal cannot succeed. Other than to agree with the court a quo that no exceptional circumstances were established by the appellant, I have no hesitation to state that the court a quo also correctly found in this regard when considering the material placed before it," Judge Hlophe said.

Prophet Gcina ducks E1.5m lawsuit

Stories by Linda Jele

Prophet Gcina Mthethwa's company has successfully defended a E1.5 million lawsuit by an investor in a E300 000 deal.

Samukelisiwe Peterson had filed an application seeking an order calling upon Mthethwa's company Bitego Investments to pay her E1.5 million. She had said the amount was supposed to be profits after she injected E3 million to Bitego in an agreement that the company would design and develop a township. She had been told that the township was then going to be sold and yield profits for Peterson.

It had been agreed, between Peterson and Bitego Investments, that after Peterson's E300 000 investment she would yield profits within four months of commencement of the project. She said Bitego Investments was represented by Mthethwa in his capacity as director. She further told the court that they had agreed that after the four month period she would be entitled to E1.5 million, being the money she had invested and profit.

Peterson told High Court Principal Judge Stanley Maphalala that she paid the money into Bitego Investments' bank account by cheque on April 22, 2014.

"In breach of the contract the defendant failed to pay the plaintiff the sum of E1.5 million after the four months, which expired in August 2014. Even after the lapse of the four months, the defendant failed to pay this amount. Instead, they would keep coming up with excuses as to why such amount was not paid," read the papers.

Summary

She was represented by Sukati Msibi Attorneys in the matter while lawyer Bongani Mdluli from Bongani G Mdluli and Associates appeared on behalf of Bitego Investments. Peterson filed an application for summary judgment, but it was opposed.

Mdluli argued that the application had been brought to court prematurely and there was nothing owing, due and payable to Peterson at the stage of the project. He submitted that it had been stipulated in their agreement that payment of dividends was dependant upon completion of phase

one of the project and it was still ongoing.

Mdluli further argued that the agreement the parties entered into stipulated that a party raising a dispute should report such to arbitration. Mdluli submitted that Peterson had brought the application before the High Court prematurely.

Sukati, in her arguments, submitted that it was incorrect that the matter was prematurely before court. She submitted, on Peterson's behalf, that the agreement stated that payment of profits was supposed to be done upon completion of phase one, not the construction phase which was second. She submitted that the first phase, which Peterson invested in, was complete.

She also submitted that the company failed to justify that the first phase of the project was not complete, but merely said the project had been stalled by some issues, which were being sorted out. She further said the provision directing that disputes should first be reported and dealt with by arbitration did not oust the jurisdiction of the High Court over the matter.

Judge Maphalala agreed with

Bitego Investments that the matter was prematurely before court. He said the company had submitted that the project was stalled by some issues which were being sorted out.

"It would appear to me, based on this phrase, it cannot be said that phase one has been completed, but the project is ongoing. In my assessment as stated above, it is abundantly clear that plaintiff

has approached this court prematurely, as at this stage no amount whatsoever is due, owing and payable to her," Judge Maphalala said.

He also said Peterson had not submitted exceptional circumstances to justify that she had to skip arbitration. The judge dismissed her application and ordered her to pay costs to Bitego Investments.

Prophet plunges into E500 000 land scam

Despite the successful defence against a E1.5 million lawsuit, businessman and prophet Gcina Mthethwa is being sued close to half a million for breach of agreement.

Mthethwa and his company Bitego Investments have been taken to court by two men after they allegedly failed to transfer two plots situated at Nkonyeni at Nkonyeni II in the Manzini region.

Wandile Dlamini from Mbabane and Charles Kunene from Siteki have claimed that they entered into agreements with Bitego Investments to be sold portions of land at farm 522 Nkonyeni II. They claimed that they entered into the agreements in July 2014 that they would pay half price of the cost of the respective portions they were interested in and they would be registered into their names. However, that never took place despite that Mthethwa's company had received hundreds of thousands of Emalangeni from them. They alleged that in all the transactions, the company was represented Mthethwa when they entered into the agreements.

They alleged that they convened meetings with Mthethwa in Mbabane, sometime in November 2015 where it was agreed that their monies would be paid back, but that had happened to date. These are allegations contained in claims filed by the two and their merits are yet to be contested before court. Bitego Investments and Mthethwa are yet to file responding papers in the matter. They had filed a notice of intention to oppose the two applications.

Dlamini and Kunene are represented by Sifiso 'Charley' Jele in the matter.

...he allegedly accepted money from people and promised to transfer ownership of land to them but never fulfilled



IN TROUBLE: Businessman and prophet Gcina Mthethwa.

In his application, Dlamini claimed that in July 2014, he entered into an oral agreement with Bitego Investments and Mthethwa.

"The defendants were to sell 7.5 hectares of Farm No. 522 Nkonyeni II situated at Nkonyeni in the district of Manzini for the sum of E337 500. The parties further agreed that after payment of half the purchase price, ownership of the land would be transferred to the plaintiff,"

Dlamini's particulars of claim stated.

It was stated that he paid E90 000 to Bitego Investments' law firm MS Dlamini legal on July 28, 2014. He also claimed that he paid E100 000 into the same law firm on August 14, 2014, E25 000 on October 3, 2014 and on November 7, 2014 paid E20 000. The amount totalled to E235 000. He claimed that the property has not been transferred into his name to date. He claimed that the company failed to refund him his money despite promise.

Kunene claimed that they agreed with the company that he would pay E400 000 for a portion of the farm under the same terms as Dlamini. He claimed that the portion he was interested in was to be divided into plots of five hectares each and they were to be owned by his wife Nomphumelelo Nkambule.

"On September 8, 2014 the amount of E200 000 was deposited in respect of the said piece of land supported by receipt number 665 and 666. In clear breach of the agreement, the defendants have failed, refused and neglected to transfer ownership of the said piece of land to the plaintiff," Kunene said.

He said the money was now due, owing and payable to him, but despite demand, Bitego Investments and Mthethwa refused or failed to pay.

The two also applied for an order to have the money paid with nine percent interest per year and costs of suit. They have since filed applications for summary judgment each and the matter was heard by High Court Judge Nkululeko Hlophe yesterday. It was postponed to next Friday and they each won costs against the defendant.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SCOPING MEETING INVITATION

The Proponent, Hawane Resort (Pty) LTD, one of the leading entities in the tourism and hospitality business, is proposing to construct a residential village at its Farm, L2/987, Hawane. The objective of the development is to provide additional accommodation as part of its services to both its clientele and its workers.

In accordance with the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) Environmental Audit, Assessment and Review Regulations 2000, members of the public are invited to a scoping meeting, where information about the project can be obtained. The meetings also intended to give Interested and Affected Parties (IaP's) an opportunity to voice out their concerns regarding the project for eventual input to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The meeting will be held on, 19th February at 10:00a.m. at Hawane Resort gate.

For details, written submission, etc., contact:

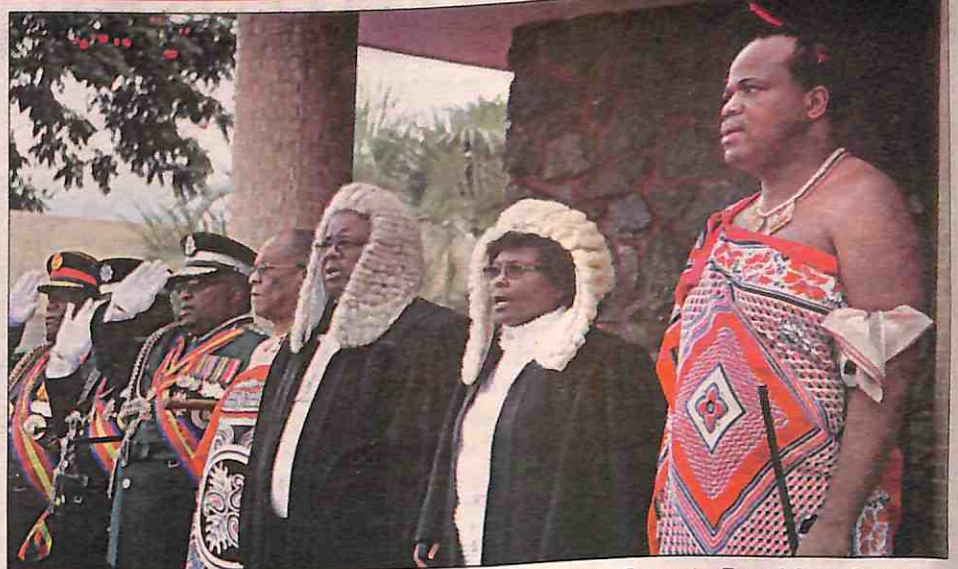
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THIRD SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT



WENA WAPHAKATHI: His Majesty King Mswati III arrives in Parliament during the official opening of the 3rd Session of the 10th Parliament yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



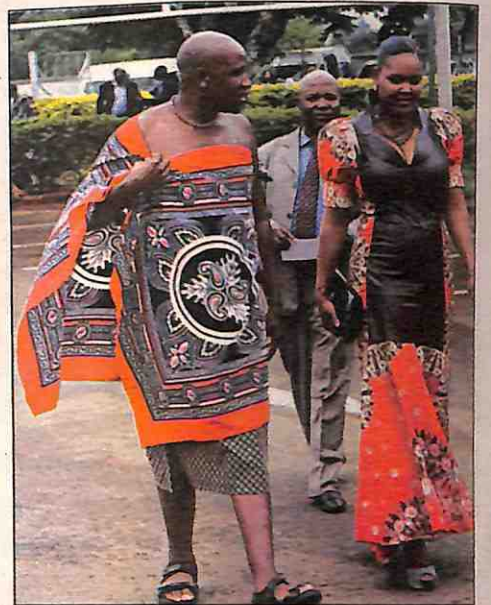
ROYAL SALUTE: His Majesty King Mswati III, Senate President Senator Gelane Zwane, House of Assembly Speaker Themba Msibi, PM Sibusiso Dlamini and security forces chiefs during the singing of the national anthem.



NICE TO MEET YOU: Minister of Housing Phiywayinkhosi Mabuza greeting Minister of Home Affairs Princess Tsandzile.



NORTH MEETS SOUTH: Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini (c) House of Assembly Speaker Themba Msibi and Senate President Senator Gelane Zwane in a jovial mood.



ME AND MY WIFE: Minister of Tinkhundla Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini and his wife Nonhlanhla.



PACKED: Invited guests and prominent persons at the public gallery.



GRAND ENTRANCE: Swazi Observer board member Senator Princess Phumelele being ushered in.

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SW

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THIRD SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT



INSPECTION: His Majesty inspecting the guard of honour.



ATTENTION: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi with Senate President Senator Gelane Zwane, House of Assembly Speaker Themba Msibi and Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini during the singing of the national anthem.



BUT SERIOUSLY: Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula and Manzini North MP Jan Sithole sharing a light moment.



IN GLASSES: MP Chief Magudvulela and wife LaMalangwane.



ALL SMILES: SPTC Managing Director Petros Dlamini with Bishop Samson Hlatshwako.

CAN'T MISS OUT: Bheki Dlamini and Central Bank Governor Majozo Sithole.



SUPER BUDDIES: Senator Mike Temple and Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo.

LAUGH A WHILE: Former Minister of Justice Senator Sibusiso Shongwe was also present.



YOUR VIEW: Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Jabulile Mashwama being interviewed by journalists upon arrival.

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EAT YOUR WORDS MINISTER MASHWAMA

Stories by Bodwa Mbingo

Who is fooling who on progress or lack of it at the E800 million Phuzumoya fuel reservoir project in the Lubombo region? If it is reports by the *Observer on Saturday*, then the reader shall be the judge.

If it is the ministry of natural resources and energy, particularly the incumbent Minister Jabulile Mashwama, then again the reader will be the judge.

Despite the Minister Mashwama, through her Principal Secretary (PS) Winnie Stewart, having insisted in this publication that indeed there is work being done on the site at Phuzumoya, but the actual situation on the ground depicts a different story altogether. In a strong worded statement they were bold enough to state in no uncertain terms that the progress on site was beyond the comprehension of the media personnel that broke the story that the minister had indeed lied to parliament about the said progress.

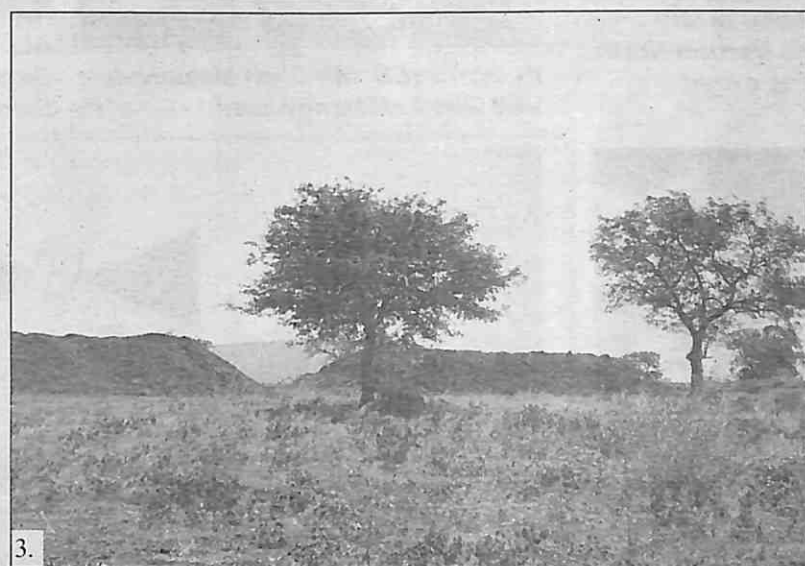
The statement from the ministry published in *Observer on Saturday's* edition of September 5, 2015, said in part; "The ministry is desirous to factually put it categorically clear that the project is on track as per the honourable minister's submission in the 2015/16 first quarter report. Most of the preliminary works undertaken were not labour intensive and did not require people to be on site on a full time basis. Employment opportunities are still available in the project as soon as phase 2 of the project commences. Phase 2 entails bulk earthworks, civil works, mechanical, and electrical works".

The ministry further highlighted that the project plan is that Kantey and Templer (the project managers) will start the earthworks before the end of last year. It was estimated that the project will be commissioned in 2017 as presented to Parliament by the minister.

"Projects of this nature which are highly specialised require careful planning in the designs hence delays may be anticipated. The ministry humbly assures the public that the project will be completed within the two (2) year plan," further read the statement.

However, a visit by our news crew to the site this week found that instead of Phase 2 of the work having commenced, but even the site office and heavy machinery that was initially on site have vacated the area. It now depicts a site that was, with overgrown vegetation especially on the ground top soil that had been removed to kick-start the project. There is absolutely no activity on the site and by the look of things it will take time for this much awaited project to eventually commence. This is therefore contrary to the promise by the ministry that the second phase of the project would commence before the end of last year.

This is despite that exactly on October 18, 2013, His Majesty King Mswati III, amid great expectations



VELDS: 1. *Observer on Saturday* Reporter Sandile Nkambule closely looks at a sneaker at the abandoned site while Head of Investigations Ackel Zwane ponders on the next move. This is where the Phuzumoya Fuel Reservoir's site office was pitched. 2. This is another picture showing the abandoned site. 3. Overgrown vegetation that was found on the site. 4. This is the top soil where vegetation has also grown. (Pics: Bodwa Mbingo)

and relief, got on an excavator and conducted a sod-cutting ceremony to mark the official launch of the construction of the strategic oil reserve facility at Phuzumoya in the Lubombo region.

Then, it was announced that the

multi-million job was a joint venture between the Kingdom of Swaziland, American Tank and Vessel (Pty) LLC, Kuwait and other stakeholders. With thousands of jobs expected to come out of the project, His Majesty thanked American Tank and Vessel

for bringing a project of such magnitude into the kingdom. As those gathered for the launch - cheered, the King said: "The project that I bring to you today is one that is geared into transforming lives and take the entire region into greater heights. Our coming here today is to present this big project to the entire region knowing quite clearly and understanding that this is your livelihood and your betterment". About two years later and having obtained feedback from the ministry that indeed the project had no glitches and was continuing according to schedule, the King, during the official opening of parliament last year encouraged investors to take advantage of the project. "With the Phuzamoya fuel reserve project now underway,



WHAT NOW?: Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Minister Jabulile Mashwama.

we encourage investors to consider establishing a petroleum industry in the area, which has been reserved for energy development. While we pursue our energy objectives, the nation is encouraged to use electricity sparingly to avoid load shedding," the King said, then, in expressing the country's priority on energy.

Residents scramble for promised jobs

The mere sight of seeing a car drive to the site of the E800 million Phuzumoya fuel reservoir project brings hope to the people of the areas surrounding the site including Ka-Mkhweli, Siphofaneni and KaNgcamphalala.

This week as our team made its way to the now abandoned site, a group of residents approached the company's car to enquire if they were from the project managers and were there to begin employing people that will work on the project. It has taken days for them to see a car driving towards the project site and considering promises from the ministry of natural resources and energy that the project would be up and running before

the end of last year, their plight is quite understandable.

These jobs were promised to the community of Ka-Mkhweli when the project was introduced to the area's *umphakatsi*. It was reported in November 2014 that the South African company that was awarded the tender to construct the oil reserve, Kentey and Templer Consulting Engineers, had assured that at least 300 locals would be employed during the two-year period of construction. The company's Project Manager Andrew Jensen then said about 200 to 300 Swazi nationals would be employed by his company while the rest of the team would be from headquarters in South Africa.

How ministry came

Reference is made to the Article titled "Fuel Project: Minister's lies to Parly exposed", published by *Observer on Saturday*, 29th August, 2015 by Bodwa Mbingo.

The ministry of natural resources and energy wishes to correct the wrong impression, on this very important national project, that might have been created either with intent or through ignorance by the media personnel who wrote the article.

Provided

The honourable minister of natural resources and energy provided accurate and factual information about the progress of the project in her 2015/16 first quarter report.

There is absolutely no reason why the honourable minister would lie or provide inaccurate information to Parliament on this project. The fact remains that there is presently no challenge facing the implementation of this project.

So far the project is on track and the following preliminary works, in phase 1, of the project plan have been undertaken:-

- A construction workplan has been prepared by Kantey and Templer and activities are undertaken in line with the workplan.
- Designs for the fuel facility have been completed by Kantey and Templer.

...What was reported last year

Fuel project: Minister's lies to Parly exposed

Stories by Bodwa Mbingo

Despite Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Jabulile Mashwama stated in parliament recently that there were no challenges facing the construction of the E800 million Phuzumoya fuel reservoir undertaking, but it would seem the project is far from commencing.

The minister even declared that the construction designs and construction work-plan has been finalised and that preliminary works have commenced on the site.

However, the *Observer on Saturday* can reveal that there is absolutely no activity on the site at the fuel reserve facility and instead heavy plant machinery, including a TLB, has been moved from the area to other serious and activity based projects around the country including the upgrading of the Gwamile Street stretch that leads to the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services (SBIS).

The only semblance of a project that was started on the site are heaps of soil dug out at the beginning and a caterpillar that is rotting away as its parts are slowly but surely being dismantled.

Another activity next to the site is works being done by the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) in constructing a transformer to increase their efficiency around the site. All this is despite that His Majesty King Mswati III officiated in the sod-cutting ceremony on the site on October 19, 2013 for this project that was to provide many jobs for ordinary Swazis.

The project essentially embraces the construction of a 90 million litres national strategic fuel facility, which will ensure that the country's energy sector assumes its central role in the development of the country and the economy. About nine months



RUSTING AWAY: This caterpillar and a heap of soil is what remains on the site as work has still not commenced on the Oil Reserve Project. (Pic: Bodwa Mbingo)

later, Minister Mshwama introduced the new company that would carry out the project to the KaMkhweli chiefdom as she explained that there had been delays as the company that initially identified to do the work, AT & V, had failed to sign a contract with government.

She therefore introduced South Africa-based company-Kantey and Templer Consulting Engineers, the same company that erected fuel reserves at the KMI International Airport as the new company to implement the project.

However, as of now many residents from Phuzumoya and surrounding areas including Siphofaneni Member of Parliament (MP) Gundwane Gamedze have been left disappointed upon the inspection of the site following Minister Mashwama's inaccurate outbursts in a report presented in parliament that work had commenced on the site.

The minister disclosed that the identifica-

tion and mapping of affected community fields has been completed with maps having been submitted to the ministry of agriculture for crop promotion evaluation.

She said preliminary designs for the road construction have been conducted. She said the ministry has engaged the Swaziland Electricity Company for the supply of electricity and the Swaziland Railways for the supply of bulk water to the site and obtained a right of way.

"The ministry has engaged the ministry of public works and transport to facilitate the construction. Construction designs and construction work-plan has been finalised and preliminary works have commenced on site," she said, in her 2015/2016 first quarter report.

However, a man found on the site confirmed that there was no activity on the site and that the heavy plant machinery that had remained unused on the site had been moved to work on other projects.

Community waiting in vain for at least 300 jobs

The community of KaMkhweli in the Lubombo region is still waiting but in vain for at least 300 job opportunities that were promised to them when the project was introduced to the area's chiefdom.

The *Observer on Saturday* reported in November last year that the South African company that was awarded the tender to construct the oil reserve, Kantey and Templer Consulting Engineers, had assured that at least 300 locals would be employed during the two-year period of construction.

The company's Project Manager Andrew Jensen then said that about 200 to 300 Swazi nationals would be employed by his company while the rest of the team would be from South Africa.

"In as far as job opportunities are concerned, I must assure government that we are going to employ about 200 to 300 locals within the two-year period," Jensen said.

He said they were going to be on site within the next two weeks and would

definitely meet the two-year target they have been given by government.

In another interview with the area's MP Gundwane Gamedze, he said he was more than happy that about 300 people from his constituency would benefit from the project.

"As much as we are aware that they will come with their own engineers and technicians, I am, however, happy that locals will be employed," Gamedze said.

Appealed

He appealed to all those who would be employed to respect their job and always stick to the norm that Swazis are known for - respect.

He, however, appealed to the company to fulfil its promises and not do what other foreign companies do, bring about 90 percent of their staff and employ a few Swazis.

However, even he has been left waiting and upon his recent inspection of the site he was left disappointed that still there is no activity on site while residents from his constituency continue to be unemployed.

with guns blazing:

- Kantey and Templer has cleared the bush and the top soil has been stripped,

- The ministry has zoned the site, co-ordinates for the project have been defined and a co-ordinate diagram has been produced,

- The Swaziland Electricity Company, at the ministry's request, has fenced the area and is constructing a transformer to service the fuel facility.

- The ministry has identified community fields working with the ministry of agriculture, maps of the affected fields have been produced and the ministry of agriculture has evaluated the fields,

- The ministry of public works and transport has done preliminary designs for the access road to the site, estimated the cost of con-

structing the access road and is working on finalising the detailed designs,

- The Swaziland Railway has been engaged on the supply of bulk water to the site. The Swaziland Railway is on site working on the piping for the provision of the bulk water.

The ministry is desirous to factually put it categorically clear that the project is on track as per the honourable minister's submission in the 2015/16 first quarter report.

intensive

Most of the preliminary works undertaken were not labour intensive and did not require people to be on site on a full time basis. Employment opportunities are still available in the project as soon as phase 2 of the project

commences.

Phase 2 entails bulk earthworks, civil works, mechanical and electrical works.

Plan

The project plan is that Kantey and Templer will start the earthworks before the end of the year. It is estimated that the project will be commissioned in 2017 as presented to Parliament.

Require

Projects of this nature which are highly specialised require careful planning in the designs hence delays may be anticipated.

The ministry humbly assures the public that the project will be completed within the two (2) year plan.

Winnie T. Stewart (Mrs).
Acting Principal Secretary.



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Buy those set top boxes, there're okay - ICT

By Mbono Mdluli

Customers should not worry about the reports about the set top boxes that are said to be faulty because they are still functional.

This was said by Ministry of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Principal Secretary (PS) Sikelela Dlamini. He said this during a press conference at the ministry's conference room in Mbabane yesterday.

Dlamini mentioned that the purpose of convening the press conference was for them to set the record straight that the set top boxes were functional.

"There are reports that were published by one of the print media houses which are to the effect that set top boxes are not functional. We wish to state that we, as the ministry of ICT, know nothing to that effect," Dlamini said.

Dlamini pointed out that the ministry of ICT is the custodian of the network by which the set

top boxes are expected to function.

He said they had qualified engineers who were responsible for monitoring the network on a regular basis to make sure that everything was going smoothly. He highlighted that he was disturbed by the fact that those who wrote the story did not contact them for their own side of the story.

The principal secretary said it was the responsibility of those who wrote the story to contact them for a response on the issue.

Present

He said at present, the network did not cover all the areas of the country, so it could happen that the owners of the set top boxes could not receive the signal from the transmitters that were to transmit the signal to the set top boxes.

He also noted that they would implement intensive campaigns around the country, where they would sensitise people on how the set top boxes worked. The PS highlighted that it was possi-



DON'T WORRY: Ministry ICT PS Sikelela Dlamini.

ble that the set top boxes would appear to be faulty to many customers because they did not know how to fix them and the aerials that were supposed to receive the signals from the transmitters.

He also highlighted the terrain challenges that the country was facing.

He said because of the fact that some people were situated in areas that were mountainous, such challenges could also make it possible for customers to find their set top boxes not working.

He advised consumers of the gad-

gets to call the Swaziland Television Authority (STVA) if they encountered problems in relation to their set top boxes. He said that they would get the right advice from STVA. He also said it was unfortunate that even at the retail outlets where the set top boxes were sold, there were no dedicated staff members who were taught to educate their customers on how to set up the gadgets in order to get the motion pictures into their television sets.

To mitigate the situation, the PS said that they would make use of the public awareness unit within the ministry of ICT, which is headed by former Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services (SBIS) Journalist Phesheya Dube. Dlamini said the unit was responsible to disseminate information to the public on the whole exercise of digital migration.

Dlamini expressed hope in the fact that by the time the deadline approached, they would have covered all the areas that needed to be covered by the system in order for all Swazis to receive signals so that they could see the functionality of their set top boxes.

He said the Southern African Development Community (SADC) placed the deadline on December 2015.

However

He said they could not meet the December 2015 deadline because the set top boxes were still not there, but the network had already been there.

Ministry of ICT's Director Communication Stan Motsa shared the principal secretary's sentiments,

saying there was a story on Sunday in one of the newspapers that the set top boxes were not functioning in some specific areas in the country.

"We like to say that as a ministry, we have the system working and it is working with the old one. The reason for that is to make sure that the new one is covering areas that were not covered by the Swazi TV and Channel Swazi," Motsa said.

He admitted that there were some areas that were not covered by the system but as a ministry, they were running some tests to help them find out the exact areas that were not covered by the system. He said they were working tirelessly with the nation to make the exercise successful.

He also pointed out that they had a contractor on site to make sure that the whole exercise was successful.

The set top boxes are electronic gadgets that are responsible for receiving television and radio signals from an analogue format to a digital format, which enables a television picture to be clearer.

The picture is expected to move from a television station, where it is produced to various transmitters mounted in various places around the country.

The transmitters then transmit the picture signals to aerials mounted in various homesteads around the country.

The aerials then receive the signals, feed them to the set top boxes, which change those to digital signals so that they can be viewed on the television sets, which are only capable of playing analogue signals.

Dog meat to hit SA market in middle of February

JOHANNESBURG - A recent announcement has confirmed that there are shortages of meat everywhere in South Africa due to the recent dry season we had.

A lot of farmers have lost their cattle due to the lack of rain in the last couple of months. We actually have not had enough rain since summer started.

This drought did not hit South Africa alone, it also affected our neighbouring countries; Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique.

Meaning, we as a country cannot expect any assistance from them in terms of water and food supply since they are also affected. "In South Africa, the draught has kicked us and it has kicked us hard. We are now going for desperate measures. This has affected both crop and cattle", farmers say. It will be costly to import meat from countries like

Australia and the USA at the moment due to the financial problems we have in the country. The rand is very low compared to the dollar.

As we speak, our reserves are running dry and the government had to come up with a solution.

That is why in a recent meeting that was held with the Japanese minister of internal affairs, the South African government was advised to consider selling dog, cat and snake meat in butcheries, otherwise the country will starve to death.

Already

People are already eating it in countries like Japan, China, Canada, Ghana, and Australia. We do not know how South Africans will take these news. We are just also waiting for the reaction of the people of South Africa. We have had a chance to speak to a very successful restaurant owner in one of Joburg's popu-

lar restaurants and he confirmed that they are considering the move as they are also running out of supplies.

"The meat is already being sold at selected stores and restaurants in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, kwa Zulu Natal and the Western Cape. We are just waiting for the government to give the go ahead that we can officially sell it. But I can guarantee you that it was already being sold during the festive season and people bought it in numbers.

"This was just a trial, it tastes a little more like and look like beef I can say. And tourists from other countries have been asking that we serve it," he said.

Those who have tried it say it goes well with pap and gravy, or as stake, chops, maybe also with a little bit of peri-peri if you prefer it hot. There will be different dishes to choose from if you order at a restaurant. By Sigogo



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UN WARNS OF FOOD SHORTAGES IN SD

By Bodwa Mbingo

The country has been placed amongst others that face food shortages in the region due to delayed planting of necessary crops mainly due to the El Niño phenomenon.

According to the UN News Centre, in Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the World Food Programme (WFP) has highlighted that delayed planting of up to two months or more, severely impacts maize yields.

"As the window for planting closes, even good rainfall offers limited scope for recovery," the WFP warned. The UN food agency further underscored that the climate outlook is particularly concerning as it is coming on top of a poor harvest in 2014 and 2015.

"Poor regional cereal harvests from the 2014-2015 season have tightened cereal supplies. On average, harvests were 21 per cent lower than the 2013-2014 season and three per cent lower than the five-year average. In total, the cereal deficit for the region is 7.9 million tonnes for the 2015/2016 marketing year," WFP noted. It was reported that the El Niño conditions have caused the lowest recorded rainfall between October and December across many regions of Southern Africa in at least 35 years, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has reported in its latest report.

The agency found that short-term forecasts from January to March indicate the high probability of continuing below-normal rainfall in the south, signaling that this could become one of the worst droughts on record. "The current growing season, which spans from October 2015 to April 2016, is developing under the peak of the El Niño, with the first phase of the growing season characterised by severe and widespread rainfall deficits," the situation report highlights. "El Niño's impact on rain-fed agriculture is severe. Poor rainfall combined with excessive

...WFP highlights that climate outlook is 'particularly concerning' in southern Africa due to El Niño that has put millions at risk of starvation, devastated croplands, and dried up rivers across Southern and Eastern Africa



BOTTOMLINE: Food distribution in the Lubombo region began in earnest last week marking the start of harder times ahead. (Pic: Ackel Zwane)

temperatures create conditions not conducive for crop growth," it adds.

Although El Niño's impact on people's livelihood reportedly varies according to preparedness and response capacities, rain-dependent small holder farmers comprising at least 50 per cent of the population in Southern Africa are the hardest hit.

Drought

Because of this therefore Southern and Eastern Africa are in the grips of a historic drought blamed on El Niño that has put millions at risk of starvation, devastated croplands, and dried up rivers across the region.

WFP estimated that up to 14 million people are facing hunger due to failed crops, skyrocketing commodity and food prices, and the lowest levels of precipitation in 35 years. Among the worst affected areas are Malawi, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe declared a state of emergency this week, following Lesotho, with as many as a quarter of the country's 13 million people in need of food aid, the Associated Press (AP) reported. Scenes of desperation played out in many drought-stricken parts of the country, where families are going weeks without a proper meal and bartering what little food

they have. Others have accused authorities of punishing opponents of the government by denying them food aid, a claim denied by the government, according to the AP.

In Somalia, an estimated 3.7 million people will be "acutely food insecure" through 2016 and 58 300 children face death if they are not treated," Peter de Clercq, the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, said in a statement.

A quarter of South Sudan's population is at risk, with 40 000 "on the brink of catastrophe" according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. Ethiopia officials, meanwhile, are reporting that the drought which has caused crop failures and decimated livestock herds is even worse than 1984, according to the FAO. Then, conflict combined with famine left as many as one million people dead.

"We wandered for three months, losing every single animal apart from two donkeys," said Saido Ahmed Keyat, a 29-year-old mother of five, whose family had boasted 200 sheep and goats, 15 cattle, eight camels, and seven donkeys, according to Reuters. "All my children are malnourished. They need milk and many more things." The drought, which has hit nearly a dozen countries from

Angola to South Africa, is a result of record-strength El Niño, which occurs every three to five years on average when the equatorial waters of the Pacific Ocean warm significantly.

While El Niño is expected to lead to warmer-than-average temperatures and heavier rain in parts of the United States including parched California, it has been linked to drought in many parts of the world from Australia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brazil, and southern Africa. Simon J. Mason, the chief climate scientist at Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), said there has been "a lot of essentially useless rainfall over the South Indian Ocean, but unfortunately not very much over Madagascar, and less rainfall over the land."

Dry

"December was exceptionally dry in the southernmost part of the subcontinent — South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, parts of Botswana — and January has been very dry in the southeast, including Zimbabwe," he said. "There has been a lot rainfall over Namibia lately, sufficient to actually cause some flooding. But most of southern Africa has continued to be dry." Anthony Barnston,

IRI's chief forecaster, explained the link between El Niño in southern Africa and periodic drought is a "widely accepted fact among climate scientists." "Warmed ocean temperature over the tropical Pacific cause more rainfall there, which triggers an increase in a poleward circulation cell called the Hadley circulation, which in turn causes the tendency for subsid-ing air and decreased rainfall at sub-tropical latitudes both north and south of the equator," he said.

Southern Africa lies along such a latitude, he added, and the strengthened Hadley circulation alters the strength and position of the jet streams that drive weather patterns.

"Some locations near the equator get more rainfall than normal during El Niño, while others have reduced rainfall," he said. Barnston said El Niño, rather than climate change or even poor agriculture practices, was most likely responsible for the crisis — which could continue for several weeks or even months, since the forecast calls for below average rainfall through March. But Mason said El Niño alone couldn't be blamed entirely for the food shortages. He also said persistent, warm temperatures prior to the drought and poor drought preparedness have contributed to the severity of food shortages.

"Because this is the summertime there, the dry conditions also mean that it has been very hot, and these high temperatures have been drying out the soil, which is not helping the crops," he said.

In Zimbabwe, Mason noted that the state of emergency was "partly because of El Niño, but also because of the economic crisis in the country."

"The agricultural sector there is still recovering from the political situation during the 2000s. Agricultural production plummeted in response to the land redistribution policies during the 2000s, and the economy as a whole suffered severely because of a loss of investor confidence and withdrawal of international investment," he said.

"One can argue as to whose fault all this is, but the country has become much more vulnerable to climate variability because of its inability to grow sufficient food for its population."

Long Distance Transport agrees to pay vilified worker

By Ackel Zwane

Swaziland Transport and Allied Workers' Union [STAWU] affiliated member, Musa Zulu who was employed by Long Distance Transport (Pty) Ltd has won a litigation claim against his employer to the tune of E20 000.

In a memorandum of agreement made possible under the auspices of the Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission [CMAC] dated February 2, 2016 in Manzini Swaziland, parties to the dispute concluded and duly executed the agreement as a final conclusion of the case.

STAWU National Coordinator Sticks Nkambule who represented Zulu remarked "our position has always been that Zulu is being vilified for his role and functions he was discharging as a vibrant worker leader, to the last day of his dismissal.



