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The Right Place

The Right Sunday



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THERE'S BRAND NEW THUGS AT THE MALL...



Customers waited hours for Pick n' Pay's Mbabane branch to open yesterday as members of the Royal Swaziland Police conducted investigations after the shop was robbed on Friday night. (Pics: Mlondi Mpanza)



The opening in the ceiling at Thyme Coffee shop which the robbers allegedly used to gain entry.

PICK N PAY ROBBED

● Bottle store and restaurant belonging to Supermarket also broken into

CLARIFICATION

IN our last edition Sunday Scene section (page 7), we published a headline 'let's go Zanzibar' to accompany our article on a promotion run by Paradise Tours. It has since been brought to our attention that the headline is similar to a registered Swazi company. We wish to clarify that the use of the headline had nothing to do with the company except that it was in our view our creative way of telling the story of an invitation to Zanzibar for Swazis by Paradise Tours. Any confusion caused by this is regretted.

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THUGS BREAK INTO PICK N PAY

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Customers of The New Mall woke up to a shock yesterday morning when they were turned back from the only Pick n Pay store in the capital after it was discovered the shop had been burgled.

According to information gathered, robbers broke into the supermarket where it is suspected they entered through the ventilation ducts.

The suspicion of the roof top entry was supported by the opening of vents leading to the ducts which lead to the roof of the building.

The daring robbers further made their way, albeit through the ceiling, into the adjoining liquor store as well as Thyme Coffee Shop which shares a wall with the liquor store.

The discovery was made in the morning when the shop was supposed to open for daily operations at around 7am.

Due to the discovery, the store ended up opening four hours later while investigations were being carried out inside the store by members of the Royal Swaziland Police and the supermarket's management.

The daring robbery happens a fortnight into the completion of the acquisition of Pick n Pay shops by Greystone Partners.

The burgled store was one of those which were acquired by the local company, managed by African Alliance Swaziland Limited.

Members of staff were found loitering around The Mall yesterday morning, and they expressed wonderment on what could have happened as they had not been briefed on the details of the robbery.

A few of them, when spoken to, could only speculate at first why the shop had not opened.

Manager Mario Fernandes referred our news crew to the police stating he was not in a position to comment as investigations were still ongoing.

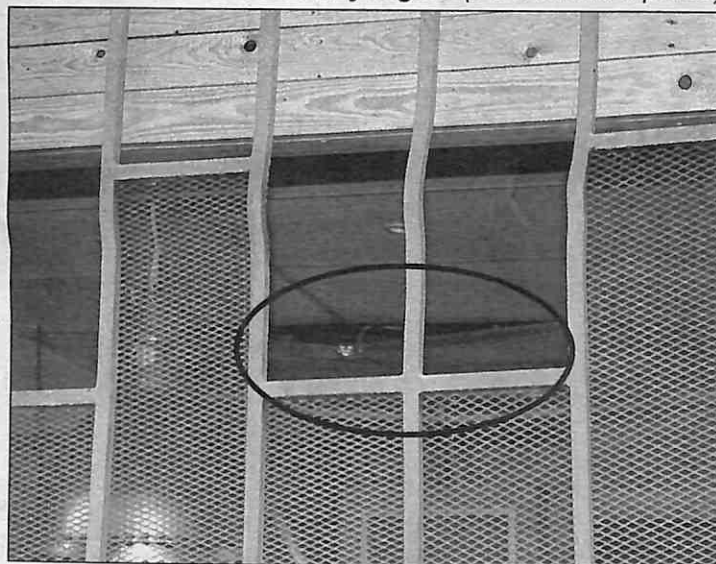
Blow

However, information sourced from insiders was to the effect that the store suffered a triple blow as the robbers broke into the main shop, that is, the supermarket as well as the other sister entities such as liquor shop located in front of

preliminary investigations revealed that robbers stole cash, cellular phones and E4 000 worth of alcohol



Customers waited hours for Pick 'n' Pay's Mbabane branch to open yesterday as members of the Royal Swaziland Police conducted investigations after the shop was robbed on Friday night. (Pics: Mlondi Mpanza)



The opening in the ceiling (circled) at Thyme Coffee shop which the robbers are suspected to have used to gain entry.

the latter, as well as a coffee shop which is located opposite Miladys.

The sources explained it was suspected the robbers gained entry into the main shop through the ventilation duct grill which was found

out of position despite that under normal circumstances it remained closed.

"There were no signs of forced entry from the main or back entrance which then justifies the suspicion

that they gained entry through the ventilation duct which was found open this morning," revealed a source.

He further confirmed that the robbers had also pounced on the other entities although the value of all stolen items could not be ascertained at the time of compiling this report.

When the shop eventually opened at 11am, customers who had camped by the door crammed the shop while members of the staff took to their daily responsibilities in efforts to normalise the situation, whereas investigators from the RSP continued with their job too.

Another source revealed that the robbers had made way with keys to the safe and thus making it difficult to figure out if they had not taken anything from it and keys for the rest of the shop were said to be mixed as the staff struggled to get those of their particular working stations.

The robbers were also said to have made off with an unidentified amount of money, particularly coins that had been kept in the lockers by the employees, as well cell phones which are normally displayed near the main entrance.

Police presence was also witnessed until past lunch time as they took statements from the three shops that had been broken into and when the Acting Police Information and Communications Officer (PICO), Assistant Superintendent Phindile Vilakati was contacted last evening, she said the investigating officers were still hard at work trying to gather as much information as possible in as far as the robbery was concerned.

However, she revealed that, "the robbers stole coins whose amount is yet to be established, cell phones and alcohol estimated to be around E4 000 from the liquor shop."

Worth noting is that there are normally security guards manning the security within The Mall where all three shops are located but it could not be ascertained where they were when the robbery took place.

Greystone Partners Limited purchased the four franchise supermarkets located at The Hub in Manzini, Mbabane, Matsapha (Mashayitafula) and the Matsapha's Matsamo Shopping Complex, popularly known as Mahhala.

Fees charged on school fees deposits are service charges - Nedbank

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The simmering debate on charges to school fees deposits has been clarified by Nedbank. The bank was questioned on its insistence to charge E10 per transaction whenever parents paid school fees.

When asked the rationale behind charging this amount while there was Section 5 of the Legal Notice No.62, which stated that all cash deposits made into an account regardless of their nature were not to attract any bank charges, the bank, through Head of Strategy, Marketing and Corporate Affairs Lomkhosi Dlamini responded, "At Nedbank, we respect the statutory and regulatory requirements under which we operate. As such, we adopted the necessary processes to comply with Legal Notice 62 of 2016 that came

into effect on 1 July, 2016."

She advised that, in line with their commitment to provide a differentiated service to clients, over the past three years, schools banking with Nedbank were exempt from paying transactional fees on their accounts. "This customised offering which sees free deposit facilities being extended to these schools, predates the introduction of the Legal Notice 62 of 2016."

She explained that it was important to differentiate between a service charge and cash deposit fee.

"A cash deposit fee is charged on the account holder and in most instances it is charged as a percentage of the deposit being made. This may be expressed in the form of 15cents per every E100 deposit, for example. On the other hand, a service charge is charged on third parties who

may not be clients of the bank who are being offered a service by the bank to pay funds to their counterparties being schools in the present case." When asked about reasons behind not giving depositors receipts for the E10 charge, she highlighted that the bank recently underwent a system change to improve functionality and better serve clients.

"The current system is being upgraded to incorporate necessary enhancements such as the receipting functionality. We continue to encourage our clients to use alternative and cost effective channels to make payments, such as internet banking.

At Nedbank, we remain committed to work with the Central Bank of Swaziland as we seek to deliver continued value to our clients and society as a whole."

TAXES KILLING US - MINISTERS

● sombre festive season as the taxman comes knocking
BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Having recently received a pay increase of 32 per cent, ministers are in a state of unease as they expect their tax bills with most of them averaging E40 000.

The deadline for filing tax returns was about two weeks ago and depending on when they were filed, some ministers are yet to receive their bill for the past tax year and they anticipate it to run to tens of thousands.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one minister stated how he faced a bill of over E50 000.

"I must however admit that I also get a pension from my former place of employment, hence the amount I have to pay."

He admitted to have worked out a monthly payment schedule which will see him paying over E6 000 per month.

According to the Finance Circular No.

2 of 2013, ministers are responsible for acquainting themselves with their own tax obligation.

The circular states, "All salaries, benefits and allowances exclusively and necessarily incurred for the performance of parliament duties; including the ex-gratia payment are deductible for income tax purposes."

Ministers allowance and benefits are taxed in retrospect.

On the other hand, when asked about his expected bill, Minister of Tinkhundla and Administration Mduduzi Dlamini said he did not think talking to the media would help much.

In between sighs of dejection, he revealed he was yet to know of the amount he was expected to pay after filing his taxes. "Kube mane kuthiwa ngekukhuluma nebaka media bese siyacisheka lesikoloto, manje umtsetfo ume njalo," he said in-between sighs.

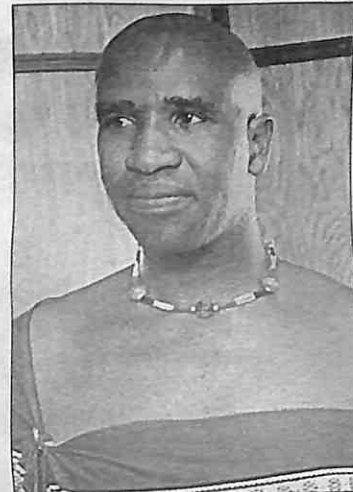
He said he would accept anything that



Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini, Ministers Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini and Dumisani Ndlangamandla.

came his way seeing as he had to comply with the law, "If there is a debt, I have to pay it."

Mincing no words, Minister of Information Communication and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla said if there was only a way for them to pay the money upfront, immediately after receiving the benefit or the allowance, the shock would not be there. "If only it happened that when the year began, if water was paid for you, you got to pay the 33 per cent immediately," he said making an example of payment of E1



000 towards water or electricity.

"If they take the E300 (E333) immediately, it would make things easier for us," he said while stating how his suggesting for an alternative solution was not meant to demean the tax collection exercise. He stated how a minister could find themselves having a bill of over E40 000 due to the accumulation of the money due to the Swaziland Revenue Authority.

According to the finance circular, ministers are entitled to resi-

dences covered by government. The utilities covered will include the supply of water, electricity and municipal rates.

Ministers are also eligible to a non-accountable entertainment allowance of 10 per cent of basic monthly salary. While filing his tax returns, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini called for compliance from all. He implored all income earners of society to be registered with the SRA, submit the annual tax return and pay the assessed tax promptly.

Pigg's Peak Hotel hosts SADC Troika meeting



Minister of Foreign affairs Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze, Deputy Executive Secretary of Regional Integration Themba Mhlongo, Minister of Trade in Botswana Biggie Butale, Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula, Deputy Minister of International Relations in the Republic of South Africa Luwellyn Landers, Deputy Minister of National Defence in Mozambique Patricia Jose outside the Pigg's Peak hotel on Friday.

BY SIZWE DLAMINI

Swaziland hosted leaders of the SADC Double Troika Ministerial meeting to discuss and review a consolidated SADC Common Position Report at the Pigg's Peak hotel.

The day-long meeting was graced by Botswana Minister of Trade Biggie Butale, Republic of South Africa Deputy Minister of International Relations Luwellyn Landers, Mozambique's Deputy Minister of National Defence Patricia Jose as well as Deputy Executive Secretary of Regional Integration Themba Mhlongo and Minister of Foreign Affairs Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze.

The meeting was opened by a representative of the Prime Minister of Swaziland Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, Minister

of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula.

Magagula stated Swaziland was humbled and proud to host the SADC delegates and that His Majesty King Mswati III who is the Chairperson of the SADC community for his year was committed to ensuring that all visitors were all well catered for at this meeting which is aimed at consolidating all SADC member states voices in the SADC Common Position Report in the three post 2020 pillars which are Trade and Investment, Development Cooperation as well as Political Dialogue and Advocacy.

Magagula said, "The Partnership between African countries, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP countries) and the European Union has developed extensively since its genesis 40 years

ago but this change has given rise to a challenge in terms of sustainability which has resulted in the need for the trimming and streamlining of activities to fit the current resource base."

Magagula stated that the constant changes required African countries to respond accordingly culminating in the SADC Common Position Report that was up for discussion by all the invited delegates and honourable ministers in the meeting.

Magagula said, "An explicit requirement of all ACP countries is to review the selection of the ACP pillars and ensure that they are in line with national and regional policies, and at the same time SADC should push for industrialisation and the streamlining or downsizing in areas such as staffing."

Three admitted, 16 discharged after deadly Matsetsa accident

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Three passengers have been admitted, whilst 16 were treated and discharged following the fatal accident that claimed four lives on Friday afternoon.

The accident happened along the Matsetsa—Lonhlupeko road when the driver of a truck transporting sugar lost control of it and knocked from behind a Toyota RunX sedan driven by a 30-year-old man of Siteki before further knocking the bus trading as J.Souza which was coming from the Manzini direction.

This is according to a press statement released by the office of the Acting Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati who stated that the deceased four passengers were certified dead upon arrival at Siteki good Shepherd. Initial reports revealed how three passengers were said to have died on the spot.

The passengers were said to be a 24 year old woman of Mpolonjeni, a 20 year old woman of Ngcina, a 29 year old man of Khalakahle and an unknown woman estimated to be in her mid twenties who is yet to be identified. One of the deceased passengers is said to be a Limkokwing graduate who was from the graduation ceremony which was held at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition

Centre where she was conferred an Associate Degree in Business Information Technology and was on her way home when she got involved in the accident.

When Limkokwing's Nkosilehle Masuku was contacted, he confirmed knowledge of the accident and the fact that one of their graduates had been involved in the accident.

However, he said he could not provide further details as they were yet to visit the deceased's family.

"We are aware of the rumours of the death of one of the graduates. We will be able to give a detailed report tomorrow," he said.

Meanwhile, our sister publication, the Observer on Saturday yesterday reported that three passengers had died on the spot when a horse and trail truck carrying tonnes of sugar smashed onto the bus transporting passengers on the side along the Mpaka Lonhlupeko Road.

Two of the three passengers were said to be females while the other one was a male with several others being rushed to the hospital.

According to information sourced at the scene was that the truck which was from the Simunye direction was trying at a high speed and started swerving when it was approaching the bus and it is then that the driver lost control of it and it hit the bus on the side.

WE STAND ON GUARD

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The number of soldiers to be honoured today remains less than a handful.

Today, known as Remembrance Sunday, marks the commemoration of the day when there was calm after several hours of warfare during the First World War and has been observed world over to honour fallen soldiers of the two world wars.

According to historical chronicles, "At 11am on 11 November 1918 the

guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare."

The moment of silence has for years been commemorated on the second Sunday of November, the Sunday closest to November 11 where a moment of silence is observed, a day also known as Armistice Day. The event will be held at the Army Head quarters where veterans both alive and resting in peace will be honoured and remembered for their contribution to society.

'HIV/AIDS NO LONGER A HEALTH

BY LUNGELO NKAMBULE

Minister of Natural Resources Jabulile Mashwama yesterday told masses at the Nkhamba constituency that the HIV/Aids pandemic was no longer just a health issue but an issue for government as a whole.

"The Prime Minister has said over and over again that all government officers must take up a role in the fight against the pandemic, because it is not just a health problem but for government as a whole," she said.

She said therefore it was an honour for her as a government officer to be speaking at the function.

Mashwama was the keynote speaker at the Hhohho regional commemoration of World Aids day.

"I stand before you today on behalf of government, because this is an important issue for us. As government we have the responsibility to lessen the impact of HIV on the Swazi citizen including orphans and vulnerable children as well as the youth," she said.

She said it was on this basis that government had taken the response to HIV and Aids to greater heights through the commitment to procure ARVs and TB drugs, setting up structures such as SNAP and NERCHA and strengthening support system in all relevant ministries including the Ministry of Health, Education and Training, Tinkhundla Administration and Development and



Royal Swaziland Police band leading the walk which began at Mnyokane ending at Nkhamba ground.

the Deputy Prime Minister's Office to support orphans and vulnerable children as well as child-headed households to mitigate the impact of the epidemic as well as putting in place National Strategic Plans and frameworks to guide delivery of programmes.

"I believe that implementation of these programmes has brought about significant changes in the incidence and prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) as well as in reduction of Aids related

deaths," she addressed the audience.

She further pointed out that as government they would continue to ensure that people living with HIV and other vulnerable population groups including children have access to HIV prevention and treatment services.

"I want to emphasise the need for the Swazi society to deal with the stigma associated HIV/Aids.

"Stigma around these issues continues to make it difficult for people to get

support or services that can help in prevention of new infections," she continued.

Work

Mashwama also emphasised the need for all sectors of society to work hard against HIV and AIDS, to achieve His Majesty King Mswati III's vision of Aids Free Swaziland.

"This dream emphasises the importance of strengthening efforts towards zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths as a result of this pandemic," she pointed out.

She further called on citizens of Swaziland to come forward with more ideas on how the HIV prevention can be improved and made better.

"All of us whether service provider, policy maker, parent, young girl or boy must speak out for HIV prevention," she said.

She then encouraged all present to help reinforce community systems to expand access to HIV and related services as well as support efforts towards elimination of factors that drive new HIV infections.



Minister Mashwama singing and dancing with Ncandweni Christ Ambassadors.

Khayaalethu Masuku performs with Ncandweni, minister joins them on stage

Ncandweni Christ Ambassadors who were the headlining act at the Hhohho regional commemoration of World Aids Day yesterday performed with prodigal son, Khayaalethu Masuku.

Masuku who for a long time battled an alcohol problem and went missing from group activities was yesterday performing with the group and even taking lead in some songs. Many were heard celebrating his return and some went

on to say that the devil had been defeated. One of the people who danced up a storm when Ncandweni was performing said she was very happy to see Masuku back in action.

The young women identified herself as Temalangenzi said as Ncandweni fans they felt the gap that was left by Masuku and now that he was back all was well.

Minister Mashwama also declared her love for the group and even joined them on stage for one song. Former Member

of Parliament Timothy Myeni joked and told those in attendance that the minister was now joining the group as a member.

Hyenas Bikers Club Mbuso Charlie makes a donation to the Minister of Natural Resources Jabulile Mashwama, while Nkhamba MP Menzi Dlamini, Indvuna, and Nercha Director Khanya Mabuza look on.

Hyenas club make donation

Hyenas Bikers club made a donation to the Nkhamba constituency during the event. Speaking on behalf of the club Mbuso Charlie said as much as they were fun loving people who loved riding they still understood that they had a responsibility to help the country where they could.

"As a club we understand that we have a responsibility to help our government where we can. It was back in 2015 that we decided to work closely with Nercha and help where we can," he said.

He said WORLD Aids day was especially a very important day for them as a club because it was a day of reflection.

"It's a day of reflection and also a reminder that we are at war," he said. He said it was therefore important for everyone to stand up and help where they could.

Nercha Director Khanya Mabuza thanked the Hyenas and all other organisations that have helped the organisation in its mandate.

"This has been of the most difficult war we have had to fight as a country but because of the work put by all stakeholders there is progress," he said.

He said as an organisation they were aware that there is progress because they now had graduates who had been left orphaned and vulnerable by the pandemic. Mabuza said this was encouragement and they knew now that they could manage the pandemic.

"We can manage the spread of the virus and new infections if we continue working together," he said. He further said that they had adopted the King's 2022 vision and they were working towards zero new infections by then.



PROBLEM,



Minister of Natural Resources Jabulile Mashwama making her remarks. RIGHT - The high table watching and following the proceedings (l-r) Nkhamba MP Menzi Dlamini, Regional Administrator representative Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Minister of Natural Resources Jabulile Mashwama, Nercha Director Khanya Mabuza and UNAIDS Country Director Tim Rwabuhembe.



Former herbalist testifies

David Mncina a former herbalist yesterday told those present that they must not be ignorant but they must make it a point to know their HIV status.

Presenting a testimony at the event Mncina said he had been sick for a longtime and no traditional medicine could cure his sickness.

"I was sick and because I could make traditional medicine myself I did so many concoctions but none would help. I then decided to go to hospital as I had never been to one before," he said.

He said he didn't believe in modern medicine but he was going to die so he tried it. "When I got to Nkhamba clinic I was very weak, there nurses there told me that my CD4 count was low hence I needed to start on the pill," she explained.

He said with no hesitation he started on the medication and his health and life have improved since.

"I am healthy and I have no problem talking about it. After I discovered I got educated on the matter, I took my wife to hospital and we are now both on treatment," he said.

He said he had decided to be open about it to help others, "My children and grand children know my status, they know I am on treatment. I encourage them to test and to take care of themselves."

"I am here today to speak against stigma and to encourage people to get tested," he said. He went on to say people should stop blaming witchcraft for their ailing health and must get tested.

"Utube utsi batsakatsi kani cha!"



David Mncina a former herbalist making a testimony at the event.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS GALA DINNER 2016/17



Honorable Prime Minister
Dr Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini



Eric Mabuza -
Life Profile

Eric Mabuza - Life Profile

Eric Mabuza is a Corporate Trainer, management and strategy consultant, leadership coach, advisor and infrastructure development professional.

Eric is an engineering graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He has extensive experience as an engineer and project manager in the mining and industrial sectors, specialising in programme and project management, strategic planning and project execution, as well as operational optimization. He has fulfilled a number of roles in his career and has completed multidisciplinary projects of over USD500million.

Eric enjoys investing in real estate and property development. He is passionate about sharing knowledge and developing communities in the areas of business and leadership. To ensure his continual development and meaningful contribution to the world, Eric is a member and Trustee of the International Third World Leaders Association, and organisation that was chaired by the late Dr. Myles Munroe with its Head office in Nassau-Bahamas dedicated to the development of leaders around the world with specific emphasis on the third world context.

Eric and his wife Nompumelelo are enjoying over 17 years of marriage and are proud parents of two children, daughter Lulama Mabuza and son Lethemba Mabuza.

Date: 18 November 2016

Venue: ESIBAYENI Lodge

Tables E500 per person and E5000 Table of 10

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Headquarters: Mshengu road, Mbabane.

Branches: Mbabane, Sidvashini, Manzini, Matsapha, Siteki, Pigg's Peak, Vuvulane, Hlathikhulu, Nhlangano.



FIGHT THE ROT AT SIPA - SIBUSISO TOLD

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

...as employees allege CEO's church gets favourable rental rates, costing the organisation tens of thousands

Embattled Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) employees have advised Senator Sibusiso Shongwe to get the facts of the organisation's issues before publicly taking sides.

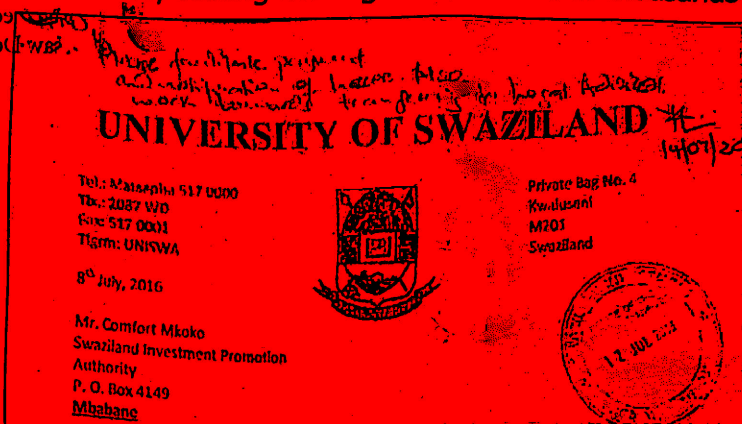
Employees stated how they were shocked to learn of the senator's bid to "fight to protect the CEO" as reported yesterday by the country's dailies.

"We did not make up any of the grievances we lodged against the CEO as we think they are valid and should be looked into by a competent body," the employees said yesterday.

Grievances

Employees lodged several grievances bordering on mostly Chief Executive Officer Phumelele Dlamini's style of management as well as decisions which they alleged were to the detriment of the organisation a few months ago.

The grievances were submitted before two boards before they were revealed by the media. The senator made these remarks on Friday during the debate of the first quarter performance report of the ministry of commerce, industry



The letter from UNISWA bearing the quotation for three days' of use for the church the CEO allegedly attends. The instruction to pay was allegedly added by the CEO.

and trade after reportedly asking Minister Jabulani Mabuza to handle the SIPA matter with honesty and integrity.

Disgruntled employees stated how they were shocked by the attitude displayed by Shongwe, who, in not so many words, insinuated that there was an agenda against the CEO.

"We revealed how the CEO's church not only got a favourable lease but was also rented alternative

premises when the hall they use would be needed for the Swaziland International Trade Fair (SITF)," the employees said.

Complained

According to the summary of submissions made to the Sandile Simelane led board by management on behalf of the organisation's employees, under Item #3 titled 'Flouting of Organisational Procedures', employees complained about the leasing of Hall 2 to Tree of

Life Ministries which the CEO allegedly attends and is a member of regular standing

The summary stated, "3.10 The CEO instructed and signed the leasing out of the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre Hall 2 to Tree of Life Ministries. The implication of this is that the facility, even though leased for two days a week, renders it unavailable for at least four days in a week to cater for both preparations and services and the opportunity cost for this is high," the employees alleged in the written document.

Explaining further, the summary stated how the leasing as opposed to hiring of Hall 2, which is a public facility, allegedly compromised SIPA targets of promoting business related events, especially considering the size of the hall and affordability of the component.

Higher

"The lease in section 2.4 & 2.5 stipulates that SIPA will find alternative venue for the tenant if there are other events, which comes at a higher cost than vis-a-vis the rental fee."

With the summary containing attached documents, the employees availed the lease agreement which stated that the

church, led by Pastor Thulani Dlamini, would pay E12 500 as monthly rental fee which would be fixed to escalate by nine per cent every January (the date of commencement of the lease) compounded for the duration of the initial and optional period. Despite paying only E12 500 per month, SIPA allegedly, on instruction of the CEO, sought alternative premises for the church in preparation for the SITF as per a letter from the University of Swaziland (UNISWA).

Submissions

"The CEO instructed payment of nearly E34 000 for the rental of the UNISWA Sports Emporium for the church to use during the last two Sundays of August as well as the first Sunday of September," the employees alleged referring to the 'Annexure 17' of the summary of submissions which is a letter from UNISWA dated 8 July quoting the use of the hall as well as 800 chairs at E11 320 per day.

On the letter from UNISWA, a handwritten note on the letter, supposedly from the CEO, stated, "Please facilitate payment and notification of lessee. Also work towards transferring to legal advisor." The note was dated 14 July.

SIPA CEO allegedly 'fiddled' with tenders

Employees have further revealed how SIPA CEO Phumelele Dlamini allegedly interfered with tenders in order for them to remain within her threshold.

Procedurally, the CEO can only issue tenders below E0.5 million with amounts higher being the responsibility of the Audit Committee.

However, there are allegations to the effect that she would interfere with some of those which went above that amount by calling for them to be done in phases so as to avoid sending them to the audit committee.

Interfered

"Tenders are often not advertised and in some cases are interfered with by the CEO to remain within her threshold," employees have alleged in the summary of submissions made to the board.

"Procurement procedures are often violated as a result of verbal instruc-

tions issued by the CEO and later rectified by the manager after the institution has already been committed.

According to the employees, the rehabilitation of the Taitex Factory shell in Matsapha which had a tender estimate of nearly E1 million which is above the scope of the CEO, construction companies stated how they were informed to split the works into two phases.

Abridged

An abridged tender report reads, "Although the tender estimate is E981 565.71, we have been made aware that the budget for the works should not exceed E500 000.

It is in that vein that we propose the works to be executed in phase suited for budgetary constraints."

The employees stated how they believed the CEO, by making the consultant aware that the tender should not exceed E0.5 million was manipulation of the procurement process, thus flouting

procurement procedures by not escalating the tender to proper structures.

Furthermore, page five of the unabridged tender document (dated May 2016) states previous works done by the recommended company for the rehabilitation of the same factory shell, the cost of previous rehabilitations are estimated to be in excess of E1.4 million.

Rehabilitation

As a whole, the rehabilitation costs of Taitex Factory Shell, if not broken down to phases, had to have gone through the full boards for approval.

The employees further alleged how the rehabilitation of the concrete flooring at Nhlanguano Factory Shell where the tender was initially valued at over E512 000, "...the CEO openly mentioned that due to urgency of the works, she requested that the amount be reviewed to be below E0.5 million to which the amount was reviewed to

CEO refuses to entertain calls, always in meetings

Efforts to get responses from the SIPA CEO proved futile as she said she was in a meeting when called yesterday afternoon.

This curt response, which was quickly followed by her discon-

necting the connection, has been standard since the Sunday Observer broke the story of her irregularly sending her PA to purchase carpet tiles in South Africa, an article which was in the August 14 edition.

E499 563."

The employees alleged that the company tasked with the rehabilitation works later submitted an extra invoice of E31 253.93 for extra work done which is beyond the CEO's scope of influence. Another allegation concerning the flouting of tenders involved the construction of houses Matsanjeni Factory Shell.

Employees claimed this posed for a serious audit query where the CEO instructed that an account be opened

in one hardware store.

"The contractor could acquire materials as required leaving the technical advisor and procurement office with no monitoring measures of materials taken and even though a bill of quantities was provided, this presented a serious threat," the employees alleged.

Adding, the employees stated how to their knowledge, the total cost for the project was not provided by the board as it collectively cost more than the CEO's threshold.

First Gideon, then Jinnoh leave Commerce

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Newly appointed Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Jabulani Mabuza has to solve the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) impasse without the officers who have a depth of knowledge on the issue.

This is because of the recent departure of the Principal Secretary, Jinnoh Nkambule who left after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 60 years, shortly after the dismissal of the former minister, Gideon Dlamini who was at the helm of things when the challenges came into light.

The SIPA impasse is a resultant of a 53 allegations levelled against the CEO by both the organisation's staff and cleaners based at the Mavuso

Trade Centre. Two months later, the matter still remains unsolved by the new minister and his predecessor Dlamini asserts that his hands are open in case there is need for him to consult with him.

In fact, the former minister told the Sunday Observer in a telephonic interview that this was not necessarily directed to issues related to SIPA, but he was welcome to assist the new minister in any matter that pertains to the portfolio.

Absence

"The minister is welcome to call me in case he needs my help, especially in the absence of a formal handover to bring him up to speed with what is happening," he said.

However, he revealed he hasn't received the pleasure of sharing what he knows with Mabuza because he has not contacted him

which made him believe he had all the information he could need at his disposal. Besides, he said that regardless of their departure with Nkambule, the SIPA board remained and they were another body that could be a source of information for the minister whom the nation expects to solve the problems faced by the organisation responsible for luring investors to the country.

Relieved

Dlamini was relieved of his duties a month ago through an announcement made by the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini following months of investigations by the Anti-Corruption Commission over a donation of E1.2 million to Ngeri Holdings from Qatar. He was dismissed despite pleading his innocence during an interview with this

newspaper where he explained how he had neither benefitted nor committed any crime when the transaction between the two parties was made. Adding on the issue of the new minister, he said he believed the former principal secretary was also available to assist whenever possible because at the end of the day this was not someone's business but that of the government.

Unfriendly

Amongst the grievances by the employees was that they alleged the CEO had created an unfriendly environment as a result of her leadership style that had gone to the extent of affecting them from delivering on SIPA's mandate to lure investors. The CEO was alleged to use abusive and belittling language against senior managers in the presence of junior staff thus affecting their duties, as well as that she also flouts lots of procurement procedures in the process sidelining man-

agers and engaging junior staff for managerial duties. Sources revealed that the CEO was entitled to approve tenders worth up to E500 000, otherwise the audit committee has to be involved on tenders for projects beyond that mark, but Dlamini was alleged to have interfered on tenders whose costs were above her threshold.

Arguing

Further, she was alleged to have authorised a E981 565 000 tender for the rehabilitation of Taitex Factory Shell in Matsapha, by arguing that the project should be done in phases since the budget was not supposed to exceed E500 000 and she did not send the project to the audit committee as required.

All these allegations have since been brought before a commission of enquiry currently conducted by the Board chaired by Sandile Simelane and it is yet to report on their findings on the impasse.

MINISTER BUY CASH SPLASHES OUT E200 000 TO PIGG'S PEAK FOLK

BY SIZWE DLAMINI

Pigg's Peak Member of Parliament Jabulani Mabuza, who also doubles as Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade, doled out money, food and clothing worth E200 000 to over 3 000 people of Northern Hhohho who were lucky enough to spend yesterday at the Pigg's Peak Day celebrations outside the Gobolondlo hall.

The minister used the event to donate food hampers to 300 elderly people valued at E400 each and presented the winners of both the men's football league as well as the women's netball league with their prize money, which amounted to E9 600 in total and all the women's netball teams received brand new game uniforms.

The minister further donated T-shirts to all of Northern Hhohho's



Minister of Commerce and Pigg's Peak Member of Parliament Jabulani Mabuza donated food hampers to 300 elders valued at E400 each containing bread, chicken portions fertiliser, mealie-meal and seeds donated to elders of Northern Hhohho.

over 150 community police and provided transport of two trucks for the elderly to their areas of residence.

Mabuza stated that the day would not have been possible had it not

been for the support of all the people of the area who were banded together to work towards a common goal of unity.

The event was graced by Minister

of Agriculture Moses Vilakati, Pigg's Peak Mayor Thembisile Dlamini-Ngcampthalala, Pigg's Peak Indvuna Muzi Phiri as well as Hhelehhele's Chief Mnikwa and other Northern Hhohho leaders as well as bucofho dignitaries.

Minister Vilakati stated he was honoured to have been invited to the event and was happy that the donated hampers included seeds as well as fertiliser that would be used to help the elderly grow more food for their sustenance.

The mayor provided the welcoming remarks of the day and stated that Hhohho truly had a lot to celebrate as the region was improving.

The Master of ceremonies was radio personality Moses Matsebula and the event was punctuated by entertainment provided by the crowd favourite's Swazi gospel singer Phathwakahle.



Mabuza dancing with elders.



The MP and Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati presenting a representative of the Pigg's Peak netball team Jabu Mngomezulu with her teams prize money.

Lubombo Farmers receive much-needed agricultural commodities

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Over 4 000 farmers are set to receive seeds in preparation for the planting season from World Vision Swaziland with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Added to that, 6 000 farmers from Mpolonjeni, Matsanjeni, Somntongo, Sithobela as well as Shewula, will also receive bales of hay to supplement their livestock feed as drought mitigation measures from the organisation.

This was revealed by WVS Communications Manager Thabile Maripe, who stated that 950 bales of hay and over 20 metric tons (MT) of seeds were distributed to farmers in five constituencies under the Lubombo region this past week in a drive that will end in June next year.

Drought resistant seed comprised of 9.658MT of sorghum seeds as well 10.38MT of cowpeas and 950 hay bales were given to farmers during the first distribution since the USAID-funded and World Vision-implemented El Niño Agriculture and Food Security Recovery Project was launched by the US Ambassador Lisa Peterson, in Lubulini recently. The distribution started on Monday in Sithobela.

According to Maripe, the distribution of seeds is a once-off exercise which will see World Vision, min-



A section of farmers from Mpolonjeni listening attentively during the briefing.

istry of agriculture and 200 trained lead farmers supporting the benefitting farmers as they sow the seeds using conservation agricultural methods, whilst the bales will continue until a total of 6 000 bales have been distributed.

"The seed selection of sorghum and cowpeas was informed by the threshold of their resistance to dry seasons," she said. Prior to the Mpolonjeni distribution, WVS Project Manager Ntandoyenkosi Mlangeni explained, "We anticipate that by next harvest season, farmers from these communities will have something to reap, primarily because the seeds were selected precisely because of their resilience

in harsh weather conditions, and also because of the skills that were transferred to the farmers on conservation agriculture."