INJURY TO ONE: Musa Zulu has won his unfair dismissal case against the employer (below) and is now E20 000 richer, thanks to STAWU.



Therefore the circumstances surrounding his dismissal on account of a so called 'misconduct' were flawed and unsustainable in law.

The settlement therefore invariably reaffirms this position."

"Reinstatement was not an option. I got a better paying

job following my dismissal last year. The settlement comes with relief not only financially but it further confirms my conscience in that I was at no fault. I am truly thankful to STAWU for providing moral and free legal support to the very end," commented Zulu.

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THIRD SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE 2016

SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE BEKUNENE
EPHALAMENDE

INTRODUCTION

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS AUGUST OCCASION HERE AT LOBAMBA FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE **THIRD SESSION OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT** OF THE KINGDOM OF E-SWATINI. WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATE THE PRESENCE OF ALL OF YOU, INCLUDING OUR VISITORS WHO HAVE TRAVELLED FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE TO BE WITH US HERE TODAY. OUR GREETINGS ALSO EXTEND TO THOSE WHO ARE FOLLOWING TODAY'S IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS THROUGH THE VARIOUS MEDIA.

DIALOGUE IS KEY FOR PEACE TO PREVAIL

AS WE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR 2016, WE THANK THE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY THAT PREVAILS IN THE KINGDOM. AS E-MASWATI WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT THE HARMONY WE HAVE IN THE COUNTRY HAS CONTINUED TO BIND US TOGETHER WITH ONE COMMON PURPOSE OF ATTAINING A DEVELOPED STATUS BY 2022. CONFRONTATIONAL BEHAVIOUR IS NOT PART OF OUR TRADITION AS E-MASWATI. WHEN THE NATION IS NOT UNITED ENEMIES, SUCH AS TERRORISTS, GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO PENETRATE IT AND CAUSE DIVISION THAT IS AGAINST OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES. OUR SOCIETAL NORMS ARE THAT, WHERE THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND FIND COMMON GROUND. DIALOGUE REMAINS THE CORE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY. FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES AND INFLUENCES THAT UNDERMINE OUR NATIONHOOD AND INTEGRITY SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED AT ALL TIMES. WE APPLAUD E-MASWATI FOR BEING ABLE TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN MODERNITY AND OUR TRADITIONS WHILST PROTECTING WHAT DEFINES US FROM OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

NATION BUILDING

THIS YEAR WE APPEAL TO THE ENTIRE NATION TO BE COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY IS IN THE HANDS OF US ALL, COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY. THE NATION WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES THAT ARE HIGHLY DEVELOPED, WITH STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH, ARE HARD WORKERS. WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE ADAGE THAT GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES. WHERE THERE IS NO PAIN IN THE FORM OF HARD WORK, THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE NO GAIN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY. LAZINESS MAY PAY OFF FOR ONE NIGHT, BUT HARD WORK WILL PAY OFF FOR A LIFETIME. THEREFORE, FROM THIS DAY FORTH, MAY WE ALL DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS IN EVERYTHING THAT WE DO. OUR NATIONAL MOTTO SHOULD BE: **"HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO A MEANINGFUL SUSTAINABLE ECO-**

NOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MY COUNTRY". I PUT THIS CHALLENGE BEFORE ALL EMASWATI TODAY, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD.

2015 THE YEAR THAT WAS THE NATION WILL KNOW THAT 2015 WAS A YEAR OF DIVERSE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS UMKHOSI WEMAGANU, GOOD FRIDAY, UMHLANGA REED DANCE AND INCWALA CEREMONY, AMONGST OTHER IMPORTANT NATIONAL EVENTS. FURTHERMORE, THERE WAS COMMISSIONING OF A VARIETY OF PROJECTS THAT ARE GEARED TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

WE WISH TO THANK ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND STAFF FOR A JOB WELL DONE. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE UPHOLDING THE INTEGRITY OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT INSTITUTION IN HIGH ESTEEM. WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE LIVELY DEBATES DURING THE SECOND SESSION. THE NATION IS FURTHER ENCOURAGED THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY YOUR OVERSIGHT ROLE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY. YOU HAVE ALSO PASSED A NUMBER OF BILLS THAT ARE GOING TO PROPEL OUR KINGDOM TO GREATER HEIGHTS. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PUT THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY ABOVE YOUR OWN. THE NATION IS LOOKING UPON YOU TO CONTINUE PASSING BILLS AND POLICIES THAT WILL PROVIDE THE REQUIRED IMPETUS TOWARDS OUR NATIONAL VISION OF ATTAINING FIRST WORLD STATUS BY 2022.

KINGDOM'S PERFORMANCE IN GDP AS WE TAKE A MICROSCOPIC LOOK AT OUR ECONOMY, INDICATORS POINT TOWARDS A DECLINE IN THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) FROM 2.5% IN 2014 TO 1.7% IN 2015.

IN TERMS OF INFLATION, THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCED ACCELERATION FROM 4.7% TO 5.7%. THE LOCAL CURRENCY REPORTED MASSIVE LOSSES AGAINST MAJOR CURRENCIES, DUE TO THE RAND BEHAVIOUR TO WHICH THE LILANGENI IS PEGGED. THE PRIMARY SECTOR HAS REMAINED STATIC WITH NOTICEABLE DECLINES IN CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, THE SECONDARY SECTOR IS ESTIMATED TO GROW FROM 1.4% TO 2.0% IN 2016 AGAINST THE PREVIOUS YEAR. LET ME HASTEN TO INDICATE THAT THE MEDIUM TERM GROWTH IS DEPENDENT ON THE EXPORT SECTOR AND EXTENSIONS OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS.

FISCAL SITUATION

THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE US, BECAUSE OF THE HIGHLY UNPREDICTABLE SACU REVENUES THAT REMAIN ONE OF THE BIGGEST TESTS OF OUR TIMES. FOR THE 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR, IT IS PROJECTED THAT SACU RECEIPTS WILL FALL FURTHER THAN THE E6.9 BILLION OF THE YEAR 2015/16. WE THEREFORE NEED TO FASTEN OUR

BELTS 'TIGHTER' IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THIS PREDICAMENT. OUR PLANS FOR THE PERIOD AHEAD SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON THE TRANSFORMATION IMPERATIVES THAT WILL ACCELERATE GROWTH, ERADICATE POVERTY, CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY IN LIGHT OF THE PERSISTENT DROUGHT AND REDUCE INEQUALITY. IT REQUIRES GOVERNMENT SPENDING TO BE ALIGNED TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES. EFFORTS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN BUSINESS BY REMOVING CONSTRAINTS WHICH HINDER PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS) AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE INVESTOR ROADMAP PROGRAMME WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN THE KINGDOM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SWAZILAND INVESTMENT PROMOTION AUTHORITY.

PENSION FUNDS 30% FOR LOCAL INVESTMENT

AS A COUNTRY FACED WITH A CHALLENGE OF COMING UP WITH ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF REVENUE, AN OPPORTUNITY HAS PRESENTED ITSELF IN THE FORM OF THE REPATRIATED PENSION FUNDS. OUR LEGISLATION CALLS UPON ALL PENSION, RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE FUNDS TO INVEST AT LEAST 30% OF THEIR ASSET HOLDINGS WITHIN THE COUNTRY. THE INTENTION OF THIS PROVISION WAS TO ENCOURAGE DOMESTIC INVESTMENTS TO GROW THE ECONOMY WHILST PROTECTING THE RETURNS FOR THESE FUNDS. UTILISATION OF THESE RESOURCES BY THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY, REQUIRES CAREFUL PLANNING AND IDENTIFICATION OF VIABLE LARGE SCALE PROJECTS THAT WOULD YIELD RETURNS RANGING IN THE BILLIONS OF EMALANGENI. WE ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE BUSINESS SECTOR, INCORPORATING THE SMALL, MEDIUM AND LARGE SCALE ENTERPRISES THAT WOULD ENHANCE CAPACITY TO TAKE UP AND DELIVER MULTI-BILLION PROJECTS FOR THE COUNTRY. THE SOONER WE JOIN OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS MAXIMISING THIS OPPORTUNITY, THE QUICKER WE CAN REALISE A TURNAROUND OF OUR ECONOMY.

MINING AND QUARRY

A LOT OF WORK LIES AHEAD OF US IN DEVELOPING THE MINING AND QUARRY SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY ON DOWNSTREAM DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MINERALS. WE ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE NATION BENEFITS FROM PROCESSING ZONES FOR VALUE ADDITION OF OUR MINERALS AND JOB CREATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, GUIDED BY AN APPROPRIATE POLICY IN THIS REGARD. THIS POLICY SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY LEGISLATION THAT WILL ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARD THE NATIONAL INTERESTS AND PREVENT EXPORT OF OUR RAW MINERALS. THE CENTRAL BANK AND ALL RELEVANT STRUCTURES MUST ALSO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SAFEKEEPING OF OUR PRECIOUS STONES. THE COUNTRY LOOKS FORWARD TO THE COMMISSIONING OF THE GOLD

MINE AT LUFABA AND THE MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO ACCRUE FOR THE COUNTRY.

CLIMATE CHANGE

THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AS IT REMAINS A THREAT TO EVERY LIVING ORGANISM AND SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE CAN BE OBSERVED IN A CROSS RANGE OF SECTORS, FROM WATER, ECOSYSTEMS, BIODIVERSITY, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT, FOOD PRODUCTION AND SECURITY, TO HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHICH WAS ADOPTED DURING COP17 RECOGNIZES THAT THERE IS A NEED TO STRENGTHEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BUILD RESILIENCE. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE OUR KINGDOM REMAIN ON THE FRONTLINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARE ALREADY EXPERIENCING IMPACTS SUCH AS THE CURRENT DROUGHT AND SEVERE AND LONGER HEATWAVES THIS SEASON. THIS IS ALREADY JEOPARDISING GAINS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY, HUNGER, AND HIV/AIDS THAT THE COUNTRY HAS ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE WORLD FURTHER AGREED TO COMMIT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR ADAPTATION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY BUILDING. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SUPPORT SINCE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE THE KINGDOM SUFFER THE MOST AND YET WE DON'T POLLUTE THE ENVIRONMENT.

AGRICULTURE

OUR MAJOR SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT, THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH IS THE TRADITIONAL BACKBONE AND KEY DRIVER OF OUR ECONOMY, HAS BEEN HARDEST HIT BY THE DROUGHT SITUATION. IN 2015 AGRICULTURE SHOWED DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE, ESTIMATED TO BE JUST ABOUT STATIC AT 0.3%. SUGAR PRODUCTION HAS BEEN LARGELY AFFECTED WITH THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT LOSSES. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO THROW OUR HANDS IN THE AIR IN DESPAIR. THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT VARY IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO UTILISE EXISTING LAND AND PRODUCTIVE SOILS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION. A CAREFUL ANALYSIS NEEDS TO BE CARRIED OUT TO DETERMINE WHICH PRODUCTS CAN BEST YIELD ECONOMIC BENEFIT AND GENERATE EMPLOYMENT. LET EVERY HOME-STEAD MAKE AN EFFORT TO PLANT A CROP WHILE AREAS THAT ARE BLESSED WITH WATER ARE ENCOURAGED TO FULLY UTILISE THE AVAILABLE LAND TO SUPPLEMENT THE FOOD SHORTFALL IN OTHER AREAS. THE LESSONS TO BE DRAWN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE IS THE NEED TO INVEST IN WATER HARVESTING TECHNOLOGIES AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS THAT WILL HELP US COPE WITH ANY ADVERSE WEATHER PATTERNS IN THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT

NEAR FUTURE. THE NATION SHOULD ALSO PURSUE THE PROGRAMME OF UTILISING AVAILABLE FARMS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. ONCE ALL APPROPRIATE LOGISTICS HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE, THE NATION WILL BE INFORMED OF THE TASK TEAM TO DRIVE THIS PROGRAMME. ITS MANDATE WILL EXPAND TO RURAL COMMUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE SUBSISTENCE FARMERS TO COMMERCIALISE AND ALSO ASSESS SUITABLE AREAS FOR MASS FOOD PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF THIS BARREN SPELL.

HEALTH

AS A NATION WE ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO ADOPT HEALTHY LIFESTYLES. WE NEED TO ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE, UNDERTAKING REGULAR CHECK-UPS FOR EARLY DETECTION OF DISEASES AND ADOPTING PROPER EATING HABITS, AS THIS WILL SAVE LIVES AND HELP US LIVE LONGER.

AS COMMUNITIES, WE ALSO NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT DECENT STANDARDS OF LIVING WITH ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AT REASONABLE DISTANCES. WHERE THERE ARE WATER SHORTAGES, WE MUST MAKE MEANS TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF DISEASES.

GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE FACILITIES, AMBULANCES AND MEDICATION ARE PROVIDED TO SUPPORT QUALITY HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY. THE NATION WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW NATIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE.

THE COMPLETION OF THIS HOSPITAL WILL ENSURE THAT THE REFERRALS THROUGH PHALALA AND CIVIL SERVICE FUND ARE REDUCED TO A VERY MINIMAL LEVEL.

FURTHERMORE, A CHEMOTHERAPY UNIT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AT THE MBABANE GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AND IS PROVIDING SERVICES FOR BREAST CANCER TREATMENT.

WE NEED TO DEVELOP THIS FACILITY SO THAT MORE CANCER PATIENTS CAN BE TREATED LOCALLY, CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THESE FORM THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF REFERRALS THROUGH THE PHALALA FUND TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

WE APPLAUD GOVERNMENT, WORKING WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS, FOR ENHANCING THE CORDIAL PARTNERSHIPS IT HAS WITH A VARIETY OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO EXTEND SERVICES WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR HOSPITALS.

ENDING AIDS IN SWAZILAND:

THE YEAR 2016 SETS THE PACE FOR IMPLEMENTING INITIATIVES AIMED AT ENDING AIDS THROUGH STRATEGIES THAT ARE INCLUSIVE OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND DEEPLY ROOTED IN COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP.

MASWATI YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS AS ONE OF THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF HEALTHY LIVING. LIKEWISE, NO LISWATI SHOULD BE DENIED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING HIV TREATMENT.

OUR FIRM RESOLVE TO MAKE THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI AN AIDS FREE SOCIETY BY 2022, CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE US AS A NATION TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTIONS TOWARDS SAVING EVERY SINGLE SWAZI LIFE WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY.

TY. I WISH, THEREFORE, TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATION OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES TO THE AIDS RESPONSE WITH AN EMPHASIS THIS YEAR ON INVESTING IN HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMMES SO THAT OUR DREAM OF A NATION WITH ZERO NEW HIV INFECTIONS IS MET AND REALIZED. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE DECREASING RATE OF NEW INFECTIONS BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE SHOULD RELAX. WE MUST REACH A STAGE WHERE WE CAN CELEBRATE LIKE THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE 100% ERADICATION OF EBOLA.

WE ARE AWARE THAT AIDS TREATMENT REQUIRES EXPENSIVE DRUGS SO INVESTMENT IN DRUG MANUFACTURING TO REDUCE THIS COST, IS AN AREA THIS COUNTRY NEEDS TO FOCUS ON. WE EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION TO OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS FOR THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS.

WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY

GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST TIMELY AND APPROPRIATELY IN THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY ARE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE ATTAINMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL VISION 2063.

IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE IS REDUCED BOTH AT HOME AND SCHOOL. TO ENSURE EQUITY IN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES TO ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN.

DESPITE THE MEAGRE FINANCIAL RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR KINGDOM. THE NATION AT LARGE IS URGED TO SUPPORT THE WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY AS WELL. THE YOUNG AND THE WORKING CLASS HAVE TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO TAKE CARE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY THEIR PARENTS.

EDUCATION

THE KINGDOM RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF RELEVANT EDUCATION AND SKILLS IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ECONOMY. TO THIS END, EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO BROADEN THE CURRICULA AT GENERAL SCHOOL LEVEL AND TO RE-ALIGN PROGRAMMES AT POST-SECONDARY LEVEL.

THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IS CHANGING RAPIDLY AND AS NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE BEING INTRODUCED, MORE APPROPRIATELY TRAINED HUMAN RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED. CLEARLY EDUCATION PAVES THE WAY TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ANY COUNTRY. WE ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE PRIORITIZING EDUCATION BY PROVIDING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO THIS SECTOR.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN CAPITAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE NATION WELCOMES THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND AND THE ROYAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.

THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL HELP TO UPSCALE HUMAN CAPITAL, STRENGTHEN UNISWA PROGRAMMES AND HELP TO ESTABLISH LINKS WITH INNOVATION, INCUBATION, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING PROGRAMMES.

THROUGH THE INNOVATION PARKS, THERE IS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THIS COUNTRY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURE, AGRO-PROCESSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INDUSTRIALISATION, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND INVESTMENT. WE ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP THIS SECTOR AS WE CAN BENEFIT A LOT AND FURTHER CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH. WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SCIENCE AND BIO-TECHNOLOGY PARK THIS YEAR.

CORRUPTION

FOR THE COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE ROOT CAUSE OF CORRUPTION MUST BE DEALT WITH AND ERADICATED COMPLETELY.

THERE ARE SIGNS OF PROGRESS, BUT THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. WE NOW NEED TO LOOK INTO THE AREAS THAT ARE FRUSTRATING THE MEANS TO END CORRUPTION, SO THAT WE ADDRESS THESE SHORTCOMINGS AND ENSURE THE COUNTRY IS TOTALLY FREE FROM THIS PROBLEM.

GOVERNMENT MUST ENFORCE STRINGENT CONTROLS TO ENSURE VALUE FOR MONEY AND SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY PRUDENT PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES. THOSE WHO ARE BENEFITING FROM THIS SINFUL SCOURGE SHOULD BE ASHAMED BECAUSE THEY ARE ENEMIES OF OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE URGE THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ORGAN TO CONTINUE SHARPENING ITS APPARATUS TO ARREST THIS SYNDROME. THE ANTI-CORRUPTION UNIT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE CORRUPTION IS ELIMINATED.

SADC SUMMIT

THIS COUNTRY IS A MEMBER OF MANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING OUR OWN REGIONAL ORGANISATION SADC WHERE WE PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY.

THIS YEAR THE COUNTRY WILL HOST THE 36TH SADC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT.

THE NATION HAS BEEN HONOURED TO HOST THIS SUMMIT ONCE AGAIN AND WE URGE EVERY CITIZEN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS MEMORABLE SUMMIT. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF SADC, IS TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OUR PEOPLE IN THE REGION GET TO ENJOY AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF LIVING WHERE ISSUES OF EMPLOYMENT, FOOD SECURITY, QUALITY HEALTH AND GOOD EDUCATION, AMONG OTHERS, ARE GUARANTEED. WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT THERE IS NO COUNTRY THAT CAN ACHIEVE THIS GOAL AND SURVIVE IN ISOLATION. THEREFORE, THROUGH SADC, WE ARE ABLE TO COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS IMPEDIMENTS TO OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. OUR MESSAGE TO THE NATION IS, LET US ALL WELCOME OUR DELEGATES WITH LOVE AND KINDNESS. WE SHOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH ALL THE FACILITIES THAT WILL MAKE

THEIR VISIT TO THE COUNTRY A MEMORABLE ONE. WE SHOULD MAKE THEM FEEL AT HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

GLOBAL ISSUES

TODAY THE WORLD IS FACED WITH NUMEROUS WARS THAT HAVE DEVASTATED THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, INCLUDING ELDERLY, CAUSING MIGRATION, SOME THROUGH THE SEA WHERE OTHERS HAVE PERISHED BEFORE THEY EVEN REACH THEIR INTENDED DESTINATIONS. THIS HAS FORCED THEM TO BECOME REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. TERRORISM IS AN ENEMY OF PEACE AND CO-EXISTENCE IN THE WORLD.

THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IS LIVING UNDER PERPETUAL FEAR OF TERRORISM AND REVOLUTIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD; IN EUROPE, ASIA, NORTH AMERICA AND AFRICA, TO NAME BUT A FEW REGIONS. PEOPLE NO LONGER TRAVEL PEACEFULLY AS THEY DO NOT KNOW WHERE TERRORISTS WILL STRIKE NEXT.

THESE ARE SITUATIONS THAT ARE NOT DESIROUS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. THE AU AND UN HAVE TO TAKE A LEADING ROLE TO END THIS. THERE IS A NEED FOR A VERY UNITED FRONT WITH A COMMON POSITION TO CONFRONT THIS ENEMY THAT IS MAKING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE DIFFICULT. AS THE AU PURSUES THE 2063 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, IT NEEDS TO STRENGTHEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE TO ENABLE IT TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR BELOVED CONTINENT.

TO OUR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS, WE THANK YOU MOST HEARTILY FOR THE SUPPORT YOU CONTINUE TO EXTEND TO THE KINGDOM OF E-SWATINI. MANY OF YOUR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS HAVE GIVEN A LIFE LINE TO OUR CITIZENS. WE REQUEST YOU TO TAKE OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO YOUR RESPECTIVE HEADQUARTERS YOUR EXCELLENCIES.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION WE WISH TO THANK ALL E-MASWATI FOR WORKING TOGETHER WITH A COMMON OBJECTIVE OF SUPPORTING NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS THAT ARE MEANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION.

WE ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS OF TODAY'S EVENT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER EVENTFUL YEAR OF LIVELY DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT.

THEME FOR 2016

NOW THAT WE HAVE SET OUT THE ROADMAP FOR GOVERNMENT, THE THEME FOR 2016-17 IS:

GROWTH FOR ALL, WITH ALL, BY OPTIMISING, INNOVATING, BOOSTING DOMESTIC REVENUE AND SPENDING EFFICIENTLY.

THIS THEME SHOULD BE A GUIDING PRINCIPLE AS GOVERNMENT PREPARES THE BUDGET FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

DECLARATION

IT NOW GIVES ME THE GREATEST PLEASURE TO DECLARE THAT THE 3RD SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS OFFICIALLY OPENED. I THANK YOU, MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.

By Ackel Zwane

Awarder who purchased a faulty car from a Matsapha Asian Dubai dealer by the name of Faruk of Azka Investments trading as Car Club is now without the E45 000 deposit and the BMW he would have loved to drive around.

This is because Dumsani Nicholas Sikhosana claims to have returned the car immediately after he detected that it was faulty. He says he even complained to Faruk when he paid the E45 000 deposit for the E55 000 vehicle that the engine light was indicating a fault on the dash board. He made sure that when he made Faruk aware that the car was faulty he had a witness in the person of a police officer who had accompanied him to the garage opposite the Matsapha Police College on October 6, 2015.

Injury

To add salt to injury when Sikhosana took back the car for repairs, Faruk demanded service fees but again the car was not fixed after several attempts and when he demanded his money back Faruk refused and told him 'thathile thathile'. Faruk kept the car and ran to court through lawyers where he obtained a court order on February 1 2016 allegedly issued by Magistrate David Khumalo at the Manzini Magistrate's Court. Sikhosana claims he was not consulted about the court processes and did not even represent himself or was informed via summons to instruct his lawyers to represent him.

The magistrate ordered that pending finalisation of this matter "a rule nisi do hereby issue returnable on the 15th February, 2016 in the following terms: authorising the applicant to

Thathile thathile Dubai dealer sells faulty BMW, withholds car, E45 000 deposit

...To add salt to injury the Asian dealer runs to court to mount more pressure on the buyer to pay the E10 000 balance on the faulty vehicle which he keeps in his premises and refuses with refund



keep in its custody the motor vehicle fully described hereunder pending payment by the respondent of the total sum of E10 000 within seven days of service of the rule nisi herein. That in the event the motor vehicle has been taken by respondent, the messenger of court be authorised and directed to take possession of the motor vehicle wherever and from whomsoever it may be found with the assistance of the Royal Swaziland Police should he or she deem appropriate and deliver it to the applicant or its attorneys. That in the event of payment in terms of prayer 39a)

herein above the respondent forfeits such monies as already paid pursuant to such agreement and the applicant to alienate the vehicle by private treaty. That Hitler Ndlangamandla be and is hereby appointed ad hoc messenger of the court for purposes of effecting service and executing all orders herein." The order is with immediate effect as interim relief pending the return date he and the respondent is called upon to show cause on Monday as to why the above rule nisi should not be made final.

Last October Sikhosana liked a

BMW 318i displayed on the yard at Car Club in Matsapha and immediately put together E45 000 as deposit for the vehicle. This is an import vehicle from Asia with no garage backup locally and often such vehicles come with their faults as it had been used in Asia before it was shipped to be sold in Swaziland without backup of franchises save for back yard or makeshift garages that do not deal specifically in the BMW make. "Faruk told me to take the vehicle even though its engine light was on, showing that there was something faulty with the engine. He said I should return it if it continued to give me problems."

Complication

He drove off but two hours into the road there were complications and he returned it the following day to claim another vehicle of the same make which Faruk did not have. Sikhosana left the vehicle with Faruk with promises that he would fix it and indeed he called him at a later date to come and collect it but it would seem nothing had been fixed between the 14th and the 20th of the same month. When he came to collect it Sikhosana says Faruk demanded E1 500 in repair fees but he did not have that money because he claims he was not

responsible for the fault. Instead Sikhosana demanded his deposit but Faruk told him: *thathile thathile*.

He returned on November 18 and Faruk allowed Sikhosana to take his vehicle only to discover that it was overheating and returned it the following day.

He says the vehicle was kept there until December 4 when Faruk called him and demanded E700 which he paid but when on arrival in Manzini from Matsapha driving the vehicle that persistent engine light bulb was on again and he quickly returned it. Sikhosana again demanded that he be given his deposit money because it was clear that he was being sold a dummy but Faruk refused reiterating: *thathile thathile*. Sikhosana says he then related his ordeal to his lawyer but could not raise money to instruct him to open a case because he had another pending case in Siteki in which the lawyer represented him.

He then went to the competitions commissions but could not be assisted because the matter was now with the courts. Faruk on the other hand claims Sikhosana drove the vehicle without changing its oil refusing to discuss the issue further. Sikhosana on the other hand says Faruk is merely defending himself.



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PAY DAY: MVA CEO Helmon Vilakati (c) with the road rangers and Mafutseni traffic police. MVA gave the rangers E1 500 each as incentives for doing a great job on the roads.

MVA PAYS 11 ROAD RANGERS E1 500 EACH

● We express our gratitude to the Fund for this kind gesture today. We volunteered to do this job but may I appeal to all those we share the road with to please show us some respect and stop calling us names

Story by Observer on Saturday Reporter

Livestock rangers commissioned to patrol stray animals along the MR3 and MR5 roads have appealed for cooperation between themselves and road users.

They requested for mutual respect amongst themselves, motorists, passengers and pedestrians as they go about their duties.

They claim to be continuously insulted and bad mouthed for executing their obligations having been sent by their respective chiefs from

the Mafutseni, Ka-Langa, Nyakatfo and Ebuhleni chiefdoms to drive stray cattle from the roads to minimise livestock related accidents.

They made these sentiments when receiving their E1 500 cash incentives courtesy of the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund



INCENTIVE: Vilakati handing over E1 500 to the Rangers Spokespers Johannes Dlamini.

(SMVAF) at the Mafutseni Police Station on Wednesday.

Johannes Dlamini, who spoke on behalf of the 11 rangers, said they were appealing for respect from other road users as theirs was a very important national task and they needed to be encouraged rather than insulted for the work they do.

He said as elderly men within their different communities, it was very disturbing to them to overhear other road users scorn them and label them 'bafana betinkhomo' (herd boys) among other names, considering that they (rangers) were the very people ensuring their (insulters) safety on the road.

Grateful

Addressing SMVAF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Helmon Vilakati about their plight, they said that they were

extremely grateful for the gesture extended by the Fund, which demonstrated that their work was being appreciated.

"We express our gratitude to the Fund for this kind gesture today.

"We volunteered to do this job but may I appeal to all those who use the road to please show us some respect and stop calling us names because besides the fact that we are doing an important national task, we are also elderly men who need to be accorded the degree of respect we deserve," he said. Dlamini further said that they would continue to diligently carry out their work to the best of their abilities to ensure that His Majesty's subjects and visitors were always kept safe from stray livestock that venture towards the roads.



WELL DONE: Mafutseni's Samson Ndlandla receiving his share.

...MVA boss expects more during buganu ceremonies

SMVAF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Helmon Vilakati, on the other hand, said he was sent by his superiors to convey their gratitude to the rangers doing their jobs diligently since the dispatch of the initiative which was launched by Minister of Public Works and Transport Pastor Lindiwe Dlamini in March last year. "You have been consistent and diligent in your duties and the positive change is visible and shows that your authorities chose you gentlemen because of their faith in you. As frontrunners of this initiative, we hope that you will con-

tinue with your good work so that even other areas may benchmark from your districts. We should also be cognisant of the fact that this road leads us to our newly established international airport, therefore, it is important that even tourists who visit our nation are protected from the dangers that stray livestock can cause," he emphasised.

Important

"As you know, we are headed for the national buganu ceremonies which will be held in these regions so it is important that you continue with the good work of driving livestock away," he added



APPRECIATIVE: Sebenele Dlamini of Ka-Langa accepting his cash.



HANDSHAKE: Khanya Motsa (Nyakatfo) being handed his cash.



HANDOVER: Ka-Langa's Phineas Mlotso accepting his incentive.



THERE YOU GO: Vilakati presenting Buhleni ranger Makhosonkhe Ginindza with his share.

By Ackel Zwane

With government's financial woes deepening and the obvious poor performance of parastatals coupled with executives exiting the arena, government's coffers are poised to decline even further.

In the aftermath of the exiting, Swaziland Electricity Company Chief Executive Officer Sengiphile Simelane, there are reports of similar exoduses from other parastatals where executives are said to be considering opting out to search for more rewarding opportunities, especially in neighbouring South Africa.

Interactions with experts has revealed that the performing parastatals such as the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund have had their funds not wisely injected into their intended purpose such as reasonable compensation for the victims of two major accidents involving umhlanga maidens and firemen attending to national assignments in Nhlalanga but instead the monies were channelled to football because of the influences by some business executives having a hand with the parastatals.

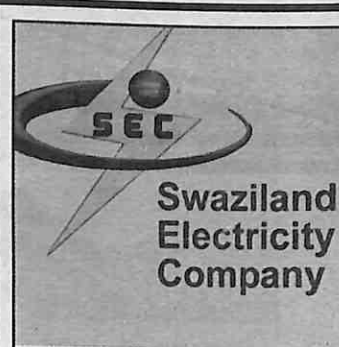
At SEC, the circular capping salaries for the executive management took its toll with some having had to take 27% to 33% pay cuts with no cost of living adjustments either which has resulted in the discrepancies in salaries with senior managers earning more than their executives. The circular, in a nut shell distorted the pay structure in such a way that morale fell because promotions were not coupled with the anticipated remuneration. There was no one interested in joining SEC to replace the exodus of experts in executive management and therefore, say experts, the boards of directors will have little or no effect to turn things around with the circular in place. SEC's immediate and groundbreaking assignment is that of generating power from coal in a bid to reduce dependence on South African generated power. Experts say Eskom, for instance, hired Brian Molefe as the executive to turn around that country's parastatal as opposed to letting executives exit from it.

We then interviewed Dr. Dumsile Dlamini, the Head of Economics at the University of Swaziland.

Observer On Saturday: It has

'FALL OF PARASTATALS COULD BE A MATTER OF TIME'

...Not sure about remedial action but the fact of the matter for me is that the country is financially strapped, not growing enough, not creating enough jobs...etc. The challenges are serious and so spending patterns must be revisited time and again- says Dr. Dumsile Dlamini



come to our attention that executives of parastatals want out because of the negative effects on their remuneration brought about by the circular that caps their benefits and salaries. One such has been the SEC chief executive and many more are said to be considering the option to leave.

In your analysis of the economic implications of this will the boards of these parastatals ever make a turnaround if the executives express dissatisfaction?

DR. D: First, what informed the packages for these executives? (e.g. market going rates). If packages were set at very high unsustainable levels then it was only a matter of time. What has informed the circular? Answers to these questions are important in survival of the parastatals going forward. I believe that the financial challenges facing government have also played a part in this.

OS: What impact would an eventual exodus of executives have on government revenue generated by parastatals?

tals?

DR. D: If executives leave the parastatals and Boards fail to find proper replacements then these will put a strain on government funds that are already under immense pressure. Failure of these institutions would have many negative consequences for Swaziland, the last thing that the country needs in the face of the numerous existing challenges.

OS: What could be the remedial course in the interim before the circular is reversed that could reverse or turn the exodus around? What about the timing of the circular, what could have influenced it?

DR. D: Not sure about remedial action but the fact of the matter for me is that the country is financially strapped, not growing enough, not creating enough jobs...etc. The challenges are serious and so spending patterns must be revisited time and again.

There is also the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation poor performance with

losses of E80 million in nine months for 2015.

The financial statement reflect that the net profit before tax achieved during the period under review shows a loss of E80.571 million, compared to budget loss of E23.572 million, resulting in an adverse variance of E57 million. In the previous year things were not good either with a loss for the same period standing at E44.597 million.

Total revenue for the nine months ended December 2015 amounts to E430 801 million, compared to budget of E458 541 million, resulting in an adverse variance of E27.741 million. The adverse variance is mainly on transit calls as a result of decline on traffic and on business sector revenue.

Mail box revenue and postage stamp revenue also performed badly during the period under review. During the same period in the previous year, the revenue achieved was E388. 910 million – 11 percent increase.

According to the privatisation roadmap, SPTC suffers from: excess prices, excess staff high loans, & virtual insolvency. Needs: MD, experienced board, strategy, technology, good labour relations, expert team for strategy, restructuring, identify and secure strategic partner, achieve new equity and turnaround.

The immediate action plan for the roadmap prior to privatisation was to initiate work on priority cases for regulation and restructuring

- Central Transport Administration
- Swaziland Water Services Corporation
- Swaziland Electricity Board
- Swaziland Posts & Telecommunications Corporation

In the privatisation, roadmap, it was noted that "but with loss of market share and failure to raise staff productivity, it became loss-making and now insolvent. Losses & loan repayments forced it to abandon its capital expenditure programme on which it

embarked in a bid to acquire new technologies to ensure survival.

Government equity finance and a strategic partner are all essential and urgent requirements. SPTC management is demoralised. It feels the government is unresponsive to its needs and has no intention of refinancing its business. Consideration of the Spirit Telecom Joint Venture is the action of a management that feels it has no better options open to it and is 'clutching at straws'. Without government understanding of the situation now and the initiation of immediate action to achieve turnaround of the business with the help of a strategic partner, before liberalisation of the market to competition, SPTC cannot survive as a viable business." Nothing much has deviated from this reality.

Agreed

It was further agreed in the roadmap that all utilities agreed that a priority task is the creation of an independent multi-sector regulator, appropriate for a small economy. Impact on price levels charged by utilities could be significant with their need to finance heavy capital investment. Regulatory involvement will ensure that these do not adversely impact on the poor, who could not afford them whilst striving to make progress with the development of the essential infrastructure of a modern economy. Electricity has a huge investment requirement to reduce its dependence on South Africa, which is itself running short of power supplies. Water and sewage also need huge investment and need to raise profitability to justify this investment and investment already made by radical reduction of 'unaccounted for water'. Well regulated, modernised telecommunications with broadband services are so essential for growth of a modern economy and Swaziland's telecommunications company will need the effective management from an international strategic partner for this to be achieved.

Battles in textile firms: Chinese avoid courts

By Ackel Zwane

A labour inspector has revealed how Chinese nationals, by nature, would rather avoid courts or government institutions to solve conflicts in the labour front.

This accounts for the many running battles between unions and labour inspectors in the attempt to harmonise labour relations on the shop floor. An inspector attached to the ministry of labour, but preferred to withhold his identity in line with government ban on civil servants from dealing with the media on professional or work related matters, said the experience of inspectors when dealing with oriental investors, especially those managing firms in the textile factories in Matsapha, has been that of 'dealing with the situation there and the 'instead of dragging conflicts through the courts.

This was corroborated by Andrew Hupert, the managing director of China

Solved who says conflict resolution between Chinese and western counter parties was a bit of a challenge "because there really isn't any such thing as conflict resolution in China in a traditional sense – at least between Chinese and non-Chinese counter-parties." The Chinese want harmony, the westerner wants justice.

Principles

Those two principles may co-exist before a business conflict exists – if both sides have structured their deal carefully – but they tend to destroy one another the moment conflict arises.

Harmony is soft and fluid – Justice is firm and solid, says Hupert. "Chinese don't use institutions to resolve conflicts with other Chinese. In fact, big parts of Chinese social behaviour have evolved with the implicit or explicit purpose of avoiding Chinese institutions like police, courts and government structures. Two members of a group

engaged in a conflict will usually opt to submit to a mutually respected third party (old guy) or a proto-jury (loud guys).

Once the police or courts get involved, it is straight up lose lose. Lately this is less true in the downtown sections of big cities, but traditional Chinese wisdom states that smart people keep officialdom as far away as possible."

However this has had a different interpretation by the workers on the lower end of the negotiation who suspect labour inspectors and union representatives are often dragged behind locked doors and served with endless teas instead of negotiating or putting demands as they are to the employer without necessarily engaging the otherwise 'shrewd' employer to negotiation because they end up being bribed or given gifts to give in.

Chinese counter-parties don't return cash or pay restitution even when they

acknowledge they are wrong. Disputes are remedied on the next deal.

"Yes, I see how you did get screwed here a little I'll get you back next time. We cool?" "Yeah, we cool". Cigarettes are lit, and harmony quietly returns. This doesn't work with foreigners because you are unlikely to remain engaged with a counter-party that has taken advantage of you.

Consequences

But the consequences have always fallen heavily on the workers who are told to either accept conditions or be sent home for good. 'Go home every day!'

Hupert further discloses that Chinese counter-parties tend to focus on cash during the negotiation – and non-cash benefits in the post-negotiation. In other words, they bargain about money, but often seek their real value in things like technology, design, contacts etc.

That's one of the reasons Westerners are often surprised at how often Chinese actors seem to be to 'destroy value' by 'screwing up' a potential long-term relationship. It may, in fact, be that the Chinese has already met his objectives when he got your business model or new product design.

Conflict

To him, there is no conflict to be resolved. They never planned on following through with the deal in the first place. For many Chinese counter-parties, taking advantage of foreign counter-parties is still part of the deal. This notion of "you can always fool a foreigner" faded briefly in the early part of the decade, but now seems to be back in full force.

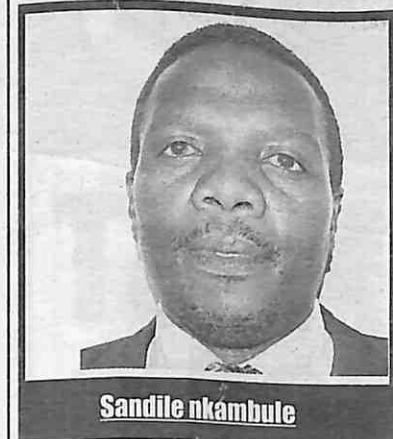
Anyone who has ever been involved in a Chinese court case can verify that even the winners lose.

While you pay expensive international lawyers and shell out for airfare and business hotels, your local counter-party is going to dinner with the bureaucrats in charge and will be back with his family by 10 pm.

CRIME WATCH

SCHOLAR PATROLS SAVING YOUNG LIVES

● Pupils also take the initiative to establish anti-crime clubs



Sandile Nkambule

Sometime in July last year the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund launched scholar patrols around the country where pupils were taught how to control traffic in a bid to curb accidents involving their peers.

A number of pupils have lost their lives through accidents caused by reckless drivers who fail to obey roads signs warning them about children crossing the road near schools.

In conjunction with the Swaziland Road Safety Council, the MVA has been able to equip schools with the traffic gear comprising reflector jackets and road signage in order for pupils to efficiently perform their scholar patrols.

Most schools in the Lubombo region have introduced the scholar patrols and it is worth noting that deaths involving pupils on the country's roads have declined drastically since the roads are manned both in the morning and afternoon when schools close for the day.

Pupils

The pupils have been taught how to control traffic along the zebra crossing lines in order to allow their peers to cross the road.

The good part about the project is that even community policemen and women have been roped in to assist the children as they go about manning the roads.

As part of MVA's mandate to educate road users about road safety, the project which was piloted in the Lubombo region has spread its wings to other parts of the kingdom as evident by schools within the semi-urban areas.

In fact schools have taken the initiative to even establish anti-crime clubs in which pupils have joined the fight against the scourge of crime.

In these clubs the pupils engage in crime prevention campaigns and also police themselves in order to avoid teen crime where children find themselves having a brush with the long arm of the law.

It is a known fact that some pupils smoke dagga while others are turned into thieves. Such clubs are therefore lauded within the country's schools, while more learning institutions are encouraged to establish same.

The Swazi saying *lugotjwa luse-*

manti comes in handy in such initiatives as the pupils get to learn about the dangers of crime at an early stage and talk about these amongst their peers.

PILOT PROJECT

The first ever scholar patrol pilot project was launched along the MR 8 Hhelehele/Big Bend road.

Meant to curb the ever escalating road fatalities that occur on this particular route network, the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund (SMVAF) donated scholar equipment to seven schools adjacent to this road.

Road Safety experts from neighbouring South Africa were invited to educate the children on how the patrol operates during its inception, with agents from the Fund observing its functionality weekly, to monitor and provide supervision to ensure the patrols are conducted accordingly.

With one month before the project attained its finality and a comprehensive report presented to the SMVAF management on the viability of the project, MVA interviewed a number of prominent individuals who utilise this route daily, to ascertain their opinions on whether the patrol has realised its mandate of regulating traffic, improving speed calming and facilitating safe crossing of the road, whilst instilling awareness on young scholars on the importance of road safety.

This is a great initiative that is sure to save lots of lives, the pupils are usually seen on the side of the road at their schools in their reflective jackets and signage which in turn makes motorists slow down when approaching them.

During the interviews, Nkilongo Member of Parliament Hans

Stefen advised the MVA Fund to benchmark with the schools in Zululand to see how they do their

scholar patrols, noting that it would also be in the best interest of the

pupils safety if the roads could consist of one and a half metre concrete strips on the sides of the roads as it has been observed that they still walk on the roads when travelling to school.

Hopefully the MVA Fund could assist with funding such an idea

together with other donors but their job is commendable in as far as child safety is concerned.

Helmon Vilakati -

Sincephetelo MVA Fund CEO / Road Safety Council Chairman - "Sincephetelo MVA Fund is generally concerned about the safety of school going children on all our roads.

Our observation pointed out that most of the schools were closely located to the road and therefore the pupils were always vulnerable to traffic accidents, especially when they cross the road to and from

school.

This observation gave impetus to the need for an intervention that seeks to minimise the risk.

One of such roads is the Hhelehele - Big Bend road, which has over 16 schools on the peripherals of the road. We therefore decided to collect a quick data of the traffic volumes using that road and also, data of pupils registered in each of these schools. We were duly informed that traffic is very heavy on that road especially in the mornings and that 7 000 pupils are exposed to traffic accidents on every school day.

Statistics also indicated that a number of pupils were killed, maimed and injured along the very road, hence the birth of the scholar patrol.

Our mandate is clear in as far as road safety is concerned; along with our stakeholders, we are tackling the bull by the horns. We are monitoring the exercise closely and whilst we can spot shortcomings, we are pleased nonetheless of the progress achieved in this short space of time."

Prince Mgebseni Dlamini,

Ngculwini Chief - "I always say that prevention is better than cure. As an individual who grew up in this area and went to school here as well, I witnessed a number of horrific accidents in which we lost our young loved ones whilst they travel to and from school.

I want to commend the MVA Fund for this initiative as ever since

this project started traffic accidents have decreased drastically and road safety is now a concern for all as people are aware that motorists have to reduce speed due to the scholar patrols ahead."

He extended his plea to the Road Safety Council to maintain and create more speed humps where necessary and to ensure that the zebra crossings and lines are visible at all times at the same time calling upon the MVA Fund to venture into community road safety education and assured that the people of Ngculwini are ready to be educated on such issues.

Masiko Dlamini - Ngculwini Resident / Director of Foresight Investments -

"As a community member, parent and vehicle driver, my observation is that we have lost a number of lives on this road because of excessive speeding. Before the inception of this scholar patrol, our children were at risk when travelling to school but now that we see them daily on the road in their patrolling attire accompanied by the patrol signage, we as drivers are constantly

reminded to reduce our speed even when late for work since we are aware that there are children crossing the road," Dlamini said.

As a parent, he commended motorists for allowing children to be part and parcel of this initiative because they learn how to comprehend traffic signs and also learn responsibility. He pleaded with drivers to carry on disengaging speed on the country's roads so that the patrols continue to be accident free.

Lindiwe Matsenjwa - Headteacher Phonjwane Primary School -

"Road safety is a subject that we strive to enforce

here at our school.

We would like to thank the SMVA Fund for this initiative as this is complementing the work being done internally at school. I always tell my children to be careful and take care of themselves when on the road as a person only has one life to live and they shouldn't restrain this life by being irresponsible when on the road."

Muzi Maphanga, Ministry of Public Works and Transport Road Safety Planner -

"The scholar patrol project is a very good road safety initiative as it guarantees a safe crossing for the vulnerable road users who are mostly school children," he said.

He noted, however, that some of the motorists still have the perception that the patrol delays them, with a smaller percentage consistently complying with the signals. Although the police are on board, Maphanga said their participation needs to be formalised with the Police Head Quarters because this exercise is very dangerous without police involvement.

"There is a need to continuously sensitise all road users as well as the scholar patrollers themselves in order to achieve a smooth patrol on a continuous basis.

"Moreover the supervisors of the patrol who are constantly assisting teachers and children on the road should be compensated for their contributions as it is possible that a number of them are unemployed."

Otherwise Maphanga felt that more public education should be carried out on the scholar patrols and as a ministry they are ready to assist with a number of initiatives in which they are in communication together with their stakeholders.

Additional information sourced from MVA News

HIS MAJESTY'S
CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES

CORRECTIONAL WHEEL



To ensure officers remain fit and physically ready, His Majesty's Correctional Services has put in place a number of different sporting and recreational activities to achieve this objective. Officers are encouraged to join and fully participate in activities aimed at keeping their bodies in shape.

One initiative that seems to gain momentum through receiving popular support from officers is the Shukushukuma Aerobics and Fitness sporting club which is already enjoying a membership of 300 people.

Even though the activities of this initiative were originally centred at the Correctional Staff College, its popularity support has prompted Commissioner General Isaiah M. Ntshangase to consider spreading it to all centres for the benefit of all officers.

To date the department has established Shukushukuma Aerobics and Fitness teams in centres such as Big Bend, Malkerns, Pigg's Peak, Mawelawela and Remand Centre. Plans are also underway to introduce this initiative at Bhalekane Correctional Centre and the rest of the other centres.

One other major initiative which helps in keeping officers physically fit and ready for work is the Commissioner General's Cup sponsored to the tune of E150 000. Twelve soccer teams from all centres compete in this tournament. In addition to this, the department also collaborates with other stakeholders in sports through supporting social responsibilities such as Sibebe Challenge Mahamba Hiking Gorge, Walk for Hunger etc.

The Correctional Services team received honours for being the most organised team during last year's Mahamba Hiking Gorge Walk. The service also came position two during the SADC Correctional Services/ Prisons Services Sports and Culture Games held in Botswana last year. All these successes are fruits of the Sports Coordination Unit established by the commissioner general

PHYSICAL FITNESS A MUST FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

One other major initiative that helps in keeping officers physically fit and ready for work is the Commissioner General's Cup sponsored to the tune of E150 000



KEEPING FIT: Commissioner General Mzuthini Ntshangase, (3rd from left) Football Association CEO (2nd from left) Frederick Mngomezulu and Commissioner Phindile Dlamini (Left) during a walk marking the launch of the Commissioner General's Cup.

in 2013.

The Unit is headed by Superintendent Jabulani Dan Mavuso.

Quite recently, the Shukushukuma Aerobics and Fitness Club received a boost after being presented with a sum of E 7 500 by AURELIA Investments, a company based in Matsapha.

During a presentation ceremony held at Matsapha Staff College, commissioner general represented by Commissioner Phindile Dlamini appreciated the support from the company and noted that without financial support from social part-

ners, the department would not realise its dream of keeping its staff fit and healthy.

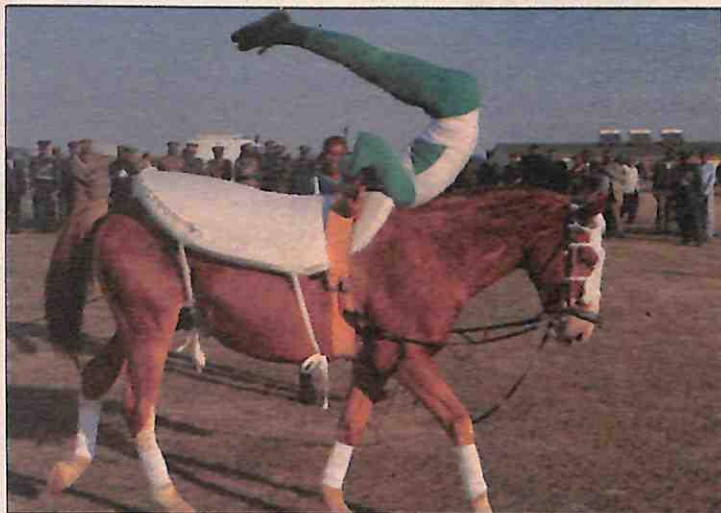
He further noted that sporting initiatives like Shukushukuma helped officers and members of the public engage in sport, which contributed to mental health, helping them to the prevent depression and more-so increase self-esteem and keep the body fit and in good shape. He highlighted that participating in sporting activities taught discipline, improves team spirit, boosted friendships, and helps officers build relationships with their colleagues in the process.

He further observed this helped officers relax their minds from the challenges that came with the nature of their job which entailed supervising people depressed by incarceration.

He observed that officers deserve to dedicate certain hours to focus their lives on something different such as exercising the body and have fun with their colleagues in an environment that was not work related. Ntshangase also explained that apart from benefiting physically, sports were also a source of income where individuals could benefit from it through employ-

ment or by establishing sports related companies.

Aurelia Investments Director Nonhlanhla Zwane acknowledged that it was very imperative for officers and members of the public to participate in sporting activities especially aerobics, as it improved their health in many ways and also helped them stay fit. Zwane said that she was also an ardent fan and participant of aerobics activities thus the love for it was evident through the sponsorship to Correctional Services' Shukushukuma Aerobics and Fitness Club.



ACROBATIC: Officer Maurice Hoare displaying physical fitness on a mounted horse.



FITNESS: Correctional aerobics team in action.

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Analysis & Opinion

SAINTS AND SINNERS



HIS Majesty King Mswati III yesterday officially declared the 3rd session of the 10th parliament open.

As always the case, the King found a fine selection of two sets of people within parliament, saints and sinners. Pity they all attempt to outshine each other.

In life there are two kinds of people; the righteous who think they are sinners and the sinners who think they are righteous. What we see in this world will not be different from what I, together with the small contingent from Swaziland, will find when we get to heaven.

Most would be surprised at the people we would find in heaven. This I say because I have been told by various pastors that God has a soft spot for sinners.

His standards are quite low so to speak. Sickly Senate President Gelane Zwane defied all odds and limped to parliament where in not so many words, indirectly told the king of the alleged source of problems within parliament.

Speech

In her speech, which she somehow failed to articulately read, Zwane minced no words that the King's powers were a subject matter and recalled how Swazis felt they should be enhanced during the constitutional drafting process.

I was intrigued though by her convenient selective mindset when she told the king of people she remembered during the drafting stage of the constitution, he listed Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala, Speaker Themba Msibi and herself leaving out her deputy Ngom'yayona Gamedze.

That told a story. Could it be that Gamedze is a sinner or probably a saint? However, that's not my worry today. What bothers me is that why would Zwane wait for the official opening of parliament to spew out something like this?

Was she attempting to tell the King there are people out to use parliament to 'steal' certain powers that belong to him? If so, who are those people?

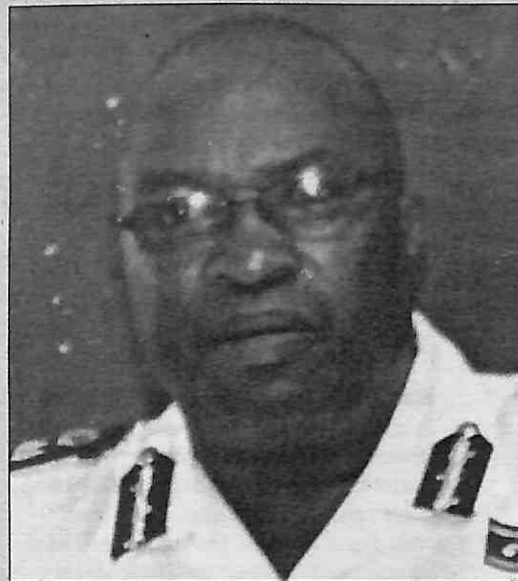
This is a serious allegation and to be left un-probed would be disaster, a national one at that.

To an extent, Gelane has helped us get to grips with the childish games we have been witnessing in parliament lately. The alliance she

● In life there are two kinds of people; the righteous who think they are sinners and the sinners who think they are righteous. What we see in this world will not be different from what I, together with the small contingent from Swaziland, will find when we get to heaven. Most would be surprised at the people we would find in heaven. This I say because I have been told by various pastors that God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low, so to speak



POWER PLAY: Sickly Senate President Gelane Zwane.



LAND MESS: Correctional Services Commissioner Mzuthini Ntshangase.

has forged with Msibi is truly mind-bothering.

Now that she has let off the steam I feel it's time she availed herself for the swearing-in ceremony as a PSB member. Her (un)holy alliance with Msibi appears rather intimate, leaving the cabinet lapdog Ndvuna Dlamini licking his wounds in the days leading to yesterday's auspicious event.

I am looking forward to a peaceful working relationship between Gamedze and Zwane. She must bear in mind that Gamedze is the reason she found Senate still in existence.

Cheap blows

Again, they must find a way to work with Ndvuna Dlamini whom they have been exchanging cheap blows with. They must all heed the King's advice to work as a unity to prevent terrorists from taking advantage of the division. I am not ready to pick sinners or saints in parliament, but all geared-up to accept everyone burying the hatchet.

For once let's allow parliament to function like a proper institution and avoid the name calling and innuendoes that are being thrown left, right and centre.

I trust the PM will also play his part and embrace all as they move forward and forget about all their

troubles.

This then brings me to the other aspect of my agenda today. See, the foundation of it all is to never underestimate people. Reports of this week about an alleged land-for-jobs deal involving Correctional Services Commissioner Mzuthini Ntshangase and a Dlamini family were bound to happen.

Surprise

The reports unavoidably took many by surprise, and they are justified. If you ask me, I long suspected such things and more of it is yet to come out.

The problem is then what? Are we capable as a country to deal with such disturbing allegations? What does this say about our security forces? Could this be happening in all the security forces?

I ask again, are such practices responsible for the poor service we get from these security forces because of the way they are recruited?

What would you expect from a person who joined a force because of an exchange programme? Give me a job, I will give you land.

To digress for the sake of those who rely solely on this page to get a glimpse of whatever is happening in the country, the allegation goes; Ntshangase (the darling of some parliamentarians) leading a

delegation from his 'farm' met with a dismally in need Dlamini family. The family was ready to sell its land and probably its soul to Ntshangase. Luke Dlamini is the head of the family. The deal he allegedly cut with Ntshangase was that he would surrender a piece of land to the prison boss.

That would have in turn, as alleged, resulted in Ntshangase opening doors of employment to Dlamini's wife and five children at the correctional services.

The deal was allegedly sealed. Since the family had allegedly delivered its end of the deal, Ntshangase allegedly stalled and this annoyed Dlamini.

Little push

Well after a little push, things started to look up as one of Dlamini's sons is already training as a warder. For now, I don't want to commit if it was through the deal or just pure legitimate recruitment.

The coincidence would be too good. Ntshangase started digging a foundation of his home. All hell broke loose. Dlamini wanted none of it. He wanted all his children and wife employed before any meaningful progress on site. Boom, the story found itself in the newspaper.

Ntshangase has his own account. He agrees with the land transac-

tion aspect, but refutes ever promising to hire the 'whole' family.

He does not come out clear though to say what did the family get in exchange for such prime land apart from paying the mandatory *khonta* cow at *umphakatsi*.

I see saints and sinners in this whole mess. I don't know how, but people in high positions should avoid finding themselves in such messy situations.

They taint everything.

What is mind boggling though in the aftermath of the breaking news story is Ntshangase's crusade to undo what has finally exposed him of his saint or villainhood.

He is now using taxpayer's time and resources to try and justify his business transactions for his family and wife's home. He dispatched a car from the correctional services and a cigarette puffing officer to go look for Dlamini's wife. The question is why if he knew nothing about her being employed?

Controversy

My problem is that Ntshangase is not new to controversy around the use or alleged abuse of state resources under his care such as deploying warders to guard his home at his parental homestead in Mkhwakhweni near the border with Nsalitje, far from Nhlanguano.

The warders told of how they would change shifts by using the bare minimum of resources such as vehicles and rifles which rendered the Nhlanguano prison vulnerable by having its security compromised.

The thin resources were shared by Mzuthini and his brothers and parents who all have houses in the family compound enjoying security from the state funded warders under the employ of the national service.

But rather this is no fresh matter or allegations at the Ntshangase household with his wife who is also a warder making headlines for a similar scam where she was linked to jobs for cash at His Majesty's Correctional Services whereby people are said to have paid money in order to be recruited to the service.

Could it be that it runs in the bed they share? The sad part about Swaziland is that such serious allegations are never put to test to arrive at the truth.

The casual approach of Justice Minister Edgar Hillary to this matter confirms my fears. It is never an option to audit or probe those in power. They always get away with murder, so to speak.

Dealing with Diabetes



WITH: Nomalungelo
Ginindza

Diabetes
Swaziland PR

Sometimes it can be hard to relate to your teenager. You might be worried they won't look after their diabetes as well as you do, which could make them unwell both in the short and long term.

If your child has just been diagnosed, your worries could be different: you'll both be learning about diabetes and you may feel guilty that you don't know everything in order to help. But there are no hard or fast rules when it comes to bringing up a teenager with diabetes – regardless of how long they have been diagnosed. Diabetes doesn't mean your child can't behave like any other teenager. But there are some extra things to consider. If you want to get this message through, good communication is vital:

Pick your time

There's no point trying to have a conversation with your teen when one of you is rushing off somewhere. Make sure you've got the time to talk about things fully – it's really hard to stop and start this kind of conversation.

Pick your moods

Trying to talk to your teen about alcohol when you're cross with them for coming in drunk just isn't going to work. Wait until you're calm and can discuss things rationally. Likewise, don't try and approach your teen when they're in a mood. They're not going to be open to discussion or compromise.

Pick your argument

According to American Diabetes Association, a great tirade about everything your teen's doing 'wrong' is unlikely to make them change. If you're worried about a lot of aspects of their behavior, it might be worth discussing the ones you're most concerned about first, and coming back to others at a later date.

Pick your approach

Sitting your teen down to a face-to-face conversation might be so daunting for them that they clam up and don't give you honest answers. Try bringing things up gently when you're doing something together, e.g. going for a walk or cooking a meal. This can be particularly useful if you're talking about those embarrassing things like sex and contraception. It can be easier for your teen to open up when they don't have to look you in the face.

Pick your allies

It might feel hurtful, but sometimes you're not the best person to talk to your teen. They might feel more comfortable with a favorite aunt, uncle or family friend. If you go for this approach, make sure you're all clear on what information is shared with who, so you don't feel left out of the discussion, but your teen doesn't feel there's been any 'tale telling'.

Pick your resources

Make sure you've got more information that you can give to your teen, e.g. if you're going to talk about sex, have information on contraception handy or look it up on an appropriate website.

Until recently almost all children and teenagers with diabetes had type 1, but now younger people are getting type 2 diabetes due to the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity. Children or teenagers who have recently been diagnosed with diabetes may struggle with their emotional reactions to their condition and the reactions of others and may have

DIABETES AND TEENAGERS



concerns about going back to school.

A child and their family will need a period of adjustment after diabetes is diagnosed. They must establish a routine for blood glucose monitoring and insulin injecting, learn how to count carbohydrates, see diabetes health professionals regularly and cope with fluctuating blood glucose levels. New challenges may arise as a child moves through different life stages.

Reactions to a diagnosis of diabetes

A child or teenager newly diagnosed with diabetes will have a range of reactions and emotions. Common reactions experienced by children and their parents include shock, denial, anger, sadness, fear and guilt. These feelings usually subside with time and appropriate support.

Common responses to a diagnosis of diabetes include:

- Anxiety about the condition
- Fear of needles and multiple injections
- A feeling of being overwhelmed by injecting and other tasks that need to be performed daily
- Frustration over fluctuating blood glucose levels
- Feeling 'different'
- Fear of experiencing hypoglycemia (low blood glucose – potential symptoms include dizziness and fainting) in public
- Embarrassment about their diabetes and their friends' possible negative reactions
- Difficulty coping with the emotional reaction of family members.

The period immediately after being diagnosed with diabetes can be challenging. Emotional support offered by friends, family and the diabetes healthcare team can be very helpful during this time and can improve the way children or teenagers cope with their diabetes.

Children and teenagers coping with diabetes

Living with and managing diabetes every day can be a struggle. Children are commonly concerned about:

- Feeling like they are a burden on the family
- Being treated differently or delicately, as if they are 'sick'
- Coping with constant parental questions about their diet, how they are feeling and whether or not they have taken their insulin
- Getting extra attention from parents or others, which may cause jealousy among other siblings.

It's normal for children or adolescents to feel sad, angry and fed up with their diabetes at times. After all, diabetes is a lifelong condition

and there is currently no cure, so the tasks and skills needed to manage it must be continued over a lifetime.

If children struggle with their diabetes management due to feeling depressed, anxious or overwhelmed, it is important to seek help from their diabetes healthcare team. A social worker or psychologist can help. In some cases, the involvement of a psychiatrist may be necessary.

Diabetes and school

Many parents are understandably concerned when their child starts or returns to school after being diagnosed with diabetes. However, schools are responsible for all children's safety while at school and should ensure that relevant teachers and school staff understand diabetes and what needs to take place to support the child with diabetes during the school day (including extracurricular activities). Parents must make sure that the school is given appropriate information and resources needed to support their child's management of diabetes during school hours and activities. Some important points (especially for parents of children with diabetes) about management of diabetes at school are:

- A school must have a medical conditions policy in place.
- A school must be provided with a diabetes management and action plan developed by your child's diabetes educator. The plan must clearly outline the details of your child's diabetes management during school hours. The plan should include management of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, exercise, dietary needs, your child's insulin regimen and emergency contact details.
- Separate and distinct management or action plans need to be developed for school camps. Parents should request these from your child's diabetes educator well ahead of time.
- Excursions during a normal school day but off-campus should use the action and management plans relevant for the school day. It is important to make sure all necessary diabetes care supplies are taken on the excursion with your child.
- Consider using a 'communication book' or other method to inform your child's teacher of any important diabetes-related issues. The teacher can also use the book to report any diabetes-related concerns or occurrences back to the child's family or carer.
- Inform your child's physical education (PE) teacher about diabetes. Physical activity can cause a drop in blood glucose levels, and it is important that the teacher can recognise and treat hypoglycemia.
- Encourage your child to tell their friends (at least, their best friends) about diabetes.

Reducing risk for teenagers with diabetes

Encourage your child to avoid alcohol or drink it only in moderation. If your child is going to drink alcohol, suggest that they:

- Be with someone who knows they have diabetes and understands the signs of hypoglycemia and how to treat it
- Eat some carbohydrate food before drinking alcohol and every couple of hours while they are out, then before going to sleep
- Alternate between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Choose low-alcohol drinks in preference to those with low carbohydrates
- Carry hypoglycemia treatment and testing supplies at all times
- Check blood glucose levels, especially before bed and continue to monitor them the next day to detect hypoglycemia
- Discuss risk reduction with their doctor or diabetes educator beforehand in regards to insulin adjustment, especially if they are likely to undertake a lot of physical activity, such as dancing.

Make healthy food choices

Choose fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads, low-fat meats, low-fat or skim milk and cheese, whole grain or brown rice, and beans. Eat breakfast, lunch, dinner and one or two snacks.

- Try to eat at the same time each day.
- Baked, broiled, or grilled choices are best – remove skin and all the fat you see.
- Use small amounts of oil and low-fat margarine, salad dressing, and mayo.
- Avoid butter, fatty meats (like bacon and hot dogs), and fried foods.
- Choose snacks wisely. Try fresh fruit or one slice low-fat cheese and five to six crackers.

Be active

- Play basketball or soccer, ride a bike, or go for a brisk walk.
- Be active for 60 minutes every day. You can break it up into 20 minutes, three times a day.
- Keep TV and computer time to less than two hours each day.

Be at a healthy weight

- Eat small servings of food and be active. This can help with your blood glucose control and prevent weight gain.
- Ask your doctor what a healthy weight is for you.

Take your medicine

- Teens with type 1 need insulin. Teens with type 2 diabetes may need to take insulin or pills.
- Make sure to take your medicine as instructed every day.

Check your blood glucose

Learn how to check your blood glucose at home with a meter. Your doctor will teach you how and tell you what your blood glucose should be

Most of the young people we talked to said that they had found it very difficult to control their diabetes when they were teenagers. They said that their control often went haywire during puberty because their hormones were 'all over the place' and also because they didn't want to have to think about diabetes all the time. Those who were diagnosed at a young age said that their diabetes was 'better controlled' before they reached adolescence.

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Lifestyle
LIFE & Entertainment

Story on
Pages 4,5

LOVE WILL WIN EVENTUALLY

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WRITER'S NOTE

With Samukelisiwe Ginindza

It is the month of love, the time we remind our loved ones how much we appreciate them. In as much as it is an everyday showcase, this day in particular is when most people are looking forward to being pampered.

We have a young couple as our cover, they let you walk love life through their shoes, and share things they engage into making each other feel wanted on daily basis. Learn a thing or two about love and being a better person on **Pages 4 and 5.**

Love has no limit and keeping an empty promise makes one a horrible person. Andrew and Cassandra have been together for 46 years and as they celebrate another Valentine's Day together, the spark is still new and evident for everyone to see. They kept their promises that they will love each other forever, their love has carried them through all these years. Read more on **Page 8.**

Still on love, cupid has finally caught up with the single mother, who has had her heart broken by the man who looked into her eyes and told her that he loved her, only for him to leave her pregnant, cheated on and left her a bruised soul. This week she shows us that no matter what one can go through, keeping a heart in a tortoise egg shell leaves one lonely and wondering. Read her diary on **Page 6.**

They literally danced their way to our hearts, they still continue to climb the success ladder. Winning the T55 National Talent search saw them owning a car, something they needed the most. Their story continues on **Page 3.**

Since engaging with our readers has always been something we have prioritised, we again took to the streets to talk to you. We touched the issue of love and a number of people shared their thoughts on this subject.

Rapsoulja has landed on our youth on the move, read about his journey on **Page 6.**

There are always two sides of every coin, its best that no matter what you are going through, choose to be happy. In **Romans 8:28** the Lord says "For all things work together for good for those that trust the Lord". Stay inspired.

Truly yours
Samu



By Phesheya Kunene.

FROM STREET TALK, WITH LOVE...

VALENTINE GIFTS FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Valentine's is the day where we get to remind our loved ones how much they are loved and appreciated.

Most people tend to say that every day is a Valentine in their lives, which might be undeniably true, but it comes once a year, just like our birthdays, Christmas and anniversaries.

Once again, the Street Talk provided a platform whereby we spoke to a few people who

appreciate love. They shared with us how they valued love and how they made it relate to the entertainment industry. So, let us hope as you read through you are inspired not to hate the day but love and appreciate those closest to you. Based on how the people viewed the industry, they dished out their Valentine's Day gifts. Happy Valentine's Day 'Walkers of our beautiful streets'.



**NOZIPHO MABILISA
(MBABANE)**

This girl from Potter's House Anglican church said she does not have much to say about the day besides appreciating love.

"I am not into such things, but because I love Come to Jesus gospel group, my gift to them would be a T-shirt printed with a sweet message about the band, which I would wear everywhere they are performing," she shared with a smile.

She added that in the near future she would make sure she surprises her boyfriend with the opposite of what he loves the most.



**TEMVELO SIMELANE
(MBABANE)**

Coming from the quiet suburb of Queensgate she hoped her church Worship Centre would dish out gifts for the couples in the church.

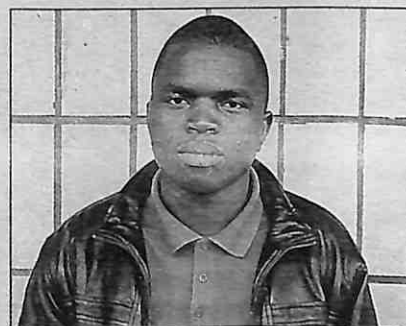
"On the entertainment side of things, I would say celebrities should come together and compose a song which would be the best gift for the local music industry, unity and support is everything," she said. She added that she adores love and in the future would make take her husband to the places he likes the most.



**DESMOND MLAMBO
(EZULWINI)**

He seemed a very reserved young man, but did not shy away from the truth that this day was for couples.

"The best gift for the entertainment would be more support coming for our local artists from the whole nation. The public needs to give the artists the best gift, which is attending their shows in numbers. The best gift from promoters would be paying them more money than they are doing now," he said.



**MUZI MHLONGO
(MBABANE)**

According to him, this day is about spouses showing love to each other.

"The best gift for our local talent would be for them getting more bookings during this time. Artists such as 'Bholoja' and Sands would bring that sparkle during occasions of this nature," he said.

He then advised people to buy local music. He is currently listening to Bholoja's new album and is happy about the product.



**LEBO MSIBI
(MBABANE)**

Being a member of the mass choir Praise Unlimited, she said the best gift for the music industry would be artists being accorded more shows that are paying good money instead of them being used as supporting acts for international artists. "The best gift for our artists would be a strings of shows that would give them the much needed exposure while also getting paid handsomely," she said.

She believed in love adding that this day should be celebrated by lovers.