Speaking at the same meeting, farmer Mphatselwa Mamba, expressed concern that the assistance was coming after many of the farmers had already lost their livestock due to the excessive heat and eroded grazing pastures. "Thank you World Vision for the help, but in my opinion, I really wish this had come sooner, way before we lost our cattle," he lamented.

He went on to query how World Vision had ensured that their cattle will not die after eating from the bales. Mlangeni explained in detail, the

benefit that still existed for the remaining cattle as well as the process the organisation undertook to ensure, as far as possible, that the bales would not be hazardous to the cattle.

Portia Magwaza, a woman farmer from eMadadeni, expressed appreciation and anticipation for livestock recovery as the drought had disturbed her livelihood since her livestock suffered immensely due to the drought.

"The drought was very disturbing. I lost a cow and it became difficult even for those remaining, because they were no longer producing as they should. I am hopeful that the bales will reduce the burden and carry us as far as possible, she said.

Maripe explained how farmers were identified by their respective communities based on their level of household vulnerability and priority given to those with one to 10 thriving livestock.

The food recovery project, which will end in June 2017, will see 6 000 bales of hay for 20 000 cattle, 66MT of seed distributed as follows:

CONSTITUENCY	#HAY BALES	#FARMERS (receiving 15kg seeds each)
MPOLONJENI	1200	1008
MATSANJENI	1200	967
SOMNTONGO	1200	378
SITHOBELA	1200	1007
SHEWULA	1200	840
TOTAL	6000	4200

'US election results won't affect foreign policies with SD'

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Swaziland's foreign policies with the United States of America (USA) will not be affected by the results of the 2016 elections that saw Donald Trump being elected President.

According to US Embassy's Charge d'Affaires Michael Lombardo, Swaziland is among the countries that are likely to be least affected by the results of the election. Lombardo was interviewed on the historic 'election night' in the US, which was on Wednesday morning in Swaziland due to the difference in time zone.

"It is unlikely that foreign policies with Swaziland will change based on the results of the presidential elections. There are very strong policies in place which cannot be changed overnight," he said.

Reports worldwide have shown a number of experts in different political sectors expressing their concern over what has been described as the uncertain future for the US. The United States and Swaziland have had good bilateral relations since the country attained independence.

Some of the US assistance to Swaziland includes major donations in the health care centre. In 2009, the US and Swaziland signed the second-ever Partnership Framework Agreement under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The agreement is a five-year joint programme strategy to strengthen, scale up, and sustain key components of the HIV response and the overall health sector capacity. Through PEPFAR support, Swaziland's Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) program now reaches approximately 75 per cent of those in need of ART; 91 per cent of HIV+ pregnant women are receiving antiretroviral for their health or for prevention of mother-to-child transmission. According to a fact sheet by the Bureau of African Affairs on an official Department of State website, the US supports health promotion and health systems strengthening, entrepreneurship, youth development and education, security sector capacity-building, and trade promotion in Swaziland. Swaziland and the US signed a memorandum of understanding expanding the Peace Corps mission's HIV/AIDS-focused duties to include education capacity-building activities such as computer-skills training, life-skills support, and teacher training. The US Government also offers exchange programmes and educational bursaries for Swazi students to study there. One of the other benefits of the bilateral economic relations was the preferential trade benefits under African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). However, Swaziland lost AGOA in January 2015.

The country belongs to the Southern African Customs Union, which has signed a Trade, Investment, and Development Cooperative Agreement (TIDCA) with the United States. Other fruits of the strong bilateral agreements include the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with the United States as the country is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

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1. Former Miss Swaziland princess Melissa Marvis graduated with an Associate Degree in Business Management. The former beauty queen opted for the safe black and white, she looked simple yet elegant. 2. Smephi Banger Dlamini poses with his lecturer Nompandolo Dlamini. Banger said the only expensive things he was wearing was his sheep tie. 3. Graduate Lindelwa Ginindza looking gorgeous in her red tailor made dress and black shoes. She is standing here with her cousin Welile Khayini who came through to support her. 4. Cassandra Steenkamp and Nokwanda decided to go simple and still achieve elegance. 5. Mthobisi Fakudze took into consideration and decided to go bright with his light blue suit while his friend Mthobisi Ntshangase decided to go majestic in this royal blue suit with a striped tie. (Pics: Lungelo Nkambule)

GRANDFATHER'S SUIT STEALS THE SHOW...

BY LUNGELO NKAMBULE

To affirm that they are indeed graduates of the school of creativity, Linkokwing students came about with creative outfits for their graduation and they were drop dead gorgeous and handsome.

It was, however, the guy in his grandfather's suit and pink socks who stole our hearts. Tribal Misfits' Mthobisi Dlamini, who is well known for his 'cotton eating tendencies', did not disappoint as he came dressed in his late grandfather's suit which he re-designed to add a modern vibe and complemented his whole brown and black look with pink and white socks.

Honour

The young man, who was in the company of his two mothers Zandi Mabuza and Nelsiwe Dlamini, said he wore the suit in honour of his late grandfather.

"He was an amazing man; it is a pity he couldn't be here today so I decided to wear his suit.

"I am so honoured I got to wear the suit and I know he is looking down at me right now with pride," he explained. The Tribal Misfits dancer said this was a happy day for him and his family.

"They allowed me to venture into dance so this is the least I can do for them because I know this is what they want for me.

"I look good, feel good and most of all, my grandmother is happy, my mothers are happy and so is everyone at home.

So what better way than to celebrate



The headturner Mthobisi Dlamini with Nelsiwe Dlamini and Zandi Mabuza. Mthobisi wore his grandfather's suit and complemented his outfit with pink happy socks.

this in the great man's suit?" he asked rhetorically. Mthobisi was not the only graduate who brought their slay game

with them. It was slay galore and we were able to bring you a few pictures from the event.



Sabatini Mamba's dress was all sorts of elegant in this dress she had made herself. RIGHT - Sabatini shows off the back of her dress. The bare back added a playful vibe to her outfit.



Manqoba Trevor Tsabedze said the objective was to slay and he achieved that. The non-conformist played around with patterns and colours and he looked dashing.

SHOE CORNER...



'THE POOR ARE ONLY THOSE WITHOUT VISION'

STORIES BY MANQOBA MAKHUBU

Mbabane Alliance Senior Pastor Johannes Mazibuko says the poorest men on earth are only those without vision.

He was speaking during a thanksgiving dinner for Phindile Ndlandla-Shabangu, who was celebrating a number of her career milestones with the most recent being her affiliation to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

The small private function was held at the Royal Swazi Sun's Gigs Restaurant on Friday.

Shabangu is employed by PWC and currently serves as Assistant Manager for the audit firm.

Mazibuko, who described vision as the 'picture of where someone wants to be,' or 'the mental picture of the person that someone wants to be in life,' said vision could draw money into someone's pocket, "no matter how smart you are, without vision, you have no use."

The theme of his short sermon was based in Proverbs 29:18 which partly states that 'where there is no vision, the people perish.' Mazibuko said Solomon, the author of the scripture, reflected a number of times the testimony of this verse through his fine experiences and wisdom. After a brief narration of human fertilisation, he got the audience in a sheer moment of laughter when he said for someone to get to where he/she intends to go; he/she needs to outrun millions of other sperms in the unseen world. Referring to Shabangu, he said as long as she has not reached the sky she should keep on pushing and further stressed that Jesus was an advantage she could build on.

"Vision integrates passion. When you know where you are going you become passionate."

"Whereas without vision you only roam the planet without achieving anything," he said.

The seasoned pastor said a person with vision becomes choosy, "you only go for what will contribute in your life and help you achieve your vision. You change your association and hook up with people who will become your dream interpreters and help you work towards your vision."

He said people were divided into three categories, excusers, accusers and achiev-

Mbabane Alliance Church's Rev Johannes Mazibuko was speaking during a thanksgiving dinner for Phindile Ndlandla-Shabangu who was celebrating a number of her career milestones with the most recent being her affiliation to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)



The host Phindile Ndlandla-Shabangu gestures as she thanks each and everyone who contributed to her success story during her thanksgiving held at the Royal Swazi Sun Gigs Restaurant. (Pics: Manqoba Makhubu)



Bongiwe Mokoena spoke on behalf of friends. RIGHT - New Standard Bank Chief Executive Mvuselelo Fakudze makes his remarks.

ers, saying the latter was the best option. "Achievers don't take no for an answer, they push until something happens in spite of obstacles, because you know that with God everything is possible," he said.

The event's guests included KaZondwako Chief Velamuva Maseko and Buseleni Chief Ngoma Ndlangamandla who were both accompanied by their spouses,

Pastor and Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) Chief Executive Officer Phil Mnisi and his wife Jabu, African Alliance (AA) Chief Executive Officer Nelisiwe Mabuza, Standard Bank's Thandeka Dlamini and her husband Clement, Mhlatane Headteacher Dr. Mandla Dlamini, PWC management and staff, PWC clients, the Ndlandla and Shabangu family and the hosts friends.

Host has been holder of Dean of Commerce price for 5yrs

Phindile Ndlandla-Shabangu has been the last holder of the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) Dean of Commerce price for the past five years until this year where one lady, who recently joined PWC, scooped the award.

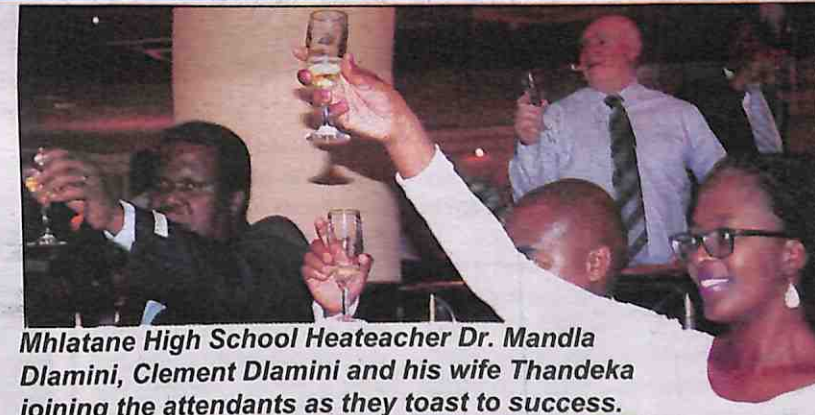
This was mentioned by the Alliance Church Pastor who is also the Chief Executive Officer for the Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) Phil Mnisi.

According to her profile, which was presented by Mnisi, Shabangu completed her Bcom Degree in 2011 at UNISWA and obtained a first class pass and the Dean of Commerce price.

Price

She also obtained the best accounting student price from KPMG.

Her former teacher at St Francis High,



Mhlatane High School Headteacher Dr. Mandla Dlamini, Clement Dlamini and his wife Thandeka joining the attendants as they toast to success.

who is now a Headteacher at Mhlatane High School Dr Mandla Dlamini, said she was one of the top pupils and would pass her subjects without any problem. "She was a superstar and put the school

on the map of the country," he said. "You still need to work very hard, keep on pushing as there is something great beyond the horizons," he further stated.



Mbabane Alliance Church Senior Pastor Johannes Mazibuko making his remarks.

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LANGA BRICKS STRIKE SET TO CONTINUE TOMORROW

STORIES
BY MLONDI MPANZA

The strike by Langa Bricks workers is set to continue tomorrow where it would be entering its third day having started on Thursday in the past week.

Amongst several demands brought forth by the workers, include a salary increment of E3 per hour.

This is according to Dumisani Tsabedze, who spoke on behalf of the disgruntled workers after they were found picketing outside the company's premises on Friday afternoon while the management was doing all the work in the production area normally done by the workers in efforts not to disturb operations.

Subsequent

The decision to down tools was subsequent to numerous failed negotiations between the two parties with deadlock being reached at Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) level in as far as allowances are concerned, as well as a litany of other grievances they have against their employer.

The workers are not only demanding the salary increment but also want a housing allowance of E250 instead of being given deformed bricks to build themselves houses as per an agreement which was said to have been brokered by the director.

Tsabedze said the reason they were not pleased with the offer of

...unless management meets demand of increasing workers' salaries by E3 per hour



The striking workers at Langa Bricks picketing on Friday during the second day of their strike that is set to continue tomorrow. (Pics: Mlonzi Mpanza)

bricks was that the manager was allegedly not honest as he was now giving them 'bits and pieces' of the bricks instead of what was initially agreed on.

Dissatisfied

"Therefore, we feel like its best the company gives us the monthly housing allowance of E250 instead of the bricks which on their own need money too in order to build a house," said the representative.

The dissatisfied workers revealed they were also demanding a E12 monthly increase of their transport allowance which currently stands

at E138 despite the company maintaining they do not have anything to put on the table for them in terms of the allowances, let alone the cost of living adjustment.

Intervention

It is alleged the strike has come at a time when the intervention of the ministry of labour and social security had also been sought and proved futile. Tsabedze further revealed that; "We also want the leave days to be increased from 16 to 18 days, an issue that is part of those that are outstanding from previous meetings with the employer who has

been failing to meet our demands.

There is also that of bonuses we are supposed to get every July, however such is not happening in this company, except for the excuse that the company has no money."

This newspaper was told there were also days where the company allegedly did not pay them on time, pointing at the bank for being at fault for such when they claim to know very well their employer had not made deposits for the monthly salaries.

Tsabedze said such an act would mean they spent a number of days going back and forth for their salaries and later not get paid for such days as the company allegedly claims they did not account for them.

Remitting

On another note, the workers have alleged the company was not remitting their contributions to the Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF).

This, they confirmed after visiting SNPF, also known as Lidlantfontgeni, where they were told there were no records of their contributions.

They also claim to have been supplementing their statutory contributions apart from the ones taken from their salaries and records of such do not appear as well.

"There are a lot of irregularities in the company and it has come to our attention it is not remitting our taxes and now we struggle to get tax clearances from Swaziland Revenue Authority," alleged the workers.

... 'Inala soup perfect for workers'

One of the foremen at Langa Bricks is alleged to have told the workers there was no need for them to get a salary increment as their current packages sufficed to buy Inala soup.

This was alleged by the workers through their representatives from the union who told this newspaper they were not happy with the treatment received from their managers.

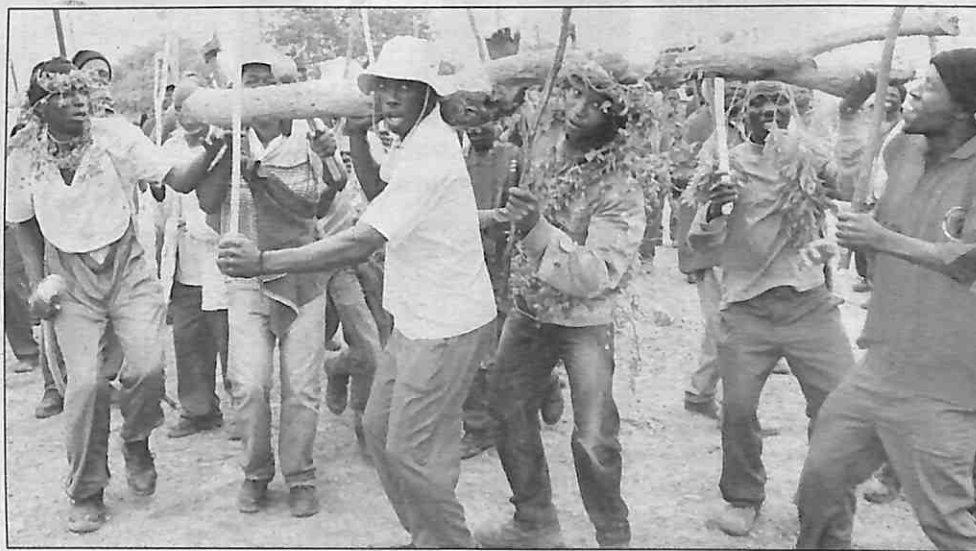
"The kind of treatment given to us is a result of the fact that management promotes unqualified people for managerial positions who in turn ill-treats us as employees," alleged Tsabedze.

They made reference to a case that took place three weeks ago where certain workers were taken to disciplinary hearings for not taking an instruction from the managers to the effect that they should take out already made bricks from the heating bale whose temperature stood at 970 degrees Celsius yet only machinery was supposed to do this job.

They also alleged they were charged for not working overtime on weekends despite that the law stipulated they must work 48 hours weekly and to work on a weekend has to be through negotiations between the particular parties involved.

Adding, the workers alleged there were also times where they were turned back from work and told there was nothing to do whilst this affected their salaries come month end as they were paid by the number of hours spent working.

Amongst the many allegations brought about by the workers is they spent long periods without the necessary uniform such as boots that were vital for the kind of job they were doing.



These workers carried a log during the strike.

...OUR HANDS ARE OPEN FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS - HR

Busiswa Magongo, the Human Resources Officer at Langa Bricks, said their hands were open for further negotiations with the disgruntled workers regardless of having reached a deadlock.

This was after she had been asked what the company was doing to address the concerns that had led to the strike, while management took over the responsibilities of the aggrieved workers.

"We had negotiations over

the issues they raised and we reached a deadlock after they went to conciliation stage at CMAC.

However, it is worth pointing out that we are expecting them to come forth for further negotiations so we can reach common ground and normalise the situation," she said.

She also pointed out that on some of the issues; the company was trying to meet the workers half way as evident in the case of transport allowance,

which was currently being given to them, as well as the offer for bricks instead of the housing allowance.

When told such an offer had later been rescinded by the manager, she responded by stating she was not aware of this and as far as she was concerned this agreement still stands.

Magongo elected not to comment on the rest of the concerns brought by the workers as she stated she was not aware of them either.

My teacher made me - Illovo employee

Few pupils ever recognise the role played by individual teachers enough to return and thank them.

It was therefore heart warming when Geina Ndwandwe called for present pupils of Moyeni High School to give his retired Mathematics teacher a standing ovation for the difference she made in his life during the farewell function on Thursday.

Despite having completed his high school education at Evelyn Baring in Nhlanguano, he returned to Moyeni to thank Jabulile Mnisi for the sound foundation she cemented in him.

"I am where I am today because of her guidance and teaching me to love Mathematics," he said.

He revealed how he proceeded to get into university where he obtained a Bachelor's Science in Land and Water Management on the strength of the subject which was taught to him by Mnisi to the point that he was currently pursuing his Master's Degree. He said he finished course work on his Master of Science in Environmental Resource Management where he specialised in Agricultural and Bio-systems Engineering and was currently doing his thesis.

"I am honoured to have been given this opportunity to represent former pupils today," he said. He recalled how Mnisi was not just an ordinary teacher as she also parented those under her charge.

"She was a teacher and a parent. She used her pay days and Saturdays to ensure we were well groomed in her subject," he said.

Ndwandwe reminisced how she looked after those who were disadvantaged and orphaned despite having her own children who needed her. "She was a parent to all those who needed her to the point of bothering herself about our performance in other subjects and encouraging us to do better," he said while recalling how she disciplined him to do better.

"There was a time when a new pupil joined us in Form Two and she topped us in one test," he said.

Mnisi reportedly called those who usually topped the class and took them to task for their weaker marks. "During the next test, despite having achieved over 80%, she punished me and said I was capable of doing better," he recounted.

He, however, relented she worked according to different children's paces as she was able to nurture the strugglers as well as the over-achievers equally.

"I taught at Nkijiji, which is her home area, as my token of appreciation and a way of giving back to the subject which spurred me to become what I am today," he said, adding how other former pupils had expressed their best wishes to the teachers who had left the school via their WhatsApp group.

On the other hand, Mcolisi Mbonani, who represented current pupils, said they were excited to have been taught by astute teachers who removed the veil of ignorance from their eyes. Mcolisi said it was enlightening to have teachers who disregarded the fact that other pupils were underprivileged and orphaned by teaching them all to realise their full potential.



Traditional leaders were also present to bid Mnisi a happy retirement.

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

TEACHER MNISI-A CUT ABOVE THE REST

...retired teacher celebrated for taking Moyeni High School pupils to greater heights

Having taught at Moyeni High School for 25 years, speakers heaped accolades on retired Mathematics teacher Jabulile Mnisi during her farewell function held at the school hall on Thursday morning.

Mnisi started teaching at Moyeni in 1991 until recently when she reached retirement and during the function, transferred and promoted Mjinga High School Principal Sandra Dubber was also recognised. Prior to her transfer, Dubber was the deputy head teacher at the school.

The well attended event was graced by Senator Ndumiso Mdluli, who was the guest speaker, while Chief Ngalokhulu Mabuza, Manzini Regional Education Officer (REO) Mlimi Mamba as well as the school's board chairman Ndlovu addressed the gathering during the celebration of the hardworking teacher.

Celebrate

Mdluli, in his address, called for the celebration of Mnisi's journey. "We are gathered here today to celebrate a success story of one of our own who has run the race and accomplished a lot," he said, further commending her for having been well posed to infuse some of the emerging strategies into the present and future curricula for pupils in the contemporary era. Mdluli stated how the country was in dire need of teachers who were prepared to go an extra mile to churn the best crop of learners who would become independent thinkers and future researchers who would contribute effectively to the betterment of life. He paid homage to the educator who he labelled as an outstanding teacher who served Moyeni with honour and distinction.

"Your record of accomplishment speaks volumes about the calibre of the person you have been. Personally, I belong to the old guard which still believes that



REO Mlimi Mamba called for Moyeni pupils to work towards attaining their academic and professional goals before having babies.

teaching is an avenue to serve and not to be served," said the senator, who was also once a teacher having left the profession as lecturer. He called for present and former pupils of the school to extend gratitude to their parents and guardians for the sacrificial role they played in providing financial material and moral support to their educational careers.

Contemporary

"Do not emulate the contemporary generation of young people who do not have the words 'thank you' in their vocabulary," he said.

The REO, on the other hand, recalled the testing times Moyeni had overcome

such as riots which saw some pupils arrested for misdemeanours within the school. Mamba commended the school for solving most of the issues which threatened its core business of educating the pupils. "When we bring children to school, the intention is for them to have a brighter future and so they have to be aware they are blessed to have an education."

Reach

He added how the country would not be able to reach first world status by 2022 or reach 2030 without the development of the youth through education while calling for sound harvests to



Chief Ngalokhulu Mabuza, with Senator Ndumiso Mdluli who presented retiring Mathematics teacher Jabulile Mnisi with a blanket.

be realised with the education the pupils of Moyeni receive. He advised parents to not leave everything to teachers as they had a responsibility of checking on after their children's well being at all times.

Dedication

Mamba called for teachers to teach with integrity and dedication as their profession was not only about money, but nurturing young minds, "Nami ngil-ambile (I too am in need of more money) but I am here because this job has to be done."

Adding, he called for teachers to deliver accordingly as this then left little room for misbehaviour by pupils and also called for the learners to be respectful and stop doing drugs as this impeded on their chances of success.

The school Chairman Ndlovu requested Mnisi to keep her door open and allow those who come after her to consult her in times of need. "I have children who were taught by her and can attest to her contribution as they are now successful members of society," the school chairman said.

Developing

He commended the strides the school had made in terms of developing and commended the base that teachers like Mnisi had laid out, further adding that the ball was now on the current and future pupils to succeed. "Those who leave school prematurely realise late that they need their education. So it is up to pupils to make use of educators of Mnisi's calibre to map out their lives at the right time," he said.



A play by pupils of the life and times of Mnisi as a teacher at Moyeni High School tickled former deputy principal Sandra Dubber while sending the retiring lady to tears.

'Politics is harder than it looks'

Retired Mathematics teacher Jabulile Mnisi was this past week dissuaded from trying her hand in politics with Senator Ndumiso Mdluli stating it was one of the hardest occupations.

He advised her to keep herself busy at all times and look at ways of continuing to make a living instead of being idle. He was echoing Principal Samkelo Manyatsi who called for Mnisi to venture into occupations that would enhance her life. "Do (sic) continue to play a very important role in further educating the youth in the community as you have always done," Manyatsi said.



Moyeni Principal Samkelo Manyatsi expressed appreciation for the contribution made by retired teacher Jabulile Mnisi and further outlined dreams to make the school an urban one in a rural setting.

Chief Ngalokhulu honoured

The traditional leadership of Mafutseni where Moyeni High School is situated has been commended for putting education first.

The school's Principal, Samkelo Manyatsi, recognised Chief Ngalokhulu Mabuza's unwavering support as the contributory factor toward the school's success.

Entails

"We also take this opportunity to thank Babe Chief Ngalokhulu. To me he is a symbol of what humanity entails.

"His support and interest in educational matters is unsurpassed," Manyatsi said, further stating how the chief was not only hardworking but humble as well.

In the same vein, the school Chairman Ndlovu heaped praises on their leader stating how he was hands-on all the time. "We are proud to have a chief who can be counted on.

We went through difficult times as a school but you assisted us to overcome them each and every time," he said.



THE WORLD'S NEWSPAPERS REACT TO TRUMP'S ELECTION VICTORY

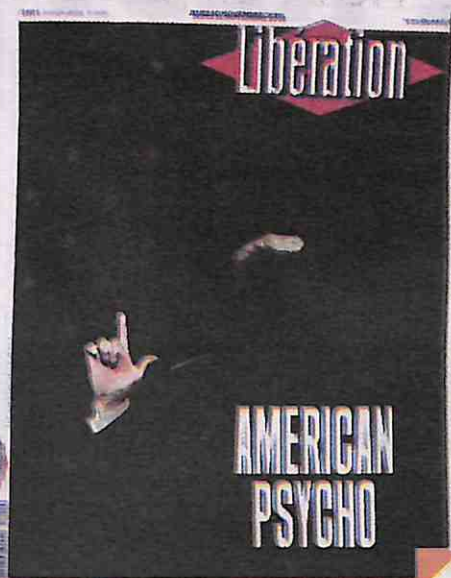
Thursday morning brought the first real opportunity for most newspapers to properly reflect on America's decision to elect Donald Trump

as president – and they were split on what it means on their front pages.

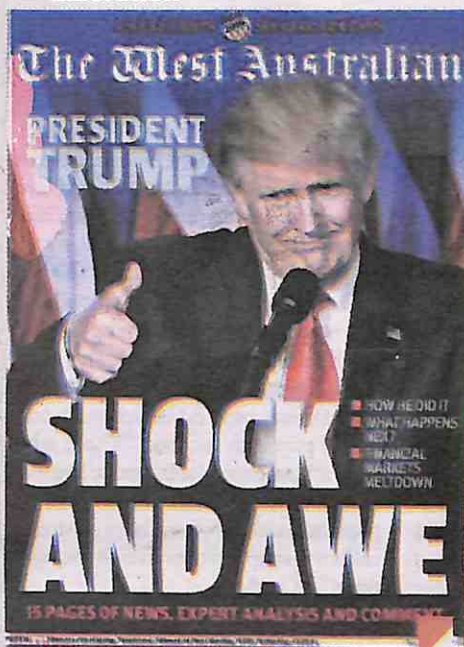
Message

Some, such as the Daily Mirror

and France's left-leaning Libération, are unequivocal in their message: the news is disastrous for America and Trump is ill-suited to high office.



■ Libération



■ The West Australian



■ Daily Mail



■ The Times



■ The Independent



■ Daily Express



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BIG FIVE, WE COMING FOR YOU:



Members of Claiming Ground Records, Big Fun, Mega Sound and Swazi Boy at the Big 5 24-Hour Crossover Launch at Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge at Esibayeni in Matsapha on Thursday.

SD'S TOP ENTERTAINMENT STABLES UNITE FOR CROSSOVER

BY PHUMELELE MKHONTA

Five Swazi entertainment stables referring to themselves as the 'Big Five' have united to throw a massive and explosive

24-hour crossover party at Esibayeni Lodge in Matsapha.

The stables that will be working together on December 31 are Swazi Boy, Claiming Grounds Records, Mega Sounds, Big Fun and Déjà

Vu Cocktail Lounge (Esibayeni Lodge).

Swazi Boy's co-founder Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane said this idea was born of a vision to have a united Swazi entertainment industry so

as to grow and promote local talent. "Also, this initiative is meant to make our industry an income generating one; we have to be able to make a decent living out of this industry," said Zwane.

What each stable is bringing to the table...

Claiming Grounds

Records - The veterans when it comes to hip hop and soul music. They are more on live performances and they have been around for a while.

9

Mega Sound - They are young, loud and energetic. They are good for the industry because of their energy.



Big Fun - They brought fun in the country and the mature crowd can relate to them. They have hosted massive shows.



Déjà vu/Esibayeni - They are the playground for entertainment shows. They are a great platform to showcase talent and they are acknowledged for that.



Swazi Boy - These are the 'uncles' of the game and they have been around for a long time. This is the stable that has music veterans.



'Together we stand, divided we fall'

Claiming Grounds Records' Steven Mthethwa says this event will mark the unity that is brewing amongst Swazi entertainment stables.

"Swazi stables were throwing parties separately and simultaneously all year round. This initiative will be a testament that together we stand and divided we fall, if we are one we will attract fun lovers who are attracted by the different stables into one venue thus achieving the ultimate goal.

Mthethwa also invited corporates to sponsor the 'Big Five' for the 24-hour crossover



Baphelele 'Karly-B' Mamba (with mic) told the attendants that this initiative will create a united Swazi entertainment stable while Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane, Samkelo Zulu and Steven Mthethwa look on.

party, which he said would boost the entertainment industry not only today but also for future generations.

Doors open for independent talents

Local artists and talents are welcome to participate in the inaugural Big Five crossover show.

"However, we should clearly state that those who wish to be part of this initiative should bring quality for the credibility of the show," said Big Fun's Khulekani 'Karly B' Mamba. Lindokuhle Mthupha, the programme director of the night, revealed that there would be three dance floors and the line-up was yet to be finalised.



Sakhile 'Flameboyuniverse' Mavimbela, Thamsanqa 'KrTC' Sibandze, Mangaliso 'Elfoe' Masilela and Nomalungelo Dladla watching the proceedings.



NOTICE

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

This is to notify all our stakeholders and valued customers that Swaziland Television Authority (Swazi TV) will be using a new landline number 2411 9600 with effect from the 24 October 2016.

Kindly note that, the numbers in the other departments remain unchanged.

Our sincere apologies for the inconvenience caused by the changeover.

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SA'S YOUNGEST MILLIONAIRE IMPRESSED WITH KING'S VISION

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

One of South Africa's youngest self made millionaire Sandile Shezi says he is impressed with King Mswati III's vision of attaining first world status in year 2022.

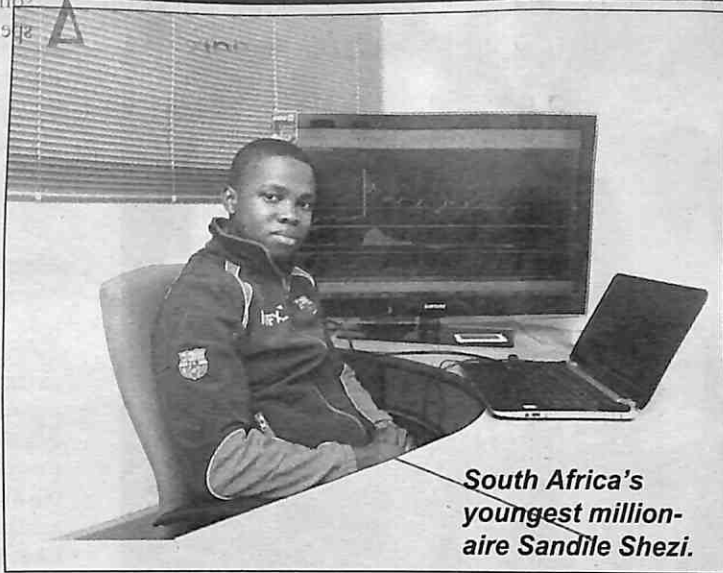
Shezi, who was in the country over the weekend says he was impressed to learn from most leaders in the country he met with about the vision that the country is currently working on making a reality.

Shezi recently established a branch for his company, Global Forex Institute (GFI), in Mbabane. Speaking during an interview in Durban, Shezi said after learning of the King and country's vision he would be making sure that all work that he does in the country is inline with this vision.

"It was great being in Swaziland as I spent the whole weekend there."

"Most of the people we engaged with were young people with a few leaders who spoke about the King's vision as everything we plan to do there will be in line, with Ingwenyama's vision," he said.

The young millionaire said in every country where he addressed young people he made sure to encourage them not to get in the business just



South Africa's youngest millionaire Sandile Shezi.

for themselves but think about developing the community and country. He said most young people like him, get into business or trading with the motivation of buying nice clothes, big houses and many cars while at some point it's important to realise they can play a bigger role.

Impressed

Shezi said he was also impressed that at his recent session about 80 percent were young people which he believes have the potential of playing a big role in growing the country's economy, and Africa as a whole. Through the local office,

Shezi aims to train as many Swazis as possible on foreign exchange trading, while some will go on to be part of the GFI brand where they would be trained and groomed even further. "For us it is no longer just about growing in Durban or in Johannesburg but growing forex trading internationally. The forex market is a five trillion market that is traded everyday and we do not occupy even five percent of that."

If we grow trading in Africa, we do not just grow my company but we grow the economy in Africa as a whole," he added.

The 24 year old millionaire has 68

full time staff working for his company, 128 part time staff and other agents in different countries. His company recently launched the largest privately owned trading floor in Cape Town in the ABSA building.

During his first session in June, Shezi shared his story of dropping out of university and using the money that was initially meant for his tertiary to venture into forex trading.

"The whole year I would carry my laptop and go get free wifi where I would trade Forex all day and when I got back home they would ask me how my day was on campus and I would lie to them and say campus was great."

Results

At the end of the year my father asked to see my results and I told him there was a delay due to a strike. This angered him and he went to campus to demand the results where he was told I had not even been registered," he said.

Shezi said it was not long until his father disowned him and he started trading forex full time and started his company.

It was not that he did not value education but had a problem with the education system that teaches people to earn money not to make it.

New director should inherit all problems – Hospice friends

BY MLONDI MPANZA

All problems that are currently faced by Hospice at Home should be inherited by the new director, regardless of whether they took place in her presence or not.

This is the view of Hospice Friends who were interviewed following the emergence of new challenges at a time when the organisation was still trying to get back on its feet subsequent to the financial knock they had a few months ago which saw long serving former director, Thuli Msane being fired.

The concerns brought forth this time are in relation to the working relationship between employees and the former acting director Mefika Zwane who wrote a long list of grievances against the latter to the board.

"Issues of the then director and his working relationship with staff inclusive of grievances should be inherited by the new CEO, that's part of problem-solving," said Bongani Mamba who spoke on behalf of Hospice Friends.

The founding member of the Friends of Hospice in Swaziland and member of Matsapha Friends of Hospice added that, however, he was well aware that as a competent being, the new Director, Zodwa Gamedze would follow the country's legislation, that being the Employment Act and Industrial Relations Act amongst which employees too were using as a guideline.



Basically, he said Gamedze must be given a chance and be supported as that was what they were about as friends and with the guidance of the Patron they were transforming the organisation as there are programmes on-going that they fully endorsed as friends.

He explained that the process to transform the organisation was going on smoothly and the interim board was given the mandate to go ahead with the

over-sight of the organisation including the recruitment and appointment of a new director.

Mamba stated there was bound to be uncertainty when a new broom

was introduced and the mandate of the new director is to work with the staff at her disposal and therefore it was too early to judge since she was still acclimatising herself with the operations.

He said, "She must be given a chance as a fresh breath and employees should assist her in implementing the organisation's strategy."

When asked about the stance of friends in concern to certain decisions being made by the former director that were not well taken by the employees, he said management had the right to manage and not vice-versa.