**NOMATHAMSANQA
MLAMBE (SITEKI)**

With a beaming smile on her face, she urged the nation and music associations to take note of rapper 80 Script's music as she said he was one artist that is underrated while making an example of an international act, J Cole, saying the two were in the same bout.

"The best gift for rap artists such as 80 Script, would be the recognition that he deserves like scooping awards day in, day out. He can do it even without any collaborations, so more support from local fans would be the best gift for him," she said.

(By Phesheya Kunene)

TRIBAL MISFITS:

Destined for success

They dance to unique beats with a style they can truly call their own. They conquered and were declared the most talented group in 2015, where they outshined over 100 talented acts.

The Tribal Misfits are a dance crew that needs no introduction. Barely eight months old, the crew has performed at major events such as the Hipnotik Festival, MTN rhymes and Laughter, the International Trade Fair show and the Red Cup Party in Botswana. They have also worked with artists such as Tiya and KrTC of hip-hop. In a bid to know the dancers better, we had a brief chat with the talented duo that makes the Tribal Misfits.

MTHOBISI 'JAY-AR' DLAMINI

L&E: Briefly describe yourself.

JAY - AR: I'm a techno geek. I love gadgets and always try to keep up with technological trends. I just completed my second year in Creative Multimedia at Limkokwang University of Creative Technology. I fell in love with dance at a very young age. I love cooking and I've been told that I am a good cook. I am also God fearing. I used to play basketball until fashion and gadgets got the better of me. I happen to look, talk and walk like a hip-hop head but there is a different side to me that people don't know yet.

L&E: Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

JAY - AR: A bit far though, but I think at that time I will be a part of the greatest act to come out of Swaziland. That is if that won't happen before 2016 ends though.

L&E: Who do you look up to locally and internationally?

JAY - AR: Funny enough when seeking for inspiration, I never look at dance crews. Locally I'm inspired by the work KrTC has put in. He has opened so many doors for everyone in the industry. We call him the god father. lol. Internationally I look up to Kendrick Lamar, a young lad from Compton who used to look through Hand-Me-Down sneakers trying to find his look, now his artistry and craft got him invited to the White House and he is President Barack Obama's favourite rapper. And then there is Cassper Nyovest. His story is very inspirational. A boy from the hood who later on got to fill up the dome.

L&E: Who is your local celebrity crush?

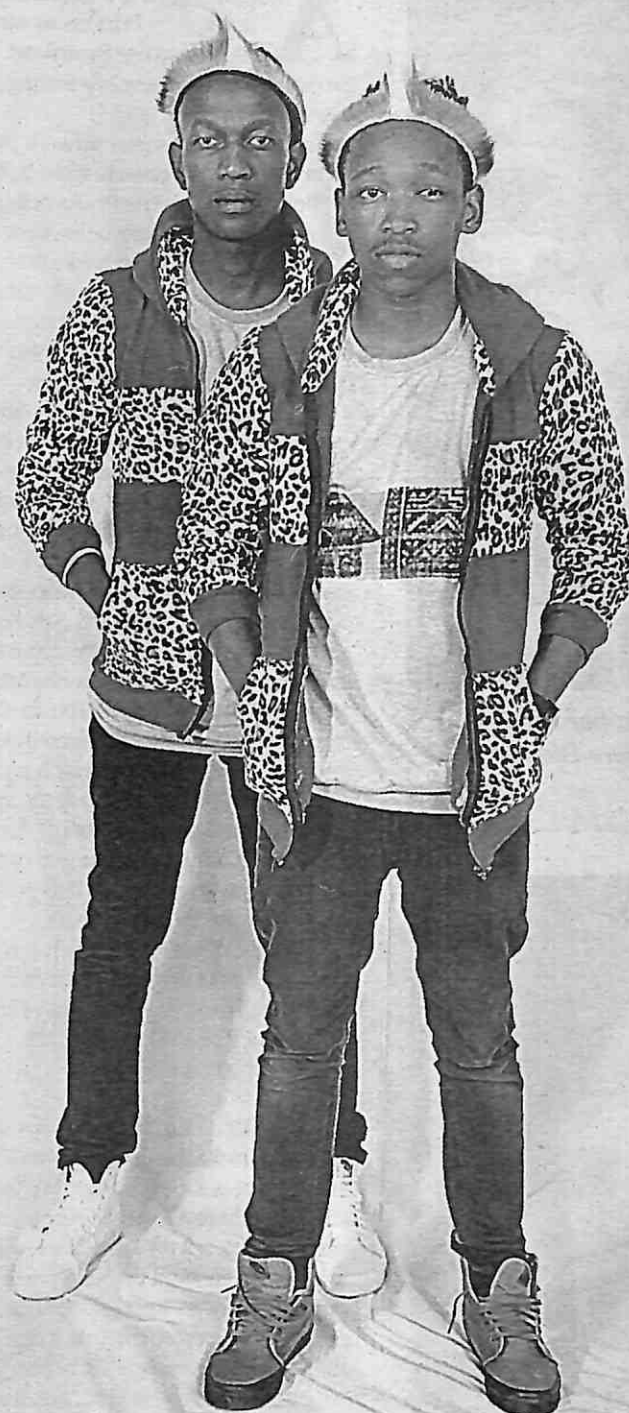
JAY - AR: Let me just say four words 'Matsapha Town Board CEO'. (hides face)

L&E: Dance is an art of expressing and so is fashion and it is quite evident that you are into fashion. How would you describe your personal style?

JAY - AR: It is really hard to do so but it mostly it has a more rustic than modern feel to it, let me just say authentic though.

L&E: Are you currently in a relationship?

JAY - AR: I'm at a point in my life where I need to focus on my dance career and school. There's just too much on my plate.



FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE TRIBAL MISFITS

- They are currently under the management of Mangoba Nhlabatsi who is a co-founder and former dance partner.
- Their dance beats are produced by Veritaz.
- They call the VW golf they won from T55 Red Rose
- At one point they danced for rival crews but later decided to squash the

beef.

- The 2 formed part of a dance crew by the name Smooth Kriminalz of dance and won the Sprite Urban Expressions champs, Conquerors battles and the Swaziland International Trade Fair dance competition.

(By Samukelisiwe Ginindza)

But I believe the time will come.

L&E: What is your favourite hang-out spot?

JAY - AR: House on Fire. There parties usually thrown there are buck wild every weekend and the food at Malandela's is delicious.



SANDILE 'BEANIE' MASILELA

L&E: How can you describe yourself?

BEANIE: I'm a fitness freak. I always exercise to keep my body fit and turn my body into a dancing tool. I love music, especially hip-hop. I'm also into fashion and I believe one should always look presentable at all times. I love sports and am a Liverpool fan.

L&E: Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

BEANIE: Owning a dance studio with over a hundred dancers.

L&E: Who do you look up to locally and internationally?

BEANIE: Locally it is Larry Mhlanga of Pelepele dance academy. We have worked with him quite a number of times. I am always astonished with the amount of dedication he puts in his work. Internationally it has to be AKA. To the trained eye, he is by far the best artist in South Africa. I also look up to Chris Brown and respect the work Beyoncé puts in.

L&E: Who is your local celebrity crush?

BEANIE: Khosi Tshabalala. She is a make-up artist and an entrepreneur.

L&E: Dance is an art of expressing and so is fashion and it is quite evident that you are into fashion. How would you describe your personal style?

BEANIE: A combination of urban street, nerdy and sporty.

L&E: Are you currently in a relationship?

BEANIE: No. My passion is time consuming. If I am not rehearsing I should be in the gym working out. For people like us free time is wasted time. So finding the time for a partner would be impossible.

L&E: Your favourite hang-out spot?

BEANIE: Mcwembe in Fairview north. I was born and raised there so I watched it being built from scratch and it is the one place we, Fairview residents, brag about.

Sibusiso Ngcamphalala and Andile Slenge-Ngcamphalala on finally finding love

LOVE WILL

Cover story

Andile Slenge is a former Miss Cultural Heritage 2nd Princess as well as a finalist in Miss Swaziland. This couple has never been shy of showing their affection for each other.

Backed by their social network posts as well as pictures, those close to them have watched as their love blossomed to something that has encouraged others to believe in love.

In flesh they are exactly like their Facebook persona, young, ambitious, educated, in love and confident. With a picture perfect beauty backed by a photogenic face, Andile is as calm as her husband Sibusiso is.

They recently got traditionally hitched and even though there has been a few black clouds over their relationship, they both refused to play victims. In the process their reputation remained clean and honest, as through it all they chose to take a dignified stance on love. As Andile walks towards me with her striking figure and eyes that light up a room, I can easily tell why Sibusiso had to make her his forever, she is beautiful in all respects. Perfectly perched on an elegant pair of gold stilettos, she exudes confidence and kindness. With manicured nails and hair that sits like a crown on her head, she appreciates the deco that I did, with both of them in mind, Mantenga Cultural Village was of course a great help in ensuring that they provide all the necessities for the photo-shoot.

As we sat down for a chit-chat, one can easily tell that the two are the best of friends and they were made for each other. They finish each other's sentences, as if they were reading each other's minds.

L&E: What sustains your love?

Andile and Sibusiso: Well we both have so much respect for each other, we value each other's feelings, we never ever leave fights or bitter arguments for long. We resolve them as soon as we can and do not hesitate to say sorry if one of us wrongs the other. We also communicate more often as it brings us closer and understand each other better, we compromise at some point in time; you have to adjust to make yourself and partner happy. We never underestimate one another's efforts, we have always believed in true love, it never dies regardless of whether or not you are able to stay together. Over the years we got to learn about each other and had to learn to respect our similarities as well as our differences which has helped our relationship to become stronger. In all the four years in our relationship, we have never forgotten to consider each other's happiness before one's own.

L&E: This is your fourth Valentine's together, what has changed this year?

Andile and Sibusiso: Nothing much except that this will be our first Valentine's together as a family but other than that we will continue appreciating, loving and cherishing one another.

L&E: Love conquers all, does it always

sort your differences?

Andile and Sibusiso: Love does conquer everything in the sense that if you have a mutual understanding about each other, you are able to make it work no matter what. The most important thing we love about each other is that we both don't make a big deal of everything we hear from people about one of us without getting the facts about it. We both are ambitious and have big dreams in life.

L&E: They say the family that prays together, stays together, can you attest to that?

Andile and Sibusiso: Prayer is the most powerful weapon for every relationship, actually we pray together and always put God first in everything we do.

L&E: How will you be celebrating your first Valentine's Day as a married couple?

Andile and Sibusiso: There is nothing really big planned but we will just spend the weekend in one of the country's hotels and go for a spa treatment then have a special lunch together on Sunday.

L&E: Do you have any advice to other couples on love and understanding each other?

Andile and Sibusiso: It would be that they should always keep in mind that there is nothing like a 100% perfect couple, every relationship has its own ups and downs but putting God first, respecting, communicating and trusting each other are some of the most important elements that make a relationship work. Never ever involve a third person in your relationship. Love your marriage by first taking care of yourself, take time to have some fun together almost every day, recognize that your husband or wife is reflecting back to you who you are. Increase the use of the following statements "I love you", "I'm here for you", "I'm sorry", "thank you", and "you are the best".

L&E: Is everyday a Valentine's to you?

Andile and Sibusiso: It doesn't have to be the 14th of February to show how much we love each other. In the 4 years we have been together, we always show love, affection and pamper each other with gifts regardless of the day or month of the year.

L&E: How can you describe love according to your understanding?

Andile and Sibusiso: Love is a two way street, it entails giving and gaining in return, no one should be in love but still feel empty inside. Love is a variety of different feelings and attitudes that range from interpersonal affection to pleasure; it can refer to an emotion or strong attraction.

L&E: How do you keep the fire burning?

Andile and Sibusiso: By making sure we keep each other happy in all ways possible, you can have all the money in the world but if there is no happiness, then there is no love. We are one couple that share a lot in common thus it is easier for us to make sure that we are not bored in our relationship. We make



LOVE LIVES HERE: Andile appreciates as her hubby places a rose on her ear. (Pics: Samukelisiwe Ginindza)



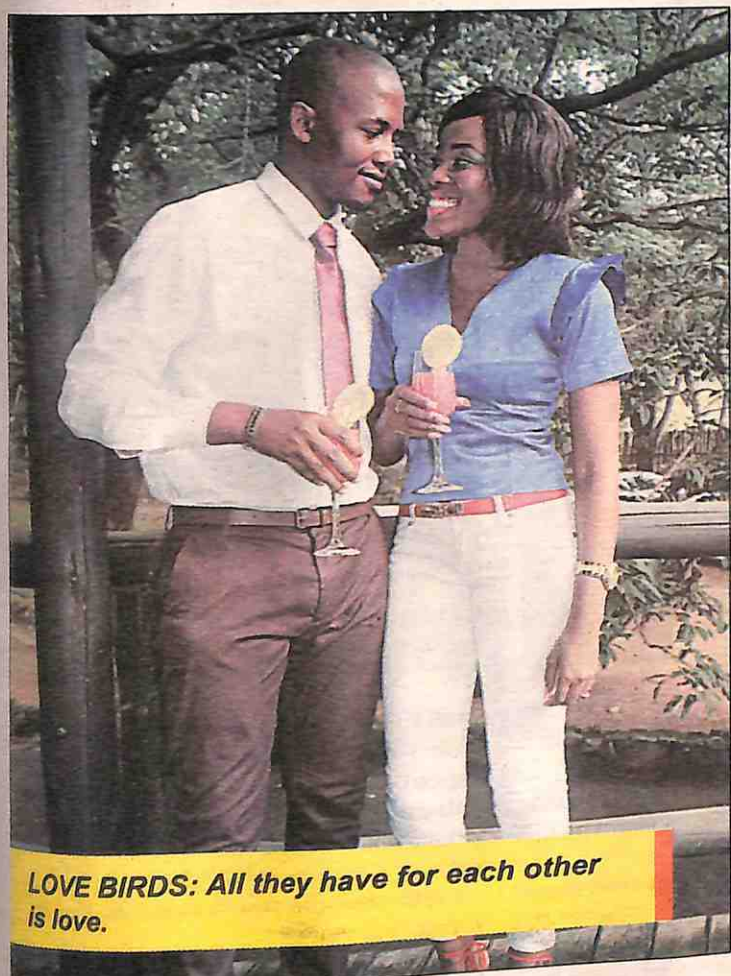
SWEET: Andile closes her eyes as she enjoys her chocolate.

with each other

WIN EVENTUALLY



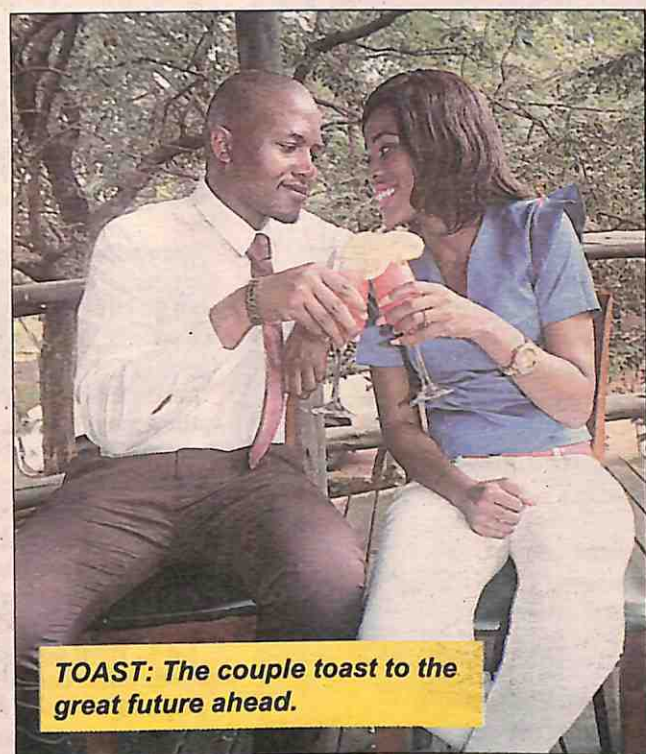
LET THIS ROSE REMIND YOU...: Sibusiso seems to be say those words as he gives her wife a rose.



LOVE BIRDS: All they have for each other is love.



AFFECTION: The couple kiss.



TOAST: The couple toast to the great future ahead.

sure we remember our special days such as anniversaries and birthdays and this keeps our relationship alive and healthy. Lastly ignore all the little irritating habits and foibles and concentrate on important things in life.

L&E: Andile men tend to think differently, which sometimes annoys us, how do you keep sane when your man becomes that?

Andile: I usually compromise a lot, I try

understand the situation my hubby is facing or just get a breather so that everything cools off. It is always best to walk away, when tension builds up and when all has cooled down, we talk about it and then kiss and make up.

L&E: Do you pray for your man?

Andile: Yes I do, I pray for my husband every day, he is one of the most amazing blessings in my life. *usibusisongempela*. I would not trade him for anything.

L&E: Sibusiso did you knew from the moment you met her that she was the one?

Sibusiso: Not exactly. It was only after we had dated for six months, when it dawned to me that she was the kind of woman I would love to spend the rest of my life with and interestingly, before I met her I had prayed to God and described the kind of woman I was looking for. Fortunately, I was blessed with what I prayed for.

L&E: She is a very beautiful woman inside and out, do you count your blessings sometimes?

Sibusiso: Definitely. Yes, I always thank the Almighty God for blessing me with such a beautiful lady who respects me, supports me in all I do and understands me even when I don't have time for her because of my ever busy schedule in life.

(By Samukelisiwe Ginindza)



POETRY CORNER


P.O.E.T
(Person of Extraordinary Thinking)

...By Black note

MOUNTAINS
OF
SENTIMENTS

We heard the screams

We felt the cries
 We fell asleep with new wounds
 Wet with commitments that like empty beer bottles
 belonged to another drunken night
 That's our supper on the floor
 We held her fragile body
 Lying there like a fog
 On his queen sized bed
 Us realising that his queen sized bed
 Just about the only queen he would ever give warmth
 From whom he would ever received
 Never dared to bruise
 On his queen sized bed
 We lay down our plan of escape
 Our rescue mission for the soul we pray for in our condo-
 lence
 Our mother
 That's our supper on the floor
 It took many years and nights of sentiments
 Shared blood and maternal bonds
 Many years of tears spent
 Worries equally divided bandages wrapped
 And disinfectant overdosed for us to realise to under-
 stand
 Mama was not going to be part of our escape plan
 Her plan
 Our plan
 That's our supper on the floor
 Inside a new sunrise
 We gave birth to a new plan
 Now declared his plan
 To expose him
 To bury the years of sentiments never
 Exposed beyond our thick walls
 Power to the little soldiers!
 Power to the protectors of the weak
 On that night we told someone
 We spoke up
 We confided
 It was too late
 He had finally set free the soul he could never own
 And bruised one more time her temple of hope
 Finally
 Voicing his anger for all to see
 That's our mother and father on the floor
 Next to the queen sized bed
 (This poem was extracted from BlackNote's
 Mountains of Sentiments book)

DIARY OF A WORKING SINGLE MOTHER

I have lived my life, yet I am not the oldest but half the things I have gone through would never be associated with my smile.

Nothing bad can be alien to me, well I might have smiled more than I have cried (Yes, most of the times I have smiled with tears in my eyes).

As I approach my mid-twenties I have stopped pretending that I am this constantly happy person, so in as much as I keep to myself a lot, I now cannot pretend to be happy when I am unhappy, you can just tell by first glimpse.

Well some of the people close to me have mastered the art of squeezing what is troubling out of me; it's a huge task I am telling you.

I have been one of heaven's chosen ones as I have found happiness in my life, eventually. Growing up nothing made sense, had serious lack of daddy issues and I could easily be deceived, trustfulness rules me.

So finally my life makes sense, first of all I have never been in a situation where everything seems so right. Well I have most of what other people are praying for and I do not mean to brag.

This young lady is a young mother, who went through all the knocks of life but still survived, she has finally found love, and it is so true, she is making a family of her own and most of all she is employed.

With gas prices that just keeps on rising, as well as the dollar and mostly the food prices in the shops just hiked up, well the government just keeps on

lying and salaries stay the same but we should keep on surviving and do what we love to do better.

Heart matters are complicated just like life, so its better people mind their own, let others fight their own battles.

People in general are never satisfied, they are never happy when their bank account is on zero nor do they appreciate when they have millions. I am human as well, so my current financial situation doesn't make me smile at night and I keep on asking if there will ever be an increment or those on top are just enjoying their fat cheques, forgetting about us who work twice as hard? People are greedy and selfish.

Selfish

Talking about selfish I had to question my existence on earth when my twin brother suddenly decided to take his life, at the peak of everything. I knew I wanted change, so I began to be the change I wanted to see, today I am a better person, yes I miss my other half and most of the times I feel him near me, but in as much as life is hard at times, one thing I have learnt over the years is, IT GOES ON.

Cupid has finally caught up with me and caught me real good, sweet love never tasted this sweet. Yes, true love does exist. It doesn't necessarily have to last a life time to be true but at the exact moment you taste it, you just know it is true and you should also stay true.

I would occasionally just laugh lightly when people would associate me with certain individuals,

because I talk to them, I must be letting them lay in my chest? People are pathetic.

Love has a way of catching up with a non believer, it waits until one is ready to give up on it. Have you ever felt the need to just smile for no reason at all? Ever had someone checking up on you throughout the day, just to remind you of how much he loves you?

Love

Perfect man made for me straight out of heaven, he is okay with waiting. Yes, waiting. He told me to take my time; he will be ready whenever I am ready. Boy from Mars encourages me to attend church, with him-the couple that prays together stays together.

I specifically do not care what people say, they talk all they want anyway. Well I am in love and he is right for me, so is that a problem? Is he unworthy of my love? So someone like me does not deserve to be loved, deeply? People are jealous.

I will always stand by the man I love and if I suspect something sinister, well let me find it out, all by myself. For now all I have is trust, I am his girl, yes life is not that easy but so is love, we will work on it as a couple, no third party please.

This time I am sure I will get it right, have succeeded in falling in love again and there is hope. For me it is never about the size of the car or house, but the faith in the heart. Yes, it does not pay the bills, but so does regret, paradise is all in the mind and I am in paradise.

Youth on the move...

Rap souljar real name Mfundo Malindisa, is a humble and soft spoken young man, whose roots are at Ekupheleni, was born in the capital of Swaziland, Mbabane. He stayed at Msunduzi before moving to Ezulwini.

He is currently pursuing an engineering diploma at Kanyamazane FET College. He completed his primary at St Mark's and his Matric in Barberton.

This promising star started his singing career at a very tender age and joined the choir at his primary school. He started pursuing rap music at the age of 15.

In his seven years in the industry it has not been an easy journey due to the fact that he was in a foreign country. Therefore he had a hard time securing recording studios and gigs.

L&E: Before we go any further, what are you most grateful about in your progress in life?

Rapsouljar: I thank the Lord for being with me during difficult times and also blessing me with the chance to meet K.G who in turn took me under his stable (M.O.P squad recording stable).

L&E: You have been in the industry for quite a tangible time, where have you performed?

Rapsouljar: In South Africa I have had numerous performances with my squad. I have performed alongside Jay Spitter of Lulla-by records, and opened the stage for Khuli Chana and Ifani. Here, I have had a number of performances and loved the feedback from my fans.

L&E: What do you have to show in as far as your music career is concerned?

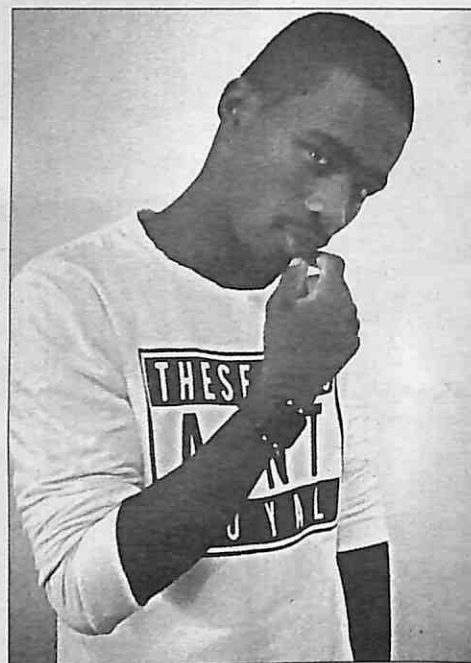
Rapsouljar: I have five singles, seven collaborations and a single music video.

L&E: Most successful musicians do not usually write their hit songs, instead they approach songwriters. Do you write your music?

Rapsouljar: I write my own music, mainly because I write about my life such as my day to day experiences.

L&E: As you are currently based in South Africa, how do you find local rappers?

I wish to do more work with Swazi rappers though I am currently a free agent as I do not have a stable signed under which makes net-working with local rappers a bit difficult. I also wish to see local rappers working together to take the industry to even greater heights.

MEET RAP SOULJAR


L&E: How do you keep yourself motivated?

Rapsouljar: The number of my growing fans locally and in SA keeps me going and driven to achieve more.

L&E: Can you tell us about your first show in the spotlight?

Rapsouljar: My first big performance was in 2013 at Phumula Lodge and I may say I was so blessed in meeting top-class rappers like N Jay and K.G.

L&E: What motivates you before going on stage to perform?

Rapsouljar: Knowing that every show counts and that there is something new I learn while on stage. The more performances I do the bigger I become.

L&E: Who is one local rapper you would love working with?

Rapsouljar: Lyrical Basta. Luckily for me; I am working towards that as there is something we want to unleash soon. Another one would be KRTC.

L&E: When can we expect a full album from you and what are you currently working on?

Rapsouljar: Currently, I am working on an album which will be out this year and all I promise is hit after another.

L&E: How can you describe the kind of music that you do?

Rapsouljar: It is African hip hop and I am bringing a strong sounded message to everyone, and it will surely make the nation jam to it.

L&E: What can you say about local hip hop fans?

Rapsouljar: The fans are lively and supportive. All they need is real and good music and that is what I am promising to bring to their ear.

L&E: Your stage name is rather unique, is there a meaning behind it?

Rapsouljar: My stage name Rapsouljar means raping or collecting souls into a jar so that I can be able to make those souls a good harvest for hip hop.

(By Phesheya Kunene)

Blockword Puzzle

Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.
Words may overlap but do not share letters.

Foods of Christmas Word Search

J M I N C E M E A T J T O Y M
C G D B Z G G U H T O X F C W
P W I J S X S C A U K R Y N W
V A W N V E N E R M U G K E U
Y T V V G U N T L I O I D L Z
A U E L P E I A T A N X I L D
M G G Z O E R C C G M A R O A
R N G Q R V A B C Y S A V T E
E I N E C K A A R S D N T S R
Z F O L E Q K R A E T N V C B
H F G A M E E W F I A F A I T
B U C H E D E N O E L D Q C R
G T J S E I R R E B N A R C O
I S L G N I D D U P M U L P H
M M W U Z S M U L P R A G U S

BUCHEDNOEL
CANDYCANS
CRANBERRIES
EGGNOG
FRUITCAKE
GINGERBREAD
KINGCAKE
MINCEMEAT
PAVLOVA
PLUMPUDDING
PUNCH
SHORTBREAD
STOLLEN
STUFFING
SUGARPLUMS
TOURTIERE
TAMALES
WASSAIL

WIN WITH SWAZI OBSERVER AND LESERATO EVENTS

Get the name correctly in the puzzle and stand a good chance at winning E100 worth of airtime, as well as a month long supply of Observer on Saturday copies, delivered to your door step. Have them dropped at Swazi Observer offices in Mbabane by Wednesday and be amongst the best candidates to win such prizes)

NAME: _____
CELL: _____

Cartoon Corner

Baby Blues



Blondie



Hagar the Horrible



SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH



Monday, 15 February

Siphokazi is under threat as Head of the Council, but then Mpiyakhe has a big surprise for him. Thandeka makes an important career decision. Mehlemamba explains why he quit being a driver.

Tuesday, 16 February

Samson Ndlovu is burning with jealousy over Mpiyakhe and meets with Sunday. Meanwhile Ngwebedla dreams of revenge. Fezile and Qondi yearn for each other. Skhaleli gets help from Mehlemamba for his virility concerns.

Wednesday, 17 February



Monday, 15 February

Thandaza is asked to cut all ties with the outside world. Azwindini showers Nenzhelele with praises.

Sthembiso starts his first day at MMC.

Tuesday, 16 February

Ranthumeng is overwhelmed with guilt. Nenzhelele gets desperate and reckless. Nonny meets her prince charming.

Mkabayi fires one of the Zungu drivers for drunkenness. Jabu sees the dangerous side of Pope. S'bu and Lebo become close when he and Thandeka fail to connect. Mehlemamba's imbiza works wonders on S'khaleli.

Thursday, 18 February

The drivers don't believe that Skizan was drunk. S'bu has a surprising request for Duma. Jabu is getting unhappy under Pope's rule. Mehlemamba makes more imbiza for S'khaleli.

Friday, 19 February

The search for Skizan continues. Jabu gets shocking news. Lebo is encouraged by Samson. Mkabayi phones and warns Thandeka about S'bu. Qondi and Fezile are becoming very close.

Wednesday, 17 February

Nenzhelele finds Mashudu. Nonny has got the hots for Pule but won't admit it. Thandaza decides to stay at the religious camp.

Thursday, 18 February

Thandaza accuses Mam-Phophet of theft. Muvhango is made sick by Nenzhelele's smut. Nonny is disappointed to find out that Pule is married.

Friday, 19 February

Muvhango's condition is not improving and the family is at their wits' end. Lerumo throws in the towel. Thandaza is ready for a cleansing ceremony.

ISIDINGO

thinking of moving in with Tiffany and she has to act fast.

Wednesday, 17 January

Katlego fights for her and her baby's lives. Calvin faces temptation whilst trying to decrypt his father's memory stick. Rajesh and Brad clash again when Brad wants to take more responsibility.

Thursday, 18 February

Katlego asks Zukisa for the unthinkable. The more resistance Aphwe faces, the more possessive she grows. Bradley makes a costly assumption.

Friday, 19 February

Zukisa moves into the penthouse to take care of Katlego. Aphwe becomes bolder in her bid to win Calvin. Bradley's girlfriend Tiffany approaches Sam for advice.



Monday, 15 February

Lucy is furious about the police coming to search the house. Getty gets jealous when her boyfriend chats to a female client. Namhla asks a person she doesn't like or trust for help.

Tuesday, 16 February

Zola is shocked to hear the 'terms' of the polyandry. Max has a change of heart after seeing a video on the Internet. The snake ceremony seems to have done the trick...

Wednesday, 17 February

Gadafi is shocked by what he walks in on at home. Yster tells the Diales the community is out for blood... their blood. Adze pops the question.

Thursday, 18 February

Wandle loses it completely when a guy hits on him. Angela is taken aback when Vuyo is mean to her. The Diales are shocked to hear Lesedi was attacked.

Friday, 19 February

Lucy is appalled by Namhla's 'solution' to their problem. Tshidi is freaked when the inyanga tells her what her dream means. Zola is starting to have serious doubts about his future with Karabo.

ZABALAZA

Monday, 15 February

Sydne approaches Scott and proposes a partnership while KG moans to Herbert about her relationship problems. Moss goes to visit Gasta and Mthunzi lies about where he's getting his money.

Tuesday, 16 February

Sydne starts plotting against Ray. Victor finds out Terry has been visiting Mapule while Waka encourages Herbert to forget Lindiwe and focus on the future.

Wednesday, 17 February

Gasta decides it's time she paid for her sins. Victor vows to protect Terry against Mapule's sadistic influence, while Moss's addiction intensifies.

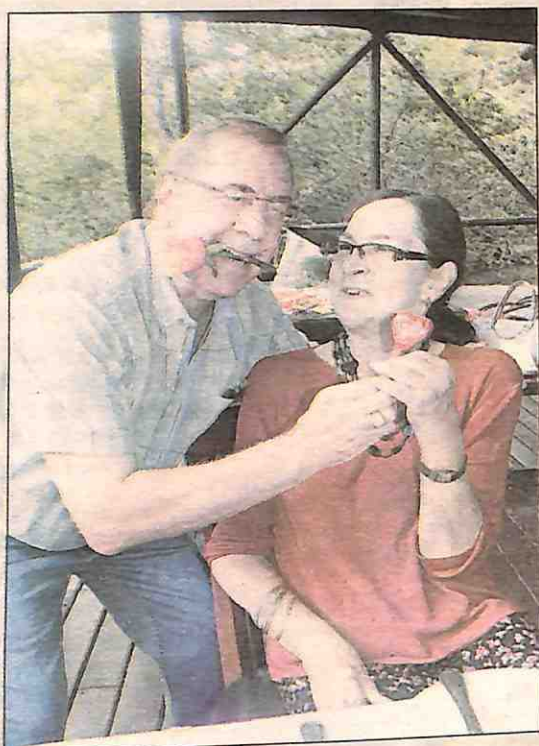
Thursday 18 February

Lindiwe worries about her brother. Sydney's attempt to make KG jealous pushes her into the arms of another man. Meanwhile, Sponono is anxious about her test results.

SWEET, SWEET LOVE



UNMISTAKABLE KISS: Andrew kisses his wife Cassandra with a pink rose in his mouth, while Cassandra holds a heart shaped chocolate, as the two celebrate their 46 years of marriage at Mantenga Cultural Village. (Pics: Samukelisiwe Ginindza)



THROUGH THICK AND THIN: They laugh together as they hold each other close.



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE: They hold each other's hand in the beautifully set table.

Love is never determined by age or time spent together. It is based on how much two people are willing to make things work for good. Andrew and Cassandra from South Africa have been married for 46 years; time has never diluted their love for each other. The couple show to the rest of the world that giving up on love is never the right thing to do, instead denying oneself the goodness of truly loving and being loved. After so many years together, Cassandra still sees Andrew with the same eyes she laid on him 46 years ago when they got married. He goes all out to make sure that she feels wanted and like the only girl in the world. Their love has stood the test of time and they are destined to keep it intact until forever hits the 'I am done' button. (By Samukelisiwe Ginindza)



GENTLEMAN: He shows his wife and those present what being a gentleman is, as he ushers her to sit.



THERE YOU GO: He shows his wife and those present what being a gentleman is, as he ushers her to a seat.



JOLLY: They hold each other's hand in the beautifully set table.

MONKEY REFUSES TO BE LEFT OUT



CURIOUS: This curious monkey marks his territory while holding a heart shaped chocolate.



LET'S SEE: He gets ready to have a taste of valentine as he unwraps the chocolate.



YUMM: The monkey enjoys the delicacies.



LIVE SMART, BE ACTIVE, EAT WISELY

WITH:

Ministry of
Agriculture Home
Economics
Section



IMPORTANCE OF MICRONUTRIENTS



What is a nutrient? This is a chemical substance that comes from the food we eat.

The energy we need for metabolic processes in our bodies and for maintaining a constant internal environment comes from these nutrients. So if you are thinking of all the basic reactions going on in your body to keep you breathing, your heart beating, your brain working and allowing you to move about, they all derive their energy from these nutrients.

Nutrients can be divided into two sub-categories, i.e. Macro and Micro nutrients. Macro nutrients are the structural and energy giving caloric components of our foods that most of us are familiar with. These include the carbohydrates, fats and proteins. Micronutrients on the other hand are the vitamins, minerals, trace elements, phyto-chemicals and antioxidants that are essential for good health.