In essence, employees are not responsible for recommending or firing of management and a vote of

no confidence was misdirected and not legislated in any statute.

He asserted that any form of malpractice by either the then CEO or any other employee ought to be addressed through the correct channels and where there are issues requiring attention, the Board will act on them.

In response to the concerns over the knitting project, he said they were all present when donations were made being led by the Patron and any surplus should be handled by the substantive CEO, as it is part of her scope.

"It would be very unfortunate if employees now want to dictate either for the new director or the Board on the running of the organisation, moreover, this is an NGO and not a political organisation," he said.

This was in response to allegations by the employees that were to the extent that donations from the knitting campaign were rotting in the former director's office instead of being given to beneficiaries.

The former acting director is also accused of poorly managing organisational resources with reference to him keeping keys for all vehicles to himself when the employees should be going out for outreach programmes.

In addition, the board was told of how the workers had been embarrassed to learn the Patron worked until late during preparations of a fun day which they only learnt of from the media.

MCEBO DLAMINI WAS 'TROUBLESOME' AT SALESIAN

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Controversial Swazi student leader Mcebo Dlamini who has been at the forefront of the South African 'Fees Must Fall' national student protest was a troublesome pupil at Salesian High School. The Former Wits SRC president was released from prison on Wednesday on E2 000 bail after he was arrested after a protest.

Dlamini's former teachers at the catholic school have described Dlamini as a troublesome student. He is also alleged to have led a student protest at the school, while a pupil there although he also served as the school head prefect (head boy).

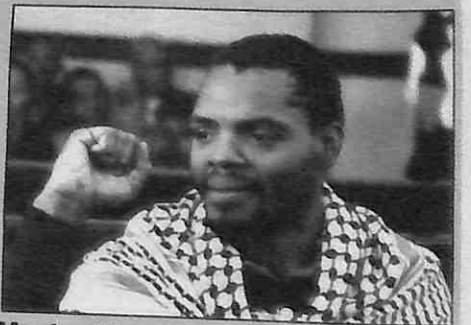
The Sunday Observer has it on good authority that the student leader has been used as an example by the teachers, when giving advice to the pupils, warning them against their behaviour early in life as it would determine the kind of future they would have. When this publication reached the school Principal Petros Horton, who was a teacher at that time, confirmed that Dlamini was appointed as head prefect while a pupil there although he said he barely remembered him.

"I have no clear image of him although I have been told that he came to the school in Form four, but I left soon after. One teacher has mentioned to me though that they remember him very well," he said. Horton said however he was not aware of the protest Dlamini is alleged to have started as head prefect. Former pupils however have said a teacher warned them against being 'like Mcebo.'

Dlamini was born in the country but relocated to South Africa in 2009 where he obtained citizenship, according to Prosecutor Steven Rubin. He, however, said he needed to verify this with the Department of Home Affairs.

He was arrested during one of the student protests in South Africa, and had initially been denied bail by the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on grounds that he was a flight risk. After the court heard that Dlamini originated from Swaziland, the state argued he could easily return to the country. It was also raised Dlamini had not been completely truthful with the court after he told the court that he was set to a test, while it was discovered that he was not registered for the set course and no test was scheduled.

In his affidavit, Dlamini said it would be political suicide to go against the court. He admitted that he was born in Swaziland, but said he relocated to Mpumalanga when he was 10 years old, and later moved to Soweto with his mother. South African publications which covered the case extensively reported police claimed to have footage of Dlamini inciting violence and urging students to prevent others from attending class. The police also claim Dlamini assaulted a female officer during student protests. He however denied this saying as a student leader he did not condone violence.



Mcebo Dlamini.

BUSINESSMAN'S FAMILY BARRED FROM HIS FUNERAL

● as wife to the late produces court order restricting mother, live-in lover of 21 years and child from burying their loved one who was laid to rest at a place not known to them

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The last wish a family could have for their loved one is to see him off to rest after they pass away, but this could not happen for the family of a Mahwalala businessman who died last year.

The deceased's mother, his live-in lover of 21 years and his child were served with restraining orders which prohibited them from attending the funeral arranged by his wife.

The incident has left the community of Mahwalala mumbling about it despite the fact that it took place a year ago because it has seen Sibongile Gama and her child struggling to make ends meet despite having had plenty to feed on a little while ago.

Gama is the woman who lived with the businessman for over two decades, during which they established businesses in Mbabane, particularly at Mahwalala where they lived.

"The family has been unfortunate since the demise of the businessman as they have lost everything they had accumulated over the 21 years they spent together. In addition to that, they were restrained from paying their last respects to him as he was buried at a place only known to the wife," a source revealed.

The two had been living together since 1995 until 2009 when they started having problems. In this period, the couple reportedly worked hard to build their empire which included a trucking business and property where they built a beautiful double storey home, as well as flats that were still under construction.

However, Gama and her child no longer have access to all these properties which have since been inherited by the late businessman's wife whom he married the year before he died. Interviewed about this unfortunate occurrence, Gama pointed out that she spent two decades with her late lover staying at a house belonging to her sister in Mahwalala.

"We had nothing when we met and worked tirelessly to establish a trucking business. We also bought cars and three plots in Mahwalala," she said. Adding, Gama said the businessman died at a time when they were constructing a block of double storey flats in the third plot which they meant to lease out.

But her main downfall was not putting their investments in black and white to substantiate her claim as part owner of the properties valued by the Mbabane Municipal Council at around E2 million. The municipality was allegedly engaged



The double storey house allegedly built jointly by the late Mahwalala businessman and live-in lover of 21 years who has since lost it to the wife of her former lover. (Pics: Mloni Mpanza)



The house where the late businessman used to stay with his live-in lover before going into business.

by the Master of the High Court in its efforts to liquidate the deceased's estate to distribute it amongst the deceased's 11 children.

SON ARRESTED FOR CALLING MOTHER IN-LAW 'TINZILO'

A son to the late businessman reportedly spent a week in jail for allegedly calling his mother in-law 'tinziilo', which refers to mourning gowns.

This was revealed by sources who stated that the children were being victimised for fighting for their right to benefit from their father's property as evident in a case where one of the sons was allegedly arrested for making a derogatory statement. "Court orders are being used to create fear in the children. What is happening to the innocent children is really a sorry sight," shared the sources, who further told of how bad it felt for the son to see his parents' vehicles depreciating at the hands of strangers while he struggled to afford a simple meal for survival.

WOMEN SHOULD MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS – WLSA

It's high time women start making informed decisions," says Colani Hlatshwayo of Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) Swaziland.

She said women should avoid venturing into business without legally binding documents, further emphasising the need for parliament to facilitate the quick enactment of laws that protect women in the country.

Hlatshwayo said women should not take the decisions they make lightly because these could come back to haunt them in future. She invited the woman and children to visit WLSA offices for counselling.

She said this would be of great help to them because there was a possibility that their discussions would lead to the identification of a solution for their matter. "We strongly believe in dialogue and you may find that engaging the victims to find out how they feel about the issue would actually be a step in the right direction," she added.

Flags making chauffeurs more important than ministers?

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Protocol dictates that chauffeured dignitaries should sit behind their vehicle's mounted flag at all times.

This is, however, not the case in Swaziland as most ministers seem to choose to sit on the left hand side whereas the flag is usually mounted on the right.

This anomaly was highlighted by Principal Secretary Evert Madlopha at Cabinet offices a few days ago while reminding recently appoint-

ed Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo's chauffeur to always put up the flag whenever he was driving his principal around.

The PS was in the presence of Minister Mgwagwa Gamedze.

When reporters asked whether the flag was optional, he said the only time ministers could forego putting it up was when they were driving themselves. "Whenever they are chauffeured, they are on state duties and therefore, the flag should always be on display," he said further adding how those who thought

it was optional were wrong. The conversation then diverted to the positioning of the flag with Madlopha stating how it made the driver more important than his passenger.

He revealed, with Minister Gamedze in agreement, that the flag should be positioned on the side where the minister sits and he stated how most, if not all ministers, sit behind the front passenger seat as they have the option of more leg room.



Pictures showing the position of the flag on the minister's cars

CLASS OF '86 REUNION TO RESTORE ST MARK'S GREATNESS

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Having completed their education three decades ago, the class of 1986 is set to return to the school in order to brainstorm on how to give back to the institution which set them on the path to success.

St Mark's High former pupil Pretty Dlamini, the brains behind the reunion idea, said it was time she and her peers came together to look at ways of improving their school for future generations. "We had a glorious time learning at St Mark's and it is a pity that most of us

last entered the premises of the school the day we completed our high school education," she said during an interview this past week.

She said it was therefore prudent for them to come together in celebration which will be in the form of a picnic within the school premises in order to have time to look at areas of need for the long term. "We will have a picnic and every attendant is expected to bring food to share. We have decided on this format in order to ensure interaction between our peers to keep the conversation going on how to improve the school." With attendees expected to

bring their own food, she said this was also purposed for easy administration of any donations.

"People who decide on donations should know that all will go towards the school," she said.

She implored her former peers to come with ideas on how to best help the school. "We appreciate the school and the role it played in our lives. As a collective, it will be easier to do something better notable than individual donations," she said.

She called for her former peers to mobilise each other in order to make the day a success.



St Mark's High School former pupil Pretty Dlamini.



WRITER'S NOTE...

Sbusiso Dlamini

Good day readers and welcome to ASPIRE, your youth section that works on making young people the best they can be. All we can do though sadly, is give you the advice, you have to put in the hard work.

Firstly, I would like to start by congratulating all graduates who have finally made it to the final road. It's a big shout out from me to you guys, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. Make sure you play your part in transforming our nation for the better; this beautiful kingdom's future lies in you.

With that, I met up with a young man who is into entrepreneurship. He and his brothers own a barber shop and he tells us how the road has been, challenges and what inspires him. The young man had a strong statement to make – he says he doesn't work for anyone. It kind of reminded me of Cassper's statement when he said and I quote – "I never went to the University of Johannesburg, or the University of Cape Town but the people that work for me did." Ouch.

University of Swaziland students who are studying Law embarked on an educational tour this past week. I was there to catch a few pictures for you dear reader and what the students learnt from it. Catch that on page 17.

'Isayela syalahlela' is on beams as we zoom into the week's entertainment. All the music we are getting from the South African music scenes, man I hope our stars are watching and learning.

This week, we woke up to Sakhile – of Swazi Jive's rants on Twitter where he was telling off the THASA agency, in particular it's CEO Tabo. Read my thoughts on that on the Sunday Podium on page 19.

Have a blessed read, and till we meet next time – let's converse at sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com.

Cheers.



A Youth Section On Youth Issues By The Youth

GCINUMNDENI - I DON'T WANT TO WORK FOR ANYONE!

When I met this young man, and the fact that he had worked hard together with his brothers to get into entrepreneurship – something most people are scared to even think of attempting, I wanted to ask him what gave him so much courage. He answered "I ventured into entrepreneurship because I have always believed in the power of achieving and contributing in my society."

I then asked him who helped him start up the whole business because it is quite clear from the moment you enter the barber shop that it was quite costly to work on everything. "The business is made up of my two brothers and I, who are shareholders and have a vision of building an empire for ourselves and our future generation."

Basically we don't want to work for anyone."

He says he gets his inspiration from different places. "My inspiration comes from different angles, and I believe that as a person, no matter how right or wrong you might think it is – people in this world are superficial, thus you just have to look good in order to be on the right side, and having a good hairstyle is part of your appearance."

Another thing was the King's 2022 first world vision. We have to work hard as a country to make sure we achieve that dream, and everyone has to play their role, and all I'm trying to do is make sure I excel in mine."

Note

I am one person who believes in entrepreneurship, no matter the obstacles, but on a serious note, being a barber isn't something a lot of young people would choose to do, so I asked him why he chose starting a barber shop, out of everything else. "It's very funny because a lot of people always ask me that question."

And I always give them the same answer – Being a barber isn't actually such a bad idea. Look at all the number of salons we have around. Women spend hours and thousands on looking good, and all I noticed was the fact a lot of men were also getting into the idea of looking good, so that was an opportunity I had to tap in."

I then asked him what makes a good barber, and if I would make a good one?

He simply laughs and says – "Being a good barber is not easy. I think it is quite similar to your job, because when you look at it, it requires you



Gcinumndeni at work.

to be good at conversing with people. You need to connect with the clients, keep them happy, and make sure you understand what they want to be done with their hair."

This young man seems happy, so I ask him if he ever faced challenges in the business – It would never be a business, if it didn't face challenges, trust me. I'm pretty sure if you would ask Patrice Motsepe, he would tell you about challenges. In ours, challenges, have been there, but if you focus on these then you have no future.

Why focus on the negatives instead

of learning from them and moving forward?

When you go all over Swaziland, Manzini even, you notice the number of salons scattered all around the city, so what makes this specific one different?

"Don Jeezy is a very welcoming place."

Not to try and blow my own horn, but I think it is probably the most hygienic barber in the country, and our clippers are kept in the sterilising machine at all times to make sure that clients avoid germs and any unhygienic thing that has

to do with hair.

Our job is not just to focus on your hair cut, but head massages as well as facial man products and colognes. What kind of a man is complete with a haircut but does not have the right cologne?

We also offer our clients drinks – from whisky, to water – whatever you request, just to make sure you feel at home whilst you get your cut, get your nails done, or are still waiting in line.

Another perk, is that when you come for your tenth hair cut, with us – you get a thank you towel that is branded with your name, and it is displayed here at the barber shop for everyone to see you are associated with us.

Change

You will also get your eleventh hair cut free of charge. Because this is a gentleman's place we offer our clients skull and dandruff treatment.

Now, tell me if you are not interested my guy?"

Gcinumndeni is asking me this question knowing very well I am mesmerised. I am not one who visits the barber shop quite often – I mean who doesn't know that bad hair is the new hairstyle? But I am impressed with the quality of the service in this place, but most importantly, the passion this young man has for the business. When he speaks about it, you can see his face glow.

We then ask him what is next for the business.

"To be honest with you, although being complacent is wrong, but I think we have done enough on the appearance of the salon."

But, we have to work on our marketing for the right clientele.

I think we have to take advantage of ALL the social media platforms, because our clients do rave about us, but we just have to make sure that word about it spreads."

ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

● **ON DRUGS** – Firstly, I have to make it clear that I don't want to sound like I'm giving advice because I have never sinned in my life, but all you have to know

is that drugs will lead to the death of your future.
Finish and klaar.

● **ON**

GIRLFRIENDS/BOYFRIENDS – That one is really tricky, because I believe that everyone needs someone of the opposite sex who will help them understand dif-

ferent things better. But you need to make sure you are able to draw the line. YOU know what is right and wrong, make the right decision.

LAW STUDENTS TOUR HIGH COURT

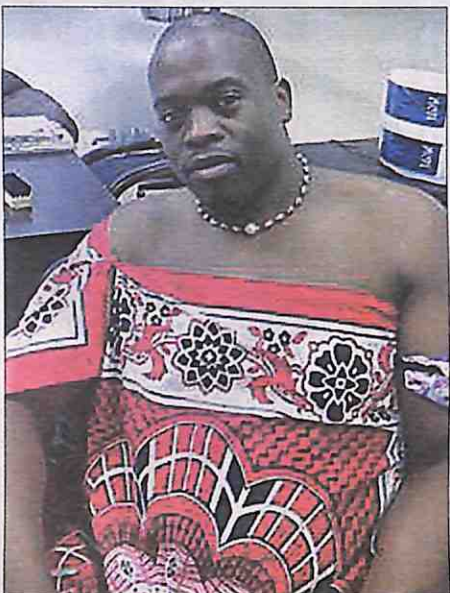


The students posing for a picture with the Registrar of the High Court Sipiwo Mabila. (Pics: Sbusiso Dlamini.)

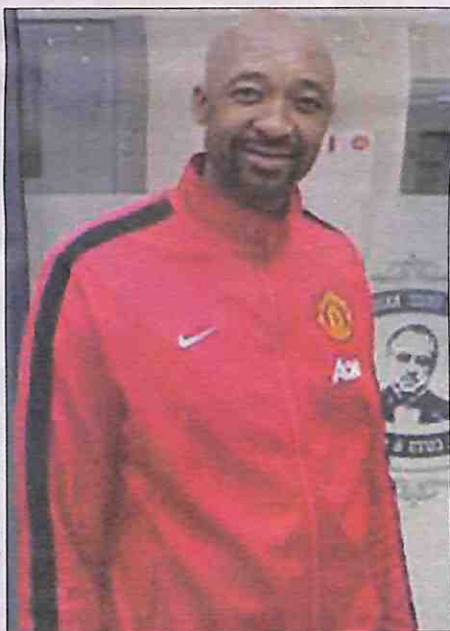
UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND LAW STUDENTS TOUR HIGH COURT



Former Miss Swaziland Samukelisiwe Magagula also got her hair done by Gcinumndeni.



Businessman Sifiso Dlamini.



Former Mr Swaziland Sifiso Motsa.



Gcinumndeni in action.

University of Swaziland students who are currently studying Law took an educational trip to the High Court of Swaziland this past week, and ASPIRE was there to see how fascinated they were with their future workplace in the near future. The registrar of the High Court – a cool and beautiful lady – showed the students around, until they got to meet Judge Mzwandile Fakudze. The judge first congratulated the youngsters on choosing the noble profession.

He then went on to explain all the court processes to the students, and advised them to take their time before they specialise. "You guys should take your time before you choose to specialise. Make sure you have done enough time practising so you can take a well weighted decision, and not rush things. This profession is not for everyone, so make sure that you work hard," said the former Deputy Chairman of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, who is



Former Minister of Public Works and Transport - Ntuthuko Dlamini with his classmates.

also a pastor. We then spoke to a few students after the trip and this is what they had to say about their experience.

A familiar face among the students was Former Minister of Public Works and Transport Ntuthuko Dlamini who had an interesting question for the judge. This is how the question and answer session between the judge and Dlamini

went. **Dlamini** – Greetings Your Lordship. Firstly I would like to reveal to you how exciting this trip is because to some of us, this is a profession we love very much. My first question to you Your Lordship is why there is lack of furniture in our courtrooms? As you can see now, Your Lordship we are scattered

as students and some sat far way due to lack of furniture. Secondly, I would like to know why most judges speak so softly such that at times, even the accused can't get to hear them clearly? **Judge Fakudze** – Furniture for who? And for what? I don't think we need any more furniture Dlamini because what we currently have is good enough. On the issue of judges speaking softly, as you can all see, right in front of me, I have a microphone. That means there is no need at all for me to shout because I will end up confusing everyone here in court and that is not what we want. The microphone amplifies the sound, hence we can't be shouting on top of our voices yet we have them at our disposal.

One of the students **Tiphelele Simelane**, had this to say, – "From today's experience, I learnt that Law is not an easy career path; hence I need to be very persistent. This trip has taught me that I will have to work very hard to make it."



Bulelwa Nyoni – Being here today was a day well spent. We were privileged to see a court case in action and the registrar, I didn't really get her name – but she showed us everything.



Mthandazo Mkhwanazi – As a first year student, the trip was quite enlightening and it felt really great to witness what we learn in class.



Mnisi Simphiwe – The whole experience was fun, informative and educational. It was good to get out of class and witness the theory we always learn being practical.



Bandzi Mamba and Vuyo Mbingo – We both learnt the importance of respect and passion in this career. I think you also noticed that the lingo used inside the court was very respectful. Also the Judge - His Lordship Mzwandile Fakudze- mentioned to us that Law is not for everyone.

POETRY...

Misunderstood

People always seem to misunderstand me,
It's amazing how they can judge so quickly,
That's why I decided to always be the happy one,
The one to make jokes and everything seemed fun,
But what they don't know is that anxiety floods through me. How much I hold back from the things I really want

You see it's a cruel world out there, I learned how people can stab you in the back and pretend to care, How everything you do is going to be judged by people who have no clue.

So I've learned to sugar-coat my opinions,
Hide behind a lie: a smile
Be the nice one in every situation
Someone who would go that extra mile

Still it wasn't enough,
In the end I was still misunderstood.
Even if my intentions were good, it still got twisted to some bad stuff.

So I just hold myself back trying to save myself from all the heartache, avoiding the trouble my emotions would make. Sugar coating my opinions in serious situations just drowning myself lyrics. Avoiding all the tricky topics

Yet once again they misunderstand me, they come up with this version of my life story, they'd assume I'm always lonely, And honestly it makes me angry, Because they don't even know me.

IS'TAYELA S'YALAHLELA



This week, there's a lot going on dear readers. Let's just skip the niceties and get to it.

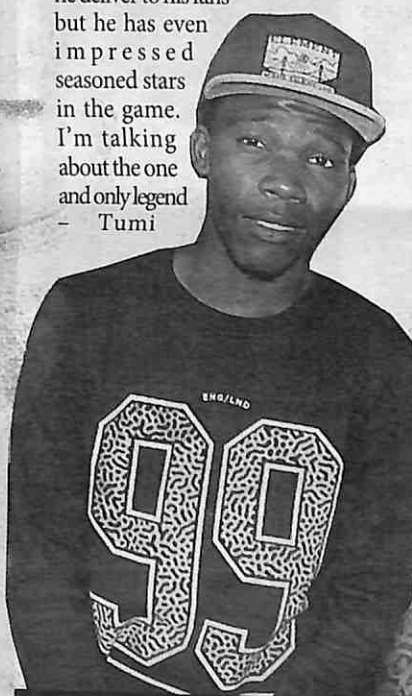
1. Boyzn Buckz is dead? – A couple of weeks ago, K.O and Okmalumkoolkat hosted a free concert. Yes, free, something I wish we would have in Swaziland *ish*. Anyways, Slikour OnLife had an interview with Scoop Makhathini on the day and he had a lot to say about Boyzn Bucks.

Do you guys remember Hipnotik 2014, where we had Okmalumkoolkat and the crew that consisted of Stilo Magolide? I mean those were the days where Boyzn Bucks was THE crew that was running the streets. *Umswenko* was the theme name and everyone went *maal* over them.

But, two years later, it seems like that excitement is all gone. Scoop therefore has declared that the crew is dead. The members are doing well on their own, but the dreams they had as a team have vanished. Scoop says the music is now what seems to be running everything in the team yet that was just a tip of the iceberg. Ricky is doing well, Stilo is doing well, uSancle is doing well and Malum is also working on 'Umlazi Milano' – his upcoming album on his own. But, that just music, we also never seem to see pictures of the crew together.

I hate to admit it, but it seems true. Our favourite crew is dead.

2. Paradise season still on a roll – 19-year-old youngster singing under the Ambitioz Entertainment stable – A Reece is indeed having the best time of his life. He is in paradise, so to speak. A few weeks ago, the youngster released his debut album titled "Paradise", and he has been on a roll. Not only did he deliver to his fans but he has even impressed seasoned stars in the game. I'm talking about the one and only legend – Tumi



Molekane also known as Stogie T.

The OG, well known for being hard to impress, took to Twitter to congratulate the Pretoria born youngster on his album. In his tweet he wrote – "Congratulations young man on a stellar album."

Tweezy, who also produced a couple of tracks on the album, hasn't been able to keep mute on the project too. His performance at Cassper's Fillup Orlando Stadium surely proved to any doubting Thomas's that the young boy is doing great things, and is indeed a force to be reckoned with. To be more specific – a legend in the making!

3. Tshego and Tellaman are hella dope – Now, I am not really into singing and singers. Firstly, I'm not gifted in that department and secondly, it's usually not my type of genre, but I have to admit these two gentlemen by the names of Tshego – of Family tree and Tellaman – of Free World Music are currently holding it down.

The first time, I heard Tellaman was when he was in the country accompanying Nasty C, during his latest performance in the country. I noticed he was so talented and then a few weeks later I heard him on a couple of joints on 'Bad hair'. Now, the singles he just released – 'Come over' featuring Nasty C and 'Here' have announced his arrival.

Don't you dare make a mistake and sleep on him, because he makes the music that the ladies love! Gentle, but still very good. It would be a benefit for a young man to know his lyrics, if you know what I'm talking about. Well if you don't, listen to his single 'Here' and then get back to me.

And Tshego, man is he flames or what? Family Tree surely found a gem in this young man. He has been working hard as we've seen the music he has been dropping and he also featured on the young king's album. We shall be waiting patiently for more from these two, because their skill and talent is undoubtedly one of the best things to ever happen to the South African musical scenes.

3. Maraza's The Blind albums out – Fresh from running the



streets with his hit single – 'Gwan', Maraza has dropped his much awaited debut album titled "The Blind". I haven't listened to the whole album hence won't be making much comments as of yet. But, this rapper has been slept on for the past decade and it's so good to see him finally breaking through to the market.

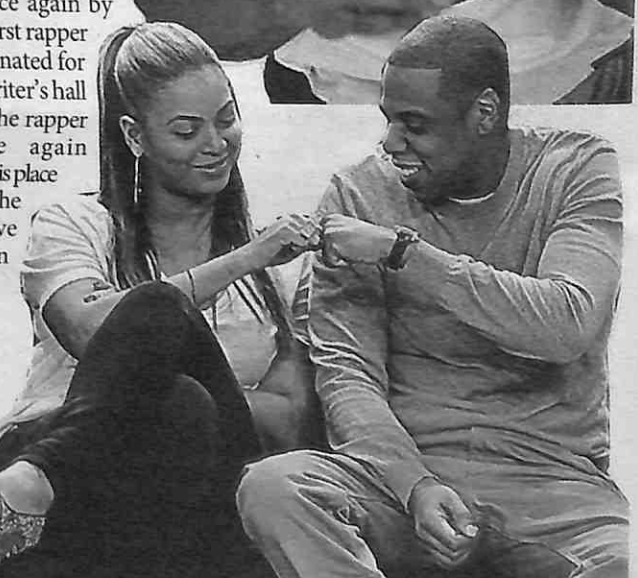
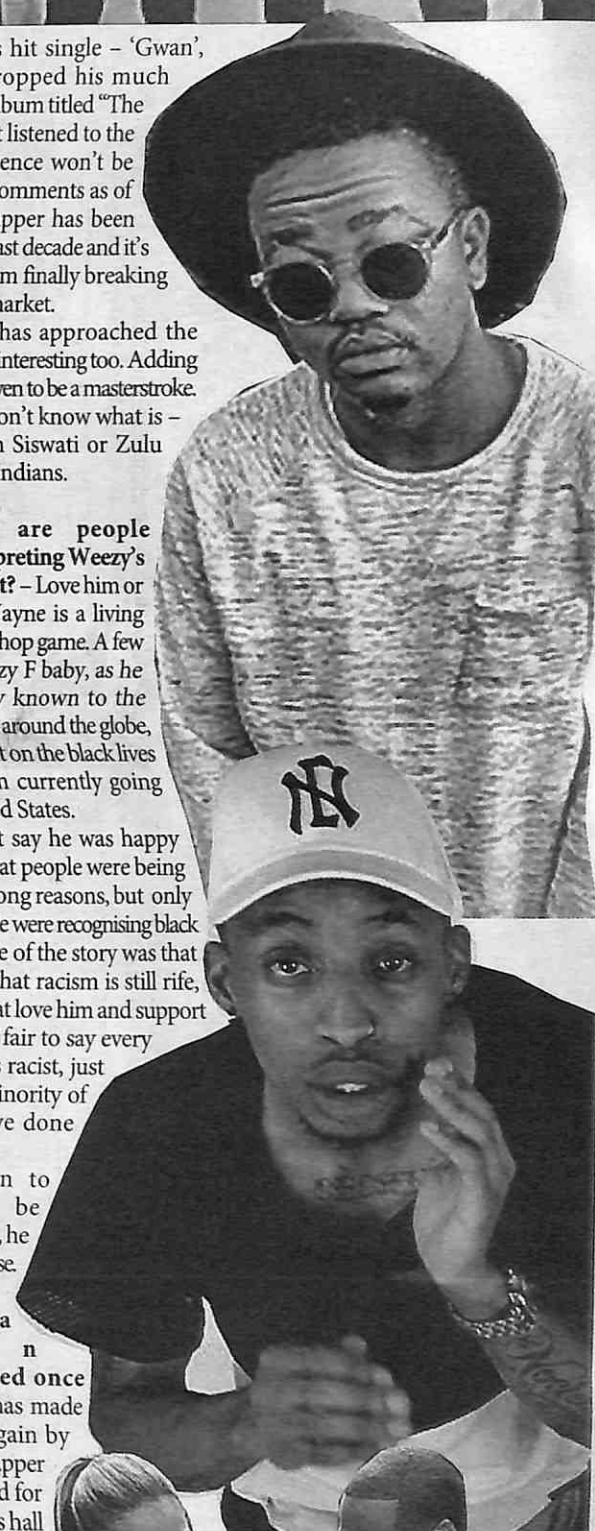
The angle he has approached the game with is very interesting too. Adding *Sfanakalo*, has proven to be a masterstroke. For those who don't know what is – it is that broken Siswati or Zulu usually used by Indians.

5. Why are people misinterpreting Weezy's statement? – Love him or hate him, Lil Wayne is a living legend in the hip hop game. A few weeks ago, Weezy F baby, as he is affectionately known to the billions of his fans around the globe, made a statement on the black lives matter situation currently going on in the United States.

Weezy didn't say he was happy with the fact that people were being shot for the wrong reasons, but only said white people were recognising black people. His side of the story was that albeit the fact that racism is still rife, he has those that love him and support him, so it's not fair to say every white person is racist, just because of a minority of these who have done racist things.

Please listen to Weezy, and be attentive people, he makes a lot of sense.

6. Jigga Man honoured once again – Jay Z has made history once again by being the first rapper to be nominated for the songwriter's hall of fame. The rapper has once again cemented his place as one of the best to have ever lived in the game.



SUNDAY Podium...

The very first time I met Sakhile Nkambule, he did not appear as the arrogant type, just very ambitious and passionate. Very humble actually, honestly! The very first time I met Tabo, he was cool, efficient, and super respectful. He was also very close to the Swazi Jive team, and to be quite honest, at some point in time, I never really understood the difference between THASA and Swazi Jive.

They shared the same offices; were always together at public functions, so I thought this was the perfect fairy-tale - two dreams shared by buddies (Sakhile and Tabo), which was going to be a good thing for the entertainment industry. But I was to later understand they were two different entities with separate goals. Albeit being enlightened on that, I hoped their relationship was good for the industry.

Okay, a couple of events into it, boom, Sakhile rants on Twitter.

The first reaction from those around me was that Sakhile is being his usual self. He is just back to what he does best, and the Hipnotik story involving the Supermega was quick to be brought in as reference. I have to say Sakhile should show he has been in the industry for a long time now. We cannot stand his rants anymore. I for one am still angry because of the Supermega scandal. I was looking forward to seeing him on stage alongside his brother from another mother in the North God - Da Les.

Unlike some people, I REALLY want to know what caused the rant. I have a problem with the whole break up between the two. Is it because everything in the THASA agency is happening too fast for Sakhile's liking?

Opinion

Or is there a proper reason of why he reacted like this? He never told us when they were seeing eye-to-eye, but why is it that now, after their leader's rants; Swazi Jive tells us that Tabo is not seeing eye-to-eye with them due to difference in opinion, ethical behaviour, and business morals?

Tabo, on the other hand, is cool, and in his official statement to the media he says, and I quote "We are yet to receive formal communication from Mr. Nkambule. Otherwise it is business as usual for THASA Group. We have engagements with Swazi Jive Entertainment and in the event they are terminated, we believe both parties would have sat down at a professional level and agreed to terminate it."

To a lot of people, that just proved that Sakhile was wrong and Tabo was professional in handling things which showed maturity on his side.

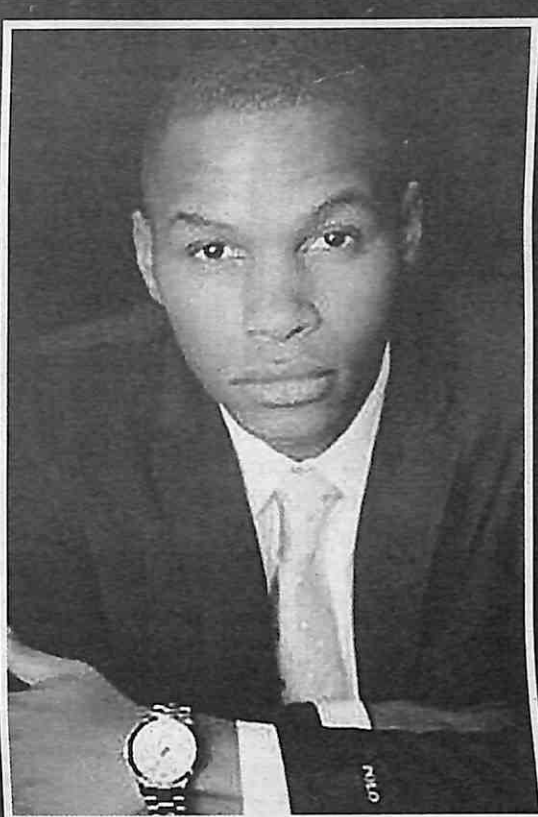
But guys wait. Hold on. Take a chill pill, and let us take some time to ponder about this.

I'm one person who never makes an opinion without getting more information on the whole situation. So, with that, I contacted Swaziland finalist Keisha Bullock and Nosi who were somehow involved with THASA, and asked them how their careers benefited from their dealings with the agency.

Keisha told me she has never benefited at all. She says Tabo wanted her

SWAZI JIVE AND THASA GROUP SAGA;

Swazi Jive should show us some proof or else...



Swazi Jive founder and Director Sakhile Nkambule.



THASA Group Director Christian Tabo Sishwashwa.

to sign a contract but she kept on procrastinating and then finally got the guts to tell him she wouldn't sign.

And the last statement that did it for me, she said he lies too much, and benefits nobody else but himself.

And as a journalist and having vowed to always balance not just a story but my perception on things, with facts, I contacted Tabo, and asked him what was going on.

This was his reply - "Sbusiso, concerning the ongoing uncertainty regarding the partnership between Thasa and Swazi Jive, as Thasa we would highlight that we acknowledge and respect Swazi Jive and what the company is currently doing for the entertainment industry in the country; however, at the moment we refuse to be part of any feuds.

We will avail a detailed press statement in due time as we are still in discussions on majority of the issues raised".

Questions

That is a very shallow answer when you consider the questions that were asked but it is a very mature way of handling things compared to Sakhile's: "At the moment we would like to assure our partners and most importantly our fans that Thasa is still determined to consistently drive the entertainment industry."

But, what was worth noting to me was that Tabo DID NOT dispute the allegations by Keisha. Trust me, if anyone would say those things that Keisha said, I would do more than Sakhile's rants. So, for me, this cool

as a cucumber attitude by Tabo means something. I will end there.

I really don't know what to believe because we haven't seen anything in black and white, or an audio, or a video. No evidence, none whatsoever.

We don't know what to believe as the public. All we do know is that Sakhile has to grow up and act like the established businessman he is. In fact I will request an interview with both him and Tabo when he comes back - separately of course, but having both of them would be perfect - and I hope by then Swazi Jive would have showed us something that might just justify what their leader did.

Premises

I don't believe Sakhile would be so mad over some tiny fatuous thing that doesn't make sense. He wouldn't go all aggro for nothing, and even get to the extent of asking them to vacate their premises.

Something has to be done, because if it's a case of jealousy, the fact that the other side has been doing well while he hasn't been around - then we would be so disappointed. The public want nothing but the truth. We know Swazi Jive, we know Sakhile, and we trust that brand because they've proved to us they are legitimate and trustworthy in their dealings. And of course they've given

us the best hip hop experience for the past five years, so we know them better than we know the new kids on the block - THASA.