Our focus today will be on the Micronutrients. These are basically dietary components often referred to as vitamins and minerals which although only required by the body in small amounts, are vital to the development, disease prevention and wellbeing of human beings. Micronutrients are not produced in the body and must be derived from the diet.

We will discuss the most important/ vital micronutrients needed by the body and the talk about the sources or foods from which we can get these micronutrients. Finally, we will discuss the effects or long term disadvantages of not having enough micro nutrients in your diet.

Out of the approximately 40 micronutrients needed by the body, we will only look at five most vital for the proper functioning of the body. These are Iron, Iodine, Vitamin A, Zinc and Folic acid.

HOW ARE THEY USEFUL TO THE BODY?

IRON - It is an essential element for blood production. About 70% of your body's iron is found in the red blood cells of your blood called hemoglobin and in the muscle cells called myoglobin. Hemoglobin is essential for transferring oxygen in your blood from the lungs to the tissues. Myoglobin, in muscle cells, accepts, stores, transports and releases oxygen. Iron is also essential for proper immune function. It maintains healthy cells, skin, hair, and nails.

RECOMMENDED FOODS - Liver, beef and lamb, dark green leafy vegetables, pumpkin seeds, beans and lentils, whole grains and fortified cereals (spaghetti, brown bread, brown rice, oats, weatbix), nuts and the favourite chocolate.

EFFECTS OF IRON DEFICIENCY - Hair loss, anemia, general fatigue (tiredness), pale skin, shortness of breath, dizziness, strange cravings to eat items that aren't food such as dirt, ice or clay, a tingling or crawling feeling in the legs, tongue swelling or soreness.

IODINE - Iodine is needed for cells to convert food into energy. Humans need iodine for normal thyroid function, and for the production of thyroid hormones, important for the adrenal glands, ovaries, breasts, prostate gland and the entire hormone system of the body.

RECOMMENDED FOODS - Iodised salt, sea food, fish (shellfish), sea vegetables like seaweed, eggs, organic milk, yoghurt, dark leafy greens and prunes.

EFFECT OF IODINE DEFICIENCY - Brain damage, autism (a brain disorder that makes it hard to communicate with and relate to others) in children, thyroid enlargement famously known as "goiter", mental imbalances such as depression and anxiety, mental retardation, brain damage to fetus before birth, slowed brain function, slowed metabolism, lowered immunity and emotional upset.

VITAMIN A - It is key for good vision (eye health), a healthy immune system and cell growth. It is also essential in the differentiation of cells of the skin (lining outside the body and mucous membranes). It helps the body fight off infection and support growth and remodeling of bone.

RECOMMENDED FOOD - There are two types of Vitamin A i.e. that comes from animal products (retinoid) and which comes from plants (beta-carotene). Examples of plant based form of vitamin A include dark leafy greens and in yellow and orange fruits and vegetables. These foods may include, among others sweet potatoes, carrots, mangoes and peaches. Animal sources of proteins include beef and chicken liver, eggs, dairy products, fish liver oil.

EFFECTS OF VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY - vision loss and blindness, impaired immune function, cancer, birth defects, dry skin, broken fingernails, dry hair, blockage of hair follicles with plugs of keratin.

ZINC - Zinc is a mineral that promotes immunity, resistance to infection, and proper growth and development of the nervous system, and is integral to healthy pregnancy outcomes. Zinc is a metal. It is called an "essential trace element" because very small amounts of zinc are necessary for human health. Some people use zinc for male infertility, erectile dysfunction (ED), weak bones (osteoporosis) and muscle cramps associated

with liver disease. It is also used for sickle cell disease and inherited disorders. Some athletes use zinc for improving athletic performance and strength.

Zinc is also applied to the skin for treating acne, aging skin, herpes simplex infections and to speed wound healing. Zinc citrate is used in toothpaste and mouthwash to prevent dental plaque formation and gingivitis. There is a zinc preparation that can be sprayed in the nostrils for treating the common cold.

RECOMMENDED FOODS - Seafood, beef and lamb, wheat germ, spinach, pumpkin and squash seeds, nuts, cocoa and chocolate, pork and chicken, beans, mushrooms. Others include fortified cereals, low fat yoghurt with fruit, milk, chicken breast, cheddar cheese, watermelon seeds, fortified peanut butter and green peas.

EFFECTS OF ZINC DEFICIENCY

● **Compromised immune system:** Zinc affects cell activities. Zinc deficiency can cause reduced or weakened antibodies and compromise the immune system. Thus the deficient person will be prone to infection or flu.

● **Diarrhea:** A compromised immune system makes one susceptible to infection. One of these infections is a bacteria that causes diarrhea.

● **Hair loss and skin lesions:** Zinc is important for normal cell growth. Zinc nutrition deficiency weakens the cells, which can result in hair loss in case of cells on the scalp and lesions on the skin. This is one of the prominent signs of zinc deficiency.

● **Loss of appetite and/or anorexia:** A deficiency of zinc causes decreased loss of appetite. If zinc deficiency is not identified and treated, decreased loss of appetite can eventually lead to anorexia.

● **Impairment of cognitive and motor functions:** Zinc deficiency in a pregnant mother can not only weaken the mother, but can also cause damage to the fetus's neurological system, impairing the motor skills and cognitive skills of the infant. Other signs of zinc deficiency are reduced fertility, rashes on the skin, spots on fingernails, sleep disturbance, loss of sex drive, loss of taste or smell,

and in some cases mild anemia.

FOLATE (FOLIC ACID) - Folate and folic acid are forms of a water-soluble B vitamin. Folate occurs naturally in food, and folic acid is the synthetic form of this vitamin. Folic acid is well-tolerated in amounts found in fortified foods and supplements. Folic acid is also of interest with respect to cognitive enhancement, cancer, psychiatric illnesses, and cardiovascular conditions. Folic acid supplements are suggested for use in women of childbearing age in order to prevent neural tube defects. In essence to prevent miscarriage and "neural tube defects," birth defects such as spina-bifida that occurs when the fetus's spine and back do not close during development.

RECOMMENDED FOODS

Dark Leafy Greens (Spinach, Collard Greens, Turnip Greens, Mustard Greens, Romaine Lettuce, Asparagus, Broccoli, Citrus Fruits, (Papaya Oranges Grapefruit Strawberries Raspberries) Beans, Peas and Lentils (Lentils, Black Beans, Kidney Beans, Lima Beans, Green Beans, Avocado, Okra, Seeds and Nuts (Sunflower Seeds, Peanuts, Flax Seeds, Almonds) Cauliflower, Corn, Carrots, Squash (Winter squash Summer Squash). These are just a few of the foods with folic acid.

EFFECTS OF FOLIC ACID DEFICIENCY

Loss of appetite and weight loss. There may be a reduced sense of taste and the tongue can become red and sore. Swallowing may also become painful.

● **Anemia:** Symptom can develop gradually and fatigue is typically the first sign. If the disorder progresses, paleness, dizziness and shortness of breath can occur.

● **Mood disorders:** Folate is essential for the biosynthesis of the neurotransmitters serotonin, epinephrine, and dopamine. Folic acid deficiency can cause irritability and memory problems. It is the most common vitamin deficiency in manic depression patients.

Progressive gastrointestinal problems. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. These symptoms often occur after meals.

● **Skin irritation:** Dark patches on the skin can occur with folic acid deficiency, especially on the palms and soles of the feet. This will typically resolve after the levels of folate in the body have been brought back up to normal. It may, however, take weeks or months for the hyperpigmentation to disappear.

● **Bone fractures:** These are more likely to occur in the elderly.

● **Low libido:** This condition is common in men.

● **Fetal problems:** This can occur if folate levels are low during pregnancy. A deficiency at this time can cause miscarriages or low birth weight. It is important to start taking folic acid supplements prior to attempting to become pregnant, as this can prevent some cases of neural tube defects such as spina bifida. The recommended daily allowance for women increases during pregnancy from 400 mcg to 600 mcg.

Contact me:

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HEALTH FEATURE



We all have an infuriating friend who seems to be effortlessly thin.

Now, researchers have revealed the secrets of those who never worry about their weight.

Despite their slim physique, the study found the majority of trim people rarely diet, and more than one in ten never weigh themselves.

However, nearly half exercise at least five times a week, almost a tenth were vegetarian and nearly a fifth said they didn't drink alcohol.

For breakfast, more than half eat fruit and vegetables, more than a third eat eggs and a fifth snack on nuts throughout the day.

And some 61 percent say chicken is their favourite meat, while 65 percent eat vegetables every day for dinner.

Almost 40 percent of people in the 'thin' category didn't consume soft drinks, while 33 percent said the diet option was their favourite.

The survey, from the Cornell Food and Brand Lab, surveyed 122 adults whose BMI was healthy and who reported they didn't maintain strict diets.

They compared them to another group, consisting of those struggling to maintain or lose weight.

Conscious

These people diet regularly, thought about food frequently and were highly conscious of what they ate.

Researchers found the majority (43 percent) of mindlessly thin people were more than 41 years old, and 80 percent were female.

Their average weight was 136lb (9st 10lbs or 62kg), and their average height 5'6.

The average BMI was 21.7, which is classed as healthy.

A BMI score below 18.5 is considered underweight; a score of 18.5 to 25 is healthy; 25 to 30 is considered overweight and more than 30 is classified as obese.

Despite their healthy measurements, the poll found 74 percent rarely dieted, while 48 percent didn't diet at all.

Half weighed themselves weekly, while 29 percent never stepped on to the scales.

In terms of exercise, 42 percent did some physical activity five to seven days a week - and only 10 percent said they didn't exercise

SCIENTISTS REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE TRIM

WHAT THEY EAT



61%
chicken is
their favorite
meat



7%
are vegetarian



33%
don't drink
alcohol



35%
eat salad at
lunch
everyday



65%
eat vegetables
at dinner
everyday

● Researchers found the majority (43 percent) of mindlessly thin people were more than 41 years old, and 80 percent were female. Their average weight was 136lb (9st 10lbs or 62kg), and their average height 5'6. The average BMI was 21.7, which is classed as healthy.

at all.

Dr Brian Wansink, director of the Cornell Food and Brand Lab and author of *Slim by Design*, said: 'We wanted to see what health

behaviors differed between those struggling to lose or maintain weight and the mindlessly slim.

'We wanted to find the small or simple

behaviors that might have a big impact.'

I really regret eating healthy today - said no one ever

Daily Mail

Top Daily Breakfast Foods



51%
included
fruits and
vegetables



31%
included eggs



44%
said fruit



21%
said nuts

Favorite Soft Drink



37%
don't drink
soft drinks



33%
mentioned a
diet soft
drink



25%
said
regular

© Cornell Food and Brand Lab

VOLUNTEERS STUDY INTO THE EFFORTLESSLY THIN PEOPLE

He found thin people's strategies differed from conventional weight loss advice.

They included eating high-quality foods, cooking at home and listening to inner cues in order to stay slim.

A noticeable difference was they didn't report feeling as guilty as the other group about overeating.

During the study, one participant said their philosophy towards eating consisted of 'quality over quantity'.

Others volunteered phrases like 'I really regret eating healthy today - said

no one ever' and 'I train to be strong; I eat to be lean.'

Results

Lead researcher Anna-Leena Vuorinen, of VTT Technical Research Centre in Finland, said: 'These results are encouraging because they imply that instead of putting restrictions on one's diet and avoiding favorite foods, weight gain could be prevented early on by learning to listen to inner cues and putting emphasis on the quality instead of the quantity of food.'

Daily Mail

Untipping The Societal Scales

WITH: Dumisa Dlamini



That proverbial smith with too many irons in the fire seems to be conspicuously descriptive of men around this time of the year, where love is said to be in the air.

These Three Legged creatures have this naughty habit of over indulging themselves in love so much that when time comes to strike the iron whilst it is hot, they can't. They have many of them yet there is one moment only one moment to do so on Valentine Day. Men being the multi-tasking creatures they are have *umuntu la, umuntu le nomuntu lapha kanye nomfazi ekhaya*. They are never very good candidates, hosts or guests for Valentine. They would if they could but they cannot. Any man who has more than one woman for a lover hates the day with a purple passion. It's only one day in a year when he cannot split himself into two let alone call both or all his women to one Valentine dinner. Societal Scales can imagine *umjitha* addressing his dates, *tingani takhe phela* together with his wife, "Nginithanda nonke, be by Valentine." Petals of roses would be littered on the floor in a fierce fight than sprinkled over the bed before *umshudvo wenjabulo* in a clean pair of sheets in celebrations. The whole point here is that most if not all men who believe or are forced to adhere to the Valentine concept are a fix during this day.

Isn't it a wonder that all women are now in league in demanding to be spoilt and shown love on the day? Always! Never once do they want to pamper their husbands and boyfriends and spread some love. Rather they demand their Pound of Flesh and cash from men. The latter almost always will never come to the party. If they do, it would be with a bleeding heart, a depleted wallet or stolen moment. You see love should be all about preferences attitudes and choices. Given an opportunity, few men dream of Valentines with their wives, they would want to be out with girlfriends. However *homesesi nabo* know about this beautiful creature called Valentine and thus want hubby home for the whole day, say in bed or somewhere in a resort to celebrate the day. *Uyavuma babe ngenhlitiyo leyophako* because if he could, he would with *uNomvula wakhe*.

Neglected

As he packs those bags and dashes away where madam has demanded *ubuhlungu esikikileni sakhe*. Getting into a shop he would quickly disappear in-between shelves and send quick messages to the neglected love back in the apartment where Neliswa, Ziggy, Randy or Hlehlambile resides and patiently waits for shared love. It is a fair conclusion to arrive at that *bafati bayagodlolota* Valentine *kubabe aze ayikhiphe ayibeke phansi*. Left on his own to decide he wouldn't have his wife as a Valentine date. For that reason lots of women, girlfriends in particular are left reeling in pain because their partners who happen to be boyfriends elsewhere or even husbands are tied with the other woman and there is not one chance to escape until Valentine is over. *Kuba buhlungu nakubo labobabe, anati!* Societal Scales often times than not fails

HE WOULD IF HE COULD BUT HE CAN'T DO VALENTINE WITH YOU



● For months, men will be paying exorbitant debts accumulated from attempting to please their dates on Valentine's. One such brave girl demanded a flat screen television set from a boyfriend who had only dated her for three months, "*Uma ungangitsengeli, ungaphindzi ungikhulumise*".

to truly comprehend the idea of a woman being "spoilt" when she literally spells it out *yena matfupha* how she ought to be spoilt. Me thought *di dang* works perfectly as a total surprise. Nay not with your Cathy, Minky or Dinky, *utjelwa ngibo kutsi shona le, bheka le, ngena la*, spending *phela* until she feels pretty spoilt.

Prelim

That would only be the prelim of the day as she would still disappear to the bathroom and after what seems like ages, she would invade the mirror with her full length only to come out *agcoke kancane kakhulu*-ready to be taken out where she decides and demands. When the entire thing comes to an end *kusuke kute babe noma umjitha lojabulile*. Very parasitical this love game called Valentine. For months men will be paying exorbitant debts accumulated when they were attempting to please their dates on Valentine's. One such brave girl demanded a flat screen television set from a boyfriend who had only dated her for three months, "*Uma ungangitsengeli, ungaphindzi ungikhulumise*". All she means is that your failure to procure her that would be indicative enough that *ute imali* and therefore you cannot be the guy she can stick around with. Men buy these things and get nothing in return and at times not even the very date that establishes the opportunity to demand. She has a date with another man who potentially may buy her something even bigger say, a

bedroom suite or Honda Fit. By the end of Valentine's some women would have got it all; money, automobile, gifts and sex-leaving the client(s) absolutely broke.

Sekuyafundziswa ngaValentine nas- esontfweni. Pastors have taken extra biblical lesson's about secular things that move the world and souls, amongst them Valentine. Now this is a ploy to bring balance especially in the houses where the Lord would have blessed the couple with marriage. The women are also advised to take initiative and spoil their husbands on the day.

Promised

A police officer who had planned he would pretend to be on duty on Valentine had promised Nokuqonda a whole day for Valentine. He would convince his wife that duty called, get into uniform and disappear. Afterall, his wife was never a fanatic of this societal madness and would have seen nothing wrong when sir, her husband was out at work. He was wrong. His wife has sweet plans for the day. She had checked with the station if *babe* would be on duty and find that he wouldn't and went on with her romantic plan. He was woken up in bed with a well prepared breakfast with sweet petals over the very tray serving the meal. Further wifey asked her to get ready because *bona nje bobabili* were going out for dinner, *timfundziso temfundisi wakhe njalo*. He had to comply and abandoned the very temptation to lie *atsi uyasebenta*. However, later in the

day, he had to tell a fat lie, escape, as if he was going to the office. He was hardly five minutes into the girlfriend's apartment when *make* called reminding him she hated delays in bed. Valentine's is a stolen moment with men, especially when they want to be with girlfriends *kantsi namake wezamlle ekhaya*. It's good Valentine's falls on Sunday this year, *akuyiwe esontfweni* and let men and women out there pray for the spirit of love to come back to mankind in its genuine form. Believe Scales here women themselves are in a dilemma on Valentine's. As the husband goes all out to spoil her, she wishes she was with John, Robert, Gabriel or Mfutsumeti out there. Or she would have bought a gigantic present before the day, *labambone ayigoca* are certain she loves the husband. Nay, *akatsengeli yena*, there is another man on the side she truly loves. She knows, she can't be with him on the day and so buys him a gift, *latayifihla naye webantfu* because he is also married. Well other women are left devastated wondering if their entire Honey Pot is worth just a teddy bear, *letinkomishi letibhalwe I LOVE YOU kakhulu* or the pain of waiting for a man who shall never shadow her door today because he can't be with him. It's a Merry-Go Round where he would if he could be with you Candy but he can't because he is held up at Mandy's.

Catch Scales, if you can at
Dumisumlangeni@gmail.com

PET OBSERVER

HILLARY HAGUE
SWAZILAND ANIMAL WELFARE
SOCIETY (SAWS)
FOR VACCINATED AND STERILISED
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No matter how big or small your dog, he must be able to come, sit, stay and heel on command.

This will mean he can be controlled and is never a nuisance or a danger to others or himself.

- Training sessions must be not longer than five to 10 minutes.
- The key to training is your patience and positive attitude.
- Never punish. Use only positive motivation.
- In the beginning, give a reward for every obedience. Give the reward immediately the good behavior happens, don't wait for a second to pass. Positive reinforcements - or rewards - are crucial in any kind of training. For the average dog, food is an ideal reinforcement so keep a small supply of small or halved dog biscuits in your pocket. As the dog learns the lesson, replace food rewards with praise but continue with intermittent food rewards to maintain his interest.
- Training is easiest in an enclosed space like your fenced backyard with minimum distractions.
- Once he gets the hang of a command, practice in different places.
- If the dog starts losing interest, stop, play a game and start again later. Training should

TEACHING YOUR DOG 'COME', 'SIT'



always be fun and easy.

- Always end on a positive note. Always end with praise.

HOW TO TEACH YOUR DOG TO 'COME'

Coming to you when called is one of the more important skills your dog can learn. But it can be difficult because dogs learn quickly that they can outrun you! Therefore, he must learn quickly that coming back to you means a reward - and for "come" make it a big reward - lots of praise and a really yummy treat.

- Be opportunistic. If he's coming towards you anyway, say "Come!" very enthusiastically and happily and give a treat and praise. This way he learns without a formal lesson.
- Put him on a double lead (6 feet) or a long rope so that you can bring him back easily.
- Get the dog's attention and then back away a short distance. Kneeling on the ground, welcome him with open arms and cheerfully shout, "Spot, COME!" It may also help to run backward a few feet.
- Reward him for coming and start over, increasing your distance slightly.

• Don't remove the lead until you know he will return to you; if you're uncertain, walk up to him rather than calling him to you. Don't give him a chance to find out that misbehaving is fun.

HOW TO TEACH YOUR DOG TO 'SIT'

The sit exercise is probably the most practical skill you can teach your dog. Whenever you need more control of the dog, have him sit. It provides a gateway to all the other basic exercises including: "sit-stay," "down," "down-stay," "come" and "heel."

- Have an extra tasty treat in your hand.
- Stand in front of your dog.
- Let him sniff the treat and lure his nose to point upwards. Then move the treat backwards over his head close to his ears so that he naturally lowers his haunches to sit. Don't hold the treat high or he may jump for it.
- The minute he sits and even if he sits for only a second, give him the food - immediately - with lots of praise and petting. Repeat the exercise, giving him the "sit" command.
- If he doesn't sit to the food lure, don't push him into sitting. Just slow down and watch him. Anytime that you see him about to sit, give the "sit" command and reward him.
- Once he responds to the command, replace the food with petting and praise. Use occasional food treats to keep him motivated.

WANT TO TRADE OUTSIDE SD? EDUCATE YOURSELF ON STANDARDS.

Swaziland Standards Authority

By: Ntobeko Dlamini

SWASA Marketing and Communications Officer



So if you're considering expanding your business by importing or exporting goods and services, you need to ask yourself "What technical requirements must my product meet to enter and succeed in a specific market?"

There are strict requirements on importing and exporting goods, so it is important that you find out what technical specifications apply to your business.

A common misconception about standards is that they are mandatory, that they are enforced by law to be adhered to by businesses, manufacturers and producers. According to international best practice, that is not at all the nature of standards. They are voluntary in nature. Meaning that any organisation has the freedom to choose whether or not to implement standards in their organisation. However, with every rule, there always is a catch, a way around it, a bypass of some sorts. Government ministries (regulators) may reference standards in their laws and regulations, thus making them mandatory, these are then referred to as technical regulations.

In South Africa for example, SABS has developed around 5 000 standards, and about 80 of those standards have been made compulsory specifications (technical regulations),

which can be found industries such as food safety and the automotive industry. In Kenya, every product that sits on the shelf of any store in the country must be certified and hold one of their four marks of quality. It has been made law (another technical regulation), if you want to play in the field of food production in the country. Your product must be certified! This requirement is applicable to potential importers as well.

Trade is about the exchange of goods, reaching different markets and providing merchandise for consumers that live in diverse cultures, beliefs, geographical areas, and speak in different languages. Thus, being successful in international trade is based on the ability to sell a product in a foreign market. As in any activity, global trade implies having a common global language, a part of the dictionary needed is the product description. One system that exists in this particular area is the standards.

For this, each economy sets its standards and technical regulations and defines the con-

formity assessment procedures related to them. Standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures (collectively referred to as technical barriers to trade, (TBT's)) become a commercial reality that the entire international business community has to face and abide by to be successful.

Put at its simplest, a standard is an agreed, repeatable way of doing something. It is a published document that contains a technical specification or other precise criteria designed to be used consistently as a rule or guideline. Standards help to make life simpler and to increase the reliability and the effectiveness of many goods and services we use. Standards are designed for voluntary use and do not impose any regulations.

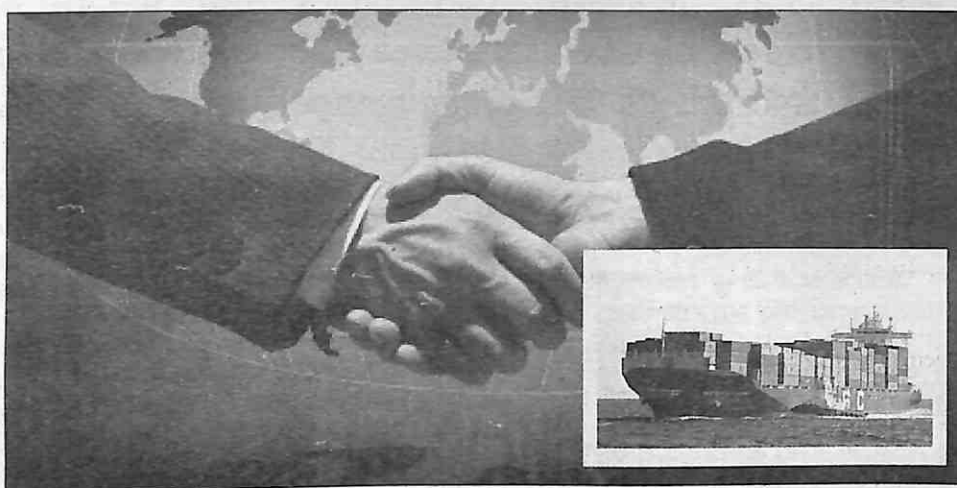
Standards are a powerful tool for organisations of all sizes. The ability to demonstrate compliance with widely recognised and respected standards is an effective means of differentiation in a competitive marketplace. Standards have several specific functions such as facilitating interchangeability, compatibility and interoperability; ensuring safety,

health and environmental protection; variety control and usability (fitness for purpose). As consumers become increasingly informed about their choices, conformity to recognised standards becomes pivotal.

If are exporting or importing and want to know what standards your products or services are expected to meet in your target market, what would you do? SWASA will play an important role. SWASA is the National Enquiry Point (NEP) for Swaziland on technical barriers to trade (TBT's). Businesses should make full use of the information available at SWASA from NEP's in foreign markets, to ensure that they obtain all information about the requirements for export of their products into these markets so they can effectively plan to comply with all those requirements. SWASA also has a Standards Information Centre which keeps a collection of national, regional and international standards. At the SWASA Information Centre, you will be able to consult catalogues of standards from various standards bodies to see which of them apply to your product or any other information relating to standards, which you may need. You will also be able to assess information about available Swaziland National Standards and information on standards in preparation.

To attain success in global markets, quality of the product and its conformance to customer requirements is very often the single most important consideration in securing export growth. It's that simple, and in order to play in the international trade field, standard implementation is vital.

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HEALTH FEATURE



Teacher Pauline Yuill was used to being quick on her feet - she was a keen ballroom dancer and even ran the London Marathon at 46.

Yet as she hit her mid-Fifties, her fast stride developed into a lop-sided, slow-paced walk.

'I was beginning to walk like someone in their Eighties and had developed a distinctive tilt to the left-hand side,' says Pauline, 60, who teaches English as a foreign language and lives in Forest Hill, London, with husband John, 60, an accountant.

Her GP put it down to getting older, but over the following months Pauline's walking slowed even further; she also noticed she wasn't swinging her arms as she walked, even when she consciously tried.

In 2012, when a passer-by shouted: 'Why are you walking like a drunk?' Pauline decided to see her GP again.

This time she was referred for an MRI scan of the neck and spine to check for arthritis, which picked up some slight deterioration.

Yet it would take a further two years - following an incident when her legs gave way suddenly - before she was referred to a neurologist, who diagnosed Parkinson's.

'I'd always associated Parkinson's with uncontrolled shaking, not problems with walking,' says Pauline.

In fact Parkinson's often causes a distinctive slow, shuffling walk with a shortened stride, as in Pauline's case. This occurs as brain cells die, leading to a drop in dopamine, which is important for movement and co-ordination - Pauline was diagnosed after a Dopamine Transporter Scan (DaT scan), which measures levels of it.

'The gait may become lop-sided because Parkinson's usually starts on one side of the body first, as one side of the brain is affected more than the other in the beginning - so what happens is that your spine changes shape,' explains Professor Tahir Masud, a consultant physician at Nottingham University Hospital, who is a gait expert.

'As it progresses you may notice a shuffling style of walking and experience problems taking the first steps when getting up from sitting - what we call ignition failure.'

Comedian Billy Connolly was diagnosed with Parkinson's after he'd walked across a hotel foyer in Los Angeles and a surgeon, noticing his strange gait, urged him to see a doctor.

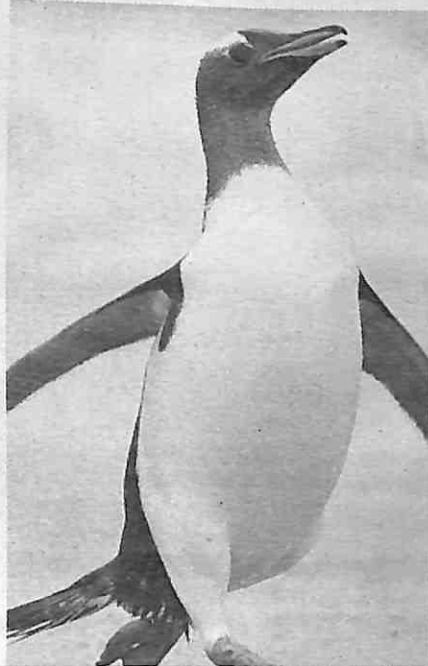
In fact, the way someone walks can provide major clues about several diseases, from arthritis to dementia, and even their stress levels. Last month, scientists revealed that stressed people tend to veer to the left when walking.

Writing in the journal *Cognition*, researchers from the University of Kent concluded that this may be because when people feel anxious, the right side of their brain becomes highly active, affecting the direction they walk in.

'There are quite distinctive walks for some conditions that geriatricians and neurologists can spot as soon as someone walks into a room,' says Professor Masud, who makes a point of meeting all his patients in the waiting room so he can watch their walk. Yet he says distinctive walks are often not picked up by doctors.

The number of muscles used to take one

WHAT YOUR WALK REVEALS ABOUT YOUR HEALTH



'Walking speed and pattern may be apparent before memory problems in those who develop dementia'.



Last month, scientists revealed that stressed people tend to veer to the left when walking.



'Lurching from side to side as if drunk may be a sign of damage to the cerebellum, part of the brain that controls co-ordination'

step

'This is a shame because the way someone walks is an easy assessment - it's non-invasive and free, unlike some expensive investigations.

'And it can reveal early signs of certain medical conditions, including minor strokes, spinal stenosis (narrowing of the spinal canal which puts pressure on the spinal cord or nerves) and osteoarthritis of the hip and knee,' he says.

Lynn Rochester, a professor of movement science at Newcastle University, says walking is a good barometer of health.

'It actually requires complex instructions from the brain - it isn't about just contracting and relaxing muscles,' she explains.

'There's some evidence that changes in walking speed and pattern may be apparent before memory problems in patients who go on to develop dementia, for instance.

'In patients with Parkinson's, some of the early changes are very subtle and may not even be detectable by clinical examination. Patients will just say they're slowing down or not walking as well.' After diagnosis, Pauline started treatment with the drug sinemet, which increases dopamine levels, and this has helped to control her symptoms. 'The drugs worked within a few weeks and my walking returned to normal,' she says. 'I'm now back ballroom dancing, have run a 5km race and recently climbed very challenging mountains while visiting my son in Australia.'

However, she wishes the cause of her lop-sided walk had been recognised earlier. 'I'd advise anyone who develops a walking problem not to ignore it.'

HEALTH SECRETS OF YOUR WALK

FEET STICK TO FLOOR

'There is a recognised dementia walk - we call it a magnetic gait - as dementia progresses, your feet appear to stick to the floor as if they were magnetic,' says Professor Masud.

This is because in dementia the higher brain functions (that govern thought and action) become impaired. This includes lifting the legs in a timely manner to clear the ground.

Other clues would be a slower gait, shorter steps and variability in gait - making you more prone to falls.

PENGUIN WADDLE

'Waddling with your upper body moving from side to side like a penguin can be due to compression of the nerves in the lower back, common in degenerative back disease,' says Professor Masud.

'The squashing of the nerves reduces signals to the muscles of the buttocks which are very important for keeping the pelvis straight when you put weight on one leg.

'Normally if you stand on your right leg the buttock muscles will keep the left side of the pelvis up, but if the nerve supply is damaged this doesn't happen, so the pelvis drops with each step and you start to waddle.'

KNEES CROSSING OVER

'Scissor gait', where the knees cross over in front of each other, can be related to conditions such as multiple sclerosis, which leads to damage to nerves in the brain and spinal cord or injuries to the spinal cord from sporting or road traffic accidents, says Professor Masud.

'Damage to the spinal cord may cause

weakness and muscle stiffness in the legs. Some muscle groups become stiffer and weaker. This makes the knees cross during walking.'

LIMPING

Walking with a limp - bearing weight on only one side of the body momentarily - can be a sign of arthritis (in the hip, knee, toe or feet). Of course, it could also be due to injury to one of the lower limbs on one side.

Someone with joint pain may unconsciously avoid bearing weight on these joints.

SWAYING

'Lurching from side to side as if drunk may be a sign of damage to the cerebellum, part of the brain that controls co-ordination,' says Professor Masud.

'This may indicate a stroke, a brain tumour or damage from alcohol abuse.'

DRAGGING FOOT

'This is an occupational hazard for workers who constantly press on their knees, as it damages the peroneal nerve at the side of the leg just below the knee joint,' says Professor Masud.

'This can cause dorsiflexion, where a person can't move their toes up, causing their foot to drag. When they walk they tend to lift their knee up more to stop their foot dragging.'

'This can also cause damage to the nerves elsewhere such as the sciatic nerve higher up the leg. 'Stroke patients often drag the foot on the affected side as damage to the brain causes the leg to become stiff.'

Daily Mail



LIFE line

Love Test



As I got in to the room with low dim lights and dining table full of roses everywhere, I thought to myself, "what a loving partner I have who compliments me in every aspect of life".

While approaching my bedroom, he stood still with a smile. In the room it was just love in the air. This made me think about our future and then I politely asked, "can we take our relationship to the next level?... " Oh Yes", he said before I finished my sentence. Thinking I was talking about making love at that time. I laughed and in a sexy voice I asked, "can we do a love test".

As he blushed, he asked me, "what is it all about?". I explained, "it's an HIV test; we go together, we test together and the HIV test results are explained to the two of us". That was the beginning of a long and healthy journey in our relationship.



Visit any health facility for couples' testing. For more info call: 2518-7676/2404-8443/2404-9474/2505-9183/2505-4790



Don't forget to also connect on cyber space with us via twitter @LLcares or @ new_start206.

ECONOMICS TODAY

WITH: George Choongwa



A fundamental prerequisite for nurturing entrepreneurship is the creation of a favourable business environment.

This goal must be at the heart of Swaziland and the entire Africa's economic liberalisation initiatives. The key parameters of a conducive business environment include smooth flow of information; ease of starting a business and obtaining various clearances and permits; ease of filing taxes; an efficient legal system; enabling legislations and regulations; absence of corruption; and world-class infrastructure facilities. Based on the research findings done by Southern African Research Foundation for Economic Development (SARFED), some of the critical bottlenecks in this regard are as follows:

ACCESS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION

An entrepreneur starting a business requires access to reliable information on various aspects of business such as regulatory issues, statutory compliances, registration processes, available sources of finance, infrastructure and so on. However in some countries like Zambia and Swaziland until now, this information was largely diffused and dispersed. The lack of readily available information in most cases compels new entrepreneurs to employ intermediaries to advise them on essential aspects of starting a business, thereby incurring additional costs that eventually weigh heavily on the cost of capital, hence making business a nightmare to venture into.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, SMEs IN SWAZILAND

EASE OF STARTING AND OPERATING BUSINESS

The official costs of starting a business are high and the process quite complex, involving no less than 13 procedures. This challenge cannot only be confined to developing states like Swaziland and its sisters, but a global one. For example, The World Bank report, 'Doing Business in South Asia 2007' says that, it takes 35 days (in Mumbai) to 52 days (in New Delhi) to start a business in India. This alone is enough to tell us that the challenge for entrepreneurs is a complex and global one. However, this cannot be a scapegoat for any government to relax in the attempt of improving the conditions and set an example for others to follow.

CORRUPTION

This challenge remains mystery to most African states. In Asia, it is believed that corruption is in itself not a crime as per se, but rather a means to doing business. Our friends it must be supposed saw this as something that cannot be ignored though we speak the language of defense for its but research findings estimate that at least 60% of the entrepreneurs interviewed said they faced corruption at some time during their entrepreneurial journey while dealing with governmental procedures and officials. That is a very disturbing statistic.

TAXATION

Another challenge of doing business for emergent entrepreneurs is that of tax. In as much as it is a fundamental source of revenue to the state, the government can design certain specific clauses that would safe

guard as a measure of incubating business entrepreneurs in to the systems. More to this not sounding to discourage the outsource effect, Collection of taxes through different government agencies also increases the problems of complying with tax regulation. In other words, close to 66% of the entrepreneurs interviewed, i.e. two out of every three entrepreneurs, faced difficulties with regard to some aspect of taxation - the multiplicity of taxes or the complexity of filing procedures, or both.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The reliability and availability of world-class infrastructure services is critical for the growth of Entrepreneurship in any economy. In Africa, we still have a long way to go in this regard. physical infrastructure - roads/highways, railways, ports, airports, power, telecom - is seen as a bottleneck to the smooth operation of all economic activities.

The high transport and supply-chain costs that poor infrastructure entails are significant, particularly for a small entrepreneur. Enterprises surveyed in the *Global Competitiveness Report 2007-08*, rated inadequate infrastructure as 'the most problematic factor' for doing business in most countries. This can be seen as a challenge and opportunity for developing states. For example, Swaziland can aim at developing sector after the other and in the long run the whole economy can be on a better position compared to others. This can eventually attract lots of Foreign direct investments (FDIs).

GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR SMEs

Majority of entrepreneurs saying that the

government is generally despite government finding its desperate measures to ensure that the SME sector grows in the country, entrepreneurs still see this as a minor effort it not nothing at all.

The Study found a significant majority of entrepreneurs saying that the government is generally 'not helpful'. In the interviews, 61% of the entrepreneurs rated 'helpfulness of government' as 'extremely unsatisfactory' or 'somewhat unsatisfactory'. Some entrepreneurs said that while the government has some very significant policies to help entrepreneurs, the implementation of these policies is extremely complicated. Some were of the view that government schemes and initiatives are not publicised adequately.

Others said that corruption and red-tapism result in the schemes not reaching the targeted people.

GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION

In addition to what is already done, government can as well consider some of the following points; develop a comprehensive Incubation Policy at the national level, which would increase quantity, enhance quality and increase access to financing.

Explore crucial incentive structures in Incubation such as land schemes (given the level of infrastructure problems that start-ups face), tax sops, banking policies, micro funds, innovative financial schemes, outcome measurement and delivery mechanisms.

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Southern African Research Foundation for
Economic Development - SARFED
Nurturing sustainable growth

Focus on SA scene

ZUMA SAYS DISRUPTIVE OPPOSITION SHOWED 'HOW USELESS THEY ARE'

CAPE TOWN - South Africa's President Jacob Zuma yesterday mocked the opposition, dismissing it as "useless" and ignorant after his parliamentary address and walked out.

"They are showing how useless they are, people will never vote for them," Zuma said a day after giving his annual state of the nation address interrupted.

"They don't understand democracy, how it works."

"They just move with the wind when it goes this way, that way, come on them," said Zuma.

Lawmakers from the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), dressed in their uniforms and workers' overalls and

wore hats, noisily interrupted his speech for an hour before being ordered out of the chamber on Thursday night.

"Zuma is no longer a president that deserves respect from anyone,"

EFF's firebrand leader Julius

Malema yelled at the president. But Zuma said if the opposition were true democrats, they should know better how to deal with the government when it errs.

"If the party or the president commits a mistake, there is a process how you deal with that," said Zuma in his first reaction to his heckling by EFF members of parliament.

"You are really not doing good for your country. You are making this country look bad out there, which means you don't think," he said after the speech was broadcast live on television.

He said the opposition's rowdy behaviour was actually working to his ruling African National Congress (ANC)'s advantage.

The "problem with other parties is (that) as soon as they open their mouths they talk about the ANC not about themselves."

"They are actually doing our job, they are not convincing people."

Times Live



MOCKED OPPOSITION: SA President Jacob Zuma.

President is at the end of the line - Experts

CAPE TOWN - One could see through his body language a statesman who has now arrived at the end of his

career. The chaos which erupted Thursday night in parliament during President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation Address (SONA), is an indication that opposition parties no longer accept his legitimacy.

This is the view of political analyst Andre Duvenhage. In a repeat of last year, the president was repeatedly heckled before calm was ultimately restored, following

the eviction from the House of Congress of the People (COPE) leader Mosioua Lekota and the EFF MPs under leader Julius Malema.

Duvenhage Thursday night said he believes Zuma might resign in the coming months.

"One could see through his body language a statesman who has now arrived at the end of his political career," Duvenhage told The Citizen.

According to Duvenhage the president no longer enjoyed the full support of his party members. "Even during the disruptions, it

seemed as if ANC MPs were not that enthusiastic - as was the case in the past - because they were not opposing the EFF's behaviour in a strong manner," he said.

Echoed

Fellow analyst Elvis Masoga echoed Duvenhage's sentiments, adding he was disappointed that Zuma failed to address the real issues of the day.

"I thought he would have a different approach to this year's SONA, given the leadership blunders he has committed, particularly the axing of former finance minister Nhlanhla Nene.

"I was expecting him to speak from the heart, considering that he has a dark cloud hanging over his head," he said.

Wits University Department of Political Studies head Professor Daryl Glaser said he was relieved that the EFF left without being physically removed, lauding parliament's apparent self-restraint, which 'saved the day'.

He was, however, critical of what he described as a "technocratic" speech by Zuma, which did not address the issues that had recently played on the minds of South Africans. *News24*

Zuma fails to appease investors, rating agencies - Economist

CAPE TOWN - President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation speech was filled with old ideas, according to emerging markets economist Peter Attard Montalto on Thursday.

The removal of two centres of government has been considered since 1994, but never happened, Montalto said. It would save around R500m per year, but that would be

offset by the likely massive cost of building a new parliament in Pretoria," he said. "It would also take five to 10 years likely for net savings to be achieved."

There was no mention of wealth tax, confirming to it won't appear in the budget, he said. The ban on foreign land ownership and a bill to this effect were mentioned, which will come forward in the second quarter of 2016 and will be 'deeply non-investor-friendly',

said Montalto. "We were a little surprised that the ban on foreign land ownership was given such prominence, and whilst leasing will be possible, this is a classic example of a policy going in the wrong direction to helping growth," he said.

There was a lot of mention of historic redress and the need for "radical economic transformation", said Montalto. This "is not a ratings-friendly phrase". "This was

tempered by an interesting first; an admission of the need for private enterprises to make profit," he said. Regarding parastatals, there was no mention of putting private sector management in place, which was a key suggestion from recent CEO meetings with Zuma.

"There was no mention of privatisation, though 'defunked' parastatals would be closed, but we think this is not a new policy."

Fin24



...Zuma's speech 'a failure to the nation' - Analysts

JOHANNESBURG - Political analysts have described President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation speech as dull, ordinary and a failure to the nation.

Political analyst and Wits University Professor Daryl Glaser said Zuma failed to be honest about his own mistakes and the condition of the country.

"It was typical and a familiar Zuma speech delivered in the usual dull way and repeating much of the talking points from previous years... The problem is that South Africa is going through a period of crisis, economically and politically."

"I don't think Zuma said enough by providing inspirational leadership by a way of showing self-reflection to persuade citizens, the international audience and investors that this time is going to be different. It didn't live up to the requirements of the moment," Glaser told News24.

Political analyst Aubrey Matshiqi said while Zuma's primary audience was the international rating agencies; he was not convinced he did enough to appease them.

"I am not convinced his statement has done enough because I think the main expectation of rating agency was a growth plan. What he did was describe problems in domestic and global terrain and second to talk about what has been achieved in the 9 point plan. I am not clear what has been achieved will be enough beyond the 0.8 % projected growth."

Matshiqi said Zuma had also failed to diffuse the restlessness among the poor and the working class. He said Zuma had failed to articulate a clear plan to create jobs which may become a problem for the ANC as the party gears up for the 2016 local elections.

"In the manner in which the ANC govern

What SA say about SONA2016

JOHANNESBURG - President Jacob Zuma seems to have failed to impress with Thursday's State of the Nation Address as commentators say he delivered no real solutions.

This comes despite Zuma's promises to cut down on state spending, and eliminate fruitless and wasteful expenditure. All sorts of things are going - from trips overseas to one seat of government.

Zuma, acknowledging the doldrums that SA was in as an economy - with growth predicted to come in at less than 1 percent this year and the risk of a downgrade on the horizon - said government was intervening to boost the economy. He spoke about initiatives to trim red tape, and support small businesses and made the economy the central point of his speech. Yet, that failed to impress those commenting on social media, with only 4 percent on the conversations dealing with economic aspects, despite the volume of conversations setting new records. Thursday night was the toughest SONA Zuma has had to deliver since 2009 with the economy sliding badly, tax revenue expected to be down, and the twin challenges of job creation and eliminating poverty key issues that need to be tackled this year. Despite the President's focus on economic woes, and his acknowledgement that the country needs to do something even as emerging-market counterparts are also battling, Lew Geffen Sotheby's International Realty chairman Lew Geffen says the speech "delivered no surprises and no real solutions." *IOL*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamas stops senior UN staffer

GAZA CITY - A UN World Health Organisation official says Hamas has prevented a senior employee of the international group from leaving the Gaza Strip. The official said Mahmoud Daher, the Palestinian head of the WHO's Gaza office, was barred from leaving. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to discuss the incident. The official said Hamas announced two weeks ago that international organisations would need a Hamas-issued exit permit when leaving the territory into Israel. The organisation had previously been exempt from acquiring the permit. The UN asked for a month to study the request. *Reuters*

Internet is growing market

LISBON - The internet is now a growing and varied market place for trading illegal drugs in Europe, the European Union's watchdog agency said. Almost any kind of illegal drug can be bought today on the Internet and delivered by mail, with no face-to-face contact between buyer and dealer," said Dimitris Avramopoulos, the European commissioner for migration, home affairs and citizenship. He called on Europe to 'attack the problem head-on' and reduce the online drug supply. *AFP*

Three die from Zika complications

CARACAS - Venezuela has announced the first Zika-related deaths in the South American country. President Nicolas Maduro said that at least three people have died in Venezuela due to complications related to the mosquito-borne Zika virus. He added



that 68 people have been hospitalised with complications confirmed to be related to the virus. Maduro did not say what the complications were or how the deaths had been confirmed to be Zika-related. *Afp*

Turkey blasts UN calls to take in migrants

ISTANBUL - Divisions between Turkey and Europe have intensified with the Prime Minister threatening to send millions of refugees into the EU and warning European leaders he is not an 'idiot'. Recep Tayyip Erdogan was responding to EU pressure to open his borders to the tens of thousands of Syrian refugees amassing on the country's frontier having fled regime advances in Aleppo. In a speech in Ankara, he stepped up his denunciations of Western policy and said he had told EU leaders at a summit in November that Turkey could say 'goodbye' to the refugees. *Daily Mail*

Police arrest the Mafia Queens

MILAN - Three women running Sicily's 'Prickly Pear Lips' Mafia clan have been arrested in a massive police operation that netted more than 100 mobsters. Officers claim to have wiped out the Laudani clan overnight after having detained members of the organisation at all levels, including the women bosses known as 'the three queens of Caltagirone'. Named after a town in the area, the trio had ruled the clan with an iron grip, governing its financial matters and mentoring from a young age its heir. *Daily Mail*



Sanders is making promises that cannot be kept - Clinton

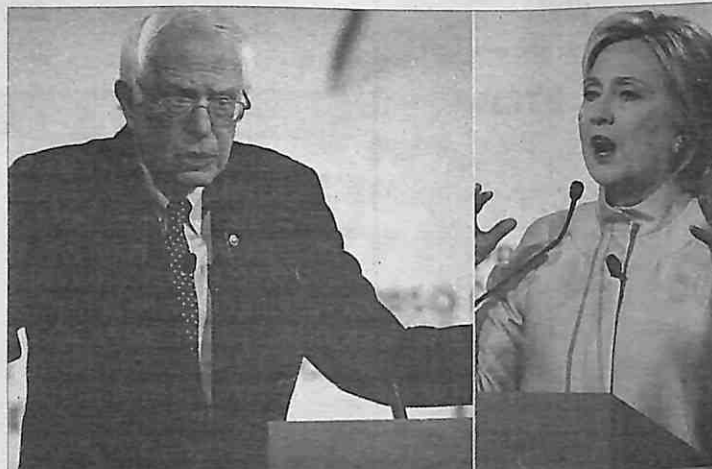
MILWAUKEE - Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders battled for the crucial support of black and Hispanic voters in a Democratic debate, a polite but pointed contest that marked a shift in the primary toward states with more minority voters.

After splitting the first two states in the state-by-state primary contest with Sanders, Clinton also deepened her assertion Thursday night that her unexpectedly strong rival was energising voters with promises 'that cannot be kept'. And she continued to closely align herself with President Barack Obama, who remains popular particularly with black Democrats.

Seeking to boost his own support with minorities, Sanders peppered his typically economic-focused rhetoric with calls to reform a "broken criminal justice system."

"At the end of my first term, we will not have more people in jail than any other country," he said.

In one of many moments of agreement between the candidates, Clinton concurred on a need to address a criminal justice system that incarcerates a disproportionate



CLASH: Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton battled for the crucial support of black and Hispanic voters in a Democratic debate. (AP)

number of minorities. But she cast her proposals for fighting racial inequality as broader than his.

Emphasise

"We're going to emphasise education, jobs and housing," said Clinton, who was endorsed earlier in the day by the political action committee of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The candidates both vowed to pursue comprehensive immigration reform, using the emotional issue

to draw a contrast with Republicans who oppose allowing many of the millions of people in the United States illegally to stay. Both disagreed with a new series of raids authorised by Obama to arrest and deport some people from Central America who recently came to the country illegally.

"We should be deporting criminals, not hardworking immigrant families who do the very best they can," Clinton said.

Both candidates were largely restrained in their head-to-head contest, a contrast to their campaign's increasingly heated rhetoric on the campaign trail. While Clinton played the aggressor in the previous Democratic debate, she is mindful of a need to not turn off Sanders' voters, particularly the young people that are supporting him in overwhelming numbers.

Clinton is hoping to offset Sanders' backing from those young Americans by drawing support from the black and Hispanic voters who make up a big share of the electorate in Nevada, South Carolina and other states that come next on the primary calendar.

In the more crowded Republican field, South Carolina is next.

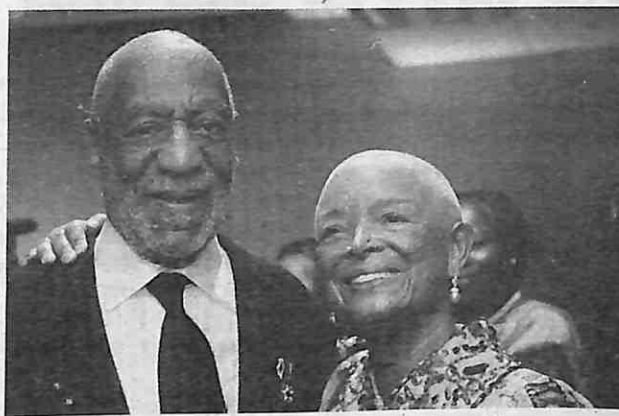
Billionaire Donald Trump, fresh from a commanding win in New Hampshire, will be tested by the state's more conservative voters.

The former secretary of state sought to discredit some of the proposals that have drawn young people to Sanders, including his call for free tuition at public colleges and universities and a plan for a government-run, single-payer health care system. *Reuters*

Judge rules Bill Cosby's wife must give deposition in defamation suit

NEW YORK - A federal judge in Massachusetts has ruled that Bill Cosby's wife must give a deposition in a defamation lawsuit against the disgraced comedian, but said she can refuse to answer questions about private marital conversations.

In the lawsuit, seven women allege Cosby, 78, defamed them by branding them as liars after they went public with accusations that he sexually assaulted them decades ago. A lawyer for the women has sought to compel Camille Cosby, 71, to give a deposition. Last month, a magistrate judge rejected Cosby's bid to quash the deposition subpoena. On Thursday, US District Judge



DEPOSITION: Bill Cosby's wife Camille.

Mark Mastroianni upheld the magistrate's ruling, but said Camille Cosby may refuse to answer questions that call for testimony prohibited by the Massachusetts marital disqualification rule.

The rule generally prohibits

spouses from testifying about private marital conversations.

The women's lawyer, Joseph Cammarata, hoped to depose Camille Cosby on February 22, but it was not immediately clear if that date is firm. *Afp*

Could Zika prove fatal?

SAO PAULO - Three people died from complications linked to the Zika virus, Brazilian health officials said yesterday.

Scientists found the virus in the body of a 20-year-old woman who died last April from respiratory problems, a spokesman for the country's

health ministry said.

The virus was previously detected in two adults who died in June and October of suspected Zika complications, he added.

The little understood virus was previously believed to cause only minor symptoms, including a fever, rash and

muscle aches, and often no symptoms at all.

There is scant evidence in the limited studies on the disease of it being linked to fatalities.

Fears have been raised over a link between the virus and a serious birth defect that causes babies to be born with unusually small heads and in many cases brain damage. *Reuters*

Father of two is convinced he is pregnant after having sex with another man

NEW DELHI - An Indian father of two became convinced he was pregnant after having gay sex, it has been claimed.

The 52-year-old was taken to see a psychiatrist after his family became so exasperated with his wild claim.

For six months he complained of bizarre movements in his stomach - which led to his theory he was pregnant, the *The Times of India* reports.

Furthermore, he refused to believe that men cannot become pregnant.

Demanded

As a result, he demanded bed rest and avoided any labour-intensive work for several months.

The final straw for his worried brother was when he began rejecting food, blaming nausea, or morning sickness.

Upon arriving at the clinic in Kozhikode, he admitted he had been involved in a homosexual relationship - and it was then the child had been conceived. Stunned doctors performed a series of tests and examinations, which revealed nothing untoward. The team, headed by Dr P N Suresh Kumar, concluded the patient was suffering from a delusion.

"We never came across this sort of case before," he told the newspaper.

He was an active homosexual in his adolescent years which may contributed to his beliefs. "But, his homosexuality did not affect his marriage." *Reuters*

Africa News

Political crisis looms in DRC - US

WASHINGTON - A political crisis is growing in Democratic Republic of Congo over the possibility that President Joseph Kabila might seek a third term in office, a senior US official warned.

Tom Perriello, US Special Envoy to Africa's Great Lakes Region, said if Kabila sought a third term in November elections, even though the constitution bars such a move, it could undermine political and economic gains of the past decade.

Kabila has stopped short of saying he will step down in November at the end of his second elected mandate, prompting concerns he wants another term. "A political crisis is building as the DRC prepares, or rather fails to prepare, for upcoming historic elections scheduled for this November," Perriello told a congressional hearing.

"If the DRC chooses the path of Burundi, the scale of human suffering could dwarf what we have seen next door."

More than 240 000 people have fled political violence in Burundi, sparked by President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision last year to run for a third term. It has raised concerns of a bloody ethnic conflict in a region where memories of Rwanda's 1994 genocide are still fresh.

Perriello said it appeared increasingly possible that Kabila was seeking reelection, pointing at delays by his administration to prepare for the elections. "A confrontation between President Kabila and those demanding timely and credible elections in the country is not inevitable, but it is becoming increasingly probable," he said.

Perriello and Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US assistant secretary of African Affairs, also raised concerns over reports that Rwanda's government was meddling in Burundi's conflict.

"We have seen a number of reports from our colleagues in the field that suggest the Rwandan government has been involved in destabilising activities in Burundi," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Daily Mail

RENAMO men reportedly attack vehicles in Moza

MAPUTO - Mozambique state media reported that a group of armed men from the main opposition RENAMO attacked four civilian vehicles on Thursday morning in the central Mozambican province of Sofala, resulting in a few injuries.

The attack took place between the Save River and Muxungue region in Chibabava district of Sofala around 6 a.m., according to one of the survivors, quoted by radio Mozambique.

One of the vehicles belongs to the ministry of health. Its driver whose name was not identified by the survivor sustained minor injuries. The gunmen tried to burn the car, but they ran into the bush when they learnt that government troops were rushing to the scene.

All four vehicles were travelling from the capital, Maputo towards the north of the country. The gunmen started firing

indiscriminately from the bush. They wounded the driver of the small truck, but not seriously. He is now in hospital in Muxungue town", the survivor said.

The survivor told the radio that "there is no doubt that they were RENAMO gunmen, because of the way they were attacking".

Radio Mozambique spoke to the administrator of Muxungue, Domingos Fernando, who confirmed the attack on four vehicle.

But he said the fourth vehicle, which was heading to the northern city of Nampula was attacked at 7 O' Clock in the morning.

According to Fernando, Renamo men have been in Muxungue for about a year, disguising as farmers.

"But afterwards they started attacking vehicles recently. We now realised that they are the ones who are attacking people as well", he added.

cnbcfrica.com

'No to genetically modified food despite food shortages'

HARARE - Zimbabwe's agricultural Minister Joseph Made has said that the country would not allow millers to import genetically modified food (GMO) although the southern African country is experiencing severe food shortages, reports New Zimbabwe

Made said the government will not allow millers to

import genetically modified grain into the country despite estimations that at least 3 million people are set to starve this year.

Launched

This came as Zimbabwe launched its appeal for \$1.5m drought relief assistance.

"When it comes to GMO you know the position of government is very clear, we do not accept GMO as we are

protecting the environment from the grain point of view. So far, there are places one can obtain non-GMO grain in Zambia, South Africa as well as in the Ukraine," Made was quoted saying.

Reports indicate that Zimbabwe needs at least 1.8 million tonnes of maize a year to feed its people and animals.

News24



BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, MUM: Tiger cub consoles its mother with a cuddle after she misses out on a kill. This heartwarming moment shows a hungry tiger cub giving its mother a hug after she misses out on killing a deer. The picture was taken in a tiger reserve in Maharashtra, India, just after she had spooked the herd of prey. Photographer Amol Bais said the adorable interaction was hugely popular online and received thousands of shares. (Daily Mail)

Money is Nigeria's main problem - Babatunde Fowler

ABUJA - Nigeria's Muhammad Buhari is battling to commence the road to development even after clamping down on previous corrupt administrations.

Upon assuming power President Muhammad Buhari went after former cabinet ministers and senior government officials who were involved in corrupt practices which have now affected his administration to deliver on electoral promises.

Even with oil revenue, Buhari's job is proving to be challenging. Babatunde Fowler, Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue service told CNBC Africa that, Nigeria's oil was not adequate to sustain the country's challenges as oil prices were subject to market considerations.

"Money is now our problem, we have people in leadership with vision [but the challenge is there is

no money to accomplish that vision]," he added.

"We are one African country, apart from South Africa, that is blessed with natural resources. It was so much easy for us to dig a well and extract oil."

Fowler also added that Nigeria was in a situation where oil revenue was more than adequate which shifted focus from tax revenue. "What any government requires to deliver services to its people is vision and revenue and due to our oil revenue we did not have to rely on taxation," he said.

"There is no country, including the developed economies, in the world that relies solely on the selling of natural resources for its development. When you have economic development, people are working, and organisations are making profits that creates a steady pool from taxation."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New poll gives Museveni 53 percent

KAMPALA - Findings of a new opinion poll released put Yoweri Museveni, the NRM presidential candidate a head of his opponents in the 2016 presidential race, six days to the February 18 general election. The poll that was conducted from February 1 to February 8 by research firm Ipsos gives Museveni a 53 percent lead ahead of his closest opponent Dr Kizza Besigye at 28 per cent. With a margin of error of +/-2.2 per cent and a confidence level of 95 per cent, it statistically means the President could have obtained 55.2 percent or 50.8 per cent of the votes, in all giving him a chance to win the election in the first round. The winner of the presidential election must win at least 50 per cent plus one vote. *All Africa*

Mogadishu orders removal of signboards

MOGADISHU - The Somali capital Mogadishu has ordered entrepreneurs to remove English-language signboards so as to protect the Somali language, a spokesperson for the mayor said. Residents are required to remove signs written in English from their businesses in the capital. The order is aimed at promoting the Somali language," spokesperson Abdifirah Omar Halane said. Those refusing to obey can be fined or jailed, said Ahmed Abdulle Afrah, district commissioner of Wadajir, one of the 17 districts in the capital. *AFP*

Machar reappointed vice president

JUBA - South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has appointed his rival and former rebel leader Riek Machar to be



his vice president, a decree broadcast on state television said. The decree said Machar will be the first vice president, but gave no more details. South Sudan has been mired in conflict since December 2013, when clashes broke out between troops loyal to Kiir and soldiers backing Riek Machar, who previously held the vice president position. *Reuters*

70 injured in Egypt train derailment

CAIRO - At least 70 people were injured in Egypt on Thursday when a passenger train derailed and two of its cars overturned, the health ministry said. The accident occurred in Bani Sueif province south of Cairo as the train was headed to the Egyptian capital from the temple city of Luxor. "Fifty-eight people were treated for their injuries and discharged, while the rest are under observation in hospital," the ministry said in a statement. Deadly train and vehicle accidents are common in Egypt, and some have sparked protests against alleged negligence in enforcing safety standards. *Reuters*

Rwanda to relocate Burundi refugees

KIGALI - Rwanda is to relocate refugees from Burundi to other countries, the government said Friday, amid accusations Kigali was meddling in the affairs of its troubled neighbour. "Rwanda readily shoulders its obligations to protect and care for refugees," a government statement read. However, experience in the Great Lakes is that the long-term presence of refugees so close to their country of origin carries considerable risks for all involved." *Afp*

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11 DEATHS



Relatives and Friends of **Evelyn Ntombene Vilakati** nee Gama known as **Gamane** are notified of her passing on. The Requiem Mass (Memorial) will be held at 3pm on Friday 12th February 2016 at Mater Dolorosa Church (MDS). Night vigil will be held this Friday at eHhukwini and she will be laid to rest Saturday morning on the 13th February 2016.



Kwatiswa bantfwabenkxosi eLundzi nemndeneni ne bangani **Nkanimbili Stanley Samuel Dlamini** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bekhakhakhe ka Mavimbela ka Hlati nebekhabonina ka Mhlanga nalapho abesenta khona eposini nase Swaziland Building Society. Utawufihlwa eLundzi ngeliSontfo mhlaka 14/02/16 emvakwemlindzelo ngelisiiko lemalangeni.



Kwatisa tihlobo ta **David Bhekumango Lukhele**, nebase khakhakhe ka Mamba kutsi akasekho emhlabeni.

Umlindzelo utawuba sekhayakubo ngalesihlanu wamhlaka 12.02.16. Utawufihlwa ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 13.02.16 ekhaya kubo eMangweni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Musa Lukhuleni bhuti wakhe egameni lemndeneni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo ne bangani ba **Xolani Ernest Tsabedze** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bekhakhakhe ka Nhlabatsi, bekhahonina ka Matse nebaka Mngometulu lapho bekhala khona. Bekalisotsha eMbutfu Barracks. Ufihlwa ngeliSontfo 14/02/2016 ekhaya kaMngometulu kuMaliyaduma. Umlindzelo ungelisabatha 13/02/2016 ntsambama. Kwatiswa belisotfo lakhe, libandla lika Moya nelicembu lebekahlabela kulo Swazi Gospel Brothers. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumkakhe laNhlabatsi egameni lemndeneni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo taka Manana nebaka Tfwala kaLavundlamanti lapho atalwa khona ne bangani nelisontfo lakhe le Assemblies of God kutsi **Siphiwe Florence Manana (LaTfwala)** akasekho

emhlabeni. Umlindzelo utaba khona ekhaya kakhe eNhlalabantfu ka Phunga ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 13 February 2016, bese ungawatjwa ngelisonfo nga 05:00 AM. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeneni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo ne bangani nabobonkhe bekhakhakhe kwekutsi **Benedict Mbokodvo Dlamini** lobekasebenta ku Matsapha eNampak, kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Umlindzelo ungalasihlanu 12/02/16 ekhaya lakhe ku Malindza, bese ufihlwa nge Mgcibelo 13/02/16 ngelisiiko leMalangeni. Labafuna kumpheketela ikhona itransport itosuka ekhaya lakhe ngeMgcibelo ekuseni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumntfwane Nkhosi Sikhlasempuluzi.



Kwatiswa tihlobo ne bangani ba **Simangele Bonisile Myeni** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Usishiye eMbabane lapho abesebenta khona ngeliSontfo mhlaka 7th February 2016. Umngcwabo wakhe utakuba Embutfu ekhaya kubo ngeMgcibelo ekuseni mhlaka 13th February 2016 emva kwemlindzelo lotabe ungalasihlanu. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu sisi wakhe Nokuhle Simelane.



Relatives and friends of **Phumaphi S. Mdluli** who was a teacher at Mater Dolorosa High School are notified that she is late. Memorial service will be held at St Marks high School Hall on Friday the 12th of February 2016 at 13:00HRS. She will be laid to rest on Saturday the 13th of February 2016 at her marital home, eNgwazini (eMgwenya) after a night vigil. Funeral service will begin at 04:30 HRS. Announcement by Family.



Kwatiswa tihlobo taka Magongo netaka Dlamini ekhabonina, kutsi **Lungelo Thembe** labe bamati ngalinye ligam, a kutsi ngu **Mzwandile** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa ne team yakhe i Sea Birds. Utobekwa eNgwane Park Cemetery ngeliSontfo 14-02-2016 emvakwemlindzelo ekhabonina eceleni kwase Beauty Court ngeMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumkhulu wakhe egameni lemndeneni.



The Maphalala family announces the demise of **Nompumelelo Portia Titi Nhlabatsi**. Funeral 14/02/2016 Sunday at Mafutseni (Bantfwanyana) after a night vigil on Saturday 13/02/2016. Announcement by her husband Sabelo Screw Maphalala on behalf of the entire family.



Kwatiswa baka Mkhonta ka Hhohho, nebaseNgwazini nebasekhakhakhe kaNdlangamandla eMgwenya, bakaMhlabane ekhabonina nebakaNkambule nebaka Dlamini ka Hhohho Emvembili kutsi **Elias Nkombela Mkhonta** akasekho emhlabeni ufihlwa 14/02/2016 ngeliSontfo ekuseni nga 5 am. Kulindzelwa ngeMgcibelo ekhayakubo Emvembile ka Hhohho. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu sisiwakhe Salayedwa Tecla Mkhonta egameni lemndeneni.



Tryphina Lomdzandzane Mdluli nee Mndzebele is late. Funeral at Egebeni Ndinilembi after a night vigil on 14 February 2016. Announcement by Thembeni on behalf of family.



Relatives and friends of **Samuel Majalimane Gweje Sihlongonyane** who is an ex-police officer are notified of his sudden death. Memorial service will be held at Roman Catholic Church (Manzini) at 1:00 pm. There will be no night vigil. Rest in peace La Ngwenya Mhlophe.

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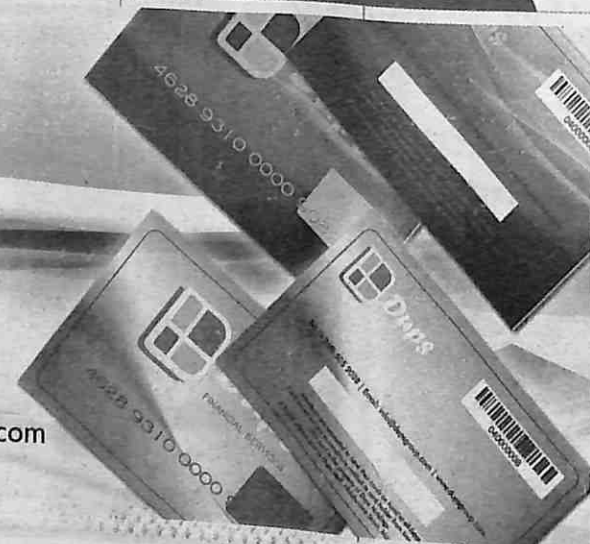
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Higuain confident he can handle pressure

NAPOLI - Napoli talisman Gonzalo Higuain insists he can handle the pressure ahead of the Serie A leaders' mouth-watering top-of-the-table clash with champions Juventus.

Maurizio Sarri's men visit the Scudetto holders tonight with a two-point lead over them at the summit as both sides enjoy a run of stunning form.

Juventus are on a club-record 14-game winning streak in Serie A and will be favourites to win the title for the fifth consecutive season should they defeat Napoli.

Napoli are on a club-record winning run of their own, having taken maximum points from their last eight league encounters.

Their results in this campaign

have owed much to the goalscoring prowess of Higuain, who is averaging a goal a game in the league with 24 to his name - a huge 11 clear of Juve's Paulo Dybala, his closest challenger for the golden boot.

Higuain is just three short of his best tally in a European league, which came in 2009-10 when he scored 27 for Real Madrid.

Having played for Madrid and featured in the World Cup final for Argentina in 2014, Higuain is no stranger to pressure and he is keeping his cool ahead of the biggest game of the season. "I am calm," Higuain told Rai. "I have been playing football for many years and am used to the pressure."

"Obviously there is a great desire to take to the pitch though - it is like a derby game."

"We know it is down to us, we have to remain calm and not get carried away with the euphoria because it could hurt us. It is better to keep our feet on the ground."

Massimiliano Allegri's Juventus are still without Kwadwo Asamoah (thigh), Mario Mandzukic and Giorgio Chiellini (both calf) for the encounter in Turin. *goal.com*



Milosevic staying positive amid relegation fight

DORTMUND - Hannover centre-back Alexander Milosevic insists the Bundesliga's bottom club are staying positive despite their predicament as Thomas Schaaf's men get set to visit Borussia Dortmund.

Having lost their last six league matches, Hannover are five points adrift of the relegation play-off place and seven off safety at the foot of the table.

And they face a tough task this afternoon against Dortmund, who are second and unbeaten in their last four games in all competitions.

But Milosevic - who joined Hannover on loan from Besiktas last month - is remaining upbeat.

"It's the first time in my career that I have fought against relegation," Milosevic told Hannover's official website.

"The only thing I can do is to play in every training session and in every game where I get the chance to give 100 per cent."

"I'm not someone who looks down and says that we need so many points in the next game."

"I just want my team to win. We are trying to stay positive at all times."

Hannover have a host of injury problems, with captain Christian Schulz (gastrointestinal flu), Adam Szalai (hamstring) and Hugo Almeida (infection) all missing out on the trip to Signal Iduna Park.

This weekend's clash will serve as the 50th Bundesliga meeting between Dortmund and Hannover.

Dortmund have won 24 of the previous 49 encounters and emerged victorious in nine of the last 12, and

boast a striker in Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang who enjoys playing Hannover.