But THASA came with a vision that we were beginning to see unfold, and wouldn't want them to be treated like trash because the "The lion feels like the deer is running the jungle, in his absence and fears that by the time, it returns, the lion might have lost its relevance if not its mere significance to the deer."

We know the new kids on the block because they (Swazi Jive) introduced them to us. Now, if they are going to tell us these

guys are not genuine - they should show us the proof. We deserve, in fact we demand to know the truth.

We need to know what Tabo and Sakhile's differences in ethics are. We need to know why Sakhile is so mad, because as it stands he is just an unprofessional, and is acting like a spoilt brat who has been denied candy.

Sakhile also has to tell us why they are no longer buddy-buddy with Tabo. He needs to prove to us that he is not what AKA said he was - A promoter who thinks he is bigger than everyone else. In the eyes of the nation, Tabo is the professional and he is not.

All we've heard from him is rants, and bits and pieces about monies that are owed to them, what about telling us the whole story so we know who is to blame?

What about revealing Tabo's opinions, ethical behaviour and business morals that are clashing with his?

All in all, the crux of my piece is we all aren't sure of what is going on and Swazi Jive and Sakhile are the losers until they choose to prove to us otherwise.

The industry is the biggest loser in the process and corporate people who might have been willing to come through won't be interested anymore, because they will characterise people in the industry as cons or rather jealous individual who can't stand to see the other team doing well.

I might not know the truth of the matter for now, but I do know that where there's smoke, there definitely is fire!

And because Sakhile and Swazi Jive are the only people who know the truth, they are the ones who have to show us they surely do care about the industry in the nation and would do anything to get rid of any stinking rot in the industry. Swazi Jive owes the nation the truth!

What I've heard about Tabo in the entertainment rumour mill isn't pleasing, and if it's all false, I pity the guy, but if it's true Swazi Jive should help us get rid of this stink - because they introduced it to us.

They are the only ones who can put this matter to rest, because if they don't show us proof of their leader's rants - then we come to the conclusion that his latest stunt is out of jealousy owing to the fact that THASA was overshadowing the entity that introduced them.



BRIEFS

Stop legal action against my VP, Mugabe tells minister

HARARE – Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has reportedly told Higher and Tertiary Education Minister Jonathan Moyo to stop taking legal steps against Deputy President Emmerson Mnangagwa and any other member of the ruling Zanu-PF party.

A NewsDay report quoted an unidentified source from the politburo as saying that Mugabe told Moyo to abandon his move, and instead seek recourse within the party structures.

Moyo recently threatened to sue Mnangagwa, Information Minister Christopher Mushohwe and Information Ministry Permanent Secretary who is also Mugabe's spokesperson, George Charamba, among others, accusing them of using state institutions to launch a "smear campaign" against him. *News24*

Molefe's resignation premature, says NUM

JOHANNESBURG – The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has noted with serious concern the untimely resignation of Eskom CEO Brian Molefe on Friday, the union said.

"There is no doubt that Eskom was beginning to stabilise its power supply under his leadership," NUM general secretary David Sipunzi said yesterday.

"The NUM believes it was premature for him to resign as we expected him to assist the [still to be appointed] commission of inquiry in a number of allegations that have been levelled personally against him and Eskom as an entity in the [public protector's] state capture report. Brian Molefe should have waited for the commission of inquiry to complete its work," he said. *News24*

More anti-Trump protests in New York

NEW YORK – Demonstrators took to the streets in New York City to oppose Donald Trump's election as US president for a fourth straight day Friday.

Some 1 200 people gathered in the Washington Square neighbourhood of lower Manhattan, some carrying enormous red balloons and placards with hearts and the words "peace and love." Others held signs reading "Your Wall Can't Stand in Our Way" -- a reference to the anti-immigration barrier the billionaire real estate baron has promised to build on the US border with Mexico.

Demonstrators said they wanted to show solidarity with those they feel may be targeted by Trump's policies once he takes office in January, including Mexicans and Muslims. *AFP*

Guinea launches centre to fight Ebola

CONAKRY – Guinea launched a new infectious disease centre on Friday designed to safeguard the West African nation against a new resurgence in the Ebola virus, almost three years after the epidemic broke out. Ebola's "patient zero", a two-year-old boy living in the forests of southern Guinea, fell ill in December 2013 potentially after contact with a fruit bat, scientists believe.

The new French-funded Institut Pasteur in Conakry will conduct research, train scientists and test for some of the world's deadliest diseases, including Lassa fever, yellow fever and Rift Valley fever, all of which threaten Guinea's population. *AFP*



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

TRUMP, HOLLANDE AGREE TO SORT OUT ISSUES

PARIS – US president-elect Donald Trump and French President Francois Hollande vowed in a telephone call to try "clarify positions" on potentially thorny issues, including climate change, French presidential sources said.

In a first call lasting seven to eight minutes, the two leaders discussed the fight against terrorism, the battle against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the Paris climate accord, a French presidential source told AFP.

The two men expressed a "desire to work together", the source added.

Climate-change denier Trump has caused alarm in France by pledging to withdraw from the landmark deal to tackle global warming struck in Paris in December 2015.

The French also took a dim view of Trump's claim that the terror attacks that left 130 people dead in



US president-elect Donald Trump.

Paris a year ago this week might have been avoided if the country had had looser gun laws.

Hollande and Trump sought common ground, emphasising the friendship between their countries and the "history and values" they share, the source said.

Hollande, who is battling record-low approval ratings ahead of presidential elections in France next year, had vowed a "frank" discussion with the republican.

"Donald Trump has been elected. My duty is to ensure that we have the best relations but on the basis

of frankness and clarity," Hollande told France 2 television earlier.

On Wednesday, he had warned that Trump's stunning election win "opens a period of uncertainty".

Hollande had made no secret of his desire to see Hillary Clinton win the White House, declaring a few months ago that Trump's excesses "make you want to retch".

His call with Trump came a day after talks between the next US president and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Merkel congratulated Trump and said she looked forward to meeting him, at the latest, when Germany hosts a G20 summit in July in the northern port city of Hamburg.

Merkel had offered Trump "close cooperation" and "stressed that Germany and the United States of America are closely tied through common values," her spokesman Georg Streiter said. *AP*

Obama urges nation to 'forge unity' after bitter election

ARLINGTON – Three days after Election Day, President Barack Obama used his last Veterans Day speech to urge Americans to learn from the example of veterans as a divided nation seeks to "forge unity" after the bitter 2016 campaign.

Obama, in remarks at Arlington National Cemetery, noted that Veterans Day often comes on the heels of hard-fought campaigns that "lay bare disagreements across our nation".

"But the American instinct has never been to find isolation in opposite corners," Obama said. "It is to find strength in our common creed, to forge unity from our great diversity, to maintain that strength and unity even when it is hard."

He added that now that the election is over, "as we search for ways to come together, to reconnect with one another and with the principles that are more



President Barack Obama.

enduring than transitory politics, some of our best examples are the men and women we salute on Veterans Day".

Tuesday's election of Republican Donald Trump led to protests across the country.

Obama noted that the US military is the country's most diverse

institution, comprised of immigrants and native-born service members representing all religions and no religion. He says they are all "forged into common service".

With just two months left in his term, Obama also noted how he's aged over the past eight years.

He read excerpts from an essay by a middle-schooler who wrote that veterans are special because they will defend people regardless of their race, gender, hair colour or other differences.

"After eight years in office, I particularly appreciate that he included hair colour," Obama quipped.

Turning serious again on his final Veterans Day as Commander in Chief, Obama said that "whenever the world makes you cynical, whenever you doubt that courage and goodness and selflessness is possible, then stop and look to a veteran". *AP*

Mulder stepping down as FF Plus leader

CAPE TOWN – Pieter Mulder announced yesterday that he would be stepping down as the leader of the Freedom Front Plus party.

He shared the news at the party's reorganisation congress in Kempton Park.

"Dr Mulder said he does not intend to participate in the 2019 election, and for that reason it is only fair to give a new leader the opportunity to establish himself or herself up to the election in

2019," the party said in a statement. Mulder became the party's leader 15 years ago, after being elected unopposed in 2001 with the departure of General Constand Viljoen.

He indicated he was willing to stay on for a transitional period as a FF Plus MP.

He had been in parliament this year for an uninterrupted 28 years, making him the MP with the longest continuous service period.

"According to Dr Mulder

the party is well established, without debt and with branches and structures in all provinces. The FF Plus also doubled its support in the 2016 local elections with councillors in all nine provinces." Before entering politics, Mulder was a professor of communication and head of department at the Potchefstroom University.

Between 2009 and 2014, he was deputy minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries. *News24*

South Korean president wanted out

SEOUL – Tens of thousands of men, women and children yesterday joined one of the largest anti-government protests seen in Seoul for decades, demanding President Park Geun-Hye's resignation over a snowballing corruption scandal.

Police had planned for 170 000 people, but organisers said they expected a final turnout of up to a million for what was the third in a series of weekly mass protests that have left Park fighting for her political survival.

On the back of official appeals for calm, police deployed around 25 000 officers, many of them in full riot gear, while police buses and trucks blocked every access road -- major or minor -- around the presidential Blue House.

As with the previous protests, the huge crowds were extremely mixed, with high school children rubbing shoulders with retirees and young couples marching with babies or young children. "Park Geun-Hye must resign because she didn't take good care of our country," said 11-year-old student Park Ye-Na.

The steady beat of drums and chanted slogans made for a raucous but largely peaceful atmosphere, with banners everywhere mocking Park and calling for her to step down immediately in a televised news conference on Friday. Deputy Prime Minister Lee Joon-Sik had voiced concerns at the possibility of "illegal collective action or violence" and urged the protestors to respect police barriers.

The scandal engulfing Park is focused on a close personal friend, Choi Soon-Sil, who is currently under arrest on charges of fraud and abuse of power. Prosecutors are investigating allegations that Choi, 60, leveraged their personal relationship to coerce donations from large companies like Samsung to non-profit foundations which she set up and used for personal gain. *AFP*

SundayObserver
Scene

VUMA

IT'S HIS TIME..

WRITER'S NOTE:

Our issue today is centred around Afro pop sensation Sandziso 'Sands' Matsebula who will soon be releasing his first album 'Sands of our time'. 'Sands' has shown all of us that stardom is attainable if you put your mind to it you will achieve it. While doing this issue I was reminded of something, South African actress Zikhona Sodlaka said at the recently held Power Clique. She said; "Find that one thing that drives you, that gives you sleepless nights and do it. Do that one thing you are passionate about, that burns you."

Sodlaka said if it really burnt you there was no way you would not excel at it.

I realised while talking to 'Sands' that his talent and his desire to perform and sing was what had burned him so much and today he was the sensation he is.

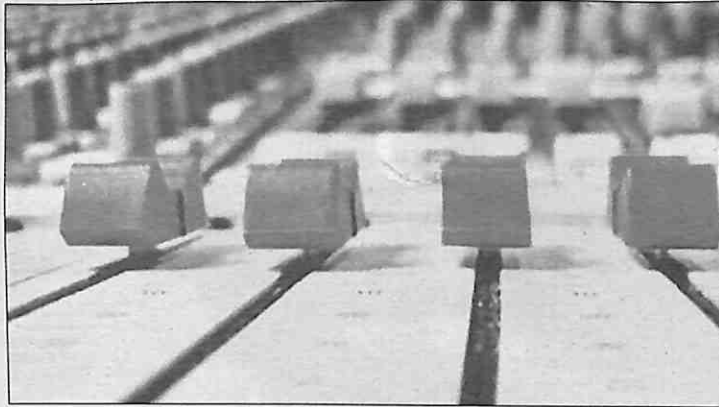
'Sands' will now go down as one of the best musicians to have ever lived. He has pushed boundaries and has shown many it is possible. His unique tone and language makes him a rare breed from the rest, he takes a sound into Africa that is unique and soothing.

'Sands' singles have received massive airplay not just in the country but even in South Africa. 'Sands' is a living testimony everything possible with God. He speaks of his relationship with God so highly and the role the Almighty has in his life. We also got a chance to talk to his Manager Phila Dlamini, a South African based Swazi who saw Sands' potential and he nurtured it. He has worked hard to give Sands the exposure he deserves. The Msunduza born radio personality believes this is the beginning of 'Sands' career and is overwhelmed by the love he has received, especially from Swaziland.

From the SCENE team to 'Sands', we salute you.

TILL NEXT WEEK. Bless!!

THE MAN BEHIND SANDS SUCCESS...



Phila Dlamini explained he had decided to take Sands under his wing because he saw his potential.

"I saw him perform in Swaziland and immediately fell in love with the artist. I approached him and he wanted to think about it. After a while he said he was ready to take on the world with me," he said. Dlamini wanted to manage Sands career because of his potential and because he (Dlamini) works in media in South Africa, so he felt his experience would come in handy. "I know how the media operates so that comes in handy," he continued. The professional sound stage engineer and designer currently works for ICONP-MEDIA. "Between my 8 to 5 job, broadcast studio engineer at Gagasi FM, I still make time to do my own businesses," he said. Dlamini further told this publication that Sands was currently the only artist he was managing after he decided to let go off his other artist. "I decided to release them go because promoting them needed a lot of money. I do however do consultations for South African artists for their marketing and the business aspect of music."

Telling us about himself, Phila said he was a young man from Msunduza in Mbabane born from a family of three boys. "Growing up I had a passion for entertainment and media from a tender age," he narrated. Phila's love for music was evident from that tender age as he and his friends recorded a demo called 'Sweet melody' at SBIS. "I was 15 years at the time and I promised the producer Sam Dlamini that I would finish school and then work with him. When I got my performing arts qualification, I reminded him," he said.

At the age of 17, Phila worked for Channel Swazi where he says he was taught by station Director Qhawe Mamba and became a news reader and later a camera man and sound assistant. "Sound has always been an interest of mine. While I was at St Mark's High School I had the privilege of

running the Hall PA system. Upon completion, I decided to take a chance and attend Ethekwini College where I did electrical engineering studies. The aim was to be in South Africa and look for a sound engineering school. After enrolling I then attended Durban Institute of Technology for performing arts.

Sands album to be released in March



Contrary to information that has been circulating in both traditional and new media Sands' Durban based Manager Phila Dlamini has revealed that the artist's album will be released next year March. Dlamini pointed out that however, due to demand of the album there will be pre-releases done. "Sands album is in huge demand hence there will be pre-releases. He said they were looking at releasing the album all over South Africa," he said.

Dlamini further revealed that the album wasn't yet in stores but people could get hold of it by contacting Sands' team.

"People can pre-buy the album, however, we have an account with First National Bank where you send us the money and then we have the CD delivered to you," he said. He explained that they had chosen FNB because it was found almost all over Swaziland and South Africa.



I am still recovering from Wednesdays trauma. It was on this day that Americans did the unthinkable, they voted for Donald Trump.

I am still stunned and trying to come to terms with the whole outcome. Look, Hillary is not a saint but I was okay with her ruling the world simply because her reign would not really affect my country.

In his campaign, Trump said he would stop any form of funding for African countries, he would make

sure that American money stayed in America. I am an African and am well aware that Swaziland's economy is subsidised by American aid. I have friends, family whose jobs are there because of funding from the US. I am scared because many of my brothers and sisters are using some form of contraceptives which are from the States.

This is our new reality, the reality is we don't know if Trump is an all talk no action person or what. Many of us hoped that Americans

When the two parties (Thasa and Swazi Jive) started their relationship there was no ranting, it was smooth and no one spoke about there other's work ethic now that things have gone sour these are being brought to there forewhy?

would fight for us all and do the 'right' thing under the circumstances but they failed us. They didn't fail themselves but they failed all of us. Now we all ought to pray tirelessly that Trump does not live upto his promises because if he does we are doomed.

Anyway let me move away from all this politicking and focus on entertainment.

The past week, on Monday to be precise, we woke up to find Twitter rants by Swazi Jive entertainment founder Sakhile Nkambule.

Nkambule's rants were directed to Thasa Group founder Tabo Sishwasha. For those that don't know Thasa and Swazi Jive, a booking agency and entertainment stable, respectively, have been working together for a while now and they even share/shared office space until

Monday. These two organisations, who are both founded by young entrepreneurs, have taken the entertainment industry by storm hence the rants by Nkambule came as a shock to many.

Mine today is not to get into the merits or demerits of the divorce but the rants themselves.

Look, I am worried by Nkambule's rants because they are becoming a habit more than anything. Not so long ago he robbed many music lovers the chance to be serenaded by the supamega because he let his emotions take over.

For five years Sakhile, together with his team, have brought us nothing but good music and he was becoming one of our favourite people, his rants however are rubbing us the wrong way.

Sakhile is more than anything a busi-

nessman and therefore he must conduct himself as such. When you are a business person you need to protect your brand at all times and avoid controversy. When the two parties (Thasa and Swazi Jive) started their relationship there was no ranting, it was smooth and no one spoke about the other's work ethic now that things have gone sour these are being brought to there fore why?

From where I am standing Sakhile is behaving like a spoilt brat who throws things all over the place if things don't go his way.

He is abrasive and emotional and those are not good traits for a business man who especially needs to work with other people for his business to be a success. Sakhile and his team must know that people and prospective business partners are watching.

If he is to be regarded as professional as a real businessman he must cut out the tantrums and behave like an adult. With all of that said, we look forward to the Hipnotik Festival next year.

DAY THREE WITH THE FILM LAB...

The film lab started filming the movie *Liphupho Lami* on Wednesday. The film, which has seen Limkokwing Journalism and Film Class take centre stage, is one of many projects that the film intends doing. This week we caught up with some of the actresses and we also bring you pictures from behind the scenes.

Below we profile three of the leading ladies in this film:

1. **Trainee Director: Zinhle Dlamini (24)**

This is my second film, I also did vat and set. Studying film and television production has helped quite a lot and I can see myself flourishing in this industry that I love.

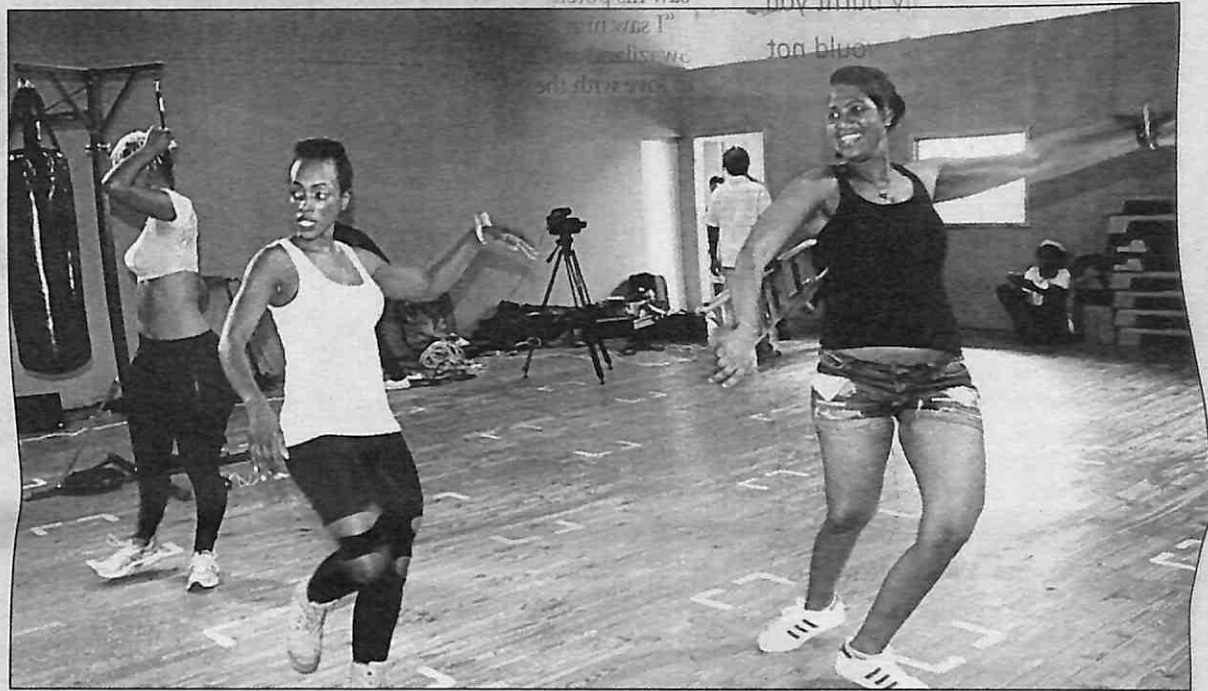
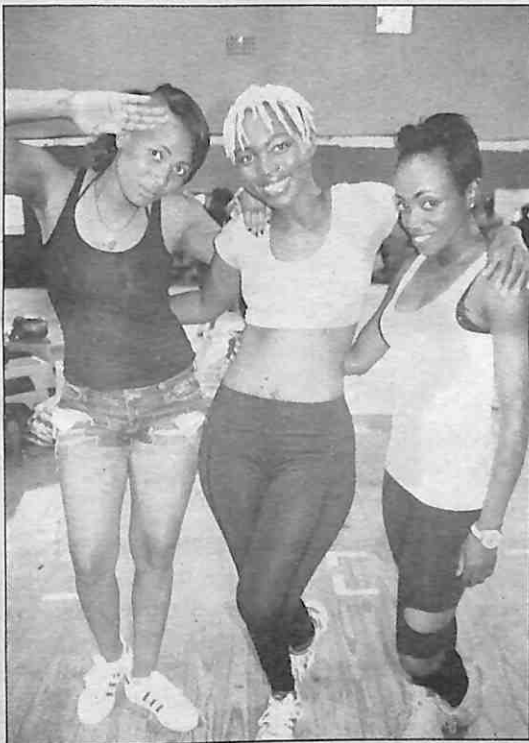
2. **Velile Dube who plays Pinky in the film**

Said she auditioned for the role of Nomzamo.

"However I got this role and am enjoying it, Pinky is full of nonsense and many people would refer to her b**tch," she said. But she said she was very different from her character. "I am compassionate, a big dreamer and I love theatre and dance," she continued.

3. **Nobuhle Kunene "Bongizipho"**

She is Pinky's friend and plays a very vital role in her life. She encourages her to be better. "I started being involved in films with Macford."



Liphupho Lami crew on stage during the video shoot.

IT'S SANDS TIME...

He is currently the busiest artist in the country and with his album officially coming out this month he is bound to get busier.

The road to stardom is not an easy one; it requires hard work, determination, commitment and faith.

It requires flexibility and constantly revisiting your strategy to make amends and more than anything the willingness to learn from others who have been in the industry way longer than you as an individual. Sands, born Sandziso Matsebula, is the fastest growing star in the kingdom and his great work ethic has seen him raise the country's flag sky high.

'Sands' is currently Swaziland's number one singing sensation. The afro soul singer, who has been in the singing industry for quite a while, has this past year proven why he is the best of the best. 'Sands' started off as a guitarist and many referred to him as the new 'Bholoja' has been able to create his own image and identity.

He has created an image that is incomparable to anyone and continues to show us all that the sky is the only limitation.

The former St Francis High School pupil says music was always his first love and he knew that nothing else was meant for him besides this. Music for him is more than just a happiness factory but a career and everything in between.

He has been in the industry for well over six years and like wine, we have seen him mature over the years.

His sound has changed so much and it cuts across all age groups and races. 'Sands' will have the oldest and the youngest person in a crowd dance to his music. He is currently the busiest artist in the country and with his album officially coming out this month, he is bound to get busier. We caught up with the busy musician who spoke about his music journey.

During the interview 'Sands' revealed he had grown to the musician he was today because of the guidance and mentorship of Yandza



Music Foundation's Mluleki Dlamini. "Since the beginning of my career, I have been mentored by Mluleki. I spent a few years at Yandza Music Foundation and those were defining moments in my career," he said. He said it was those few years that saw him growing his trade and first love.

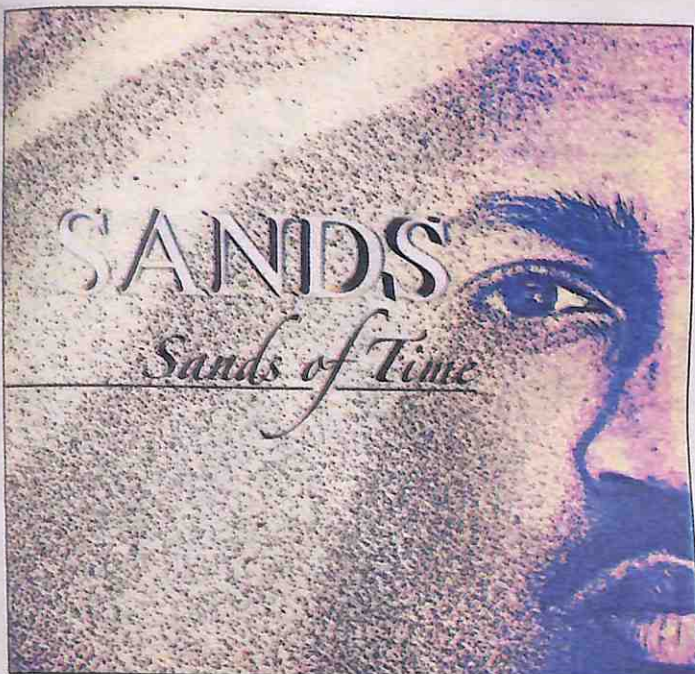


"My artistry in song writing matured during these years and I started to play music with more meaning and understanding," he explained.

He went on to say the mentorship played a vital role in getting him to where he was today.

It was during this time that 'Sands' worked with wordsmith, talented rapper Qibho and their band was known as Qibho and Sands. "We went on to record an EP and travelled all over the country," he said. The EP that was known as 'Kingdom Stories' was a major success in the country simply because it brought





about a new dimension in the country's music industry, the infusion of afro soul and rap music. "I then started working on my solo project," he said. This move was brought about by the need to grow his own brand and knowing there was so much more he could do by himself. "Working with Qibho was great but I had to move on and do things my own way and grow my own brand," he continued. Speaking about his solo move 'Sands' said that was the best decision he had made in his career.

Experiences

"That move brought me to where I am today," he said. It was this bold decision that brought him to where he is today. "I must say it has been a journey full of lessons and experiences."

Getting this far has been a huge learning curve for me," he pointed out. He said more than anything his faith had grown in leaps and bounds and he had learnt to believe in God more. "I went through a whole lot of challenges and the one thing that kept me going was God's promises to me."

I learnt to totally rely on God and let Him take over the wheel. It is in this journey that God has shown me who He really is and I will never forget this experience," he said.

Even now that everything was working out he still relied on God and it was God's love and promises that kept him going. "It is all God's doing," he said.

Speaking about his much anticipated album that will be released this month, 'Sands' said he was very excited. "I am very excited that we are here now. The public should expect nothing but fireworks," he said.

The album would comprise

of all the hit songs that the public loves to hear including 'Vuma' and the track that many have labelled as song of the year 'Tigi'. "In it are the hit singles we all are familiar with and other great sounds that will surprise people and hopefully blow them away," he elaborated. He went on to say they his team had worked hard to make this project a success.

"We have worked hard to bring out this project and want it to be way better than what people already know so you can expect better than what you have already heard," he added. He further pointed out he had worked with a lot of other musicians for this album. "I have interesting col-

laborations in the album which will take people by surprise," he promised.

Album

On this project 'Sands' has worked with Velemseni, Denzel Smith and Gugu Zulu (SA). "I will not name all of them so there is an element of surprise," he said. He was excited and

looking forward to releasing the album officially.

He added that moving forward from this project he was looking at pushing more boundaries and exploring other markets and growing his brand.

"Through God's grace, we will achieve more as we move forward and won't stop releasing good songs each year," he reassured us.

He said his album was inspired by the true texture and essence of the Siswati language. "This album is inspired by the richness and texture of my language hence I would love the whole world to experience it," he said, emphasising that Siswati was one soothing languages an individual could come across. "Siswati sounds very nice, imagine it in song, it is beautiful," he said.



M

ovie Review



Doctor Strange

Doctor Strange is a 2016 American superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character of the same name, produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

It is the fourteenth film of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). The film is directed by Scott Derrickson, who wrote the film with Jon Spaihts and C. Robert Cargill, and stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams, Benedict Wong, Michael Stuhlbarg, Benjamin Bratt, Scott Adkins, Mads Mikkelsen, and Tilda Swinton.

In 'Doctor Strange', surgeon Stephen Strange learns the mystic arts from the Ancient One after a career-ending car accident. Various incarnations of a 'Doctor Strange' film have been in development since the mid-1980s until Paramount Pictures acquired the film rights in April 2005 on behalf of Marvel Studios. Thomas Dean Donnelly and Joshua Oppenheimer were brought on board in June 2010 to write a screenplay. In June 2014, Derrickson and Spaihts were hired to direct and re-write the film, respectively. Cumberbatch was chosen for the eponymous role in



December 2014, necessitating a schedule change to work around his other commitments. This gave Derrickson time to work on the script himself, for which he brought Cargill on to help. The film began principal photography in November 2015 in Nepal before moving to the United Kingdom, and concluded in New York City in April 2016. Filming also occurred in Hong Kong. 'Doctor Strange' held its world premiere in Hong Kong on October 13,

and was released in the United States on November 4, in 3D and IMAX 3D.

The film has grossed over \$339 million, and was met with positive reviews from critics, who particularly praised its visuals, acting, and musical score.

Plot

In Kathmandu, Nepal, the sorcerer Kaecilius and his zealots enter the secret compound Kamar-Taj and murder its librarian, keeper of ancient and mystical texts.

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk

19-year-old Billy Lynn is brought home for a victory tour after a harrowing Iraq battle. Through flashbacks the film shows what really happened to his squad - contrasting the realities of war with America's perceptions.

Storyline

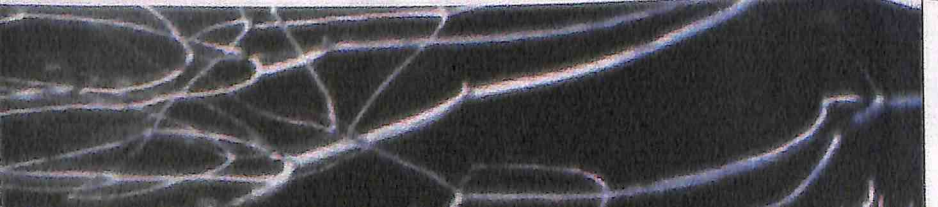
Two-time Academy Award® winner Ang Lee brings his extraordinary vision to Billy Lynn's 'Long Halftime Walk', based on the widely-acclaimed, bestselling novel. The film is told from the point of view of 19-year-old private Billy Lynn (newcomer Joe Alwyn) who, along with his fellow soldiers in Bravo Squad, becomes a hero after a harrowing Iraq battle and is brought home temporarily for a victory tour. Through flashbacks, culminating at the spectacular halftime show of the



Thanksgiving Day football game, the film reveals what really happened to the squad - contrasting the realities of the war with America's perceptions. The film also stars Kristen Stewart, Chris Tucker, Garrett Hedlund, with Vin Diesel, and Steve Martin. Lee used new technology, shooting at an ultra-

high frame rate for the first time in film history, to create an immersive digital experience helping him dramatise war in a way never seen before.

Lee directed and produced the film, from a screenplay by Jean-Christophe - Written by Sony Pictures Entertainment.



CELEBRITY NEWS

DJ Euphonik to hit decks at carousel!

Internationally acclaimed South African DJ Euphonik will be hitting the decks at The Carousel in November 2016 to show local clubbers what has made him such a hit around the world. He will perform from



21h00 at the Cheyenne

Saloon on November 19.

Limited

Places are limited so fans are urged to pre book their tickets at Computicket for R80 per person. Doors to the Cheyenne Saloon will be open from 19h00.

DJ Zinhle's baby Kairo has grown!

DJ Zinhle and local rapper AKA's daughter, Kairo, is growing up so quickly! It seems like just the other day, Zinhle shared Kairo's first steps and melted our hearts with these cute pics.

Now, the little madame is strutting her stuff, handbag in tow. Wearing jeans, and throwing garden parties for her plush toys.



One of SA's top music producers dies

La Shad - whose real name was Mpumelelo Ngubeni - died at Tembisa Hospital in Ekurhuleni on Monday morning after a short illness.

He was signed with Baainar Records and worked with well-



known artists like DJ Fresh, Lulo Cafe,

NaakMusiq, Eltonnick and Zaki Ibrahim.

Knew

Lunga Nombewu, the founder of Baainar Records, said La Shad was down to earth and knew everybody.

"He had a rare talent and there will not be another La Shad."

Vanessa Marawa back on TV!

It's been a while since we saw TV personality Vanessa Marawa on our TV screens. Vanessa will be making her TV comeback this month.

She took to social media to let her fans know she'll be co-hosting Spell-Bound, a new TV game show on MNet set to air on November 20, alongside Jason Greer.



She's really excited.

Trevor Noah's show breaks record!

The Daily Show with Trevor Noah had a record-breaking month in October.

It was the most-watched month ever among total viewers and its highest-rated month since February among adults 18-49, and Comedy Central's target millennial demographic of adults 18-34.

The news follows a record-breaking October in the US for the Noah-helmed Daily Show, in October, The Daily Show with Trevor Noah was the highest-



rated and most-watched, daily late night talk show in the US among millennial men (18-34, 18-24) and #2 among all millennials (18-34, 18-24).

Mzansi is waiting for Samuel L Jackson

Last year, American actor Samuel L Jackson said if Donald Trump becomes president of the United States, he'll move to South Africa.

"He said: 'If that motherfucker becomes president I will move my black ass to South Africa.'"

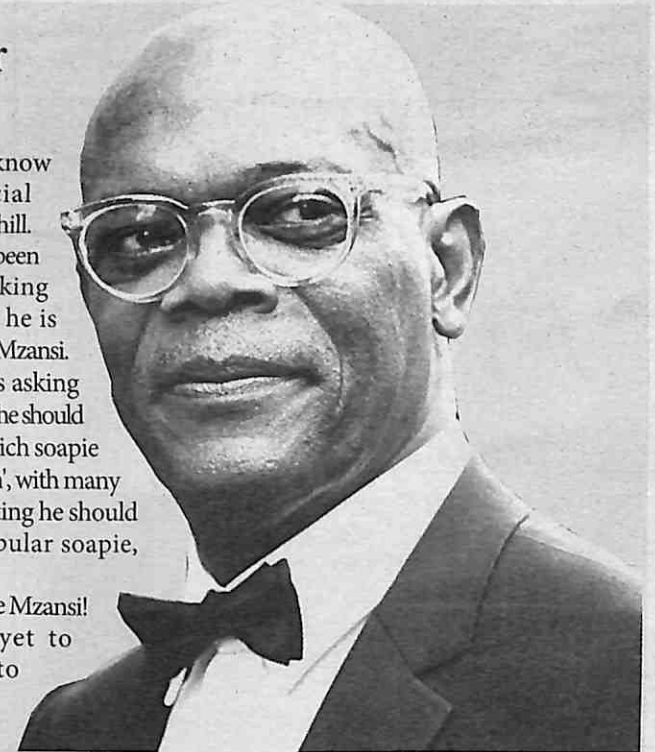
The American actor said this during a comedy sketch in December 2015 on Jimmy Kimmel Live. Watch the clip below.

Yesterday Trump won the US presidential election. Read: TRUMP ELECTED US PRESIDENT!

And we all know Mzansi social media has no chill.

Tweets have been pouring in asking Samuel when he is coming over to Mzansi. Social media is asking 'which province he should live in' and 'which soapie he should act in', with many people suggesting he should join local popular soapie, Muvhango.

You gotta love Mzansi! Samuel is yet to respond to Mzansi.



Thandiswa drops new album!

Multiple award winning Thandiswa Mazwai is dropping her new album later this month.

Her last album *Ibokwe* was released in 2009 through Gallo Records.

This week it was announced the singer signed a deal with Universal Music South Africa and would be releasing a new album.

The legendary singer will launch her album on November 24 at The Soweto Theatre.

Thandiswa said having been in the industry for so long, she had known the team here from since when she started with Bongo Maffin in 1998, so it's just comfortable. "I'm happy that Universal Music will make sure that everyone gets to hear the amazing music," she said.

BELEDE, her third album and studio album in seven years. It's a jazz tribute album named after her late mother.



"Making this album was a sonic delight and I feel blessed to have been able to sing some of these songs and pay tribute to some of the most rebellious and monumental musicians of my time," Thandiswa explained.

Managing Director of Universal Music South Africa and Sub Saharan Africa Sipho Dlamini said they were thrilled to welcome Thandiswa to

the Universal family.

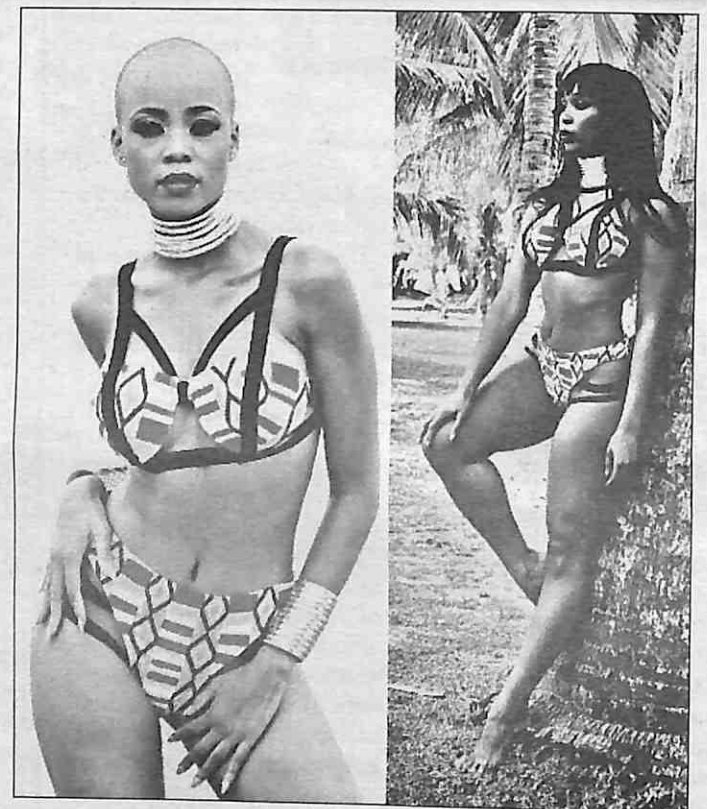
"This is such an honour, it's been a pleasure watching you grow into your space and see the ease in which you occupy it."

We are delighted to participate in your project, **BELEDE** an amazing album, we wanted to do a deal as soon as we heard it, this is a beautiful reflection of where Thandiswa is in her journey."

Who wore it best

Rhythm City actress Ntando Duma and TV personality Minnie Dlamini are sizzling hot ladies, but when wearing the same attire, one is bound to wear it better than the other.

Check out how these sexy Mzansi stars rocked this tribal print bikini, paired with similar accessories.



Ntando Duma and Minnie Dlamini in their tribal print bikinis.

BIG FIVE WE COMING FOR YOU

#khwesha



SWAZI BOY



This week SwaziBoy had a press conference to announce their crossover plans. Little did the media and other stakeholders know there was a surprise in store. It was announced that SwaziBoy will this year be collaborating with all time competitors Big Fun Entertainment. For those that aren't aware, the two stables were rivals in the early millennium after an unexplained disbanding



o f bring us the biggest crossover Sandlasemtsakatsi show the country has ever seen. Big

Entertainment. It is an open secret that BigFun's Khulekani 'Karly B' Mamba and Swazi Boy's Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane have not been the best of friends and they did not see eye to eye on many things. It is, however, pleasing to note that these two gentlemen have decided to put aside whatever it is that was in the way and are now working together to

Fun and Swazi Boy are not working alone on this project have collaborated with another entertainment stable Mega Sound, the hottest night spot in the country at the moment Déjà vu and Claiming Ground Records. The show dubbed 'The big five 24 hour party' is one not to be missed. There will be three dance floors and it will take place at Café Mogambo. The list of artists to perform at the event is yet to be revealed but the organisers have promised it will be an interesting line-up.

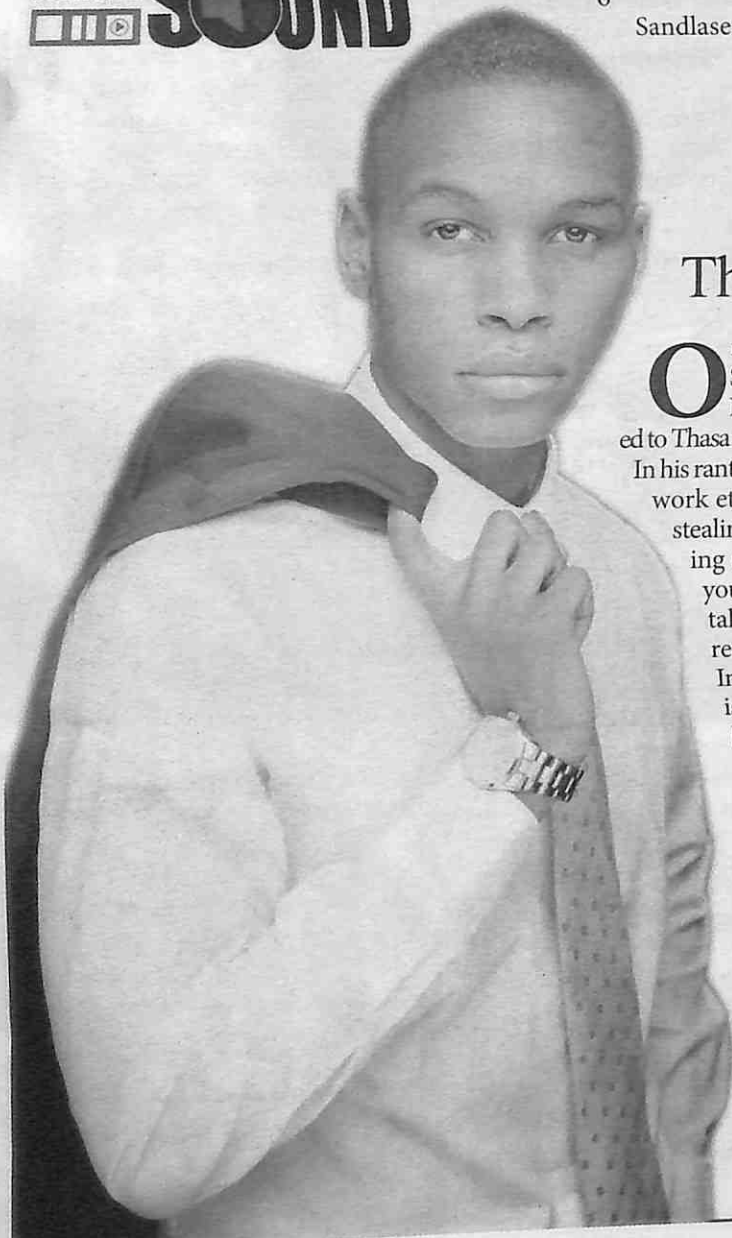


Swazi Jive entertainment, Thasa Group fall out

On Monday we woke up to a Twitter rant by Swazi Jive founding member Sakhile Nkambule. Nkambule's rants were directed to Thasa Group founding member Tabo Sishwasha. In his rant he was complaining about Sishwasha's work ethic and further accused him of stealing his ideas and artists. "Let's make things quick. I won't go through everything you tried to do behind my back. I'll just take away the credibility I gave you," read one of the tweets.

In response to these rants, Thasa Group issued a statement that nothing had been communicated to them by SWAZI Jive or Sakhile so business for them would continue as usual. Thasa, when pressed for more information, said they would not divulge business technicalities in the media. "We have a relationship with Swazi Jive and an obligation to protect that regardless of the circumstances now," they said.

Efforts to get comments from other Swazi Jive members and artists proved futile as they all refused to say something on the matter.



'LIPHUPHO LAMI'; A DREAM IN THE MAKING

BY NHLANHLA ZWANE

This was the 'order of the day' this week during the filming of 'Liphupho Lami', a short film written by Swazi TV journalist Welile Masuku and directed by Limkokwing student Zinhle Dlamini.

It is expected to premier at the annual EU Film Festival on January 24, 2017. 'Liphupho Lami' is one of the films being produced by the Film Lab Initiative, which is a developmental skills transfer programme that aims to nurture aspiring filmmakers in Swaziland.

The programme is spearheaded by the Swaziland Independent Film and Television Producers Association (SIFT-PA) and the European Union in partnership with the Alliance Francaise.

Excitement was palpable all around at the White House Club in Manzini on Tuesday morning when the film crew arrived for the first shoot of the day; a night club scene featuring a dance competition.

While the crew was busy setting up, Setsabile Tsela worked on the cast's makeup before the arrival of the extras, whose presence immediately transformed the club into a scene reminiscent of a groovy nightclub.

After more than four hours, the crew

moved to the next location, a house in Msunduzi, Mbabane where shooting started around 8pm and ended around 1am. Six hours later, the cast and crew were expected to be back on location. Filming on Wednesday began by 11am till 4am the next day.

While everyone was expected back by 7am, the production team decided to give the cast and crew a few hours of rest, extending the next day's starting time to 9am.

Thursday's location was the Mbabane Youth Centre.



Samkeliso Nxumalo The technical mentor film director addressing the crowd as film extras



Film extras posing for the camera during the shoot.



Male dance group actors sweating it out.



Fans who came out to support enjoying the show.



Liphupho lami crew during the prize presentation.



The Crafty Crew. (Liphupho Lami) on stage.

Lights... check! Camera... check! And... action!



SA actor Hamilton Dlamini surprises cast, crew

Well known South African actor Hamilton Dlamini surprised the cast and crew when he paid them a visit at the Mbabane Youth Centre to offer moral support.

"I'm here to support the local film industry, to help Swazis find their own path and tell their own stories regardless of financial challenges," he said. Dlamini advised Swazi filmmakers to focus on the end objective; "it is all about what you want to end up doing, once you find that, then you are sorted. The film industry is still new in Swaziland and needs to be nurtured."



South African actor Hamilton Dlamini with his fans.

SUNDAYCOMMENT:

Sen. Shongwe
back with
poisonous politics

Having had his tumultuous tenure as Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs end abruptly last year, Senator Sibiso Shongwe shied away from the public eye.

Granted, there were few forgettable mentions about his church hopping, questionable allegations in court as well being guest of honour at a school built on Swazi Nation Land which 'belonged to his grandfather' while he licked his proverbial wounds caused by his stint as His Majesty's guest at a correctional facility.

As the publication which was instrumental in accurately documenting his downfall, it is therefore not surprising to have his rise from the ashes spurred on by the will to vilify the Swazi Observer.

Shongwe returned from his self imposed sabbatical of political silence with a bang on Friday as he expressed his unwavering support for embattled Swaziland Investment Promotions Authority Chief Executive Officer Phumelele Dlamini.

Impressed by her sanctimonious prayer during the start of the senate sitting, Shongwe immediately took her side and started firing pot shots at the Swazi Observer Group of Newspapers which has tirelessly reported about the on-goings at the organisation tasked with attracting investors to the country.

It should be no surprise that Shongwe was impressed by just a prayer as he repeatedly invoked the name of God at every turn while mocking his principal, the Prime Minister, as he rode his proverbial haughty horse during the peak of his reign.

Despite not naming this publication, he stated how he was worried to see there was only one newspaper reporting on the SIPA CEO. Seeing as he was on 'leave' from the happenings in the country, Shongwe will be forgiven for only seeing articles on SIPA by only one reporter whereas several reporters have painstakingly put their hands in the murky allegations which were made by employees with damning evidence. Not only that, the happenings at SIPA have been widely covered so it is not even accurate to claim its only one paper. Unless of course he reads only one paper.

However, he should be forgiven for failing to look at the bigger picture, the implications of the allegations and how they impede on the country attracting investors.

His outburst, for the lack of a better word though not describing the manner in which he made his submission, can best be said to be from a place deeper than just the senate debate.

We can even presuppose it to come from a quest for revenge perhaps?

Like a person having learnt a new word and looking for the opportunity to use it, Shongwe went off on a tangent and attacked the medium which first exposed the alleged rot instead of properly applying his mind to the issues at hand and offering to assist government get to the bottom of the matter.

His immature expressions of support belittle the office he holds. The submissions by other senators were gratifying in an acceptable way as they showed maturity in the politicians who noted there was a need to sort the SIPA debacle as it was not good for the image of the country. Hopefully, all senators were listening too!

Analysis & opinion

WOMEN WERE THE BIG
LOSERS IN US ELECTIONBY MBONGENI
MBINGO

It is unavoidable to talk about Donald Trump today; all of us have found ourselves engrossed in that conversation—thanks to the power of the media of course, and added to that the power of social media, and of course his brash politics.

The conversation for most parts of the past weeks has been the United States Presidential Election, and in the past week Donald Trump's shock victory over Hillary Clinton, so long the favourite to become the 45th US President.

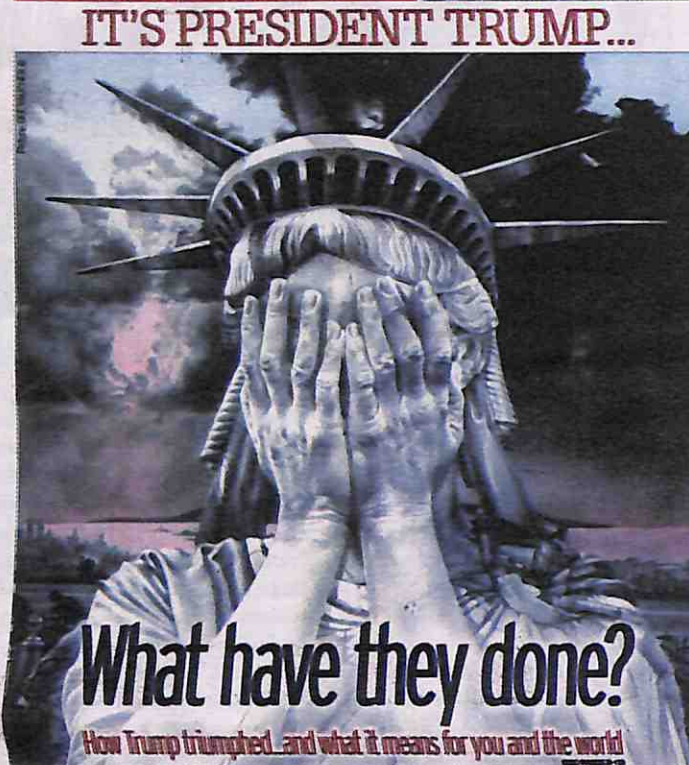
Largely, had Hillary Clinton won the election, which looked so much like a foregone conclusion, especially when it came out the claims that Trump groped women for pleasure. By then, it seemed Clinton had an unassailable lead and others even whispered, very softly, that it was hers to lose the presidential election.

And, she contrived to, poor woman. I do not know how, but she did. She blew it. Either that or she was never in it in the first place. How the polls continued to place her ahead in the states that she would eventually lose may prove to be part of one of the greatest conspiracy theories, because as it turned out, the polls were so wrong! Or, how Clinton lost the election could be, as I have started to believe, that Donald Trump rigged this election—finish and klaar. After all, Trump spent most of his time in the run up to the election alleging the election would be rigged, and people didn't listen. So he rigged it—and why not, because he seemed to know it was possible to rig, and he knew how. Otherwise why else would he have been so fixated with his claims that Hillary Clinton would rig the election?

Business

Anyway, that's their business. He has won. Deservingly or not, we are now confronted with the monster that is Donald Trump, an individual who looked for the most part to be ticking every box that said bad for president—by all means. In his campaign to become president, he promised to round up and expel the 11 million undocumented migrants who make up six per cent of the US workforce. He promised a ban on all Muslims entering America, although he later downgraded to a pledge to impose "extreme vetting" on anyone coming from a suspect land. Who can also forget that giant wall to seal off the Mexican border!

It was frightening just watching him on television, before he shocked the world with his victory, so I can



● What is clear about the Donald Trump victory, however, is that it is Americans headache to deal with, although the whole world is holding its breath. That is how bad, or dangerous, the new American president is!

imagine what is it like now for those who woke up to the nightmare becoming a reality of him being the US President.

Anyway, I care less about him to be honest, despite all this freshness that he brings to politics, as well as the entire new perspective that is not all that conformity. On another day, with another individual, maybe this would be exciting. For me it is like Julius Malema winning the election in South Africa post Jacob Zuma. For all that is exciting about his brand of confrontational politics, there is so much that is just chaotic and unsettling.

Reality

But of course it is a reality that people, as in the case of the two countries, are tired of the status-quo, especially the failure to address the bread and butter issues of their livelihood. Often politicians get too engrossed with the broader issues global politics and neglect to attend to the disenchantment caused by the failure to deliver on their own policies.

It could very well be argued South Africa is itself going through problems that could lead to a Trumpesque outcome in the next elections. Anyway, that is a topic for another

day when all the controversy of the state capture and the #ZumaMustFall campaigns have been exhausted. What is clear about the Donald Trump victory, however, is that it is Americans headache to deal with, although the whole world is holding its breath. That is how bad, or dangerous, the new American president is!

But what is telling about how America voted is not so much how they gave us the man many believe is a sociopath, or the pursuit of a brand new politics. It is that America chose that man over a woman—quite a decent woman for that matter. America chose Donald Trump over a woman—a woman who showed maturity and who is an experienced diplomat. America chose a monster of a man, with no experience in politics or the army and who spoke openly about him loving war, over a woman who chose her words carefully and who understands the world order.

Disastrous

That is just the shame we are left to pick up from this disastrous election. Given that the polls had predicted an easy landslide for Clinton, it is all the more shocking how the

voting then went against her, denying her the opportunity to make history as the first woman president. It could be argued, for instance, that the early polling could have persuaded more voters to stick with the favourite, more than it is a case of how those doing the polls failed to see the Trump effect, or were so out of touch with the reality of how rural Americans were tired of the system.

Having already made Barack Obama the first black president, it seemed easier, if not obvious to vote a woman in than a brash bragging racist and xenophobic talking president. It seemed obvious Trump would not be elected president—surely not!

But, that even America isn't ready for a woman president is not only a loud statement but damaging for the woman cause. It shows even the world's super power failing to lead from the front, when all around us, the world is moving towards giving women their rightful place in not just the boardroom but politics.

Development Goal No.5 has just been dealt a cruel blow by the one country we would all have thought appreciates better the objective of the Millennium Development Goals. By failing to elect a woman when the opportunity was so glaring, Americans have showed they do not ascribe to gender equality because this would have been the perfect setting for this to be achieved. At least it would have endorsed if not given Americans the powers to lecture us continuously over gender equality and especially woman empowerment.

Opportunity

This missed opportunity is all the more stark when we consider Britain now has its first woman Prime Minister in Theresa May while Germany's Angela Merkel has risen to become one of the most respected leaders in modern times. This for Hillary would have followed in the trend.

Clearly Americans aren't that ready, giving the rest of us mere mortals in Africa to think—and rightly so—that if Americans aren't ready, then who are we! That they could not embrace a woman for a leader and opted for Trump will ultimately prove that the world is not yet ready to embrace women in leadership. Arguably, that is why local women struggle during elections, and why Esther Dlamini was the only woman elected to parliament. Perhaps that is why we still have not filled in the vacant women positions that are guaranteed by the Constitution—a matter of routine more than a complicated process of lobbying and campaigning. Instead of giving us its first woman president, America has instead endorsed the dangerous notion that it is a man's world out there—and not that it is time for right wing politics.

THE JA FACILITATORS BEHIND THE SUCCESSFUL 2016 JA NATIONAL EXPO



NOKUKHANYA GAMEDZE

As we implement the JA in school programs, we rely heavily on teachers to assist us implement the programs in school.

They are the academics who spend a lot of time with the students hence are very instrumental in assuming the advisory and mentorship role to the learners ensuring that the programs become a success. These ladies and gentlemen that we work with in the schools are trained by JA at the beginning of the year on how the programs run in order for them to actively monitor the programs. What I find most special about these teachers is that they do not receive payment for their services instead JA tries to incentivise their service as an appreciation to the volunteering teachers. I would like to take time and appreciate the team of facilitators we work with in schools for a remarkable job well done.

I took the time to speak to three of the top ten facilitators who lead their teams into becoming top three overall winners. Precious Kunene who facilitates the program at Mjinga High School managed to win herself the facilitator of the year award during the 2016 National Expo.

She explains it was so humbling for her to receive such honors during the national expo especially since she is aware that all the other facilitators from the different schools put in a lot of hard work towards leading their teams.

"For me being a JA facilitator meant I had to build a unique relationship with the learners that is based on understanding, friendship and trust. It also meant positioning myself as a reliable information resource for these young people to solicit advice on different issues they encounter while running their business.

● The reward of being a facilitator for me was being able to assist these young people have a glimmer of hope that their dreams and ideas can become a reality. When young people have been met with a lot of difficulties in their lives, it becomes a motivation for them to have a positive outcome once in a while,"



This on its own challenged me to make a lot of time sacrificing for research. Participation in the program also initiates a lot of multitasking because the academic profession is also important and one has to be just as effective in it as well," she said.

Precious also managed to lead the best team in the country that is set to represent Swaziland in Zimbabwe at the Company of the Year Regional scheduled for 7 to 9 December. She reveals that the young people are still working tirelessly to produce fresher innovative ideas for their product as the publicity generated by winning has established a name for them in the business sector.

"Orders are basically streaming in and as a facilitator I am proud of these young people as I recognise that their business

stands a chance of survival post the competition," she said. She went on to appreciate the initiative by JA Swaziland and support received from the school management and staff throughout the program. "Our final appreciation goes out there to every single person and institutions that saw the value in our work and supported us by purchasing one of our items," she concluded.

Sibusiso Dlamini who facilitated for Vulamasango managed to usher his group into second place. He explains that it was never an easy journey yet his will towards the transformation of young people gave him the drive to keep going.

"The role of a facilitator is very dynamic in the sense that one gets to be the middle man between, students, the school and parents. All issues pertaining the

program become your responsibility to contain. Of course it is not an easy task to manage however one gets to develop skills on how to manage all stakeholders involved. You also become the sounding voice of motivation to the learners whenever they are faced with challenges especially with the business picking up. Being a facilitator is also accompanied by a lot of sacrifices along the way. For me I became the link between the students and their customers in the outside world as they are confined and cannot conduct those transactions themselves. The reward of being a facilitator for me was being able to assist these young people have a glimmer of hope that their dreams and ideas can become a reality.

When young people have been met with

a lot of difficulties in their lives, it becomes a motivation for them to have a positive outcome once in a while," he said.

Sibusiso also mentioned that he was looking forward to these young people working on their business post the competition and satisfying their customers' needs. "Our appreciation goes to the Commissioner General Mr. Mzuthini Ntshangase who allowed such a program to be part of the learning process for these young people.

Manzini Nazarene is no stranger to the limelight as they managed to scoop first place in the previous competition. This year they once again appeared among the top three best performing schools. It is a testimony that there is a dedicated facilitator behind the students. Sabelo Dlamini has been a facilitator for several years at Manzini Nazarene. He explained not claiming first place this year was a bit difficult to swallow. "However we encountered a lot of challenges with this group and having to be a part of the top three schools was a real sign of hard work on its own. Being a facilitator for me means when JA Swaziland provides the course manual I have to absorb it with understanding and therefore be in a position to deliver the content to the learners in such a way that is best understandable to them. It also means moderating the energies and business ideas these young people come up with to assist them pick the best business idea that will make it in the market.

I also become responsible for connecting the learners with the resource facilities that are needed for the learners to be well informed on the product of choice. It is a sacrifice of money, time and resources really, yet the reward is value addition to one's life. I would say if you are not a JA facilitator then you are missing out on a chance to enrich yourself as well.

As I conclude, I realise that life heroes are not only those people who save lives but also people who will sacrifice and give selflessly in order to enrich one's life and need to be applauded for their job well done. My sincere gratitude goes to these ladies and gentlemen who assist in the implementation of the JA vision and become a pillar of strength for our future entrepreneurs.

TEATQ ISSUE: WE DEMAND JUSTICE

Sir,

Mr. Editor, thank you for allowing a humble teacher like myself to express my great pain on the unfortunate injustice and day light robbery done to degreed teachers working in primary schools and being under paid.

The question that comes to mind is why are these teachers who are true "architects of our society" being under paid yet they do a lot of spade work in their respective schools?

Why is the Swazi government deliberately robbing these learned teachers their legal right to be properly remunerated?

Is the government implying that advancing oneself professionally is a waste of time and resources?

Teachers take their time & resources furthering their studies trying to meet contemporary world education standards (pedagogies) not only locally but internationally to empower and drive the Swazi citizenry into world class standards.

This comes at a huge cost to the

● As I see it, government is instructing these teachers to discourage the young ones not to value education as it seems useless and a waste of time to do so.

respective teachers as some pay for their tertiary education.

How then are these Swazi teachers going to do such after so much hard work, sacrifice and selflessness are being rewarded peanuts in salaries by the very government that they are working hard to improve and off which they dearly pay exorbitant amounts of tax (direct & indirect) to?

How are these teachers supposed to encourage, inspire and motivate their learners to further their studies beyond: certificates, diplomas, degrees to masters when salaries are not paid according to one's qualification, which in all honesty comes with much sacrifice and dedication for the love of the country?

As I see it, government is instructing these teachers to discourage the young ones not to value education as it seems useless and a waste of time to do so.

This is bad for the country aiming for first world status by 2022.

Until when are these dedicated educators going to be dodged their hard earned salaries? Should they all die due to stress related illnesses?

Who then shall teach the learners and empower the Swazi citizenry? Why then are we as country part of the 2030 SDGs?

These are genuine questions that require genuine responses in terms of decisive action from the relevant structures.

C3 is an insult to a degreed teacher with an education. Such defeats the spirit of a harmonious labour environment as well as the spirit of a Collective Agreement reached between unions and the employer.

We deserve better.

1 COW

Grieving TEATQ member

Parliament must intervene

Sir

I'm displeased to get this space to air my frustration as a Degreed Primary School teacher in this fiefdom on the issue of teachers not paid according to their qualifications: teaching in primary schools.

Mr. Editor, degreed teachers have been wailing: screaming & shouting on their daily ordeal they experience at the hands of the Tinkhundla-led administration. All their endeavours to have their concerns addressed hit a snag: falling on deaf & arrogant ears. These men and women play a significant role in our country especially now that it is aiming for first world status. Mr. Editor, our educators have voiced their concerns about not being paid according to their qualifications. They have waited in unending queues at TSC: convened a high delegation from TSC/MoPS to SNAT Centre to make know their complaints: they have petitioned the relevant offices: all these hitting a wall.

To Each According To Qualification (TEATQ), as a campaign, is in response to the unfair labour practice by the employer. They have talked to their employer and even advertised their campaign through

media, chats, t-shirts etc. The campaign is a living organism now: it is real.

Having hinted same, existing in a supposedly 'democratic' country, governed through a constitution, one wonders how long should it take for a concerned group of rightful minded citizens (human resource) of the country to be given an eye? It's high time the Parliament of Swaziland intervenes in this issue. It was recently published that our law makers were contemplating on passing a new law that will allow MPs losing elections an 'adjustment fee'.

Mr Editor, you shall concur with me on this; instead of having politicians who shall concentrate on crafting circulars for their own benefit, we need legislators to decisively deal with issues affecting disadvantaged members of the society: such as these discriminated teachers (qualified with degrees) teaching in our primary schools but not paid accordingly.

I hereby extend an olive branch to the portfolio committee on education & labour to salvage this stinking labour dispute before all hell breaks loose. This is a ticking time bomb.

**Ntokozo
Infuriated TEATQ Member**



BY Comfort Mabuza

XENOPHOBIC TENDANCIES AGAINST ASIANS MUST BE HANDLED MATURELY

● *Lest, Swazis are perceived as instigators of hate speech.*

The Parliament House of Assembly resolutions as the August House must be respected.

But the current attempt to tighten the screws regarding the laxity in granting of Temporary Residence Permits (TRPs) is certainly creating so much tension and needs to be handled with extra care and sensitivity. While efforts to check the controls are noble from outside, it still does not sit well with me the manner the public hearings are being conducted.

If the remarks being made at some of the hearings probe are anything to go by, then Swazis will be viewed as promoting hate speech against the Asian community, a dangerous war we are creating for the national security and our safety.

I have followed the unfolding events with keen interest and from where I am sitting there is more than meets the eye here.

The police services is not party to this and neither is the Anti-Corruption Commission and interested parties, and I wonder why because from the look of things they are responsible for maintaining law and order as well as fighting corruption.

These unfolding events unfortunately are having a negative impact on free movement of people to live wherever they so wish if the immigration laws have been followed to the book.

The world, yes the Big brother, is closely watching with keen interest these unfolding developments in the kingdom. The UN is certainly having a keen interest, if what we are seeing in the internet about the state of affairs.

We certainly are awaiting the find-

● *The truth that cannot be denied is that they have virtually taken over the supply and chain businesses especially the shops, which was initially run by indigenous Swazis.*

ings of this probe.

From a human rights perspective, Swaziland is signatory to international treaties on how to deal with people who are immigrants and wanting to live in the country.

If there are any acts of criminality, then I see no wisdom in wasting taxpayer's money with this probe, let the Anti-Corruption Commission be roped in and the law must take its full course.

Targeting the Asian community and judging them alone so harshly is not a welcome development, we certainly have every reason to be much afraid, and that it could spark deep hatred against the Asians and certainly viewed as xenophobic. We certainly don't need this for our International reputation as a State.

BUSINESS PERMITS

We are all concerned about the number of businesses that are being run by foreigners, of the Asian nationals. The truth that cannot be denied is they have virtually taken over the supply and chain businesses especially the shops, which was initially run by indigenous Swazis.

Almost every shop is now being run by these people.

Whether by default or design, even small business like grocery shops in the townships are being taken over.

Whatever happened to Swazi Commercial Amadoda, how come small medium businesses are now being given to them and in some cases the permits are still in the name of

the indigenous Swazis, whose permits still bear their identities.

Personally, I do not think these Asians walk into the Ministry of Commerce and Trade and get licences to operate just like that. Surely this probe should not only look at the TRPs only and subject the Ministry of Home Affairs alone.

The businesses are being run on trading licences, what about the Ministry of Commerce.

Are we not seeing high levels of collusion and possibly some hands cashing g time here? Violation of people's rights to free movement in search of better life and economic freedom should not be subjected to such inhumane treatment and clandestine probes.

Whatever happened to Swazi hospitality of welcoming and treating foreigners with dignity and respect? *Ibanga umsindvo leprobe!!*

SWAZIS WHO RENT TRADING LICENSES

Why probe TRPs of the Asians when the local Swazi owners of some of the business of have rented their trading licences? Speaking to some of the grocery shop owners at Ka-Msunduzi Township in Mbabane, some of the Asians running the small businesses in the retail industry did mention to me that they were using trading licences given to them by the local business owners.

They further mention that they are supplying services to the community, and wondered why they now

being targeted because they have entered into some arrangement with the original owners.

From these concerns one feels it is not fair to blame Asians alone when there are Swazis who are renting out their trading licences and cashing easy monies.

From where I am sitting, a probe that is only grilling the Asians alone is unacceptable and unfair. One would have expected that the terms of reference of this probe should be have a holistic approach in dealing with this issue at hand.

Not that we are pre-empting the agenda of the Parliament probe, but are trading licence owners who are renting them out going to be hurled in the hot coals?

Does this probe create a healthy environment for future investments and creating more job opportunities for the unemployed graduates and youth presently roaming the streets aimlessly? There goes in smoke all our efforts of attracting investors, if we treat foreigners like this.

ANY XENOPHOBIC TENDANCIES ARE A VIOLATION OF PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Whatever lenses one is wearing, this probe is xenophobic because it is targeting only Asians, and what about other nationals who might be in Swaziland, yes those who have flooded our education and health systems, are we going to probe those? Are we ready to create such hatred when our own people are in RSA for econom-

ic reasons and SADC.

I have no space to talk about our health personal who migrated to England who are economic refugees right now.

Swazis are known to be hospitable people who are forever welcoming, but at the rate things are going we have all the potential of hatching hatred that is a timely ticking bomb, and we must condemn any inhumane treatment of foreigners by an institution that must understand there must free movement of people within SADC and Africa.

Will Swaziland National Housing Board (*Luphahla*) and Swaziland Provident Fund (*Lidlantfontongeni*) who have given lease agreements to these people be probed also? If these targeted Asians happened to have leased so many houses also, what will be done to those who have assisted them as they are targeted as illegal immigrants? As matters stand, I think we are inciting hatred against these Asians and this smacks violation of their human rights and certainly it cannot go on like this forever. We still maintain that the probe in the manner it is being handled is flawed and the terms of reference leaves a lot to be desired.

Do we still want investment to our ailing economy? May true Swazi leadership arise, we don't want this as we will be viewed negatively in the region, continent and internationally?

There has to be a better way, and the probe conducted in this fashion is certainly not the preferred one unfortunately.

The head of state is the sitting chairman of the SADC currently, and one wonders why we dent his image regionally a spoil his name and that of the nation. I rest my case!

Help us fight fraud



Some of you might have read the unfortunate incident whereby one of our customers had to be arrested for trying to make a fraudulent claim.

In case you did not come across the story, here is what happened: A woman passed away, and her husband forged a death certificate in order to lodge a claim with Dups.

He had to forge the certificate because the initial death certificate indicated that the deceased was married to another man, rendering the fraudster's marriage to her invalid and at the same time mak-

ing him ineligible to make a claim. Following his appearance in court, the man was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, or a fine of E2 000.

We hope the fact that he was caught out strengthens our customers' faith in our competence to take care of their investment.

If someone benefits from a fraudulent claim, they would have also stolen from you, our customers. It's not just here where this type of fraud occurs. According to Sowetan Live, in 2014 there were 7 360 fraudulent death and funeral insurance claims in South Africa, for a total of R402.8 million.

There were also 3 551 reported instances of presentation to insurers of fraudulent documents, or of misrepresentation in the same period amounting to R2 967.2 million.

Clearly fraudulent claims have the

potential to collapse businesses. One might look at a small claim and think, "Oh well, it's just a drop in the ocean," but without the necessary controls, twenty or thirty more drops like that will run into millions worth of losses.

Fraudulent funeral claims do not happen every day, but we do get a few ambitious people trying. Sometimes people attempt to defraud us and our customers by faking a death. It boggles the mind how one can wish a loved one dead just for monetary benefit, but that does happen.

However, because we are aware of the risks involved, we have a stringent validation process whenever a claim comes our way.

A claim can only be processed upon submission of certified copies of identity documents for the beneficiary, identity document for the deceased, death certificate, letter confirming the presence of body from the undertaker where the remains of the deceased were kept

and marriage certificate, in the case of a spouse.

We remain committed to maintain our record of processing claims within two hours, but that can only happen after receipt of all the necessary documentation.

Still on the issue of claims, we encourage our clients that as soon as there are new developments regarding dependents, Dups should be notified as soon as possible so that information can be updated. If a child that is not registered passes on, you cannot claim for that child by substituting him or her with a covered one. We urge all our clients to register all the children they want covered.