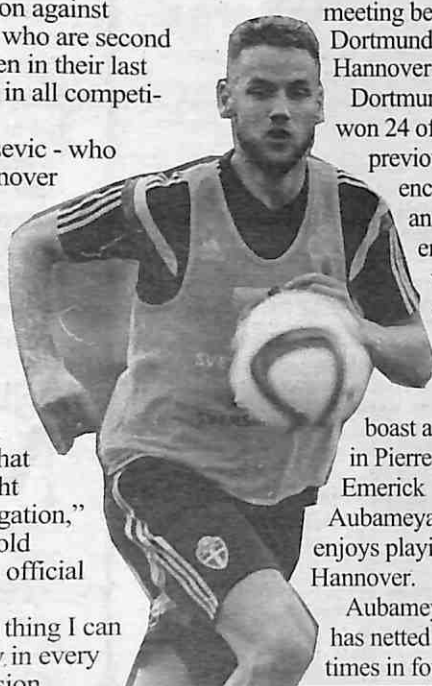
Aubameyang has netted four times in four appearances versus Hannover and comes into the game having reached the 30-goal mark for the season in Dortmund's 3-1 DFB-Pokal win at Stuttgart on Tuesday.

Despite the quick turnaround from that fixture, coach Thomas Tuchel is not concerned about his Dortmund player's fitness.

Speaking after game at the Mercedes-Benz Arena, Tuchel said: "We knew that we had to put in a lot. We knew how strong Stuttgart are now, how passionately they can play. We also knew how difficult the pitch would be to play on."

"We knew we would have to push ourselves to our limits. The physical effort put in by both teams is to be emphasised. Now we need to recover with real professionalism and care. Then we will be at 100 per cent from the very first minute on Saturday."

Sven Bender is back in training for Dortmund following a knee injury, but it remains to be seen if he will be involved as Dortmund aim to put points from their opening nine home games this term (joint club record) - a win this weekend would see them break the previous benchmark. *goal.com*



POSITIVE: Alexander Milosevic.

Champions seek to celebrate Blanc extension with win

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain will aim to celebrate Laurent Blanc's new deal in style when the Ligue 1 leaders host Lille today.

Blanc put pen to paper on a two-year contract extension on Thursday, putting to bed talk of him parting company with the club should they fail to win the Champions League, with PSG having previously suffered three straight quarter-final exits.

The Champions League will be Blanc and PSG's priority with the league title already looking secured.



DEAL EXTENDED: Laurent Blanc.

and face Chelsea in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie three days after Lille's visit to the Parc des Princes.

And, although PSG will be looking to preserve an incredible domestic unbeaten run that stretches back to March of last year, there could be changes in the offing for the hosts ahead of the meeting with Chelsea.

Sword

The encounter with Lille comes just three days after PSG put Lyon to the sword with a 3-0 win in the Coupe de France round of 16. Zlatan Ibrahimovic - scorer of a double in that match - conceded the busy schedule is making it tricky for PSG to consistently hit top form. Speaking after the defeat of Lyon, he said: "We are playing games every three days at the moment. It's very hard to stay in top shape and form every game."

"We started slow against Lyon but we accelerated in the second half and it paid off."

Times Live

Tuks, SuperSport meet in derby

PRETORIA - The University of Pretoria head to SuperSport United for an Absa Premiership clash at the Lucas Moripe Stadium in Atteridgeville tomorrow, having never scored a league goal against their Tshwane rivals.

AmaTuks have yet to register a goal against Matsatsantsa in 630 minutes of Premiership action, with SuperSport boasting an unblemished record of six wins and one draw in seven top flight matches against their neighbours.

Both sides have endured indifferent results in the league this season with both occupying spots outside the top 10, SuperSport in 12th and

AmaTuks in 15th after 18 rounds of fixtures.

Both have also undergone coaching changes in recent weeks with Shaun Bartlett taking over the reins at Tuks and Stuart Baxter now manning the touchline at SuperSport. Bartlett has suffered two defeats, drawing once in his three games in charge of the club and admits it has been a huge challenge to turn the club fortunes around. "At this moment in time it is a massive challenge for me, not just implementing tactics, but also giving the players the self-belief that we can go and achieve certain things," said the former Bafana Bafana striker. *Backpage TXT*

WEEKLY FIXTURES

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15:00	Recreativo do Libolo	v	Racing de Mocomiseng
15:00	Chicken Inn	v	Mamelodi Sundowns
15:30	Cercle de Joachim	v	Young Africans
15:30	Mangasport	v	Etoile du Congo
16:00	Gor Mahia	v	CNaPS Sport
16:30	Mafunzo	v	AS Vita Club
17:00	Stade Malien	v	RC Bobo Dioulasso
17:00	AS Douanes	v	Horoya AC

ENGLISH BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

14:45	Sunderland	v	Manchester United
17:00	Bournemouth	v	Stoke City
17:00	Crystal Palace	v	Watford
17:00	Everton	v	West Bromwich Albion
17:00	Norwich City	v	West Ham United
17:00	Swansea City	v	Southampton
19:30	Chelsea	v	Newcastle United

FRENCH LIGUE 1

18:00	Paris Saint-Germain	v	Lille
21:00	Guingamp	v	Bordeaux
21:00	Montpellier	v	Toulouse
21:00	Nantes	v	Lorient
21:00	Reims	v	Bastia
21:00	GFC Ajaccio	v	Troyes

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

16:30	Borussia Dortmund	v	Hannover 96
16:30	SV Darmstadt 98	v	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
16:30	SV Werder Bremen	v	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
16:30	VfB Stuttgart	v	Hertha BSC
16:30	VfL Wolfsburg	v	FC Ingolstadt 04
19:30	1. FC Koln	v	Eintracht Frankfurt

ITALIAN SERIE A

16:00	Empoli	v	Frosinone
19:00	Chievo	v	Sassuolo
21:45	Juventus	v	Napoli

SPANISH LA LIGA

17:00	Real Madrid	v	Athletic Club
19:15	Villarreal	v	Malaga
21:30	Valencia CF	v	Espanyol
23:05	De La Coruna	v	Real Betis

TOMORROW

ABSA PREMIERSHIP			
15:30	SuperSport United	v	University of Pretoria
15:30	Bloem Celtic	v	Chippa United

CAF Champions League

14:00	Club Africain	v	AS Tandra
15:00	Ashantigold SC	v	MO Béjaia
15:00	Volcan Club de Moroni	v	Kaizer Chiefs
15:00	As Cotontchad SN	v	Asec Mimosas
15:30	Mbabane Swallows	v	APR FC
16:00	Orze Créateurs	v	Ahly Tripoli
16:00	Lili Football Club	v	Vital'OF C
16:00	Nimba United	v	US Douala
16:00	Wari Wolves	v	Sporting Praia Cruz
16:00	St. George	v	St. Michel United
19:30	Wydad Athletic Club	v	AS Douanes

ENGLISH BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

14:00	Arsenal	v	Leicester City
16:05	Aston Villa	v	Liverpool
18:15	Manchester City	v	Tottenham Hotspur

FRENCH LIGUE 1

15:00	Lyon	v	Caen
18:00	St Etienne	v	Monaco
22:00	Nice	v	Marseille

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

16:30	Hamburger SV	v	B Monchengladbach
18:30	FC Augsburg	v	FC Bayern Munchen

ITALIAN SERIE A

13:30	Milan	v	Genoa
16:00	Palermo	v	Torino
16:00	Sampdoria	v	Atalanta
16:00	Udinese	v	Bologna
Fruli			
21:45	Fiorentina	v	Internazionale

SPANISH LA LIGA

13:00	Real Sociedad	v	Granada CF
17:00	Sevilla	v	Las Palmas
19:15	Eibar	v	Levante
19:15	Getafe	v	Atletico de Madrid
21:30	Barcelona	v	Celta de Vigo

Mamelodi Sundowns want buckets of goals at Zimbabwe's Chicken Inn

RARE - If Zimbabwean club Chicken Inn have been keeping a close eye on South African football lately, they'll know who to watch when they host Mamelodi Sundowns in the CAF Champions League at Luveve Stadium this afternoon. A man they should

know very well, Khama Billiat, is giving defenders sleepless nights and he'll show no mercy to his compatriots as Downs look to get their continental campaign off to a good start. Billiat, who bagged his eighth league goal against Orlando Pirates on Wednesday, says he will have to put his emo-

tions aside and get the job done when he returns to his home country. He is in devastating form right now, and as if he wasn't enough to deal with, the Chicken Inn defenders have to tame Leonardo Castro and Keagan Dolly as well. "We had to take care of the Pirates game first and then

we prepared for Chicken Inn," said Billiat, 25. "It's my home country team and I am trying to put my mind in the right place because I do not want to be emotional. "I want to play for the team and give the performances I usually do. We will stick to our game and I know we stand a chance." *Times Live*



Employment Opportunities

On behalf of our client Swazi Airways, we invite applications from qualified and skilled candidates who possess the required experience, drive and commitment needed to fulfil the objectives of Swazi Airways.

All posts need candidates who are results oriented, goal driven, and computer literate. The highest levels of integrity are also essential for success in these positions.

Shortlisted candidates will be expected to attend an interview. Swazi Citizens will be preferred. Please email or hand deliver written applications together with a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae clearly stating the position(s) applied for in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is 18 February 2016. All applications will be acknowledged, late applications will not be accepted. All short listed candidates will be subjected to a process of security clearance prior to appointment. Should you not receive further correspondence within one month of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Quality Manager

Under the supervision of the nominated post-holders, the Quality Manager will monitor activity in the areas of flight and ground operations, maintenance and training, to verify that the standards required by Swazi Airways and the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA) are being carried out.

Principal accountabilities

- Establish, document, develop and manage the Quality System of Swazi Airways, and ensure that it continues to comply with SWACAA and other regulatory requirements, this includes carrying out ongoing reviews to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the Quality System.
- Ensure that all quality related policies and procedures detailed in the Operations, Quality and other relevant manuals are adhered to, continuously monitoring compliance to these.
- Maintain and keep current all Quality Audit and inspection records for review at any time by SWACAA and other external bodies as appropriate.
- Liaise with SWACAA as may be appropriate on matters related to the Quality System.
- Establish procedures for dealing with non-conformities, monitoring non-conformity reports and taking corrective/preventive action in response to audit findings.
- Schedule management review meetings with the CEO and senior management and present internal audit reports.
- Review the Quality Systems of new vendors and contractors who impact the operation and organize audits of their quality assurance systems.
- Monitor all contracted maintenance vendors for compliance with contract conditions relevant to airworthiness and that contracted organisations have the relevant Approvals and facilities
- Monitor all certificate renewals, including renewal test flights, relevant to the certification and operation of each company aircraft.
- Control the use and application of the Company Minimum Equipment List insofar as it affects airworthiness.
- Grant authorization to individuals to certify the Certificate of Release to Service, as well as special authorisations to issue Certificate of Maintenance Review, and renewal recommendations for Certificates of Airworthiness.
- Coordinate reports of conditions affecting the airworthiness of Swazi Airways aircraft.
- Define the syllabus of training, in conjunction with the Director of Maintenance and the Training Manager.
- Ensure the organization holds all appropriate technical publications, specifications and drawings and that they are amended as required.
- Establish a Materials Management Inspection section by the granting of Stores Inspection authority to suitable individuals.
- Conduct all Airworthiness Technical Review meetings.
- Ensure that all staff who carry out Quality Inspections and Quality audits are adequately trained and certified.

Qualifications, experience and competencies

- Bachelor's degree in an Aviation or related technical discipline OR equivalent combination of professional qualifications and experience.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience as a Commercial Pilot, Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer or Licensed Flight Dispatcher.
- Successful completion of a training course in quality management system recognised by SWACAA.
- Aviation Audit Certification desired.
- Strong knowledge in aviation risk management.
- Ability to demonstrate complex problem solving techniques.
- Must have excellent prioritisation, organisation, analytical and decision-making skills.
- Must be computer literate and be able to use a variety of computer databases and programs and proficient in Microsoft Office.

Executive Assistant

Deliver administrative and secretarial support as required by Executive Management.

Principal accountabilities

- Draft letters and other documentation on behalf of the executive.
- Plan, control and manage the CEO's diary.
- Plan and control the entire administration office.
- Prepare and administer contract documents for the CEO.
- Schedule and manage the itinerary of the Executives, including scheduling meetings, travel and other demands on the Executives' time.
- Take, record and type all Executive Management minutes.
- Ensure strict adherence to confidentiality at all times.
- Maintain an effective medium of communication and close collaboration among workers.
- Plan and organise office activities both internal and external for Executives.
- Provide administrative support and clerical assistance to Executive and director-level management.
- Prepare statistical reports to be used by Executives.
- Review departmental reports and filing.
- Perform clerical and office duties as required; these may include running errands, as well as supervising clerical/administrative staff.

Qualifications, experience and competencies

- A Diploma in Business Administration /Secretarial
- A minimum of 5 years working experience.
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in Aviation industry would be an added advantage
- Vast Experience in Microsoft Office, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel
- Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, interpersonal skills, matured and be well organized.
- Fluent speaking and writing English and SiSwati (Mandatory).

Please email or hand deliver application(s) clearly stating the position(s) applied for to:

The Recruitment Manager

KPMG Advisory Swaziland (Pty) Ltd

Umkhwa House, Lot 195, Kal Grant Street, Mbabane

Email: recruitment@kpmg.co.sz



Director of Maintenance

Ultimately responsible for all maintenance operations and the continued airworthiness of Swazi Airways aircraft as specified in the regulations of the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA).

Principal accountabilities

- Direct the priorities and activities of aircraft maintenance, maintenance control, maintenance planning, and the maintenance training department. This includes all maintenance performed at base station and all Swazi Airways destinations.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, organisational standards, safety, security and quality in all Swazi Airways operations.
- Ensure the Certificate of Airworthiness for each aircraft operated by Swazi Airways remains valid.
- Develop and maintain close and harmonious working relationships with external organisations including SWACAA and other governmental and regulatory agencies, equipment manufacturers, contractors, and vendors.
- Develop, evaluate and implement the annual Maintenance Division operating budget and the annual aircraft maintenance budget.
- Ensure that all personnel under the maintenance division are adequately trained.
- Provide strong and inspired leadership to develop and promote company culture, as well as staff development strategies.
- Develop, evaluate, and implement maintenance policy standards and procedures for the growth and stability of the Swazi Airways Maintenance Division.
- Ensure effective communication between all levels of assigned personnel.

Qualifications, experience and competencies

- Bachelor's degree in a technical field, OR equivalent professional qualification and work experience.
- At least 10 years of experience as a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer including 3 years in the capacity of returning large jet powered commercial aircrafts to service.
- A minimum of 4 years in a management / supervisory position in an aircraft maintenance organisation.
- In-depth knowledge of all SWACAA and relevant international regulations related to Continued Airworthiness and Certification requirements of an aircraft.
- Strong communication skills coupled with demonstrated team building abilities.
- Strong business acumen with a reasonable level of financial literacy.
- Ability to demonstrate complex problem solving techniques.
- Must have excellent prioritisation, organisation, analytical and decision-making skills.
- Must be computer literate and be able to use a variety of computer databases and programs, and proficient in Microsoft Office.

Director of Safety

Responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of a comprehensive safety program to ensure all airline operations and activities are performed in the safest possible manner.

Principal accountabilities

- Develop and implement a Safety Management System (SMS) in accordance with the company safety manual, and guidance provided in SWACAA and ICAO publications and advisories.
- Monitor and report to CEO on all airline activities that may have an impact on safety.
- Coordinate with Director of Operations, Director of Maintenance, Quality Manager and other relevant airline personnel to develop a culture of safety within the organization.
- Establish a reporting system that provides for a timely, and free flow of safety related information.
- Develop and maintain a database of incident/accident information to monitor and analyse trends.
- Monitor and evaluate the various safety and malfunction reporting systems to ensure appropriate integration and evaluation of data.
- Investigate and report on incidents/accidents, including contributing factors and root causes, and make recommendations to prevent recurrences.
- Conduct safety audits and inspections.
- Solicit and process safety improvement suggestions.
- Develop and maintain a safety awareness program.
- Review and evaluate the adequacy of airline emergency response plans.
- Monitor industry safety concerns that may have an impact on airline operations.
- Maintain close liaison with regulatory agencies and industry safety organisations and associations.

Qualifications, experience and competencies

- Bachelor's degree in an Aviation or Safety discipline, Business Management, or related degree OR equivalent combination of professional qualifications and experience.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience as a Commercial Pilot, Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer or Licensed Flight Dispatcher.
- Successful completion of a training course in safety management systems recognized by SWACAA.
- SMS Certification and previous safety management experience desired.
- Strong knowledge in aviation risk management.
- Proven experience developing and facilitating training programs and presenting to both small and large audiences in various levels of leadership.
- Prior experience in managing complex projects and initiatives.
- Must be a skilled communicator with demonstrated team building skills.
- Ability to demonstrate complex problem solving techniques.
- Must have excellent prioritization, organization, analytical and decision-making skills.
- Must be computer literate and be able to use a variety of computer databases and programs, and proficient in Microsoft Office.

'UNITED OWNERS DISAPPOINTED'

MANCHESTER - Louis van Gaal admits that Manchester United's owners and executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward are 'disappointed' with the club's performance this season, but insists they have not lined up Jose Mourinho to replace him.

Although the Dutchman accepts that Woodward and the Glazers are duty bound to contact other candidates if they want to make a change, he claims that they would not do so behind his back.

Mourinho has been telling friends he is convinced United will hand him the job this summer, but it is understood that Van Gaal still has Woodward's support. That may change if United fail to secure a Champions League place, however, with Van Gaal's side currently in fifth position in the Premier League.

He said: "Of course, the Glazers are disappointed. Ed Woodward is disappointed and I am also disappointed because we are now

further away from the top.

"If they are thinking that they want to replace me, they have to prepare and they have to enquire, that is what I think. That is also a professional attitude, in my opinion.

"But if it is like that, they have to say it to me. And I believe they will tell me if it is like that. I not only have a strong relationship with Ed, but also with the Glazers.

"I don't know if Manchester United have spoken with Mourinho or not. I can only say that I have spoken with Ed Woodward and I cannot imagine that they have spoken with each other."

Van Gaal still plans to retire in the summer of 2017 at the end of his three-year contract. The 64-year-old is happy to advise United on his successor, insisting that it could have a major impact on the young team he plans to leave behind.

Daily Mail

Aguero hopes to continue scoring form

MANCHESTER - Sergio Aguero hopes to prove Tottenham's tormentor once more when the north London outfit travel to Manchester City this weekend.

Aguero has netted 10 goals in eight Premier League encounters against Spurs - a feat that no player can better.

City host Tottenham tomorrow afternoon looking to get their title bid back on track following their 3-1 home defeat by league leaders Leicester on February last Saturday.

In this corresponding fixture last season, Aguero scored all of four of City's goal as they

thrashed Spurs 4-1 - a feat he hopes can happen at the Etihad Stadium once more. "I'm not sure why I've scored so many goals against Spurs, it's just happened that way," he told City's official website.

"I hope I can keep up that form on Sunday and hopefully help us win this match, but we know it won't be easy.

"Last week we had Leicester who had only lost once away from home this season and now we face a Spurs team who have the same record. We were disappointed to lose last week but we will learn from it and use it positively." Daily Mail

Wenger's master plan for Vardy, Mahrez

LONDON - Arsene Wenger fears Leicester's pacy attack could ruin Arsenal's title dream tomorrow.

The shock league leaders travel to the Emirates for a game that will have a key bearing on the title race.

Sportsmail revealed this week that Wenger is considering playing Gabriel instead of Per Mertesacker alongside Laurent Koscielny in central defence in a bid to combat the speed of Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez.

And Wenger has admitted he is putting together a master plan to nullify the threat of Vardy and Mahrez.

He said: "It's difficult to go into individual assessment. Mertesacker is a great leader, very respected in our dressing room.

"But I have three centre backs and I adapt, on form, on opponents, on their strengths."

Wenger also kicked-off the title race mind games ahead of tomorrow's top of the table clash. The

66-year-old, veteran of many a title race, says we will find out what Leicester are truly made of in the coming weeks. AFP

"I believe they are still in a position where they think where they are, they have nothing to lose," said Wenger.

"But once you are top of the league, you can also think about losing what you have. That is where the nerves come in a little bit. I do not know how they will respond to that.

Pressure

"The pressure is on us as well, of course. I don't deny that but I take that in a very positive way and as an opportunity to show how strong we are."

The Frenchman also gave an injury update on Danny Welbeck. The striker has been sidelined for coming up to a year due to injury but Wenger hopes that could soon be about to change.

He said: "He's very close. Fitness-wise he is there, it is just competition."

Daily Mail

EVERYONE IS A CAPTAIN AT PIRATES'

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates Senegalese midfielder Issa Sarr says everyone in the team carries the same responsibility as the one who wears the armband inside the field at the Buccaneers. Sarr was handed the captaincy after the team's 1-2 loss to Mamelodi Sundowns due to the suspension of stand-in skipper Makhama Matlaba at the Orlando Stadium on Wednesday night. "Everyone in this team is a captain. When you play you must know your responsibility. The armband is just an addition," said Sarr. With Ajax Cape Town, Bidvest Wits, Kaizer Chiefs and Mamelodi Sundowns on a continental venture this weekend, Sarr



TEAM OF LEADERS: Orlando Pirates Football Club.

and his teammates will not be in action until next week Wednesday when they take on Free State Stars at Goble Park. Meanwhile, the story of a better

second-half performance from Pirates continued on Wednesday night, as the Buccaneers fought really hard in the last few minutes for an equaliser in the 1-2 defeat

by Mamelodi Sundowns at Orlando Stadium.

Twice in their last five games Pirates have come from behind to snatch a point as they seem to play much better in the second half than in the first 45 minutes. It all goes back to their incredible 3-3 and 1-1 draws with Maritzburg United and Kaizer Chiefs, respectively.

However, things didn't go according to plan for Pirates coach Eric Tinkler, saying his players didn't follow his instructions and they could have at least got a point.

"We gave a better performance in the second half; we started to dominate and created chances. But we needed to spread the ball wide more." *The Citizen*

attention of Pirates following his impressive displays, and with Khoza, believed to have a good relationship with his Baroka counterpart, Khurishi Mphahlele, a move to the Soweto giants cannot be ruled out.

The Buccaneers signed U23 international, Gift Motupa from Baroka.

Soccer Laduma



'Tuks need stability'

PRETORIA - University of Pretoria coach Shaun Bartlett believes there are a number of aspects the team needs to improve on for them to turn the corner.

Tuks find themselves in the dungeon of the relegation zone deep into the second half of the Absa Premiership campaign, with only 13 points from 18 league matches.

Following a narrow 1-0 defeat to Orlando Pirates in their last league meeting, a result that saw them retain 15th position, AmaTuks have now turned their focus on their game against cross-town rivals SuperSport United at the Lucas Moripe Stadium tomorrow afternoon.

Bartlett, who guided Golden Arrows to promotion back into the Premier Soccer League after just one season in the National First Division last season, believes he has a massive challenge on his hands.

"I think I have inherited a better squad," said Bartlett, *The Citizen*

Pirates keen on YouTube sensation Matebe

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates are monitoring the progress of Baroka FC dribbling wizard, Mphahlele Matete, with the view of snapping him up in the near future. Despite Matete only recently

breaking into the professional ranks, his progress in the NFD has been somewhat fast-tracked.

He was signed by Baroka FC, after his unique dribbling abilities, were captured on video and uploaded on YouTube. The videos subsequently piqued the

interest of various clubs and fans nationwide, however 'Bakgaga' as the club is known, quickly signed the winger and introduced him to first team action.

'Skhwama Sama Tariyana', as Matete is known in football circles, is said to have caught the

It's all in the mind - Komphela

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs were expected to leave the country yesterday on a mission to conquer the continent.

Amakhosi start their CAF Champions League campaign with a date with Comoros island side Volcan de Moroni at Stade Said Mohamed Chesikh in Mitsamiouli tomorrow (2pm SA time). The return leg will take place at Durban's Moses Mabhida

Stadium on February 27. Chiefs, who had taken the Caf competitions for granted in the past, seem to have been inspired by fellow

Soweto rivals Orlando Pirates, who made

Mzansi proud recently by reaching the 2015 Confederations Cup final.

They raised the South African flag on the continent but lost 1-2 on aggregate to Tunisian giants Etoile du Sahel in the final.

Although Pirates failed to qualify for CAF competitions this time, they inspired other Mzansi teams to aim high, having also reached the Champions League final in 2013. *Daily Sun*

OUT TO DOMINATE: Steve Komphela.



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1.0 The Swazi Observer hereby requests existing and potential suppliers who wish to do business with The Swazi Observer during the financial year 2016/17 which begins on 1st May 2016 to indicate their intentions and be registered in the Register of Approved Suppliers of The Swazi Observer.

2.0 Suppliers are requested to register under the following Categories:

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'FIFA rival failed to protect imprisoned players'

ZURICH - The contest for the FIFA presidency has taken on a personal edge after the favourite was accused by one of his rivals of failing to protect players.

Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan pointed the finger at his rival candidate Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain, the head of Asian football, over allegations from human rights groups.

Sheikh Salman is a member of the Bahrain royal family and has attracted opposition from human rights organisations due to the regime's role in the suppression of the country's pro-democracy demonstrations in 2011, which saw some footballers imprisoned and allegedly tortured.

He has denied any involvement but Prince Ali told a news conference in Geneva: "The simple, basic fact of the matter is that per-



MY VIEW: FIFA presidential candidate, Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein. (AP)

son did not protect or stick up for his players at that time."

Sheikh Salman has insisted he has never played a role in Bahrain's government and played no part in the detainment or mistreatment of any individuals.

Prince Ali's comments will

intensify the rivalry ahead of the election of Sepp Blatter's successor on February 26. Three other candidates, UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino, France's Jerome Champagne and Tokyo Sexwale of South Africa are also standing.

Prince Ali insisted he was a genuinely independent candidate who would ensure that FIFA had the proper reforms.

He added: "This election will determine whether a small group of powerful individuals will hold FIFA hostage."

The prince said if elected he would contact the US and Swiss attorney generals to offer the world governing body's full co-operation into their investigations into FIFA-related corruption.

Prince Ali brought along Musa Bility, the Liberian FA president who was prevented from standing for the FIFA election after failing integrity checks, to the news conference. Bility claimed there was 'interference or intimidation' over the African football confederation's (CAF) executive committee's announcement last week that it has endorsed Sheikh Salman.

Daily Mail

Benzema admits lying over sex tape

MADRID - Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema has admitted to lying to fellow France international Mathieu Valbuena over a sex video at the centre of an alleged blackmailing attempt, *Le Parisien* reported yesterday.

The French daily quoted extracts from Benzema's hearing with a judge on January 28 in which the player reportedly said he did not watch Valbuena's sex tape after telling the Olympique Lyonnais forward that he did.

"I should have told him I had not seen it," Benzema was quoted as telling the judge.

"I was showing off, I was acting...It's like when you describe a movie you have not seen. I have never seen that video."

Benzema, who has been under formal investigation since last November, has also been suspended indefinitely from the France team.

Benzema approached Valbuena about the tape during a France training camp last October.

Valbuena was quoted as telling a French judge last November: "He told me he had seen it, he swore on his daughter's life, telling me it was hot."

Benzema's lawyer was not immediately available for comment.

Times Live

Lord Coe blasts Nestlé as hypocrites

NEW YORK - Lord Coe has accused Nestlé of being hypocritical for sticking with the Tour de France while ditching their sponsorship deal with the IAAF.

The athletics world governing body are braced for the possibility of more sponsors walking away and Sportsmail understands Toyota and TDK — two of the IAAF's five official partners — are seriously considering terminating their deals.

It had previously been thought they would remain loyal to the sport and the loss of either would be a far bigger financial blow than Nestlé leaving. Toyota have sponsored every World Championships since 2003 and also provide transport for athletes during the events, and Japanese electronics brand TDK have been a partner of the IAAF since 1983.

Toyota are tied into a deal until after the London 2017 World Championships but could follow the lead of adidas and Nestlé by looking to end the partnership early on the grounds of reputational damage.

The fear among those at the top of athletics is that this could be the beginning of a mass exodus of sponsors following more than 12 months of corruption and doping revelations. However, IAAF president Coe came out swinging against Nestlé's decision.

Daily Mail



NOT HAPPY: Lord Coe.

Sevilla set up Copa del Rey final with Barcelona

SEVILLA - Sevilla secured their place in the Copa Del Rey final against Barcelona despite being held to a 2-2 draw at Celta Vigo.

The Galicians were facing a near almost impossible task to recover from a 4-0 deficit after the first leg, but gained some hope before half-time when Iago Aspas converted at the far post after Fabian Orellana's break down the left on 35 minutes.

As the rain poured down, the Balaidos faithful were on their feet again when Aspas, the former Liverpool forward, made it 2-0 on 55 minutes, nodding in a rebound from close range.

The home fans, though, were silenced just three minutes later when Argentine midfielder Ever Banega re-established Sevilla's control of the tie. The 27-year-old did so with a neat finish from the edge of the penalty area. The drama continued when Celta Vigo were awarded a penalty almost immediately following the restart after John Guidetti was tripped by goalkeeper Sergio Rico.

However, the Sweden international striker saw his spot-kick come back off the base of the post and bounce away to safety.

Celta continued to pour forward and forced Sevilla into some last-ditch defending, but were caught on the break with three minutes left when substitute Yevhen Konoplyanka stabbed in from close range after Vitolo had cut into the right side of the penalty area. *Daily Mail*

Mayweather's luxury shopping spree in London

LONDON - He boasts a net worth just under £300 million but as a top undefeated boxing champion, it's surprising to learn Floyd Mayweather's security is made up of four burly bodyguards.

And the heavy-weight security squad were pictured accompanying the 5' 8" megastar on a luxury shopping spree in London this week.

The 38-year-old was dwarfed by the stacked and towering minders who surrounded him as he made his way from one designer flagship to another. But perhaps the giant minders were justified as Mayweather, nicknamed Money for his ability to make and spend millions, was wearing a £400 000 diamond-encrusted watch.

The undefeated retired boxer wore his earnings on his sleeve as he was pictured browsing the expensive wares of Mayfair's high-end boutique littered Mount Street dripping in diamonds. Mayweather, 38, proved



BURLY SQUAD: Floyd Mayweather's burly bodyguards towered over the super-rich boxing champion as he indulged in a luxury shopping spree in London. (AP)

himself a true believer of the mantra, 'if you've got it flaunt it' as he sported the eye-

wateringly expensive jewellery on his left wrist.

Daily Mail

Nadal starts Argentina Open defence with victory

BUENOS AIRES - Reigning champion Rafael Nadal had to shake off some rust to prevail against Juan Monaco to reach the quarter-finals of the Argentina Open.

Monaco, playing his first tournament in six months due to a right wrist injury, pushed Nadal with three breaks of serve in the opening set in a repeat of last year's final.

However the world No.5, who was competing in a first match since an opening round loss at the Australian Open, managed to secure a straight sets 6-4, 6-4 victory on his beloved clay.

"I'm happy for the victory," Nadal said. "The start was tough, as Juan is a good player and the big humidity here in Argentina made it difficult. I am happy to be through and

hope to be ready for tomorrow."

Nadal will face Italian Paolo Lorenzi, who defeated Diego Schwartzman 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 to advance to the last eight.

"Paolo is a strong player and he had a great victory today," Nadal said. "We'll have an early afternoon start so it'll be very warm. It'll be a tough one." *Daily Mail*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HEALTH CHECK

How are 16 teams looking going into the knockout stages of Europe's elite club competition?

ZURICH - It's been a long 10 weeks but Tuesday and Wednesday finally see the return of the Champions League as the knockout stages begin with just 16 teams left.

After such a long lay-off plenty has changed in the landscape of European football: we've had a transfer window, league positions have shifted, some teams have hit form, while for others it has deserted them. Here, Sportsmail provides a health check on the 16 teams fighting it out to win the most prestigious club competition in the world.

● ARSENAL (VS BARCELONA - HOME FIRST FEBRUARY 23)

Current league position: 3rd - Premier League

Last five results: DLWDW

Form player: Mesut Ozil

January additions: Mohamed Elneny (Basle, £5million)

Mesut Ozil (second right) has been the stand out player for Arsenal - but will they be able to overcome Barca? Arsenal's form has been somewhat shaky of late but their 1-0 defeat by Chelsea last month remains their only loss of the calendar year.

They have shown an increased resilience in big games which will offer hope as they look to get past the last-16 stage for the first time in six years. Mesut Ozil has been among the Premier League's best performers and if Olivier Giroud can start firing again, they will be a threat. **Ozil** says: "Against Barcelona, it will be difficult, but in football anything is possible."

Key stat: Arsenal have lost their last 16 home tie in each of the previous three seasons, every time by a two goal margin (v Bayern Munich in 2012-13 and 2013/14, v Monaco in 2014-15). **Odds to win:** 40/1

● ATLETICO MADRID (VS PSV EINDHOVEN - AWAY FIRST FEBRUARY 24)

Current league position: 2nd - La Liga

Last five results: DDLWL

Form player: Antoine Griezmann

January additions: Augusto

Perez (Celta Vigo, £5.1m),

Matias Kranevitter (River Plate,

£6.3m). Diego Simeone's side have

been punching above their weight

domestically again and would be

point-top of the Spanish league had

they not lost 2-1 at Barcelona win

nine men last month.

Fernando Torres might have scored

at the weekend but the main attack-

ing responsibilities of this team fall to

Antoine Griezmann, whose 19 goals

this season have attracted the atten-

tion of European rivals.

Key stat: Diego Simeone's men

have failed to find the net in four of

their last six Champions League

away games. **Odds to win:** 14/1

● BARCELONA (VS ARSENAL - AWAY FIRST FEBRUARY 23)

Current league position: 1st - La Liga

Last five results: WWWWD

Form player: Luis Suarez

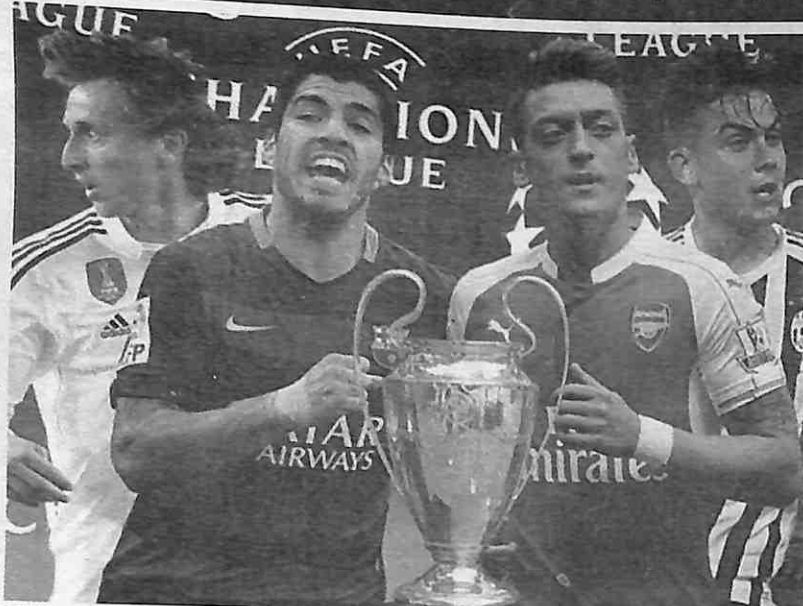
January additions: Alexis Vidal

(Sevilla, £7.5m), Arda Turan

(Atletico Madrid, £29m)

The Barcelona trio of Neymar,

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez have



once again been outstanding for Barca.

The Lionel Messi-Luis Suarez-Neymar trident has been pulled apart by injury at times this season but even without one piece of the trio Barcelona's attack is one to be feared.

Messi says: "We know that, every time, it's more difficult when you have just won it but I think the squad knows we have a great opportunity here, and we'll try it."