Those in polygamous marriages should register their wives and pay the correct premiums.

It will not work to keep one wife covered and expect to get a payout for whichever of them passes on first.

Claiming for an unregistered individual, whether fraudulently or out of igno-

rance (remembering that ignorance is no excuse in the eyes of the law) amounts to unjust enrichment because such a person is not entitled to a payout. It unnecessarily eats into policy holder funds and can result in premium increases for customers. As part of our dedication to keep our premiums affordable for everyone, we will fight tooth and nail to curtail fraud.

If you happen to know anyone planning to make a fraudulent claim to Dups, please give us a call and help reduce crime.

If you also need clarification on the terms of our policies or would like to update your details, please call us on 2505 2028.

You can also pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Pigg's Peak and Siteki. Alternatively, you can send queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance.



**LETHUMUSA
SIMELANE**

CELL: 7606 7049/ TEL: 2416 1278/9

EmaSwati atsi leyondzile ayitfotelwa. This plainly means you cannot judge a book by its cover, it means that you cannot adjudicate something chiefly on the visual aspect or façade.

Just to give a penny of my thought, disregarding the fact that other people may assert that, not all that glitters is gold or that every pasture looks greener from a distance, I hold the view that, every dark cloud has a silver lining. This is to say that prejudice designate playing without a full deck. I am trying to elucidate the fact that, bleak as a situation might be, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. I want to draw your attention dear reader to something we regard with contempt as Swazis, our language and culture. *Mvelinchanti* must have been passably jocund when He created emaSwati. He singled them out from the rest and gave them a felicitous culture where its cornerstone is respect, good morals and peace. Language is of import to us human beings. It delimitate, restore pride and patriotism and nationalism in us. If people disuse their culture and tradition, their language gradually dies out. The way of life has nifty influence as far as the development of the language is observed. *EmaSwati* have explicated their language in various ways. For example they have closely observed the cycle of animals and have related life to it. To be precise, proverbs like *ayihlabi ngakumisa, leyondzile ayitfotelwa, sihlala ndzawonye sidle majwabu, lingce lindizela ndzawonye* evidently nourishes the language.

EmaSwati are of the view that human beings, plants and animals complement each other and bring the ecosystem to equilibrium. The life that we inhabit as people is solely dependent on plants and animals. Certain herbs are used kucinisa a new born baby, they must be taken to emshini. Another incident that emphasises or shows the reliance that exists in human beings, plants and animals is when an animal is slaughtered to introduce a child to the ancestors of the family.

Language

Moreover, marriage in Swazi law and custom is incomplete without the use of plants and animals. Siswati as a language has developed this far because of the way of life that was led by our forefathers. Indeed, *indlela icentfwa ngulongatuhamba ngayo*.

It is deplorable and pitiful when you agnise or be cognisant of how Africans opted to desolate what is theirs in favour of modernity. If you have been to countries like United States of America and Britain you will agree with me that there are many people who reside in those countries as foreigners. Frankly, they have swiftly made themselves comfortable and deserted their true-self, by that I mean their culture and traditions. However, it is interesting to note how the Indians have clung to their culture, language and food, far away from

LEYONDZILE AYITFOTELWA

● I want to draw your attention dear reader to something we regard with contempt as Swazis, our language and culture. *Mvelinchanti* must have been passably jocund when He created *emaSwati*. He singled them out from the rest and gave them a felicitous culture where its cornerstone is respect, good morals and peace. Language is of import to us human beings.

home, they make it home. They refuse to be influenced by other languages and traditions. They eat their own food, speak their own language and practise their beliefs. They believe that their language is unique and must be treated with respect and dignity. With us it a far cry from, *lunye lunye ngatsi. Baya eMelika umnyaka munye babuye sebakhuluma kwemaMelika, bahambisa kwawo, bagcoke njengawo futsi. Yibindze ke indzaba yemculo, abasawulaleli umculo we Africa*, hip-hop all the way. At the drop of a hat, we have already taken our God given language to the flashing bin. *Sesiyitfotele tinkuni*. The lamentable part is that our children will find themselves caught between two stools where both alternatives will be jumping from a frying pan into fire and the best possible solution could be something that they don't even have; Identity. What will identify them as Swazis? Where are they going to find people who will teach them Siswati? We can't have both of best worlds.

Strength

King Sobhuza II was referred by the Swazi people as a crocodile (*Ingwenya lemaholoholo*) "*Imisebe yakho yenanelwe tingwenya letimaholoholo*". A crocodile is a large voracious aquatic reptile having a long snout with massive jaws and precipitous teeth and a body covered with plates. It is an amphibious animal because it can live in water and also on land. It is domicile in big dams and big rivers. A female crocodile lays many eggs and covers them with sand. After ninety days the eggs hatch, a crocodile can live up to two hundred years. Hunters do not attack a crocodile through its back because its skin is hard, they kill it by thrusting the knife beneath or sideways. It is a reptile that is known for strength, tricks, health cautiousness and long life. King Sobhuza II was the first educated king in Swaziland. He refused to let education change him as he apprised Swazi people not to lose what belonged to them. He always emphasised the importance of culture as an identifying factor that counsel and distinguishes

us from other nations. Like a crocodile he incorporated both the Swazi way of life and the Western way without compromising either, like a crocodile he was determined to work tirelessly until the British brought back the country. Patience was his virtue and he exercised it as a crocodile exercises patience as it waits for its eggs to be hatched. A crocodile can live up to 200 years just like king Sobhuza II who became the longest reigning king in the world.

Not only is king Sobhuza II referred to as a crocodile. He is also referred to as *lihlolokholo, ligwalagwala and intsaki*. "*intsaki lemnyama lendize yodwana letinye tindiza tiscumbi, ingiphicile ngaphiceka ngatsi lihlolokholo leminyane*" *Lihlolkholo* is a very intelligent bird which lays its eggs where people cannot see it, let alone reach its nest. The nest is built upon a tree and strategically it faces the dippiest side of a river. It is a bird that is known for its care for the young ones. Its voice makes a brassy noise.

Beauty

King Sobhuza II fagged many years negotiating with the British to bring back the country and his voice was even heard as far away as England. In addition to this, *Ligwalagwala* symbolises beauty and is known for its feathers which are used by royalty in the kingdom. This bird when it flies seems like it is being blown away by the air. The beauty of this bird is likened to king Sobhuza I and II because both of them showed extraordinary effort in bringing unity among Swazi people.

King Ludvonga II who ruled from 1869 – 1872 is referred to as *intsendzele, umdlovu and umshiva*. It is worth noting that *Ludvonga* did not rule as he died whilst he was still young. *Intsendzele* is usually found in the lowveld. Hunters like hunting this bird.

Ludvonga is likened to it because he left whilst Swazi's were looking forward to his reign "*Intsendzele lempunga lengenwe ngemant' ilizini, batingeli bayishaya ngetagila*" He is also referred to as

umdlovu, a big cow with big horns pointed downwards. "*Linkhonyane laLamgangeni lelihlabile lisakhula imidlovu yahlehle' emuva*" *Linkhonyane* is a calf that is defenceless. He did not rule the country as he died whilst still young.

King Mswati II and III on the other hand are both referred by Swazi people as *inyatsi* (buffalo). King Mswati II's regiment was known as *Inyatsi* his praises have a line "*inyatsi letimpodvompodvo ifungatse luhala lwaSomcuba eMgwenya neMgwenyana...*" Buffalos live in groups. It is a large shaggy-haired brown bison that is known for its resilience and strength. It can run faster than its body and that is why in the above mentioned line king Mswati II is referred as "*inyatsi letifungatse luhala lwaSomcuba*".

Unity

A buffalo can sense things from afar through its noise. It prepares well in advance for an attack. Mswati II used spies led by *Sicobolonjwane Sihlongonyane* to track *Somcuba* between two rivers *uMgwenyana* and *uMgwenya* and they found him. It is an animal that is associated with power, unity, resilience, speed, investigator and viciousness. Mswati II was referred to as the greatest Swazi fighter because he fought many battles and many tribes came to live under him because of his enormous fighting prowess. He solved problems that seem to divide Ndawonde Shabalala's children Sibankhwa and Mdlangempisi. He also solved one of the biggest disputes between Soshangane's children Mawewe and Mzila. He managed to do all this because he acted exactly like a buffalo. He planned his strategies and played his cards well. Conflict that occurs in Africa today is tackled by *inyatsi yemaSwati* Mswati III and he is the buffalo of the nation that seek to see the country, the region and the continent develop. Development and strategic plans for the country owes it all to the enormous strength of the *Inyatsi yemaSwati* king Mswati III. How many of us know that buffalo's move in numbers and when they attack they do that as a flock? Do you know

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NMC MAKING BIG INVESTMENTS IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The concept of corporate social responsibility means that organisations have moral, ethical and philanthropic responsibilities in addition to their responsibilities to earn a fair return for their goods and services.

Society's expectation is that like other organisations, National Maize Corporation will provide good services and quality products that are needed and desired by customers and sell those goods at reasonable prices. Organisations are expected to be efficient, profitable and to keep

their stakeholders and communities in mind. NMC goes beyond the general expectations in her attempt to conduct her affairs in a fair and just way.

Through the passionate advocacy of her leadership, NMC goes beyond her call of duty to anticipate the needs of society and to find ways to meet these needs.

It is most probably quite accurate to say all societies at all points in time have had some degree of expectation that organisations would engage in one form of social respon-

sibility or another. The National Maize Corporation is certainly one of those and as already stated, the leadership of the organisation is often insistent on forecasting situations that will affect farmers in either a positive or a negative manner and then goes on to ensure that there are plans, measures and/or systems in place to ensure that when effects are negative, there are ways in which NMC has planned to cushion the blow on the local stakeholder. For instance, at present, the NMC has a promotional price of

E4 000.00 per ton of maize bought from local farmers. This promotional price came about as a way of cushioning our local farmers from the hard blow that came with the now infamous El Nino.

The previous price was relatively lower than the current promotional price and thus this price came into play to help encourage farmers to continue fighting to produce maize despite the difficult conditions.

Those who attended and followed the results of the National Maize competition, whose main sponsor is also NMC, will have noted from NMC's chief executive officer's speech during the event that NMC has stated that the promotional price shall prevail through to the end of the current season in July, 2017, even though the country seems to

that if buffalo's move in a pack then it means they speak one language which makes it hard for an enemy to win against them? We cannot get to first world status if we neglect our beautiful language? We need it and if we cannot trudge cautiously we will soon find ourselves without it. Language just as people who need to be nurtured in order to develop must also be nurtured to develop. The English that we have so much kept in our pocket will soon turn out to be a snake that bites the pocket owner. We have clung so much into English so much that if a child speaks fluent English then we assume that they are receiving good education thus that child will attain a bright future and we never ask ourselves as to how many among the English speaking kids who go to expensive pre-schools are going to make it in life. English has made us major the success of a person through it. In order to be successful, get education. The truth of the matter is that not all people can be successful through education as the intelligence of a person cannot be measured through his or her education. Often time's people confuse knowledge with education and education with intelligence. *Bantfwabetsu sebakhuluma singisi ngisho emaphusheni. Iyabindvwa ke indzaba yekubakhuta. Nobe ngabe ukukhuba kangani umntfwana ngete wakhona kumtset-sisa ngesilumbi NO! STOP IT! Kwaphela. Kantsi eSiswatinini umtset-sisa ate akhale, solo uwalandzelisa emagama. Ashayi nhlitiyo, kusanguluke ingcondvo.* In conclusion, *emaSwati atsi leyondzile ayitfotelwa. Kuvisana buhlungu nawubuka kutsi Siswati setfu sisitfotela tinkhuni ngobe setsembe singisi kutsi ngiso lesinelikusasa lelihle kubantfwabetsu.*

There are schools in this country who do not even learn Siswati instead they choose between it and French or Portuguese. Some parents in this country have children who cannot even utter a word in Siswati. Honestly when is the University of Swaziland and others going to start prioritising Siswati over English? A person who wants to enrol in sciences and commercials at the university why do they have to pass English? Are we ever going to have a Swazi professor who specialised in Siswati or am I just hallucinating? *Leleyondzile lesiyitfotela tinkuni, sitokwenta njani nasekufa lelephilile?* When are schools going to make siSwati a passing subject over English? Why are we taking so long to rectify this abnormality? Are we Afraid that we might see lots of students making it to the university and thus the number of unemployed graduates would increase? Out of all the graduates produced by universities in this country how many get meaningful jobs? There is only one employer in Swaziland, government. Either you are in the public sector, teacher, police, soldier, warder or *uye-mafemini*. Few make it to the now saturated private sector. The very same mother, who is nurturing you to adulthood, would employ you tomorrow. Bleak as it might be, there is still a glimpse of hope that we can revive our language, bear it in mind that *leyondzile ayitfotelwa!!!*



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI
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Ministers and tourism officials pose with all winners during the inaugural of Tekuvakasha Tourism Awards, which were held at the Royal Swazi Spa & Resorts.

Tourism, hospitality, and travel stars came out in their numbers to shine last weekend at the inaugural Tekuvakasha Tourism Awards, which were held at the Royal Swazi Spa & Resorts.

Attended by almost all established and emerging players in the industry, the awards night was both glamorous and historic. Historic in the sense that a new tradition, which we hope will become a permanent feature in the local tourism industry's calendar, was born.

On behalf of the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA)'s CEO Eric Maseko, management and staff, and indeed on my personal behalf, we sincerely extend our heartfelt gratitude to the minister of tourism and environmental affairs, Honourable Christopher Gamedze, for gracing and elevating the event to national significance. We would like to congratulate all industry players who won awards in various categories. We also would like to pay homage to their responsiveness towards the whole concept, given the uncertainty that shrouds new initiatives. Together, we all conquered. Once more, congratulations!

STA also greatly appreciates all industry players who attended (or sent representation to) the awards ceremony. To quote the minister:

"The unity of purpose shown by the industry players is testimony to their commitment to prioritising, and ensuring consistent service excellence in their respective operations".

It would be quite uncharacteristic to laud ourselves, but we humbly thank the minister, as well as the visiting guest speaker, former South African Tourism CEO Thulani Nzima, for their encouraging words. Like all new ini-

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR TOURISM AWARDEES



Guest speakers, former SA Tourism CEO Thulani Nzima and STA CEO Eric Maseko make their remarks.

tiatives, we commit to the continual development of the concept in order to ensure that successive events will always be bigger and better than the previous.

However, this will only be possible through constant interaction with industry players both through their association(s) as well as individually.

Industry players will recall that STA indicated during the launch of the awards initiative, that more categories would be included

in the years to come.

We will appreciate critical appreciation, comments, and suggestions through email, in person, and other laid down procedures.

From the onset, we envisaged coming up with an initiative that the entire industry would claim ownership of, and needless to say, last weekend's event was a great step in the right direction...

We bring you some of the moments that were captured in pictures from the event.

● **Society's expectation is that like other organisations, National Maize Corporation will provide good services and quality products that are needed and desired by customers and sell those goods at reasonable prices. Organisations are expected to be efficient, profitable and to keep their stakeholders and communities in mind.**

be receiving healthy amounts of rain this season.

The competition itself, which has been sponsored by NMC since inception 25 years ago, is meant to inspire competitiveness amongst farmers whilst simultaneously imparting technical knowledge and skills for continually improving maize yields per unit area.

Therefore, the competition is not meant to just celebrate a farmer's good

yields in one particular season in isolation, but more than anything, NMC is looking to cultivate a culture of sustainable agricultural practices amongst farmers as well as instil the idea of commercial farming – something that is expected to have long term effects, and wide-ranging benefits to the farmer. NMC is very passionate about this venture to the extent that the current leadership initiated what has been termed as the 'CEO's Awards'. These

awards not only celebrate, encourage, incentivise and help impart technical farming know-how on the farmer but they also inculcate a culture of commercialised farming on that farmer in particular and those around him. Farmers are encouraged to beat their best in this competition.

NMC is now looking at developing farmers and equipping them with business acumen from high school level. This is being done through strategic

partnerships with organisations like Junior Achievement, where high school students interested in the agricultural industry are invited for job shadowing opportunities with the company. NMC invests a lot of time and resources on such activities with the main goal of equipping up-coming farmers with the correct farming methods and practices and imparting knowledge upon them from a business point of view at very early stages in order to develop a new generation of erudite farmers for the future.

Further to this, National Maize Corporation is a proud sponsor of the Woman Farmer of the Year.

Generally, the world over, gender balance is quite a challenge to achieve and women farmers in developing countries such as ours still face many challenges on the road to equality and

success.

NMC is proud to stand up and be counted amongst companies that not only support development of the Swazi people in all sectors, but also plays a vital role as the country strives towards food security.

NMC as a unit, is a firm believer in the quote by Janie Lewis: "we have a social responsibility, a constitutional opportunity and a moral obligation to help others" and thus every day, no matter what the challenge, no matter what the circumstance, NMC remains steadfast in her endeavour to achieve food security for the country, to help change mindsets about maize production on a commercial basis and to help develop the agricultural industry by all means possible. The struggle for food secure Swaziland continues...



All businesses in the country should be excited that one of the directors in the Institute of Directors in Southern Africa, Ansi Ramalho has confirmed her coming to the Kingdom to make a presentation on the newly launched King IV code during the FSE&CCs gala dinner.

The reason to be excited is, of course, for the mere fact that Ramalho is a Corporate Governance Specialist who regularly consults, writes and presents on the various aspects of corporate law, directors' duties and governance. She also serves on a number of technical committees that drive initiatives in these areas, including the King Committee for Corporate Governance in South Africa, the Integrated Reporting Committee South Africa and the Global Reporting Initiative Focal Point Advisory Group.

For businesses who may not be well-versed about the concept of corporate governance, there is no need to panic as the voice of business will, on simpler terms, explain what it means in this very space.

This would be useful for SMEs, in particular, who have often associated corporate governance with big businesses, yet it is of critical importance to all businesses, whether big or small.

It is true that, traditionally, corporate governance has been linked with larger companies as they have clearly defined structures establishing relationships between shareholders, board members and company managers.

Despite this, there is a global concern for the application of corporate governance to SMEs. Some even argue that similar guidelines that apply to larger companies should also be applicable to SMEs.

But before we justify the importance of SMEs adopting corporate governance measures, it is imperative that we define what corporate governance is.

In simpler terms, corporate governance refers to the set of systems, principles and processes by which a company is governed such that it can fulfil its goals and objectives in a manner that adds to the value of the company. There are five basic principles of good corporate governance; transparency, accountability, responsibility, independence and fairness.

SMEs, however, tend to have a less pronounced separation of ownership management.

In fact, most owners of SMEs are also managers, making it hard to have a clear structure for corporate governance to be implemented as managers are accountable to themselves as owners.

Yet the FSE&CC strongly believes that corporate governance can greatly assist the SME sector by infusing better management practices, stronger internal auditing and greater opportunities for growth. As part of corporate governance structures, board members also bring into the firm expertise and knowledge on financing options available and strategies to source such finances thus dealing with the credit constraint problem of SMEs as well.

It must be noted good governance does not guarantee business success. However, poor governance could be symptomatic of a business failure.

The major hurdle for SMEs wanting to

SMES SHOULD ADOPT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MEASURES



Institute of Directors in Southern Africa, Ansi Ramalho

● For businesses who may not be well-versed about the concept of corporate governance, there is no need to panic as the voice of business will, on simpler terms, explain what it means in this very space.

introduce corporate governance, however, is that operational costs and start-up costs (for those SMEs that haven't started operating) will increase.

Instituting corporate governance will mean additional roles in audit, remuneration and nomination of committees, and hiring of new and more directors. Non-executive directors will also have to be paid higher remuneration because of the active roles they will be playing.

However, this will be worth it as they would be bringing a new strategic outlook to the company and enhancing SMEs corporate entrepreneurship and competitiveness.

The other hurdle associated with introducing corporate governance for SMEs is that owners of small businesses usually want total control over the manner in which their businesses are run. Even in situations where they have partners, some prefer silent partners, something that takes away the advantages associated with having a corporate governance structure.

This then disadvantages SMEs in getting access to

finance which would have helped in improving the growth and development of the SME sector.

Incorporation of corporate governance into the sector could greatly reduce this constraint. Often times, small businesses seeking new funds have to address structural problems before going to the market, which leads to delays in sourcing the funding. Corporate governance not only requires structures to be at hand before financing its sources, but also compels SMEs to have proper bookkeeping and accounting practices. This assists financial institutions and potential investors to adequately assess the risk associated with funding the SME.

Infusing corporate governance structures at an early stage, also instils discipline in the management of the firm. One of the barriers of SME development is poor managerial competencies. An SME with a corporate governance structure will better overcome these problems via the expertise and more stringent internal control measures introduced by the board mem-

bers. Also, it frees up the owner from operational duties as well as prevent disputes, though in the beginning there may be tension between the owner and board of directors, especially in sole proprietorships.

In the global climate that Swaziland operates in, corporate governance is now seen as an essential building block of stable economies. It helps to protect the rights and interests of business owners and, increasingly, those of other stakeholders, providing a framework for effective monitoring of management actions and performance and for encouraging better business results.

In this vein, the voice of business in Swaziland encourages SMEs to also attend the upcoming FSE&CC dinner where they will enormously benefit on how they could better adopt the concept of King IV into their respective businesses. The FSE&CC mission is to see all businesses successful in the Kingdom, and reinforcing corporate governance is the first step in ensuring that our businesses thrive.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

Unveiling King Somhlolo Statue at Jubilee Park by His Majesty King Mswati II, was a significant and memorable gesture honouring Swazi history.

A positive story that altered my mind set from my understanding that most Swazi's despise historical legacies, as in my view a country that does not honour its hero's is doomed. This unveiling restores my faith in how kingdoms do honour forefather's legacies, contrary to my experienced when discouraged for championing King Sobhuza II legacy.

When subjected to flimsy excuses on how kingdoms disremember historical legacies, conflicting as kings are named after predecessors. King Sobhuza I the father of King Mswati II, and King Sobhuza II father of King Mswati III. I therefore congratulate Manzini City Council and its partners for conceptualising this giant sculpture. Indicative of how they are insulated from the anointment embedded in King Sobhuza II's middle name *Mona* (jealousy), they preserved King Somhlolo's legacy.

Peace Must Prevail

King Somhlolo's prophecy was not only prophetic but instructive on how peace must prevail. He prophesied the coming of the white men, how their blood must not be spilled on this land. The peace must prevail prophecy, as the spilling of the white men's blood would have resulted in 'licilo' negativity or curse. This negative energy would perpetually engulf this country translating to lack of peace and instability, thus going against God's instruction.

Today we enjoy peace that continues to prevail, at times we take it for granted. Particularly those who instigate negativity, which to our benefit does not succeed as this country followed God's instruction.

Peace must prevail, God's instruction to King Somhlolo, hence up to date we are enjoying this peace, blessings of not spilling the blood of white men on this land.

This prophecy guided King Sobhuza II when negotiating for independence, as he understood the spiritual depth of peace must prevail. The negotiations for independence were peaceful even after there were violent clashes with colonial police at the beginning.

The king, a leader cautious of this peace must prevail prophecy, ensured that Swazi's do not resort to killing.

Many people misrepresent this response to violence and intimidation as 'bugwala' or cowardice and yet it is rooted in the peace must prevail prophecy. A rootedness that came through King Somhlolo's prophecy, which many leaders received, but this country ensured that peace prevails even in post-independence era.

The relevancy of King Somhlolo's statue is irrefutable as we have lived in harmony with the white men over the years.

Now we have new guests in this country, Indian and Pakistani, whose numbers have increased drastically over the years.

These guests bring a culture and religion, different from what we were assimilated into by the colonialist.

This requires reflecting when we pray at the Jubilee Park, ask ourselves whether King Somhlolo was also not prophesying the coming of Indians and Pakistani's.

In essence we must reflect deeply on this peace must prevail prophetic instructions whilst learning to live with our new guests. If we spill their blood, this country will have no peace and therefore we must honour the prophetic instruction from God to King Somhlolo, peace must prevail.

The Book vs. Coin

When reflecting on peace must prevail, we must acknowledge how we will be celebrating 50 years in 2018, and hence reflect like a mature nation.

The book and coin, the second prophetic instruction, choose the book, not the coin. Thus taking

KING SOBHUZA I, SOMHLOLO STATUE

● The King Somhlolo giant sculpture is critical as we pray at Jubilee Park, reflect on how many times in the work place we have marginalised the book with the coin.



into cognisance of the fact that our choices have been lopsided towards the coin.

Evident in the dramatic increase of the Indian and Pakistani, our guests, as we began to practice 'another page is missing' in the book 'passport'. Something I learnt in 1979 when I visited my mother in Nigeria, on how the missing page in the passport, is the bribe. The missing page has become part of the Swazi culture and work ethic such that the 'book' has been marginalised by the coin.

The King Somhlolo giant sculpture is critical as we pray at Jubilee Park, reflect on how many times in the work place we have marginalised the book with the coin.

This book, education, prophesied to be coming with the white men, which we embraced successfully. Ironically we have fully embraced the coin, which is currently corrupting us even when we are educated. The coin corrupted work ethics even when we have the best education, we have defined success with the coin. Hence I continue to congratulate those who conceptualised this statue as we need this now more than ever. As the coin has replaced God in our lives and workplace, such that the book, education is marginalised in decision making processes.

The coin has not only marginalised education, evident in work ethics and corruption indicators.

It has conflicted moral judgement, we marry for money and our children are selling their bodies to the highest bidders. Evident in the blessing or blesse, sugar daddy and mommy phenomena that is corrupting education, religious, family and community institutions. King Somhlolo's prophecy is relevant more than ever, as the dominant identity is the coin he warned us about.

We do not even value education, hence we pursue the coin at all cost, such that we do not even recognise those who pursue the book. The book in terms of wisdom, knowledge and information is considered secondary, as the primary symbol of success is the coin.

Unfortunately and sadly the coin is also corrupting religious institutions, as they have chosen

both the book, that is, Bible and the coin. The Bible on this statue, held on the right in reality it is on the left, the coin on the right, current religious paradigm in Swaziland. Hence when criticising our new guest for providing food to the poor, be cautious as religious institutions have been taking poor persons last coin to finance opulent lifestyles.

The religious institutions must reflect like mature citizens, toward 50 years on where they stand on the King Somhlolo prophecy. Are they using the Bible to extort the coin from people or are they healing and shepherding God's people using the Bible.

Conclusion

King Somhlolo's statue catalyst for critical thinking in all institutions. To reflect on whether Islam brings reawakening of people's consciences, whose coin has been extorted by Christianity. Peace must prevail, advocating the nation to live with Islam, and in doing so.

The Christian institutions that have been enjoying monopoly must reflect on King Somhlolo's vision, on which side is the bible and coin in their hands. Or whether they are praying with both hands together, uniting the bible and coin to finance opulence lifestyles. Islam is here and people have the option in major cities of Swaziland as they are tired of being extorted the coin.

Finally, my religious hero Emeritus Archbishop Tutu stated 'when the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land.'

My question today is, are Christians closing their eyes, whilst the coin is extorted to finance opulent lifestyles? Lastly, Christian institutions must reflect on their failed efforts in negating traditions, culture and customs in this country. These failed negotiations evident as we prepare for Incwala the annual traditional prayer and rituals. An insightful lesson for Christian monopoly, how Islam is here with its book, the Quran, eventually it will find its place in society.

How the Enjabulweni Learning Centre came to be

Over a decade ago, a family found itself in a predicament following the discovery that their son had a learning disability.

Unfortunately, as he grew up, no-one had brought their attention to it because the pre-school he went to just pushed him along.

When it was time for him to go to school, the Paivas realised their son, who we will call Ben, was not really ready for that. They decided to investigate, and that was the beginning of their gruelling journey to accord their child a chance to get an education like any other child.

"We spent a lot of our time to research to see how best we could help our son, which resulted in us being told by one of the people we went to see that with children like our son, the most important thing you can give them is stability in their life and their home environment," said Sonia Paiva, the child's mother.

But they wanted their child to learn, and an advisor recommended he be put in a school that would accommodate him, with children of his level of functioning, and at the same time let him go meet the children in the mainstream.

"When we came back to Swaziland, there was absolutely [no school] like that in both the government and private institutions." The Paivas then approached Enjabulweni, and realised the need for a special needs class was there but there were no facilities for it.

They then came to an agreement with the school to build the Paiva Remedial Centre while the school provided the professionals. That's how what is known as the Learning Centre started.

That staunch determination by desperate parents resulted into a huge blessing for children who would also have had nowhere to go.

Enjabulweni Head of School, Kathy Thompson said there has always been a huge demand for special needs education and a remedial class.

The Learning Centre accommodates children with autism, down syndrome, ADHD, dyslexia, the physically disabled, and those that just need a boost to settle in the mainstream.

Owing to the fact that there aren't many options in the country, there is a long waiting list for people hoping to secure a place for their children with learning disabilities.

"We no longer put people on the waiting list, we are forced to turn them away," said Thompson.

More than a decade since the Paivas' struggle, there sadly hasn't been much improvement. One parent facing a similar struggle is Setsabile* from Mvutjini.

She is unemployed and her husband does not make enough to send their autistic seven-year-old son to a private school and cater for their other needs at home.

"When my son was four years old, I took him to pre-school with hopes that when he mingled with mainstream kids, his speech and behaviour would improve but I was very disappointed when the teachers told me they couldn't handle him.

He only lasted one term and one day I found him locked alone in a separate class and they



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said he's causing chaos and disturbing the normal kids," said Setsabile.

After that she could not find placement anywhere else, and was forced to stay with him at home for two years until she found a place at a special school.

Setsabile is still keen to send her child to a mainstream school with a special needs class so he can learn proper social skills from typical children.

Presently she has to hire a taxi to pick him from a bus stop a kilometre away from home to the special school and back, to a school about eight kilometers away. She pays E1 700 per term in taxi fare. Although she is thankful that her child is in school, she is not entirely happy with the standards at the school.

"The ministry of education must hire therapists so that our kids get speech and occupational therapy at school," she said. Getting therapy at hospitals is challenging because of the expense of taxi fare to go there and managing the child's behaviour in public transport.

The presence of resident therapists is one of Enjabulweni's biggest strengths. Thompson said Enjabulweni was focused on inclusivity. "When a child improves, even for one lesson, we try to include them in the mainstream. Learning difficulties such as dyslexia, ADD, ADHD are barely residential and are good candidates for inclusivity," she added.

This process, however, does not come cheap and

Thompson highlighted that the children at the learning centre don't have enough teaching assistants.

She said the children needed to have much more therapy, but the speech and occupational therapists at the school had a huge workload as they also work with children in the mainstream who might need their assistance.

They also have to be paid medical rates, which is one of the challenging aspects of retaining their services in the school.

With regards to how other children in the school relate to those with intellectual disabilities, Thompson said, "We try to create a sense of family and children with special needs are included wherever possible in order to look for, and find their strengths. All these people can perform. Society has to give them the opportunity."

Opportunities

She said her school was pushing towards vocational opportunities in order to find a skill appropriate for their capability. The Learning Centre currently has an agricultural project they are running.

Inclusive education has been seen to help improve the condition of children with learning disabilities.

Affected children will learn how to relate with others, while typical kids will grow up with "different" people among them, minimising the possibility of them growing up to discriminate against those with disabilities.

If you have any comments on this article or any disability issues you would like explored, please get in touch on 7810 3501 or charlonyatanga@gmail.com.

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She started hating the subject because she is a child that gets between 90 & 100% in all her subjects. Right now she is so happy, and she got close to 100% in her Maths exams. Also her attitude towards Maths has really changed. She now loves it more, and is always telling me she was explaining something on the board in class because the other kids did not understand.

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ARSENAL COULD MISS OUT ON 'THE NEW OZIL' TO FEYENOORD

LONDON - Arsenal are interested in a 16-year-old dubbed 'a new Mesut Ozil', though they could be set to lose out on the Swede to Feyenoord.

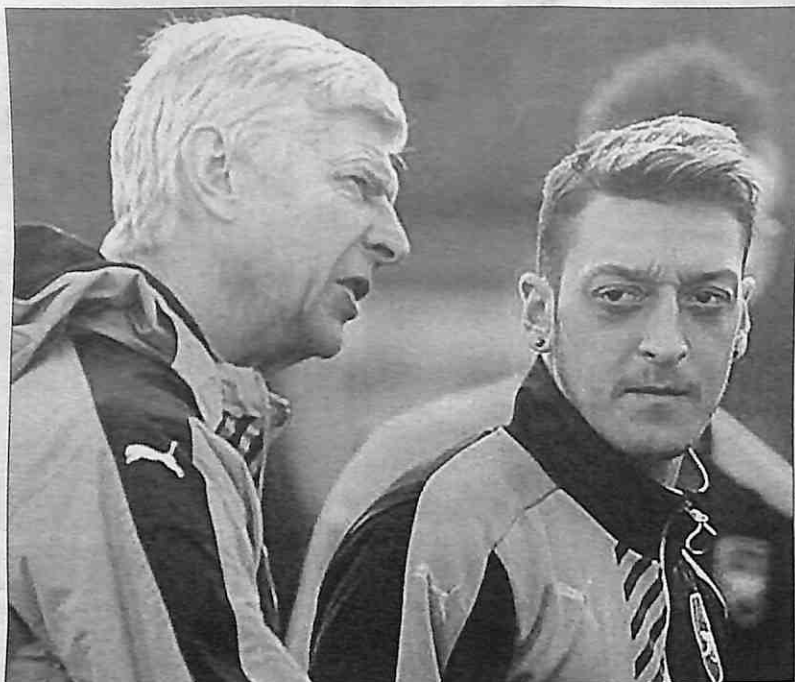
Peter Gwargis has attracted a lot of interest in Sweden in the Husqvarna FF youth system and his agent says he has had invitations from several clubs to train with them.

Attacking

The attacking midfielder's agent has said many in his homeland see him as a player similar to Gunners star Ozil.

While Arsenal and Eredivisie champions PSV have appealed to him, it is Feyenoord he seems most interested in.

"I'm in Holland right now on a visit to Feyenoord with Peter Gwargis," his agent, Walid Faour told Fotbolltransfers.com. "Peter has trained with both the U17 and U19. He is a left-footed, attacking player who many here believe will be a new Ozil. **GOAL**



Arsene Wenger and Mesut Ozil.

Ingolstadt appoint Bundesliga novice as coach

BERLIN - Winless Ingolstadt yesterday appointed Bundesliga novice Maik Walpurgis as their new coach in place of sacked Markus Kauczinski.

The 43-year-old Walpurgis, who coached third division Osnabrueck from 2013 to 2015, has signed a contract until the end of the 2018 season.

Ambitious

"Maik is a very ambitious coach who brings a clear philosophy which convinced us," said club Sporting Director Thomas Linke.

Walpurgis added: "The Bundesliga has always been my big objective, so it's a special day for me. I can't wait to take up this challenge and I'm absolutely convinced we can avoid relegation."

Ingolstadt sacked Kauczinski last week after a disastrous start to the season with eight defeats and two draws, leaving the Bavarian club second bottom of the Bundesliga.

Reuters



Maik Walpurgis.

Poyet sacked by Real Betis

MADRID - Gustavo Poyet has been sacked by struggling Spanish outfit Real Betis after just 11 La Liga games and replaced by Victor Sanchez del Amo, the team confirmed yesterday.

The 48-year-old Poyet paid the price as the Seville-based club languish in 14th position just two points above the relegation zone.

A former midfielder for Uruguay, Real Zaragoza, Chelsea and Tottenham, Poyet took over from Juan Merino in May.

Former Real Madrid and Deportivo La Coruna midfielder Sanchez del Amo will take over after himself

being sacked after just two months at Greek club Olympiakos.

"I arrive at the Real Betis with big hopes and all the motivation in the world," said Sanchez del Amo who will be officially presented tomorrow.

Started

The 40-year-old started his coaching career in 2011 as an assistant at Sevilla followed by Deportivo La Coruna and two stints with Olympiakos.

Poyet becomes the third La Liga coach to be sacked this season after Valencia's Pako Ayestaran and Granada's Paco Jemez.

Reuters

'Memphis isn't a bad player - even Ibrahimovic struggled at Barcelona'

MANCHESTER - Memphis Depay's quality is not in doubt despite the Dutchman having struggled to impress at Manchester United, according to Jordi Cruyff.

The forward's arrival at Old Trafford from PSV generated much excitement, but after a difficult first year he appears to have fallen even further down the pecking order under Jose Mourinho.

The Netherlands international played 29 Premier League games under Louis van Gaal last term, but has been consigned to four brief cameo appearances in the English top flight this term.

While Cruyff feels the change in manager has not helped Memphis, he is refusing to write him off just yet and says sometimes a player just does not "connect" with a club.

"He's young and the first year is always an adaptation year," Cruyff told Gulf News.

"In the second year, you can feel more loose, but with the managerial change [of Mourinho replacing

Louis van Gaal in the summer], and many new players, that second year he might have needed hasn't come.

"United are also a club that cannot be four or five years without really competing to win things. There may be more changes, but I hope he will not be one of those victims and in the wrong club at the wrong time.

"For sure, United are an amazing club, but I also think Depay is a good player. "For whatever reason, a certain player and club don't connect. Even Ibrahimovic when he came to Barcelona, he was an amazing player, but it didn't happen for him. It doesn't mean the club are bad or the player is bad."

The Netherlands international has been linked with a move away from Old Trafford but Cruyff is not convinced that is the best option.

"I would need to have a daily opinion to give advice like this," he replied. "In terms of stats, he's not getting enough minutes, but I don't know the ins and outs." **Goal**

Koeman could still sign Man Utd flop

LONDON - Everton Manager Ronald Koeman will have to swallow his own words if he is to push through a January deal for unwanted Manchester United winger Memphis Depay.

The Toffees are one of a number of sides tipped to make a move for Dutch winger Depay in January, with the likes of AC Milan and Marseille also keen, while yesterday's papers suggested Juventus also sent a scout to watch him in action for Holland in midweek.

Depay has featured seven times for Manchester United this season but has played for just 20 minutes in the Premier League after four brief substitute appearances under Jose Mourinho.

And with United seemingly prepared to let him leave in January, a move to Everton looks very much a distinct possibility.

However, Toffees boss Koeman will have to go against his own instincts if he is to push through a deal.

Koeman tracked the player for a number of years as a scout and was markedly unimpressed by him. Depay was playing against FC Twente for his former club PSV Eindhoven in an Under 16s game and Koeman recalled some pretty stark observations.

"I always work with a list of five specific qualities: skills, tactics, physique, attitude, personality. I did not get any higher with my average ratings than 5.6 out of 10," he told the Sunday Mirror last year.

"And you know what brought the rating down most of all? The rating for his personality.

"It is only because of the fact that I



Everton Manager Ronald Koeman.

could not go any lower than zero out of 10, otherwise I would have rated him well below that.

"It was absolutely disgusting, the foul language that boy used towards his fellow players and towards people in the crowd."

And Koeman's berating didn't stop there. His verdict on young Dutch players as a whole and the transition they make from the Dutch Eredivisie to the Premier League was almost as bleak.

"I have learnt, while I am here in England, that Dutch players can't make the jump to the top of the Premier League easily.

"And I see another lack of quality with the Dutch kids, that I have also noticed with other young stars in the Premier League: they don't communicate. They behave like individuals. Stuck to their smart phones."

Koeman was linked with Depay while Southampton boss and it remains to be seen whether it'll be second time lucky when the transfer window opens in January.

Teamtalk

Lahm unfazed by Muller drought for Bayern Munich

BERLIN - Bayern Munich captain Phillip Lahm believes it is simply a matter of time before striker Thomas Muller regains his goalscoring touch.

Muller has a superb record in front of goal in his career, having bagged 36 goals in 82 games for Germany, as well as scoring 20 in 31 Bundesliga matches last season.

However, he is yet to score for Bayern in the German topflight or the Champions League this season, meaning Lahm actually has more goals than him this term, which is a fact he doesn't let his teammate live down.

"I have scored a goal more than him after 10 matchdays," Lahm joked with Sky Sports. "I have obviously teased him with it a few times.

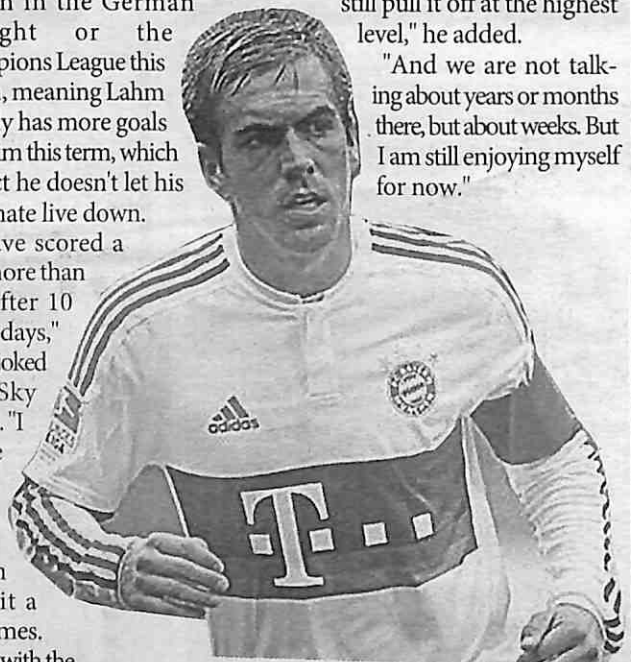
"But with the

quality Thomas has, it is just a matter of time before he starts scoring goals again."

Lahm is widely expected to hang up his boots and retire as a professional player when his current contract expires in June 2018, but reports earlier this week suggested he could call it quits as early as the end of the current season.

"You always have to ask yourself the question whether you can still pull it off at the highest level," he added.

"And we are not talking about years or months there, but about weeks. But I am still enjoying myself for now."



Bayern Munich captain Phillip Lahm.

LONDON - Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic will stage a dramatic battle to finish 2016 on top of the world as the two old rivals aim for the title at the ATP Tour Finals.

A friendly rivalry that began 15 years ago when they first faced off in European junior tournaments will reach a new level over the week as they fight to end the year as the world No. 1.

Murray shattered Djokovic's 122-week reign at the top last weekend when the Wimbledon champion became the first British man to reach pole position in the ATP rankings.

But Murray has only a 405-point lead over Djokovic in the rankings and the Scot can be passed by the Serb if he doesn't match or better his rival's performance.



Andy Murray.

MURRAY, DJOKOVIC TARGET YEAR - END TOP SPOT

mance at the prestigious season-ending event at London's O2 Arena.

As the top two seeds, Murray and Djokovic have been drawn in different groups in the eight-player tournament, meaning they can't meet before the semifinals. If their 35th Tour-level meeting comes in the final, it would be a fitting occasion to decide the top ranking, which last changed hands at the Tour Finals in 2001 when Lleyton Hewitt supplanted Gustavo Kuerten. Murray has enjoyed an incredible 11 months on and off the court in which he has won Wimbledon for the second time, claimed a second Olympic singles gold medal and become a father to baby daughter Sophia.

"This year is the best I've had on court, the last few months have been the best in terms of my consistency," Murray said. "Away from the court it's been by far the best in my life, a big

change and a great change. I've really enjoyed being a parent.

"When I step on the court I will have a little more confidence and feel better about myself.

"I don't want to spend time discussing what's happened in the last few months. I want to keep getting better. "That's what I've always tried to do. I don't feel any different."

Although Murray has lost 24 of his clashes with Djokovic, few of his peers on the Tour question his right to be No 1 after such a strong year.

Djokovic agrees, saying: "I have only words of praise for what he has achieved in the last year or so.

"Definitely he is a well deserved No 1 at this point. He has been the best player for the last six months without a doubt.

"Whether he can sustain that is not a question for me but looking at his qualities and commitment there is a good chance he can play at this level for a long time."

Djokovic has been in a slump since winning the French Open in June to

complete his career Grand Slam, raising questions about his appetite for continued success.

But the 12-time major winner might find the O2 Arena is the ideal venue to restore his confidence.

He has won the Tour Finals for the last four years and another success this year would equal Roger Federer's record of six titles.

With Federer and Rafael Nadal both absent due to injury, Djokovic and Murray will be the centre of attention.

They could have very different paths to the trophy as Djokovic holds a remarkable 23-0 combined record against Milos Raonic, Gael Monfils and Dominic Thiem, who comprise his group stage opponents.

In contrast, Murray, who has never been past the semifinals of the event, has to survive a tricky group featuring US Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka, as well as Japan's Kei Nishikori and Croatian Marin Cilic, who have both beaten the Scot this year. **AFP**

LeBron James grabs piece of NBA history

WASHINGTON - Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James grabbed another piece of NBA history on Friday, becoming the youngest player ever to score 27 000 points.

James, 31 years and 317 days old, needed seven points to reach the milestone going into the Cavaliers game against the Wizards in Washington.

He scored 11 in the first quarter to surpass former Los Angeles Lakers great Kobe Bryant, who was 32 years and 160 days old when he reached 27 000.

James finished with 27 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in the 105-94 victory over the Wizards - and got a post-game celebratory dousing with water by his teammates.

"They lied to me," James said of the little locker-room festivity. "They said Coach (Tyronn) Lue had accomplished something and they were going to douse him.

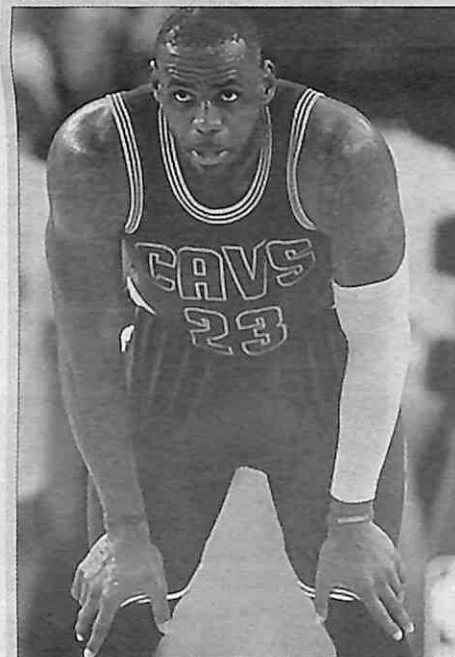
"I was kind of surprised... and they rushed me. Got all my clothes wet but it's my guys.

"It's always great to be able to accomplish that with a great group of guys."

For four-time NBA Most Valuable Player James it's another top mark. He's first all-time in assists by a forward and the only player with at least 2 000 points, 500 rebounds and 500 assists in a season for at least seven seasons.

Earlier this month, he moved past Hakeem Olajuwon and into 10th on the NBA's all-time scoring list.

"That's NBA history, man," Kyrie Irving, who led the Cavaliers with 29 points, said of James' latest milestone. "It's truly an honour to be part of the journey like that where you see someone put in so much work every single day and accomplishment after accomplishment and he's really just humble about it." **(AP)**



LeBron James. (AFP)

Nolito feels lonely at Man City, eyes future Celta Vigo return

LONDON - Nolito admits he often feels "a little alone" at Manchester City and has revealed his desire to one day return to Celta Vigo.

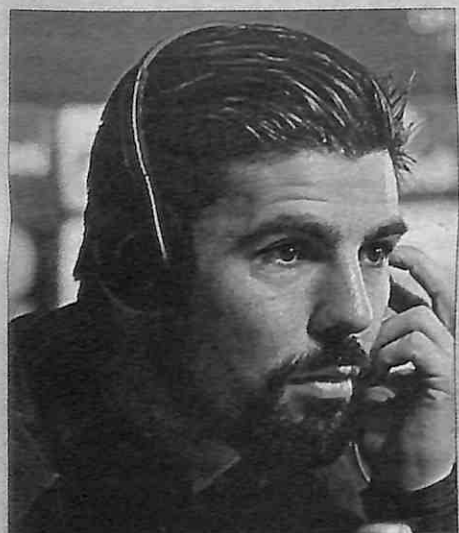
Pep Guardiola made Nolito his second major signing as City boss when the Spain attacker arrived in a £13.8million deal.

The 30-year-old has scored four goals in 13 appearances for his new club, but is yet to start learning English and misses his former club.

"I miss Celta a lot. I would like to return. Provided I can, I will return," he told Marca.

"My adaptation (in England) is going well. I felt a little alone but in the dressing room we speak a lot of Spanish.

"That is why I chose not to study English - with Pablo Zabaleta, David Silva, Jesus Navas, Sergio Aguero and lots of Spanish-speaking technical staff. "Someday I will have to take the time to do it." **TEAMTALK**



Nolito admits he often feels "a little alone" at Manchester City and has revealed his desire to one day return to Celta Vigo.

Mourinho is shoehorning Rashford into the wrong position

MANCHESTER - Marcus Rashford's preferred position is through the middle. It was from there that he introduced himself last season, with debut



Marcus Rashford.

goals in the Premier League, Europa League, Manchester derby and on the international stage for England.

Louis van Gaal left, Jose Mourinho arrived, and Rashford's first goal for Manchester United under his new manager came on one of the rare occasions that he has played as a centre forward.

That was against Hull City on August 27, when he was brought on as a second-half substitute and scored a stoppage-

time winner.

Yet the striker has since been shoved to the wing, where he is shooting, scoring and dribbling less and creating fewer chances this season than last.

Dropping

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is Mourinho's man at Old Trafford and the 33-year-old is not one for dropping the star of the show, even when he has gone six games without a goal.

The striker scored twice against an awful Swansea City side last Sunday and it was his first goal in 609 minutes of Premier League football. Trouble is, he also bagged his fifth booking of the season and the suspension that goes with it.

Dailymail

Woodland edges clear in Mexico

MEXICO CITY - Gary Woodland fired a six-under-par 65 to open up a one-stroke lead at the halfway stage of the US PGA Tour's OHL Classic at Mayakoba in Mexico on Friday.

The 32-year-old from Kansas produced a bogey-free round with six birdies and 12 pars to head into the weekend at Playa del Carmen at 13-under 129.

Woodland, who shot a seven-under-par 64 in his opening round on Thursday, powered into the lead with a superb finish, sinking three birdies over the final four holes.

The highlight of a flawless round came

on the par-four 16th, when he hit a superb six-iron from the fairway to three feet for a simple birdie putt. "Nice to get back into the wing of things, very comfortable with where I'm at right now," said Woodland, who got married last month in a hectic close season.

Woodland leads by one from Webb Simpson, the 2012 US Open champion, who shot a second consecutive six-under-par 65 to be 12-under after 36 holes. Like Woodland, Simpson finished strongly, recording three consecutive birdies on his closing three holes after teeing off on the 10th at the 6 987-yard layout.

Simpson, who has yet to record a bogey over the opening two rounds, relied on a red-hot putter to do the damage. The 31-year-old from North Carolina took just 22 putts to compile his round as he chases a fifth career win. One of his six birdies on Friday came after he narrowly missed out on a hole-in-one at the 155-yard par three 15th, his eighth iron tee-shot almost rolling into the cup to leave him with a tap-in. One behind Simpson and two off the lead on 11-under was Scott Piercy, who shot a five-under-par 66 comprised of six birdies and one bogey. Ben Martin meanwhile was one of the day's biggest movers, climbing to nine-under over-

all after his seven-under-par 64.

The 29-year-old from South Carolina might have made climbed higher had it not been for two bogeys which spoiled a superb display. Martin opened with a trio of birdies and bagged three more over the front nine before carding another three after the turn to finish the day four off the lead.

Martin was joined by Chris Kirk, John Huh, Mexico's Abraham Ancer, Canada's Adam Hadwin, Russell Knox of Scotland and Charles Howell.

Defending champion Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland meanwhile just scraped into the weekend after making the cut, which came at two-under, with a six-under-par 65 following his opening round 75.

AFP



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CHELSEA TO OFFER COSTA NEW DEAL AMID ATLETICO MADRID INTEREST

LONDON - Chelsea are keen to tie down Diego Costa's long-term future to the club amid interest from former club Atletico Madrid, according to reports.

Costa has been regularly linked with a move back to the Calderon since joining Chelsea in 2014.

A return to Spain appeared likely after a disappointing campaign last term, but Costa has been revitalised under Antonio Conte and has nine goals in 11 Premier League appearances to his name this season.

According to the Daily Mirror, Chelsea hope to persuade the 28-year-old to extend his contract beyond 2019 in a bid to ward off interest from Diego Simeone's men.

Teamtalk



Diego Costa.

Liverpool star Coutinho 'waiting for Barcelona offer'



Philippe Coutinho.

LONDON - Reports in Spain suggest Liverpool star Philippe Coutinho is interested in a move to La Liga giants Barcelona.

On Friday Spanish outlet Sport revealed Barcelona have made Coutinho their number one target for next summer.

And this weekend they suggest Coutinho is aware of the Catalan club's interest, and is keen on a move to the Camp Nou.

Coutinho has been in impressive form so far this season, helping Liverpool to the top of the Premier League and starring with a wonder goal in Brazil's 3-0 win over Argentina.

Barca boss Luis Enrique wants to unite the 24-year-old with international team-mate Neymar, while former Liverpool striker Luis Suarez is also among their ranks.

Coutinho has previously insisted he is happy at Anfield, but Barca would be able to offer a significant pay rise.

The former Inter Milan attacking midfielder currently earns around £80,000-a-week, according to the Liverpool Echo, which is much less than the likes of Jordan Henderson, James Milner and Daniel Sturridge.

Teamtalk

IBRAHIMOVIC'S WINNING MENTALITY RUBBING OFF ON ME-LINGARD

MANCHESTER - Jesse Lingard says Zlatan Ibrahimovic's winning mentality has already had an influence on his own attitude.

The former Sweden star arrived at Old Trafford for free this summer, boasting a career which includes a plethora of league titles with each of Ajax, Juventus, Inter, Barcelona, AC Milan, and Paris Saint-Germain.

The 35-year-old has consistently been seen as one of the most devastating attackers in the world, and has scored eight goals in 17 appearances for United in all competitions this season.

England international Lingard has been impressed by Ibrahimovic's focus and desire to win and hopes to learn from him.

"The mentality of wanting to win has come into my game more," the 23-year-old told the club's official website.

"Before games, my first thought was to play well but often if you get the win, the performance will come with it."

Goal

MOYES EXPLAINS WHY SUNDERLAND TURNED DOWN CHANCE TO SIGN HART

LONDON - David Moyes has revealed Sunderland turned down the chance to sign Joe Hart from Manchester City in the summer.

Hart left City to join Serie A outfit Torino on a season-long loan deal after being deemed surplus to requirements by Pep Guardiola.

Sunderland were in the market for a goalkeeper following an injury to Vito Mannone, however, Moyes instead decided to keep faith with Jordan Pickford.

"Vito Mannone was probably the No. 1 on experience but his injury meant we needed to turn to Jordan and he has stood up to all we've asked of him," Moyes said. "Joe Hart would have been ideal for us but I had to think of Jordan's progression too and he hasn't let us down."

Pickford, 22, has impressed for the Black Cats and was recently called into the England squad as a



David Moyes.

replacement for the injured Tom Heaton.

"Hopefully he will become England's No 1 for the future, he has the attributes and if he keeps his attitude of working hard, he won't go far wrong," Moyes added. *Teamtalk*



BADELJ 'BORED' OF CHELSEA SPECULATION

LONDON - Milan Badelj admits he is "bored" of reports suggesting he could leave Fiorentina for Chelsea.

Croatia international Badelj has caught the eye for the Serie A outfit this term and has also been linked with Tottenham.

Chelsea are reportedly considering the 27-year-old midfielder as a replacement for Cesc Fabregas, who is widely expected to leave Stamford Bridge in January. However, Badelj told Goal: "I feel bored talking about it. 'I understand the press want to speculate - they have a right to do

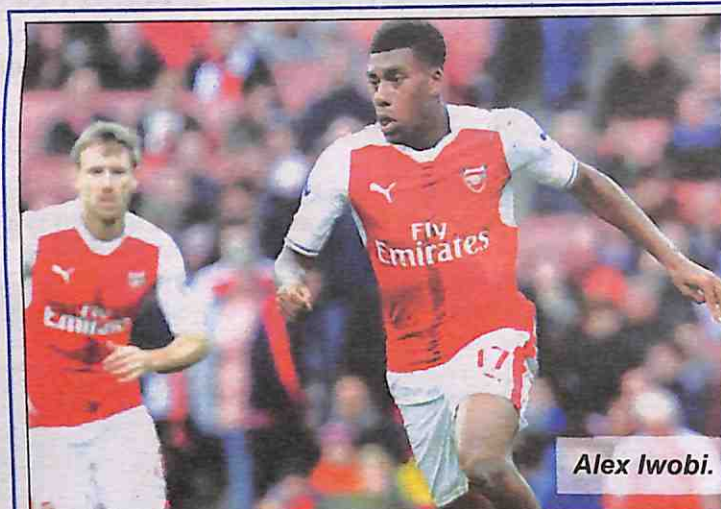
that - but I find it funny that people talk about transfers so far away from the window."

"I still have one-and-a-half years left on my contract with Fiorentina; why wouldn't I stay here until the end? I have no problem with that."

"The thing that bothers me most are the stories that say I'm unhappy in Florence, which is not true."

"I'm thrilled here. The team suits me, I have a great relationship with the coach, I play regularly... the only thing I'm concerned about is how many points Fiorentina win."

Teamtalk



Alex Iwobi.

IWOBI 'WOULD REJECT BARCELONA TO STAY AT ARSENAL'

LONDON - Alex Iwobi has no interest in leaving Arsenal for Barcelona, according to the player's father.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has put his faith in Iwobi over the last 12 months, with the 20-year-old now an established member of the Gunners' first team.

Iwobi has also broken into the Nigeria team and reports have suggested Barcelona are monitoring the attacker, who is under contract at the Emirates until 2020.

However, Iwobi's father, Chuka, told AfricanFootball.com: "At this point in time, he is at the right place. He's doing well at Arsenal, but should any club come for him

now, the answer would certainly be no."

"For him now, it's not about the money. So, should a club like Barcelona come with more money, he will certainly stay back at Arsenal because now it is not about him making money, it's about him concentrating on his career, progressing and going on to the next stage."

"He has broken into the first team and what they all talk about is his humility. Personally, that's very important because when a player starts getting arrogant that's when the player fails."

"I see him being with Arsenal for very many, many years."

Teamtalk



Masilela adamant fatigue won't cause problems for Downs this season

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns are going through a torrid patch as they have to play catch up in the PSL, while also focusing on next month's FIFA Club World Cup.

"It's all in the mind. In football, if you play competitively week in and week out like in Europe, it's good for the players. It keeps them on their toes," Joel Masilela told Goal.

Masilela believes it will be better if Sundowns play domestic matches week in and week out because it will help them retain their momentum.

"You see, these breaks, I don't like them. Sometimes you will see a team doing well and then they get a three-four week break. It breaks the momentum of the team. It's better if they play these games week in and week out and cup games as well. It's good," he said.

"As long as they got a huge squad, they will be able to know how to rotate those players and to get the balance within the team. I don't see anything wrong with that. It's up to the players and how he (Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane) is going to rotate his team and how is he going to keep all his players focused to be able to compete and win games."

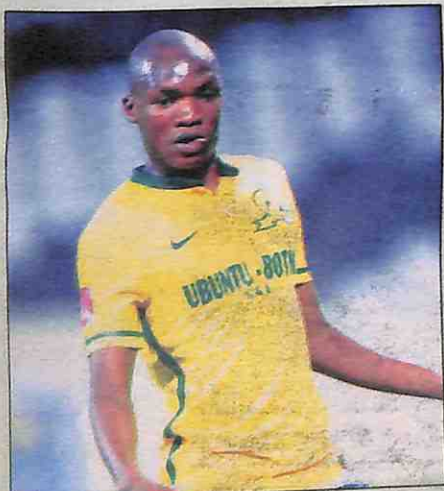
The Brazilians will be participating in the Club World Cup after winning the 2016 Caf Champions League and they will also be playing a two-legged Caf Super Cup tie with TP Mazembe in February after the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) finals in Gabon.

Having lost two domestic silverware already, Sundowns now have to keep their feet on the ground to nab the remaining silverware before their eyes.

"They can win everything as long as they keep their feet on the ground. It's all in the mind. There's no such thing as fatigue and all that. They have the best physical trainers, physios.

"They know all these things. They know how to control all these players like who should play and who shouldn't. They can handle all these. I don't see fatigue being a problem for Sundowns," Masilela concluded.

Goal



Joel Masilela

CHIEFS SWEATING OVER FITNESS OF KEY DUO

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs are currently monitoring Sibusiso Khumalo and William Twala, who are both recovering from injuries, ahead of their titanic clash with Mamelodi Sundowns.

Amakhosi will take on Sundowns in a Premier Soccer League (PSL) game which is scheduled to take place at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Tshwane next week Saturday.

Two Chiefs stars Khumalo and Twala picked up knocks during the team's Telkom Knockout Cup quarter-final clash with Free State Stars in Durban last week Sunday. Steve Komphela's side were held

to a 2-2 stalemate by Stars and ultimately, Ea Lla Koto stunned Amakhosi 6-5 on penalty shootouts to advance to the semi-finals.

The Soweto giants have since released the following statement ahead of their clash with the reigning CAF Champions League and PSL champions Sundowns. "Khumalo is undergoing assessment for a muscle strain, while Twala picked up a knock to his ankle. "The international break will allow the duo to recover in time before Chiefs' trip to Tshwane next Saturday," a statement read. Chiefs and Sundowns are placed third and 15th on the PSL standings, respectively, at the moment. Goal



CHIEFS PLAYERS ARE STRANGERS - BANKS

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs legend, Banks Setlhodi, has criticised the lack of cohesion between Kaizer Chiefs' players, saying they look like strangers on the pitch.

Chiefs' last victory came on 15 October against Ajax Cape Town and was followed by two goalless draws in the league and an elimination from the Telkom Knockout, which has seen the club come under scrutiny, which did not exclude the legendary goalkeeper.

"Football is a team game and you need a team that knows one another, a team that can outthink their opponents, that is football," Setlhodi told Soccer Laduma. "But this Chiefs team doesn't know their strengths or their weaknesses."

The 69-year-old went on to say that Chiefs' players do not understand one another on the pitch, which has led to mis-



Kaizer Chiefs players.

placed passes that have disrupted the team's momentum on the pitch. "Even the players, themselves, are strangers," he continued. "They don't know each other. You can look at

them passing the ball to one another, inside the box, inside the opponents' half, it's always 50/50. There are no accurate passes and those guys really don't think." Soccerladuma

CASTRO TO BE FIT FOR CHIEFS MATCH

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns forward Leonardo Castro is reportedly making good progress in his rehabilitation from an ankle injury he sustained against SuperSport United in October.

It appears the 27-year-old will be fit and available to face Kaizer Chiefs in a crunch Premiership encounter on November 19 at Loftus Versfeld Stadium.

The versatile attacking player has become an integral part of coach Pitso Mosimane's forward line, and hit 10 league goals in the 2015/16 Premiership season.

Soccer Laduma reports that that Bogota-born star is likely to be available when the Brazilians face the Glamour Boys after the international break.

"He could play in the next game, he is recovering 100%. I think he will play at least 20



Leonardo Castro

minutes against Chiefs and I'm sure he will be ready to face Atletico Nacional from Colombia, his hometown, in Sundowns' FIFA Club World Cup," the publication's source said.

Sundowns fans will be chomping at the bit to see him return to resume his partnership with Keagan Dolly and Khama Billiat, affectionately known as 'CBD'. Soccerladuma

'Mahlambi the same type of player as Billiat'

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits coach Gavin Hunt believes Phakamani Mahlambi is comparable to Mamelodi Sundowns ace Khama Billiat, although the striker has age on his side.

The young star has captured the attention of the country after some fine early displays for the Clever Boys, although a knee injury in February halted his progress.

The club has since revealed that he will likely make his return in February next year, although he may see some playing time in December as well. Nonetheless, while Mahlambi has yet to fully prove himself as one of South Africa's brightest young talents, Hunt is of the belief that the teenager is of similar ilk to Billiat.

"If you compare him to a Billiat, Billiat's 25. This boy's 19. Okay, he's had a major problem but he's the same type of player," he told TMG Digital.

"He's got the same elusiveness and ability to turn. Quickness, pace and all those things...he's got that." TMG Digital

Maritzburg defender likely to make debut?

MARITZBURG - Maritzburg United defender Themba Shabalala could be set to make his official debut for the club in the upcoming games.

The experienced player, who joined the KZN outfit from Free State Stars before the start of the season, has been working hard in training to impress Ernst Middendorp and his technical team for a chance to play.

The Tembisa-born player was impressive with his performance in a recent friendly for Maritzburg against Royal Eagles.

Against Highlands Park in the last game for Maritzburg before the international FIFA break, Shabalala was on the bench for Middendorp's team.

"He has been working hard in training and has made notable progress. He could be available for the next game," a source told the Siya crew. The Team of Choice is scheduled to visit Ajax Cape Town in the Mother City in their next game on November 19.

soccerladuma

POGBA, PAYET INSPIRE LES BLEUS COMEBACK

PARIS - Paul Pogba and Dimitri Payet struck as France launched a second-half comeback to beat Sweden 2-1 in Friday's World Cup qualifier at the Stade de France.

Both sides shared top spot in Group A heading into the game with seven points from their opening three fixtures and although France dominated the opening 45 minutes, the visitors looked solid in defence.

A surprise seemed to be in store when Emil Forsberg opened the scoring early in the second period with a fine free kick, but Janne Andersson's men were unable to hold on.

Pogba levelled the scoring with a powerful header, before Payet sealed the win with a cool finish after some unconvincing goalkeeping from Robin Olsen.

France are now three points clear of Sweden and six ahead of third-placed Netherlands, who face Luxembourg in their game in hand today.

The opening chance of the match fell to Payet, with the West Ham star cutting inside from the left before unleashing a curling effort that was pushed away by Olsen in what proved to be the first half's only shot on target.

The resulting corner eventually found Pogba on the right side of the box and the midfielder aimed a right-footed shot just over the crossbar.

After a strong start from the hosts,



Dimitri Payet sidefoots the ball home to put France ahead after going behind against Sweden in Paris on Friday evening. (Daily Mail)

Sweden - who won their last competitive meeting with France 2-0 at Euro 2012 - slowly grew into the game with Jimmy Durmaz shooting wide after some unconvincing goalkeeping from Hugo Lloris.

France largely dominated play, but struggled to create any chances of note until Antoine Griezmann headed just wide in the dying minutes of the first half after a good cross from Djibril Sidibe.

Les Bleus had a fine opportunity to break the deadlock early in the second half when the referee awarded them a free kick on the edge of the box, only for Payet to curl his attempt well over the crossbar.

Sweden then grabbed the lead somewhat against the run of play when Forsberg

found the net in the 54th minute with an opportunistic free kick from 35 yards out that completely caught out Lloris.

Didier Deschamps' men bounced back quickly, though, with Pogba levelling just three minutes later. Payet sent in an inviting cross from the left and the Manchester United star beat his marker to the ball before heading home off the underside of the bar.

Things got even worse for Sweden in the 65th minute when Payet struck after some poor goalkeeping from Olsen.

The keeper failed to collect a cross from the right under pressure from Griezmann and Payet had little trouble finding the empty net. **Goal**

O'Neill's men up to second with crushing win

BELFAST - Northern Ireland claimed a comprehensive 4-0 win over Azerbaijan to move above their opponents into second in World Cup qualifying Group C.

Azerbaijan had been touted as potentially tricky visitors considering they had been unbeaten going into the match, but Northern Ireland made light work of Robert Prosinecki's men and fired a real warning to their rivals.

The Irish looked purposeful and lively for much of the first half and deserved their breakthrough - Kyle Lafferty providing a clinical finish to breach the Azerbaijan defence for the first time in qualifying.

Performance

They did not have to wait long for a second either, as Gareth McAuley headed in just before the break to give Azerbaijan a proverbial mountain to climb in the second half.

Conor McLaughlin added a third with his first international goal 24 minutes from time to effectively kill off any chance of an Azerbaijan comeback and Chris Brunt rounded off an impressive perfor-

...O'Neill insisted in the build-up that Azerbaijan's visit was not a "must-win" for Northern Ireland, but the hosts began like a team that thought otherwise, exerting pressure with a series of high deliveries into the box.

mance from the hosts with a late goal.

The victory saw the Irish move level with Azerbaijan on seven points but take second spot behind Germany by virtue of a better goal difference.

Clash

O'Neill insisted in the build-up that Azerbaijan's visit was not a "must-win" for Northern Ireland, but the hosts began like a team that thought otherwise, exerting pressure with a series of high deliveries into the box.

McLaughlin provided one of those crosses after cleverly cutting inside his opposing full-back and saw Shane Ferguson smash into the side-netting as he met the delivery at the back post.

Brunt went close shortly after, heading into the hands of Kamran Agayev while enduring a nasty clash of heads with Maksim Medvedev.

The injury caused a brief lull in Northern Ireland's play, but they were able to find their stride again when Lafferty netted

after 27 minutes - the forward slamming home from 12 yards after Jonny Evans flicked on Josh Magennis' throw-in.

The Irish then doubled their advantage five minutes before the break - McAuley finding the top-left corner with an emphatic header after Brunt's excellent right-wing cross.

O'Neill's men appeared increasingly happy to sit back and absorb pressure after the break and Azerbaijan did eventually craft a decent opportunity, though Arif Dashdemirov fired over after Afran Ismayilov's back-heel found him on the edge of the box. And the Irish capitalised on that let-off shortly after, as McLaughlin met Oliver Norwood's corner delivery and headed in at the near post.

Northern Ireland then wrapped things up seven minutes from time, as Brunt's fierce low drive took a slight flick off captain Steven Davis and beat Agayev.

Goal

Monreal wishes to sign for Athletic Bilbao

LONDON - Arsenal defender Nacho Monreal has admitted he would be open to signing for Athletic Bilbao at some point in the future.

The full-back grew up in the Basque country and has been linked with a switch to the La Liga outfit in recent weeks.

Monreal, 30, told Radio Euskadi: "I have great affection for Athletic but I think only about the present, not what

could happen in the future.

"Although I am keeping all my options open. I have some good friends already at the club such as Raul Garcia".

Monreal is unlikely to leave Arsenal this season having established himself as the Gunners' first-choice left-back.

He has started 10 Premier League games this term, being absent for only the 4-1 win at Sunderland due to a thigh strain.

The Spaniard moved to the Emirates for around £8million in 2013 and has gone on to make 140 appearances for the north Londoners. Monreal has also become Spain's first-choice left-back recently due an injury sustained by Barcelona's Jordi Alba. Julen Lopetegui's side take on Macedonia in a World Cup qualifier in Granada this evening.

Mirror

Lallana is England's best player

LONDON - Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana is England's best player on current form, according to Matt Le Tissier.

The 28-year-old has enjoyed a strong season to the season for the Reds, scoring three times, to help Jurgen Klopp's side to top spot in the Premier League.