Key stat: Barcelona have won the Champions League in four of the last 10 seasons. No other team has won it more than once in the same period. They could become the first team since AC Milan to win back-to-back European Cup/Champions League titles. The Rossoneri did it in 1989 and 1990. **Odds to win:** 5/2

● BAYERN MUNICH (VS JUVENTUS - AWAY FIRST FEBRUARY 23)

Current league position: 1st - Bundesliga

Last five results: LWWDW

Form player: Robert

Lewandowski

January additions: Serdar Tasci

(Spartak Moscow, loan)

Robert Lewandowski has been in good goalscoring form for Bayern Munich in Pep Guardiola's final season. Pep Guardiola will be looking for a final flourish to his three years in Bavaria before leaving for Manchester City - and Bayern have the comfort of being eight points clear domestically.

In Robert Lewandowski they have the world's outstanding No 9 and the quality behind him is obvious with Douglas Costa the emerging star of this campaign.

Captain Philipp Lahm says: "Anyone who knows Bayern and our history as well as our recent seasons knows we can play for the title in all competitions and win them. It would be perfect to go home with all three titles at the end of Guardiola's time."

Key stat: Robert Lewandowski has scored 30 Champions League goals since his debut in 2011-12. Only Cristiano Ronaldo (60) and Lionel Messi (43) have been more prolific over the same period. **Odds to win:** 11/4

● BENFICA (VS ZENIT ST PETERSBURG - HOME FIRST FEBRUARY 16)

Current league position: 1st - Primeira Liga

Last five results: WWWWW

Form player: Renato Sanches

January additions: Alex Grimaldo (Barcelona, £1.2m)

The top scorers in Portugal this season, Benfica lead their domestic title race and will face Zenit St Petersburg later this month full of confidence. Part of that comes down to the emergence of Renato Sanches. The 18-year-old has become one of Europe's hottest properties with his performances in midfield and he is now among the first names on Rui Vitoria's team sheet.

Striker Jonas has 24 goals in 27 games this season while Benfica have conceded just 14 times in the Primeira Liga. Europe represents a much bigger test though.

Key stat: This is the first time Benfica have reached the knockout stages of the Champions League since 2011-12. That season, they were eliminated by eventual winners Chelsea in the quarter-finals. **Odds to win:** 150/1

● CHELSEA (VS PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN - AWAY FIRST FEBRUARY 16)

Current league position: 13th - Premier League

Last five results: DWWDD

Form player: Diego Costa

January signings: Matt Miazga

(New York Red Bulls, £3.5m)

Alexandre Pato (Corinthians, loan)

Diego Costa (above) has rediscovered his goalscoring touch for

Chelsea in recent weeks.

The Champions League was Chelsea's saving grace in a wretched first half of the season and while the manager has changed, Europe remains where they can salvage the campaign.

Key to any hopes on the continent will be the revived fortunes of Diego Costa and Cesc Fabregas, who failed to fire under Jose Mourinho but have perked up in the new year.

Manager Guus

Hiddink: "If you look at

their (PSG's) record

they are unbeaten for

a long time, which

is showing how

strong they are.

As you know

they kicked

Chelsea out

last

season so you can consider them the favourites."

Key stat: Four of Chelsea's last five away games in the Champions League knockout stages have ended in draws (L1). **Odds to win:** 25/1

● DYNAMO KIEV (VS Manchester City - home first February 24)

Current league position: 2nd - Ukrainian Premier League

Last five results: DWLWL

Form player: Andriy Yarmolenko

January additions: Nikita Korzun

(Dinamo Minsk, £500,000),

Oleksandr Yakovenko (free agent),

Valeriy Fedorchuk (free agent)

Andriy Yarmolenko (second left)

has helped Dynamo Kiev climb to

second in the Ukrainian Premier

League.

The Ukrainian champions have not played since they advanced from the group stage by beating Maccabi Tel Aviv, with their domestic football on an extended winter break.

That leaves them out of competitive match practice but with a full focus on a clash with a City side flustered by their FA Cup tie against Chelsea just three days prior to the first leg.

A full stadium in Kiev - after a UEFA ban was reduced - will certainly help as Dynamo rely on their excellent home form. But a shock win at Porto showed they can do it on the road, too. Forward Lukasz Teodorczyk has impressed in Dynamo's training camps since returning from injury. He says: "Each of us has been watching Manchester City's matches and drawing attention to certain points of their game."

Key stat: Dynamo Kiev hadn't reached the knockout stages of the Champions League since 1998-99. They were then eliminated by Bayern Munich in the semi-finals. **Odds to win:** 500/1

● GENT (VS WOLFSBURG - HOME FIRST FEBRUARY 17)

Current league position: 2nd - Pro League

Last five results: WWLWL

Form player: Sven Kums

January additions: Gustav

Wikheim (Stromsgodset, £1.2m),

Peter Olayinka (Skenderbeu,

£800,000), Rob

Schools (Sint-

Truiden,

£750,000),

Simon

Diedhiou

(Haugesund,

£600,000), Lucas

Deaux

(Nantes, £400,000)

Sven Kums (front) and his Gent teammates clap their crowd and have a chance to progress against Wolfsburg.

Gent might have fallen off the top spot of Belgium's Pro League, but they will be confident going into their last-16 tie against struggling Wolfsburg.

Captain Sven Kums was among the statistical leaders in the post-group stage analysis and will be hoping to add to his burgeoning reputation in the knockouts.

Key stat: Gent have never beaten a German side on home soil in European competition (D2 L2). They have also failed to score in their last three home games against German opposition. **Odds to win:** 500/1

● JUVENTUS (VS BAYERN MUNICH - HOME FIRST FEBRUARY 23)

Current league position: 2nd - Serie A

Last five results: WWWWW

Form player: Paulo Dybala

January additions: Rolando

Mandragora (Genoa, £4.5m)

Paulo Dybala (second left) has helped Juventus win their last 14 games after a slow start to the season.

Juventus started the season terribly but have now won 17 of their last 18 matches to storm back into Serie A contention and prove themselves as a threat to Bayern Munich.

Chelsea-linked manager Allegri: "My thoughts are on the championship, the Italian Cup and the Champions League."

Key stat: Juventus are winless in their last four Champions League games against Bayern Munich (D1 L3), their last victory dating back to November 2005 courtesy of a David Trezeguet brace (2-1). **Odds to win:** 33/1

● MANCHESTER CITY (VS DYNAMO KIEV - AWAY FIRST FEBRUARY 24)

Current league position: 4th - Premier League

Last five results: DWWWL

Form player: Sergio Aguero

January signings: None

Sergio Aguero (above) remains

Manchester City's talisman this season

as they chase four trophies.

Will the countdown to Guardiola's takeover count against City? It's difficult to say but the signs shown against Leicester City in the Premier League last week don't bode well.

Manuel Pellegrini is a dead man walking but this is his best chance at making a dent on Europe's top competition during his time as City manager.

Pellegrini: "If we play on the Sunday, we have to put Manchester City's interests first. For me, I must do what I feel is best for the club, to play with the strongest team we can in the Champions League."

Key stat: None of Manchester City's 34 Champions League games has ended goalless.

They have only kept four clean sheets in these 34 games. Only Basel have played more games in the competition without ever registering a goalless draw (46).

Odds to win: 14/1



TO BE
CONTINUED
TOMORROW

DANGER MAN: Robert Lewandowski has been in good goalscoring form for Bayern Munich in Pep Guardiola's final season.

SIDLALA KANJE...

PREVIEWS



Swazi Bank Cup Under-20 back with a bang

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – Today will mark the official kickoff of the third annual Swazi Bank Cup knockout tournament at the Manzini Club Stadium.

This year's tournament, which is sponsored to the tune of E200 000, will be played in a new

group format where the top two teams will make the quarterfinal of the first ever sponsored youth knockout competition.

Group

The groups are made of three teams per group with group C being the 'group of death' pitting the likes of Manzini Sundowns who are the 2014 champions,

Mbabane Highlanders and the revamped Royal Leopard.

What makes the tournament even more interesting is the inclusion of the E10 000 education bursary for the Player of the Series, which forms part of the E200 000 package.

The winners in this year's tournament will take home E30 000.



BATTLING: Swallows Samkeliso Shongwe and Green Mamba's Bayanda 'Zuka' Mlotso in a heading duel during last year's final.

Analysis of the teams to be in action today

Mbabane Swallows

The defending champions have been pitted against two Manzini based sides in Bad Boys and Manzini Wanderers in Group B.

The Beautiful Birds have managed to retain the majority of their players in the likes of Terrence Martins, Samkeliso Shongwe and Mancoba Mabuza who are the vital cogs for the Birds in the quest to defend their crown.

They start their mission against Bad Boys and the red and white ensemble is more favoured to win this one on paper.

vious edition where they finished as runners-up to eventual winners Mbabane Swallows.

'Inyoka Eluhlazana', as the team is affectionately known, are under the guidance of development specialist Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini and are one of the teams to be watched this year.

Their road will not be easy though as they start against a resilient Malanti Chiefs who have proven to be a tough nut to crack especially in the knockout tournament.

Young Buffaloes

'Amathole Ezinyathi' as the army outfit is affectionately known, will be looking to win their first Swazi Bank trophy this year after winning two consecutive



VICTORY: Swallows Under-20s celebrating their triumph over Green Mamba during the finals played at the Somhlolo National Stadium last year. Swallows will today face Bad Boys at the Manzini Club during the opening match of the 2016 edition.

league trophies. The Mbongwa Dlamini-led side has been not doing well in this tournament hav-

ing slipped at the crucial stage. With their depth and proper structures, Buffaloes will be one of the

teams to be reckoned with in this year's tournament. With talented players in their camp including Lindani 'Rio' Matsenjwa, Likhwa Manyatsi and Pabbalo Yende, the team is capable of being a nightmare to any of their opponents.

Malanti Chiefs

Malanti Chiefs are still one of the feared teams in this tournament due to their fighting spirit and never say die attitude, a factor that has seen them finishing as runners-up and in the top four in the first and second editions, respectively. Malanti coach Bongumusa 'Giggs' Mdluli always assembled a best competitive team that usually win games even when the stakes are against them. Malanti are also blessed with talent in the likes of Phumlani Dlamini, Sicelo Mkhwanazi and Gcinumuzi Gumede who will be carrying the hopes of the gold and black ensemble against the tricky Green Mamba this afternoon.



VYING: Young Buffaloes winger Paballo Yende dashes with the ball away whilst pursued by Mbabane Swallows Sizolwethu Shabalala. (File pic)



IN CONTROL: Swallows Sizolwethu Shabalala controls the ball in front of Buffaloes Melusi Makhathu.

Come one come all – 'DU'

SOCCKER – PLS Development Communications Officer Dumisani 'DU' Sibandze has invited the football loving fraternity to come and support the development teams during the opening games of the Swazi Bank Cup tournament.

The 'Sidlala Kanje' games will be played at the Manzini Club Stadium today starting at 9am.

Sibandze said the stage was now set for the hundreds of youngsters who would be showcasing their God given talent during the games.

"We are inviting all football lovers to attend the games in great numbers as we will be unearthing new talent

The full fixture

Today at the Manzini Club Stadium

Young Buffaloes	vs	Red Lions	9am
Mbabane Swallows	vs	Bad Boys	11am
Green Mamba	vs	Malanti Chiefs	1pm
Mbabane Highlanders	vs	Manzini Sundowns	3pm

this year. We have seen players graduating to the senior teams and this tournament has also contributed immensely," he said.

Entry fee to the games is free of charge.

Prize breakdown

Champions	- E30 000
Runners-up	- E15 000
Semi-finalists	- E10 00 (E5 000 each)
Soccer kit (semi finalists)	- E31 000

Administrations costs	- E35 600
Participation fee	- E48 000 (E4 000 per team)
Finalists tracksuits	- E13 000
Individual prizes	
Player of the Series	- E3 000 plus
E10 00 bursary	
Top goal scorer	- E2 400
Best goalkeeper	- E2 000
Package	- E200 000

Group A

Young Buffaloes
Red Lions
Midas City
Group B
Mbabane Swallows
Bad Boys
Manzini Wanderers
Group C
Mbabane Highlanders
Manzini Sundowns
Royal Leopard
Group D
Green Mamba
Sea Birds
Malanti Chiefs

Quarterfinals

Group A (1) vs	Group C (2)
Group A (2) vs	Group C (1)
Group B (1) vs	Group D (2)
Group B (2) vs	Group D (1)



BECKONING: PLS Development Communications Officer Dumisani 'DU' Sibandze.



MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION

PREVIEWS

Basement side KoNtshingila searching for second win



IN CONTROL: Hellenic defender Mayibongwe Mlipha trying to close down an Umbelebele player during one of their previous matches. Hellenic will this afternoon welcome KoNtshingila FC in the MTN National First Division slated for the Prince of Wales. (File pic.)

By Sabelo Majola

TODAY
Hellenic vs KoNtshingila
Prince of Wales Ground,
3.30pm

SOCCKER - National First Division side KoNtshingila, currently at the basement of the League

table with only one win in 15 games, will be hoping to register their second win of the campaign when they face Hellenic at Prince of Wales this afternoon.

A win today will see the team's points rising to seven as they currently have four, after only managing a single draw and that lone victory.

In their recent game, they lost 2-3 to Amalanda and the relegation threatened KoNtshingila have seven games left to turn the corner or else face the big axe called 'relegation'.

Hellenic, on the other hand, are sixth on the log table, after managing six wins in their 15 games and they currently have 18 points.

Played

The Mbabane based outfit played to a 1-all draw with Ludzledze Brothers in their last encounter of the campaign.

The Musa Mamba-led charges come to the game with no pressure as they are high above relegation and emerged victorious against the basement side in the first round of the campaign.

Madlenya face acid test against Sikhalo

Madlenya vs Sikhalo Se-Afrika
Mayaluka Stadium, 3pm

Sikhalo Se-Afrika will visit Madlenya this afternoon at Mayaluka Stadium where the Shiselweni based outfit will be looking to maintain the top four as they are currently fourth on the log with 23 points.

Sikhalo sit above Mbabane Citizens with four points separating the two.

The team will be hoping to close the gap on RSSC United who are above with 27 points. They recently

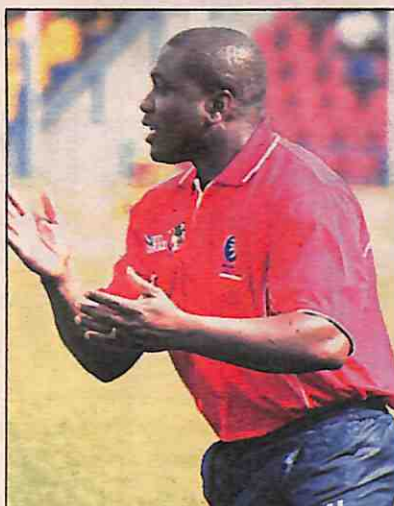
recorded a 1-0 victory against Ubombo Flyers.

Madlenya are not far from the relegation zone as they are fifth from bottom with 18 points in 15 games.

The team recently parted ways with their mentor Alou Badara who has since joined Manzini Sundowns to help head coach Musa Manyatsi as his assistant.

The team lost 0-1 to Manchester United in a recent game who are second from basement on the log.

NEW HOME: Alou Badara.



Tambuti hot on the heels of the 'Sea Robbers'

Manchester United vs
Tambuti
Rocklands Stadium, 3pm

Tambuti refuse to back down as they are hot on the heels of Moneni Pirates in the NFD log table.

A single point separates the two teams who are second and first with 39 and 40 points, respectively.

The sugar belt side has no room for errors as their mandate is to topple the leaders and they will be out for the kill when they take on Pigg's Peak side Manchester United at Rocklands this afternoon.

Tambuti will visit the strug-

gling United who are second from basement as they have only managed two wins and five draws in the campaign.

This is a must-win clash for both teams as Tambuti are looking to close the point gap and retain the number one spot from Pirates while United are eager to escape the looming relegation.

With the game between Pirates and Brothers, which was supposed to be played yesterday at Somhlolo National Stadium called off, a win for Tambuti today will put them at the summit of the log unless Moneni gets victory when their game is finally played.

Can Citizens emerge victorious against RSSC United?

RSSC United vs Mbabane Citizens
Tambankulu Stadium,
3pm

Both RSSC United and Mbabane Citizens are in the top five of the NFD log, currently occupying the

third and fifth spot, respectively and it will be a tight battle as the two lock horns at Tambankulu Stadium this afternoon.

United are separated by a 13 point

gap from the log leaders Moneni Pirates, while there's 12 points between them and second placed Tambuti. The Mhlume sugar-belt side have not lost hope in clinching the NFD league title and they would be looking to get a positive result against Citizens today to close the gap on the above two.



HRFA chairman encourages involvement of women

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCKER - HRFA Chairman Comfort Shongwe has encouraged teams to involve women in the sport by having ladies teams.

Shongwe made these remarks during the sponsorship launch of the Milky Max Under-13 League at the Mkhaya Football House yesterday.

The chairman said this would also do the Milky Max product good as both male and female youngsters would be playing for it.

every team should have a ladies team.

It would also do the product good as the target group would be both young males and females," he said.

He further expressed gratitude to Milky Max for supporting the juniors' league.

"The sponsors are doing a tremendous job and we have tried our best to market their product. Swaziland should be one of the countries that the product has done well in," he said.

Shongwe also encouraged coaches to take coaching classes so that they impart good knowledge to the youngsters at a tender age.

Sports Briefs

By Qondilo Ntwane

Called off First Division match now on Tuesday

SOCCKER - The National First Division League encounter pitting Moneni Pirates against Ludzledze Brothers will now be played at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Tuesday. The match, initially scheduled for last night, was called off due to the faulty lighting system at the Somhlolo National Stadium. According to the fixture released by the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) yesterday, the first game will see Amalanda take on Ubombo Flyers at 6.30pm while the second clash will kick off at 8.30pm.

16 players for Best of Best tourney

POOOL- A total of 16 players will take part in the Best of the Best knockout tournament to be held at the Thama Pool Club, situated next to The George Hotel. The tournament will be played today starting at 9am. Tournament organiser Vusi Masilela said the event would be played in a race to five format. He said interested players would have to part with E100 registration fee. The champions of the tournament would take home E1 000 while the runners-up would receive E350. The third place finisher will receive a two piece Que stick.

Specials

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National Under-20 to play Namibia in April

Stories by Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - The National Under-20 squad will play Namibia in April in the Orange Africa Cup Under-20 qualifying games.

The draw was conducted last week and National Football Association of Swaziland CEO Frederick Mngomezulu confirmed, saying they received the correspondence regarding the fixture.

He said the main objective now was

to get the team ready for the competition but stated that they do not have a training programme as yet.

Training

"The team has already been assembled and started training recently in preparation for the competition but we will come up with a proper training programme."

preparation

"This will give us an insight as to whom we can play in friendly matches as part of our preparation for the game."

The plan is to get the team ready

and once selection of the squad is concluded, then we will release the training programme," he said.

The junior team will host Namibia in the first leg of the qualifying games on the weekend of 2-3 April while the second leg will be staged in Namibia two weeks later.

Positive

Swaziland will play South Africa in May if they get positive results against Namibia.

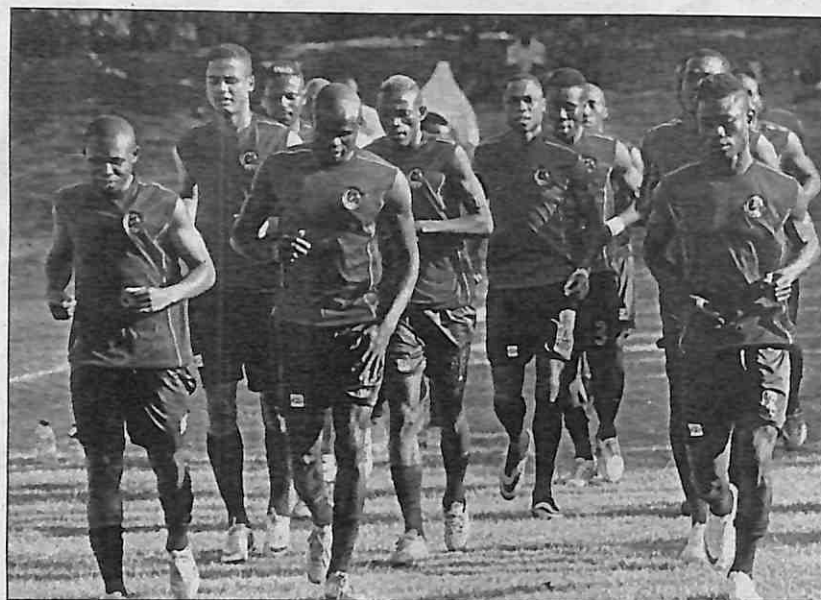
The Orange Africa Cup Games will be staged in Zambia next year.

E8 000 for return ticket to Rwanda

SOCCER - Supporters interested in accompanying Mbabane Swallows to Rwanda for the second leg clash of the CAF Champions League against A.P.R. will have to part ways with E8 000 for air tickets.

The second leg of the competition will be played on February 27 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana said those who wish to leave with the 'Birds' towards the end of the month should try and buy the tickets early as their prices are constantly increasing over time. Manana was speaking during the SBIS 1 Sports show programme that is aired every Monday and Friday morning. "We would obviously love to have supporters accompanying the team to Rwanda for the second leg of the CAF Champions League clash. We advise supporters to quickly get the flight tickets currently ranging between E7 000 and E8 000. The tickets' prices constantly change in the market and it's wise for football lovers to get them at their current price," he said.



COUNTRY'S PRIDE: It will cost E8 000 to travel to Rwanda to watch the second leg between Mbabane Swallows and A.P.R

Swallows will play A.P.R tomorrow at Somhlolo National Stadium in the first leg of the competition.

The red and white ensemble has received a E360 000 boost ahead of the clash with the Rwandan based

side after a donation of E300 000 from National Football Association of Swaziland to assist in the purchasing of air tickets for the return match while Nedbank sponsored the team with merchandise worth E59 000.

WFA takes women football to schools

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - The Women Football Association (WFA) has identified over 20 schools to be part of the special project aimed at grooming players at school level.

The schools have been selected from the different parts in the country. Some of the schools that have been selected include St Mark's, Woodlands, Mhlathane, St Mary's, Lusoti and Mhlume High, to name a few.

National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Technical Director Boy 'Bizzah' Mkhonta said they had invited sports teachers from the

different schools to a meeting where they would be engaged in the development of women football at high school level.

He said the meeting would be held on Thursday at NFAS Technical Centre in Lobamba starting at 9am.

"This initiative is meant to help in finding ways in which talent can be scouted at high schools level so we can have more women football players. We will also discuss ways on how we can groom the players hence the reason we asked the teachers to attend this meeting." The TD invited all sports teachers from the targeted schools to attend the meeting in their numbers.

THE IDENTIFIED SCHOOLS

Mbabane Zone
St Mark's
Woodlands
John Wesley
SOS
Enhlanguisweni

Northern Zone
Entforjeni
Mhlathane
Etimphisini
Ekudwalweni
King Mswati II
Mlumati
Madlengemphisi

Lubombo Zone
Lusoti
Ngomane
Mhlume

Lobamba Zone
St Mary's
Lobamba Lomdzala
Elangeni
Lobamba National

Lubombo North
Lusoti
Ngomane
Mhlume

Wanderers take on Swallows in WFL

SOCCER - Manzini Wanderers will take on Mbabane Swallows in what is expected to be a crunch encounter in the Women Football League this weekend.

The clash is slated for the old Trade Fair Ground this afternoon starting at 1pm. Other games to be played under this league include army side Young Buffaloes against Kappa Ladies at the TB Centre Sports Ground. Kick-off time for this

game is 1.30pm.

Tomorrow the Lobamba Sports Ground will host a double header where Mbekelweni will co-host with Lobamba Highlanders. The first match will see Mbekelweni take on Southern Divas at 11am while Highlanders have a date with Mhlume Ladies.

Meanwhile police outfit Royal Leopard will visit Siteki at the Siteki Sports Ground in a game to start at 2pm.

THE WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIXTURE

Today			Tomorrow		
TB Centre Sports Ground			Lobamba Sports Ground		
Y Buffaloes	vs K Ladies	1.30pm	Mbekelweni	vs S Divas	11am
Trade Fair Ground			L Highlanders	vs M Ladies	1pm
M Wanderers	vs M Swallows	1pm	Siteki Sports Ground		
			Siteki	vs R Leopard	2pm

Tennis development coach to visit centres

TENNIS - In a bid to scout for talent amongst junior players, Tennis National Development coach Thulani Gina will be visiting tennis centres around the country.

This was disclosed by Swaziland National Tennis Association Development Officer Ngaba Mkhaphi who said the programme would begin next week.

Visited

He said some of the centres to be visited by the coach include Mhlume, Matsapha Police College and the OlympAfrica Centre where he would oversee the progress that has been made there. "The main objective behind this initiative is for the coach to scout talented players

that will form part of the junior national team to take part in upcoming international tournaments. The coach will also assist the centre managers on ways to groom these youngsters," he said. Mkhaphi also highlighted that the association would also conduct workshops for tennis sport teachers.

Targeting

"We want to get many young players hence targeting the schools. We also want to equip the teachers so they can impart the basics of the sports to these children at a tender age. Such initiatives will make the job easier for the national team coaches especially when preparing for international competitions," he said.

MTN Khemani off to Boskborg tomorrow

By Qondile Ntiwane

CYCLING - About 15 MTN Khemani cyclists will represent the country during the Dischem Ride for Sight road race in Boksburg, South Africa tomorrow.

The team comprising 14 males and one female, Nokwanda Kunene, will compete in the 116km and 62km categories of the race.

MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Fisiwe Vilane said the race was part of the team's development plan for this year.

"The local race calendar starts with the National Championships in April so this race will be part of the preparations for that. The aim of this race is partly to expose our development team to competing directly with the professionals as this will help them gain the necessary exposure to compete at the highest level," she said. Other cyclists that will be part of



ALL SET: MTN Khemani cyclists will represent the country in the Dischem Ride for Sight race in Boksburg tomorrow.

the race include junior stars Darren Dunn, Similo Nyoni and Lungelo Mlangeni who have entered under the elite/U23 category, and will be directly competing with the professionals. "MTN Swaziland would like to wish the team all the best in the race. They have consistently

done us proud in 2015; we are looking forward to more of the same this year.

This race means their cycling year has started, and they have been training hard to put Swaziland on the map even beyond our borders," she said.

MURAPE MUST GO HOME-WANDERERS SUPPORTERS

By Sanele Jele

SOCCER - Some Manzini Wanderers supporters have stated that they do not want Shepherd Murape as their coach. The supporters said the team was better off without the Zimbabwean born coach. Speaking after their 2-0 victory against Sisonke in a Swazi Bank Cup clash played at the Somhlolo National Stadium last Sunday, the supporters said stand-in coach Anthony Mdluli was the right candidate to lead the team. One of the fans identified as Simon Mavuso said Murape would add no value to the team.

"Yes he may be training the team but I believe Mdluli and Velekhaya Mthethwa are doing a great job. Besides he does not have the needed papers and that should tell us something about him," he said.

Another fan who preferred anonymity in fear of victimisation also stated that the team was performing well under the guidance of Mdluli.

"Mdluli seems to understand the team's players and its style of play.



TIME TO GO: Manzini Wanderers coach Shepherd Murape is not wanted by the fans.

Murape has not been around much as he is said to be sorting his paper work. The reason I feel he should go is that he hasn't done much for the team because of this and we are doing fairly well without him so he must go," said the supporter.

Another fan said the team was beginning to gel under the leadership of the two coaches adding they were

happy as the results were forthcoming.

"The team is starting to regain their winning ways. We are also happy with the new signings as they seem to contribute positively to the teams. The team's directors should not be fooled by Murape and his papers if they want the team to change from what it had become."

"Murape came here knowing very well that he had to produce working papers but until now he has been fooling the directors and it looks like they are entertaining him. They should just let that man go," added the fan.

Another supporter who asked to be referred to as Mnyusi said he wished the coach a happy stay in his country.

"Well Murape must just remain in South Africa with his papers. We do not need him here, the team is doing well without him. We need a local coach for this team to be successful, Ndlazi failed so what makes the directors think Murape would succeed?" asked another fan.

Sought for comment on this matter, Wanderers General Manager Patrick Gamedze asked the supporters to be patient with them, as they were addressing the issue.

Vovovo should have filed application with CAS for Sports - FA

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER - The National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) has noted that Vovovo should have approached the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) and not the High Court. This is contained in the association's papers which were to be presented in court yesterday.

The matter was to be heard by Justice Muncy Dlamini but could not take off as the judge was not available. The football association stated that it was important to note that the even though the CAS is outside the country but it recognises the urgency of matters that are brought before it and facilitates their disposal with the urgency attaching these matters.

They said CAS has a network of competent adjudicators all over the world and the base of its head office does not hinder the urgent adjudication of disputes brought before it.



LOGGERHEADS: NFAS attorney Sabela Dlamini with MC Secretary John Mazibuko, NFAS CEO Frederick Mngomezulu and MC Chairman Johannes 'Ace' Siboza (not facing camera) in court yesterday. (Pic: Linda Jele)

The football association further argued that the High Court lacked the necessary jurisdiction to hear the matter because the NFAS constitution provides adequate remedies for the applicant as a member of the Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA), an affiliate of the NFAS. They stated that this was in accor-

dance with Article 64(4) of the NFAS constitution which states that 'Decisions passed by the Appeal Committee shall be irrevocable and binding to all parties concerned. This provision is subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sports,' the NFAS stated in their papers.

THE FIXTURE

Wednesday
Hub Sundowns vs Malanti Chiefs 6.30pm
Tinyosi/Vovovo vs Red Lions 8.30pm

Wednesday.

"We are also working with our attorneys and those of Hub Sundowns is as far as that matter is concerned," he said.

Pursue

Meanwhile, Hub Director Steve Horton said they would continue to pursue the matter they started. "We had indicated the steps we will take and will continue to do just that," he said.

Sidlala Kanje replays on Wednesday

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER - The Swazi Bank Cup Management Committee (MC) have sanctioned the Sidlala Kanje replays for Wednesday night.

Despite

This is despite that the case where Vovovo is challenging the qualification of Tinyosi as the representatives of Southern Hhohho is still pending in court while Hub Sundowns have also threatened to take their matter to court where they want the MC to review their

decision ordering a replay against Malanti Chiefs.

Released

According to the fixture released by the MC yesterday, Hub Sundowns will take on Malanti Chiefs at 6.30pm while Vovovo or Tinyosi will lock horns with Red Lions at 8.30pm at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Comment

Sought for comment on the matter, MC Secretary John Mazibuko said they were hoping that the matter involving Vovovo would be finalised by the courts before

Major boost for 'Birds' ahead of APR clash

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - The country's Orange CAF Champions League envoys Mbabane Swallows have received a major boost ahead of their clash against Rwanda's APR as all players will be available for selection. The two sides will meet at the Somhlolo National Stadium tomorrow for the first leg of the tie while the second leg will be played in Kigali, Rwanda, after two weeks. The 'Beautiful Birds' will almost be at full strength following the recovery of their five injured players namely Sifiso Mabila, Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza, Sandile Hlatshwako, Colani 'Tyson' Magagula and Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu who have been cleared to face the Rwandan champions.

Swallows Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sibusiso

Manana confirmed that the five players would be part of the eagerly awaited encounter. "The medical team has assured us that all players will be ready to play on Sunday (tomorrow) after being fully assessed throughout the week. We are very happy that we will be having an almost full strength squad during the match.

We are ready to make the country proud and have done all the necessary preparations for this game. One can only plead with the nation to come and rally behind the boys as they will be representing the Swazi nation on the day," he said.

The team will be minus their inspirational captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze who is still recovering from an ankle ligament layoff.

Supporters will have to part with E40 to witness the clash between the two giants.

MBABANE SWALLOWS VS APR MATCH PROGRAMME

Gates opening	12noon	Guest of honour arrival	3pm
DJ	12.30-130pm	Reserves occupy's technical area	3.15pm
Teams leaves hotel	-1.45pm	Team enters pitch	3.20pm
Stadium arrival	2pm	Kickoff	3.30pm
Warm-up	2.10 pm - 2.45pm		

Milky Max increases Under-13 sponsorship

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - Milky Max has sponsored this year's edition of the Hhohho Football League under-13 sponsorship to the tune of E30 000. This shows an increment of E10 000 from last year's sponsorship which was E20 000. The increase in the sponsorship was announced by Parmalat Swaziland Key Accounts Manager David Litchfield during the launch of the sponsorship held at Sigwaca House yesterday.

Addressing the gathering during the event, Litchfield said it was a pleasure for them to partner with the HRFA in sports development while also marketing their product.

"When we first started on this initiative, we were confident but were not sure if it would work out for us but it did. We commend HRFA for a well run tournament and are happy with the

excellent administration by the association," he said.

Litchfield said they would be adding Pigg's Peak in the league as it was only Lobamba and Mbabane the previous year and they would buy a football kit for the winners in all the three regions at the end of the campaign.

Meanwhile National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) CEO Frederick Mngomezulu expressed his gratitude for the generous gesture from Milky Max and said the sponsorship would go a long way in helping the FA realise its dream of developing sports and producing future stars.

"Every club in the country must have junior structures and we would like to thank Milky Max for sponsoring youngsters. They are the future and we want the best out of them. We are looking forward to yet another successful edition of the Milky Max Under-13 league," he said.

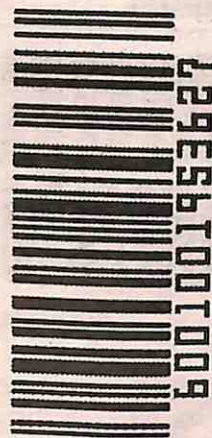


HELPING OUT: Parmalat Swaziland MD Martin Herbst, Key Accounts Manager David Litchfield, NFAS CEO Frederick Mngomezulu and HRFA Chairman Comfort Shongwe displaying the E30 000 cheque. (Pic: Sabelo Majola)

A.A.S.A. FIXTURES		
TODAY		
Absa Premiership		
15:30	Jomo Cosmos	v Free State Stars
18:00	Polokwane City	v Golden Arrows
20:15	Maritzburg Utd	v Platinum Stars
English Barclays Premier League		
14:45	Sunderland	v Manchester United
17:00	Bournemouth	v Stoke City
17:00	Crystal Palace	v Watford
17:00	Everton	v West Bromwich Albion
17:00	Norwich City	v West Ham United
17:00	Swansea City	v Southampton
19:30	Chelsea	v Newcastle United

SPORT

IF SPORT IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH



February 13, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- **DIRECTIVE:**
**APPROACH CAS
AND NOT THE
HIGH COURT
- NFAS TELLS
VOVOVO**

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- **REVEALED:**
**SIDLALA KANJE
REPLAYS ON
WEDNESDAY
NIGHT**

Page 43

- **NEW HEIGHTS:**
**MTN KHEMANI OFF
TO BOKSBURG**

Page 43

- **SIDLALA KANJE:**
**SWAZI BANK
CUP U-20
GAMES BEGIN**



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MURAPE PAPERS SAGA CONTINUES:

GO HOME



...Wanderers supporters say Murape must just go

**Sidlala
Kanje!**

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2 nd Prize	E10,000
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