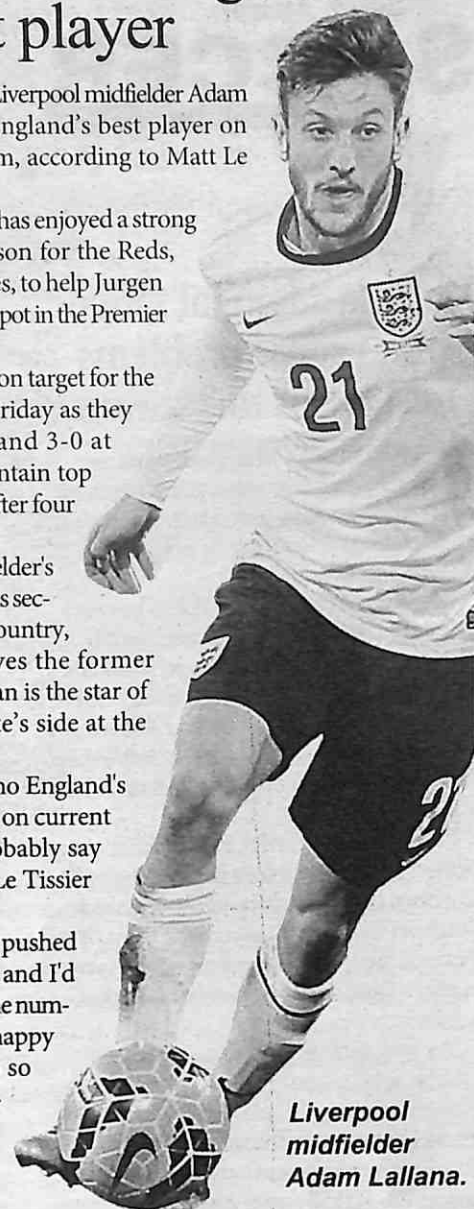
Lallana was also on target for the Three Lions on Friday as they overcame Scotland 3-0 at Wembley to maintain top spot in Group F after four games played.

While the midfielder's header was only his second goal for his country, Le Tissier believes the former Southampton man is the star of Gareth Southgate's side at the moment.

"I ask myself who England's best player is and on current form and I'd probably say Adam Lallana," Le Tissier told Sky Sports.

"He tends to be pushed out wide though and I'd like to see him in the number 10 role. He's happy to go both ways so playing him central gives him so many options."

Goal



Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana.

Spain would cherish a player like Barkley

LONDON - Paul Merson has hit out at Ross Barkley's omission from the current England squad.

Barkley has failed to make the squad since being unused member of the 23-man party taken to Euro 2016.

The 22-year-old has shown glimpses of his quality for Everton this term, and Merson believes Gareth Southgate has made a mistake in not selecting the midfielder.

"He had a blinder against West Ham and surely he's going to be around for years to come. You've got to pick players like that for the future," Merson wrote in his column for the Daily Star.

"If he was Spanish you can guarantee he'd already be playing regularly for Spain. We're wasting his talent."

"Other countries must laugh at us when they see how we treat kids like Barkley. We complain about too many foreign players coming to play in the Premier League."

"But then we can't find room in the England squad for one of the most talented young players we've got."

"Being in the England squad would help him because he's got Wayne Rooney there to learn from. "Sometimes Barkley is guilty of making bad decisions. But if Everton are patient with him and he gets a good run in the team it could start to work for him again."

"He has a good coach there now in Ronald Koeman who should be able to get the best out of him. But it's time he was back in the England squad."

Teamtalk



Ross Barkley was omitted from the current England squad.

HENDERSON HAILS INFLUENCE OF NEW BAYERN ARRIVALS

BERLIN - Jordan Henderson has revealed the difference Liverpool's new head of fitness and conditioning, Andreas Kornmayer, and head of nutrition, Mona Nemmer, have made to the team.

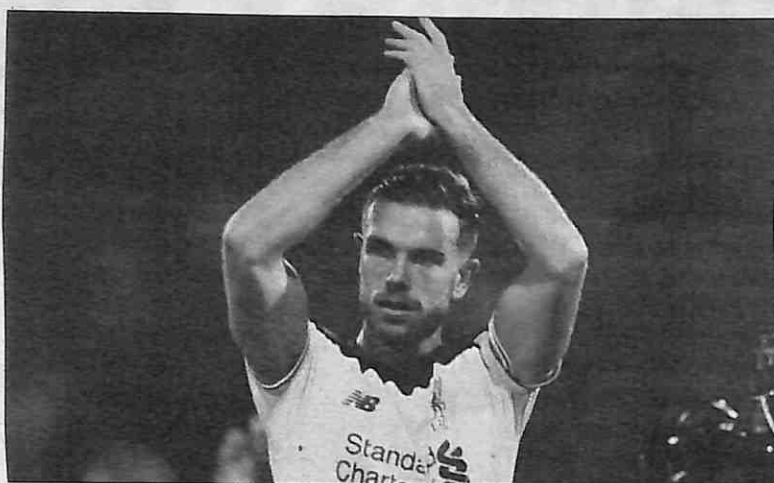
The duo arrived from German champions Bayern Munich in the summer and Henderson feels they have played a big role in helping Jurgen Klopp's side to the top of the Premier League table.

"The lads get on very well with Kornmayer, he's got a good relationship with all the boys, and he works us very hard, which is good," he told the club's official website.

"We've got a great bunch of boys that want to work, so that makes it easier for him, but the things he's done have definitely put us in good condition, as you can see out on the pitch in the performances and energy levels we've had."

"I feel very good at the moment, probably the best I've felt in years really in terms of my fitness and just in general."

"I think that's the same as everyone - we're feeling good as a team, very fit, and I think a lot of that is down to



Liverpool's Jordan Henderson.

pre-season and the base we had, and we've built on that over the first few weeks of the season and we continue to do that in training.

Good

"We're all looking good, we're all looking healthy and fit, and that's a big thing. "We all ate well anyway - as professionals you need to make sure your diet is good. But since Mona come in, I think it has gone to another level - the food we've been having is unbelievable."

"In pre-season, I couldn't believe it - we're getting a bit spoilt, actually. She's been world class, making sure we're getting right food in after games, the protein shakes we have... everything, everything is covered nutritionally. "I've never seen anything like it since I've been involved in football in terms of the football we're having. Everything seems to be done and checked off for us to go out at the weekend and perform."

Goal



Gerrard to Celtic 'very probable'

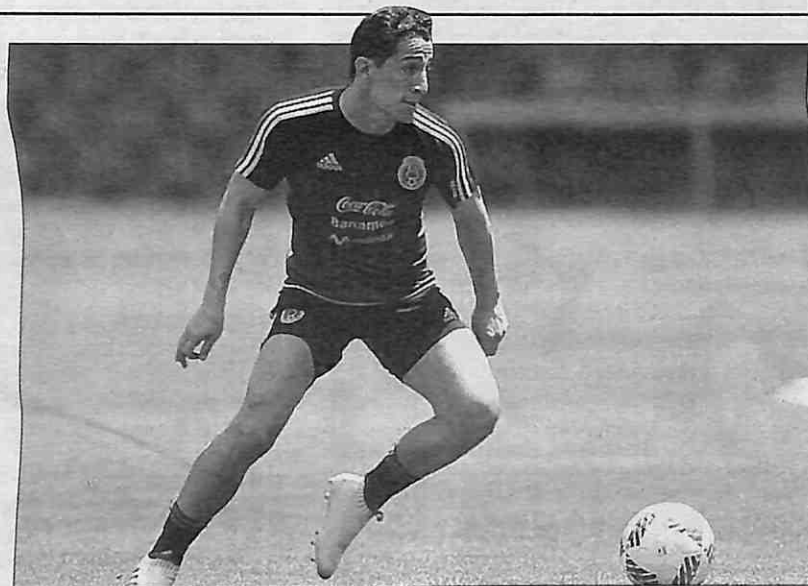
EDINBURGH - Steven Gerrard leaving LA Galaxy and moving to Celtic is "very probable" according to one of the club's former stars Andy Lynch.

The midfielder has been tipped to leave MLS when his contract expires in December and speculation has linked him with a move to the Scottish champions to be reunited with one of his former Liverpool manager's Brendan Rodgers at Parkhead. Lynch feels such rumours are realistic and has revealed how highly the club ranks in the former Liverpool captain's affections.

Outlandish

"When you hear stories about really big names coming to play in Scotland you usually think 'Ah, they'd never be able to get him' but in this case it's not such an outlandish idea," he told the Daily Record. "I don't think it's outrageous at all, or just another rumour. I think it could be very probable to see Steven Gerrard at Celtic."

Goal



Guardado out of Panama qualifier with injury

MEXICO CITY - Mexico's Andres Guardado will miss their World Cup qualifier in Panama on Tuesday after injuring his thigh in Friday's 2-1 away win over the United States.

The PSV Eindhoven midfielder was part of the Mexico team that made a winning start in the final phase of the CONCACAF qualifiers in Columbus, Ohio.

"It's my right thigh... it's an injury that has affected me throughout my career," Guardado, who had recovered from a previous setback in February, told reporters.

"With my experience (of this problem), I think it will be out for three to four weeks," he said. "I will spend the first few days of my recovery with Mexico and then continue in Holland."

Mexico ended a run of four away losses to the United States in World Cup qualifiers.

"The team made history today. They have the courage to play anywhere... and to compete against a team as athletic as the United States," said their Colombian coach Juan Carlos Osorio, who came close to losing his job in June after a 7-0 defeat by South American champions Chile in the Copa America quarterfinals.

"I think that for Mexican football and the national team this is something extraordinary because it produces confidence and credibility in the (coaching) process."

Winning

Panama, who beat Honduras 1-0, and Costa Rica, who overcame Trinidad and Tobago 2-0, also made winning starts away from home in the so-called Hexagonal, the six-nation fifth and final round of qualifiers.

The top three qualify for the 2018 finals in Russia and the fourth-placed side go into an intercontinental playoff.

AFP



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

ARSENAL BID £80 M FOR DORTMUND SUPERSTAR

LONDON - English Premier League giants, Arsenal reportedly had a £80m bid rejected for an African superstar in the last transfer window. According to Corriere dello Sport, the Gunners had a big bid rejected for Borussia Dortmund striker, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in the off-season.

The North London outfit were linked with a number of forwards as Arsene Wenger looked to bolster his attack ahead of the

new season.

However, it is believed that Serie A outfit Napoli were also interested in the Gabon international, although Dortmund turned down any talks for their star striker.

Lure

After failing to lure Leicester City's Jamie Vardy and Aubameyang to London, Arsenal ended up securing the services of Spanish forward, Lucas Pérez.

AFP



Ugandan players celebrate a goal scored by Miya Faruku.

Miya sends Uganda to Group E summit

KAMPALA - Farouk Miya's first-half goal earned Uganda a 1-0 win over Congo-Brazzaville in a 2018 Fifa World Cup (Caf) qualifier yesterday afternoon.

The win propels the Cranes to the top of the Group E log standings, while the Red Devils remain at the foot of the table following the game which was played at the Mandela National Stadium in Kampala.

The home side were dealt a blow just eight minutes into the game as Murushid Jjuuko collided with an opponent and he had to be substituted.

Crisp

However, the Cranes did take the lead in the 18th minute when Farouk Miya beat Congo goalkeeper Wolfrigon Mongondza with a crisp low shot to make it 1-0 to Uganda.

It should have been 2-0 10 minutes later, but Uganda star Luwagga Kizito failed to beat Mongondza in the Congolese goal-posts as the Cranes continued to dominate.

The shot-stopper was called

into action again on the stroke of half-time; this time he gathered Uganda defender Joseph Ochaya's effort from a free-kick.

Congo-Brazzaville head coach Pierre Lechantre was forced to substitute his star striker Ferebory Dore after he sustained an injury just before the break - a bitter blow for the visitors.

Uganda had a chance to double their lead from a free-kick in the 58th minute, but Mongondza produced a fine save to deny Uganda captain Geoffrey Massa.

The home side continued to boss proceedings in the second half and in the 71st minute, Uganda midfielder Luwagga missed an open chance to the frustration of the home crowd.

Effort

Seven minutes later, Marvin Baundry pulled the trigger from range and his effort went narrowly wide of the target as Congo searched for the equalising goal.

Nevertheless, Uganda stood firm at the back in the dying minutes of the game, as they emerged 1-0 winners on the day.

Backpage TXT



MTN Premier League 2016/17

PREVIEWS

SWALLOWS OUT TO MAKE HISTORICAL 1ST ROUND FINISH

STORIES BY SABELO MAJOLA

Mbabane Swallows vs Midas City
Somhlolo National Stadium, 1.30pm

SOCCKER - 'History is written by winners' is a line that bears true testimony to the trailblazing Mbabane Swallows who I am now convinced can only lose out on lifting the MTN Premier League title this season only if 'they' give it away.

The last season's quadruple champions are about to make history in the campaign by finishing the first round without dropping even a single point. Swallows will be playing their eleventh game of the league against Midas City at Somhlolo this afternoon and chances of the latter making it out of this match without a scar are very slim.

Ten others have tried unsuccessfully to put the brakes on the rapid 'Birds' and City's initiation to the holocaust is imminent.

Swallows have welcomed back DR Congo central midfielder Papy Tshitshimbi from injury and he will add density for the red and white ensemble in the middle of the park.

City gave out a brave fight when the two sides last met in the Castle Premier Challenge quarterfinals but it was Swallows who claimed a 3-1 victory, to book a spot in the semis of the tournament.

Currently occupying the seventh position on the log table, the capital based city based outfit has been stalled by draws, managing only two wins in nine matches.

Teams

Swallows

Head coach: Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati

Captain: Tony 'TT' Tsabedze

Key players: Njabulo Ndlovu, Wonder Nhleko, Sabelo Ndzinisa

Match winner: Sandile Hlatshwako

Midas City

Head coach: Caleb Ngwenya

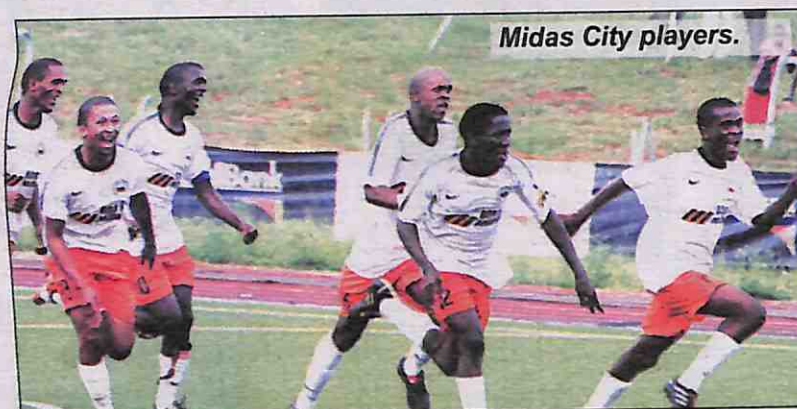
Captain: Ndumiso Ndaba

Key players: Hloniphani Ndebele, Frank Dlamini, Linda Msibi

Match winner: Simanga Shongwe



Mbabane Swallows players.



Midas City players.



Mbabane Highlanders fans.

Battle of the titans as 'Weslians' meet Landers

Manzini Wanderers vs Mbabane Highlanders
Somhlolo National Stadium, 3.30pm

SOCCKER - When two giants from two different towns meet in the field of play, the turf is sure going to suffer and tension will be the order of the day as Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders lock horns at Somhlolo National Stadium this afternoon.

Wanderers have the bragging rights over Landers whom they beat 2-0 in their last meeting of the campaign last season and the two sides always give nothing but dynamic football when they go head to head. With seven points separating the two sides, Highlanders are more desperate for maximum

points in this encounter in their quest to revive their strength of mind and bring back that much needed confidence that will see them giving their beloved fans something to smile about after a lengthy period clouded by controversy and unsuccessfulness. There is no better morale boosting victory than that obtained against a giant.

Getting all maximum points can go a long way in ensuring continuity in the 'Black Bull' camp who recorded their second victory of the season against Sea Birds on Wednesday night.

Wanderers, who are occupying the third position with 16 points in 10 games, will be looking to end the first round on a high as they have enjoyed a not-so-bad season thus far.

Wanderers

Head coach: Clement Mdluli

Captain: Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya

Key players: Aladeon Kola, Sifiso Matse, Allie Matse

Match winner: Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe

Highlanders

Head coach: Terisayi Changara

Captain: Colani 'Chocco' Sibandze

Key players: Thokozani Khanyile, Mpuco Dlamini, Menzi Sithole

Match winner: Mohammed Sabella

Sosai get SNSRC recognition, host 1st tourney

BY SABELO MAJOLA

KARATE - The Sosai Kyokushin Karate of Swaziland will host its first tournament since its recognition by the Swaziland National Sport and Recreation Council (SNSRC) in September this year.

The tournament will be held around Manzini/Matsapha corridor on December 3 and is expected to be a landmark event after a successful juniors grading in October.

The association's Public Relations Officer Mzwandile Ngwenya said it was also from this tournament that a squad would be selected to represent the country in Japan on 18 February next year in Zimbabwe National Championships at Aquatic Complex in Chitungwiza.

"We will also identify an Under-17 team to represent the country in Tokyo, Japan in April 2017 where Youth Championships will be held as part of the roadmap to Olympics in 2020. This is where artists shall be equipped with statutes to be used in Olympics," he said.

The Sosai Kyokushin Karate.



Sosai further encouraged and invited styles to partake in this event which shall be the first of its kind.

The participation fee stands at E80 and the tournament will start at 10am on the day at a venue to be announced

next week.

Meanwhile, Six Oyama Kyokushin Karate fighters will be leaving the country on November 22 for Tokyo, Japan, where the Oyama World Karate tournament will be held.

BAS to partner with SSSA

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

PPOOL - The Billiards Association of Swaziland (BAS) will soon partner with the Swaziland Schools Sports Association (SSSA) in scouting young talent for the sport.

This was revealed by the association's Muntu Dlamini who said the move was aimed at unearthing new talent for the country.

"We will be visiting schools in order to find ways on how we can produce a new cream of players from tender age since most of the players are now approaching their retirement age.

We shouldn't be stranded as a country in finding new blood that would represent the country in international competitions," he said.

The chairman further said they wanted the sport to be played actively at schools and would try and groom teachers who would be trained as coaches to nurture the youngsters.

"We are hoping to finalise everything in due course in order to make the initiative a success," he said.

Dlamini called for support from the government through the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs to build pool centres around the country.

"We are currently having a challenge of playing venues since we are using pubs where young players are not allowed to enter and thus depriving them the opportunity to play the sport.

Encouraging

We are also encouraging female players to join the sport in great numbers and are ready to give them the necessary support and assistance," he further said.

BAS is still waiting for its recognition as they have submitted a letter to the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC) in order to be a recognised sport entity and further get funding from the government.



MTN Premier League 2016/17

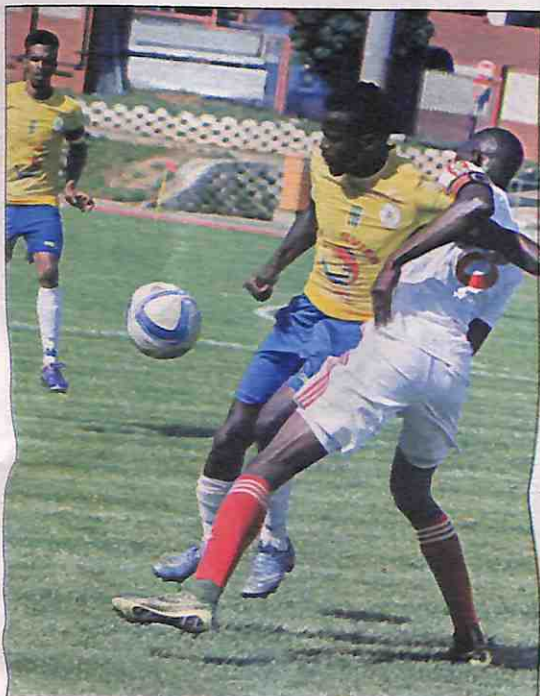
PICTURES



Manzini Sundowns supporters in jubilation after their team scored an equalising goal against Red Lions at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. The game ended in a 1-all draw. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



Sundowns' Phumlani Nkambule try to dribbling past Solomon Oladele.



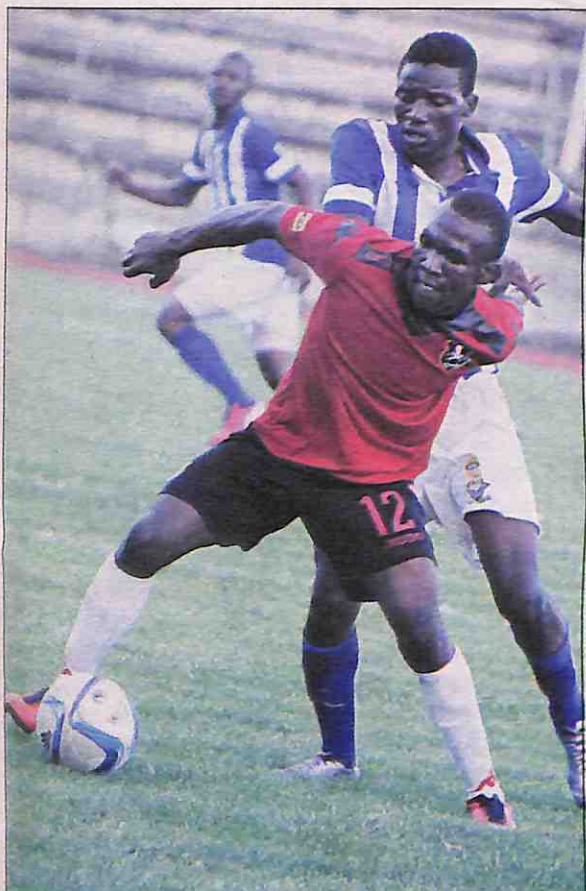
Mzwandile 'Navara' Ndzimandze in a tussle for the ball with Red Lions skipper Elliot Lukhele.



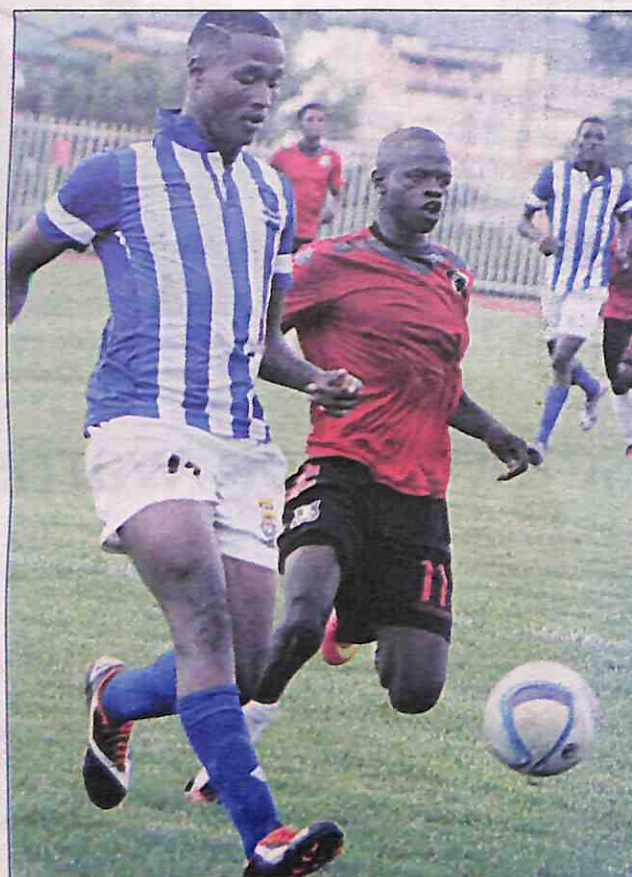
Justice Figureito dashing with the ball while Mthokozisi Hlatjwako tries to block him.



Sihle Ndaba being ambushed by Moneni Pirates fans after he scored an equalising goal from the penalty spot. Pirates played to a 2-2 stalemate against Royal Leopard at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.



Pirates' Junior Magagula shielding the ball from Xolani Sikhondze.



Ncamiso Gina making a pass while Pirates' Fanelo Mamba chases on.



Royal Leopard's Muzi Dlamini in control of the ball while Bongani Ndzimandze closes in.

RED LIONS, 'DOWNS SETTLE FOR STALEMATE

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Manzini Sundowns..... (1)1
Red Lions..... (1)1

SOCCER - Manzini Sundowns came from a goal down to salvage a point in a 1-1 stalemate against Red Lions during an MTN Premier League match played at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

The game was fairly balanced with both sides closing spaces in the middle of the park and opting to play wide.

The teams would now and again try to outsmart each other in the middle field with a few attempts made going forward.

Sundowns saw most of the ball in the opening exchanges, as the likes of Justice Figureito, Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule and Salam stamped their authority on the game.

However, the first chance of the game fell to Red Lions after 25 minutes when Muntu Mamba found Solomon Oladele with a superb pass, but goalkeeper Jim Knowledge rushed off his line to thwart the move.

Red Lions then opened the deadlock in the half hour mark through Oladele, who made a break to come face-to-face with Sundowns goal-



Manzini Sundowns player Justice Figureito dashing with the ball while Red Lions Mthokozisi Hlatjwako tries to block him. (Pic: Sabelo Majola)

keeper Jim Knowledge. The striker made a clever chip over the keeper to make the score 1-0.

Sundowns' 'Mlamuli' was the 'Kappa Boys' liveliest player in the middle of the park, and a real handful for the Red Lions defence.

Unfortunately for the fans, chances were hard to come by for both teams, as they both lacked the killer pass in the final third. Sundowns almost find the equaliser in the last minute of the first half but Red Lions goalkeeper Banele Dlamini stretched to

make a superb save, denying Justice Figureito, who unleashed a long range dangerous shot.

The score remained 1-0 as the sides entered the halftime break.

The 'Kappa Boys' scored the equalising goal shortly after the break when Mzwandile 'Navara' Ndzimandze clinically finished a Ndumiso Shongwe's through pass with a fine shot to make the score 1-1.

Sundowns were the better side in the second half; with right back Ntokozo Mabila bringing crosses in the box targeting the likes of Darren 'Darra' Christie and Ndumiso Shongwe but Banele was alert and coming to the rescue for Red Lions at the poles. Opportunities were hard to come by for both sides, as they were forced to shoot from distance. Both sides pushed for the winner as they livened up the tempo of the encounter in the closing stages.

Nonetheless, neither side could find the winning goal and were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Teams:

Sundowns - Jim, Paito, Ntokozo, Bhekane, Phumlani, Mlamuli, Mzwandile, Ndumiso, Salam, Justice

Red Lions - Banele, Sandile, Elliot, Machawe, Lungelo, Sibusiso, Muntu, Nduduzo, Gcina, Mphumuzi, Solomon

Khoza welcomes draw, better than 8-1

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER - Red Lions head coach Zweli 'Botsotso' Khoza was happy with his team's 1-1 stalemate against Manzini Sundowns at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

He said this during an MTN Premier League post-match interview yesterday.

Khoza said as much as they wanted to bag all maximum points, a draw was a better result than the humiliating 1-8 score they were handed by Mbabane Swallows on Wednesday night.

"We are at the same level with Manzini Sundowns and don't want to lose to the teams ranked alongside us. The players articulated the

game plan well, we took the lead but then conceded a soft goal but I'm happy with the draw," he said.

The coach said they could have won the match had they buried the chances created.

"It was an evenly balanced match but I think we were the better side in terms of creating better chances. We will, however, take the point home."

He said they would continue working hard to improve their standing on the log table.

"We have to move away from the relegation zone and will work towards that as a team and start winning games again."

On the other hand, Sundowns coach Godfrey Tamerepi said he

was disappointed with both the performance of the players and the result.

He said they should have wrapped the game in the first half but his players lacked hunger and the zeal to win.

"We came back hard in the second half but it was a little too late and this is a disappointing performance from my players."

We should have won the match but look at the end we settled for a 1-1 draw. Poor marking at the back let us down. We have to guard against complacency," he said.

The coach said they would continue working hard and collect as many points as possible.



Red Lions head coach Zweli 'Botsotso' Khoza.

Stop robust play – Lesotho coach warns

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - Lesotho Under-20 coach Motlalepula Majoro has warned the local side's squad to refrain from robust football in order to compete effectively in the upcoming COSAFA U20 tournament to be held next month in South Africa.

Majoro said the local side could do better only if they focus on the technical aspect of the match.

He said this soon after watching his side beat

the local squad 3-1 in an international friendly match played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Guidance

"My advice to the local side is they should try and work on the technical aspect of the game instead of being too physical in their play. They are a capable side that can do better with proper guidance," he said.

Coming to the match, Majoro said he was happy with the win.

"This is a good win for us since we are also

preparing for the Under-20 COSAFA Cup. However, we still need to work hard as a team and improve."

Goals

He said they would go back to the drawing board and see where they can improve.

"I am happy with the players' performance. They were all out to win this match and I am glad we scored three goals."

Meanwhile, his local counterpart in assistant coach Mandla 'Sitofu' Dlamini said they still needed to work hard as a team.

Lesotho Under-20 too good for locals

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Swaziland..... (1)1
Lesotho..... (2)3

SOCCER - National Under-20 coaches should be very concerned with the squad ahead of the 2016 COSAFA Cup Under20 championships after the team succumbed to a 1-3 defeat to Lesotho.

This was during an international friendly match played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The local side showed vulnerability after surrendering their early lead to the tactically superior Basothos, who conquered the locals in their own backyard.

The local side first drew blood with only 10 minutes into the match through Bhekani Mthembu, who unleashed a thunderous strike to beat Lesotho keeper Jessi Matsie hands down.

Malanti Chiefs striker Sicelo Mkhwanazi almost doubled the score line in favour of the home side in the 19th minute when his timely header hit the cross bar with the keeper well beaten.

Lesotho levelled matters two minutes later from the spot kick, which was converted by Moalosi Mosoue. This was after goalkeeper Celumusa Zungu hacked Tseliso Botsane inside the box.

Penalty

The match then took another swing in the 29th minute when Lesotho took the lead for the first time in the match through Tseliso Botsane, who beat the flatfooted local backline to beat the Swaziland keeper with ease.

The goal gave the 2013 COSAFA Under-20 hosts a 2-1 advantage as the match went for the breather.

The match started with the local pressing for an equaliser but it proved to be indeed a bad day for the team as skipper and Mbabane Swallows future prospect Sizolwethu Shabalala was denied by the opposition keeper from the spotkick with only seven minutes into the second half.

The penalty came after Lesotho defender John Mohai handled a Banele Dlamini cross.

Coach Mandla 'Sitofu' Dlamini, who held the ropes for absent head coach Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini, made a few changes but the move brought no improvement as Lesotho put the final nail on the Swaziland's coffin in the 79th minute.

This was after Lethlohonolo Fothoane beat an offside trap to fire home past the helpless keeper.

The match ended 3-1 in favour of the visitors.

Preparations

"There are some grey areas in the team which we need to work on and improve."

We will fine tune the team in our fulltime camp which begins next week.

I personally feel we need another international friendly match in order for us to be ready for the December competition," he said.

The former Young Buffaloes mentor further thanked the Football Association and local teams for supporting them during their preparations for the regional youth showpiece.

TITLE CHANCES FADING AS LEOPARD DROP POINTS

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Moneni Pirates..... (1)2
Royal Leopard..... (1)2

SOCCER - IT seems as though Royal Leopard are kissing the MTN premier league title goodbye as they dropped more points in their 2-2 stalemate against Moneni Pirates at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

Pirates were a house on fire in the opening minutes of the game with Sihle Ndaba and Junior Magagula denied by Phephisani Msibi on different occasions in what could have crippled the defending champions early in the game.

Msibi was the real hero of the match, making several blinding saves to help his side earn a point in a game in which they really should have come away with nothing.

Despite Pirates pressing hard for an opener, it was Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo, who put the police side in the lead in the half hour mark with a ground shot following a clinical pass



Ncamiso Gina making a pass while Pirates' Fanelo Mamba chases on.

from Sikhumbuzo 'Chaka' Ntimane to make the score 1-0.

Two minutes before the break, Leopard defender Machawe

Dlamini scored an own goal when he tried to clear a Ndaba's cross from the corner but put the ball in his own net with a header to make the score level.

MTN Premier League log

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Mbabane Swallows	10	9	0	0	29	4	25	30
Young Buffaloes	11	4	6	1	11	6	5	18
Manzini Wanderers	10	4	4	2	14	8	6	16
Manzini Sundowns	11	4	4	3	13	14	-1	16
Royal Leopard	10	4	3	3	14	11	3	15
Green Mamba	10	3	3	4	10	7	3	12
Midas City	9	2	5	2	8	8	0	11
Moneni Pirates	10	2	4	4	11	17	-6	10
Mbabane Highlanders	9	2	3	4	9	12	-3	9
Tambuti	10	3	0	7	8	18	-10	9
Red Lions	10	2	3	5	10	23	-13	9
Sea Birds	10	1	3	6	7	15	-8	6

The opening phase of the second half saw the Buccaneers looking to kill off the defending champions with a second goal and it was only the brilliance of Msibi that held them at bay. However, Leopard turned the game in their favour in stunning style, scoring the second goal in the 61st minute.

Striker Lungelo Tsabedze showed great speed and strength to get in behind the Sea Birds defence and his cool finish past Brian Thabiso Mkhize gave the visitors the lead much against the run of play.

However, Pirates responded 10 minutes later after they were awarded a penalty by referee Mbongiseni Fakudze.

This was after Ntimane handled Fanelo 'Order' Mamba cross in the box.

Ndaba took the responsibility and sent Msibi the wrong way to make the score 2-2.



Buffaloes goalkeeper Nhlanhla Gwebu.

Sea Birds, 'Buffs' fire blanks

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Young Buffaloes..... (0)0
Sea Birds..... (0)0

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes and Sea Birds settled for a barren draw during a MTN Premier League encounter played at Somhlolo National Stadium.

The two teams needed a special touch as the strikers could not find the elusive goal despite creating an almost equal fair of chances.

Buffaloes could still be cursing their gods after two of their chances were cleared before the goal line with their fans already celebrating.

They created a number of chances but their strikers were not clinical.

Sea Birds gave up a spirited performance following their midweek loss to Highlanders as they showed no respect to the much fancied opponents, who are sitting at position two on the log standings.

Sea Birds striker Muzi Tsabedze forced Buffaloes goalkeeper Nhlanhla Gwebu to make a great save after unleashing a low volley.

Gwebu was up for the challenge as the agile Sihlangu show stopper kept his team in the game in the 11th minute. At this stage of the game Sea Birds were threatening to break the deadlock but it was not to be as they were also not sharp upfront.

Buffaloes did watch the visitors to dictate terms as their winger and former Bad Boys striker Bongani Mhlanga saw his shot miss the target with a few inches.

Space

This was after he was given some space just before the inside box.

None of the teams broke deadlock in the first stanza as the match went to the breather with no goals.

Buffaloes fancied their chances in the second half and came out guns blazing, applying pressure on the Sea Birds defence.

However, chances were few and far between as the clock ran down and the pace of the game slowed with each passing minute.

Muzi Tsabedze kept on testing Gwebu between the poles as he almost scored with a great volley in the 65th minute.

Buffaloes' striker Sanele Ngcamphalala was denied by the woodwork in the 83th minute after pouncing on a Wandile Maseko cross with a timely header.

'Buff's Mphile Tsabedze and Ngcamphalala failed to finish off a Wandile Shabangu low cross in the 87th minutes much to the frustration of the bench.

The two sides had to settle for a share of the spoils, with Buffaloes on the second position while Sea Birds remain rooted to the bottom of the table, with five points from 10 games.

Matsapha United wins E50 000 first round incentive

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Hlatikhulu Tycoons..... (0)0
Matsapha United..... (2)6

SOCCER - AMBITIOUS national First Division side and pacesetters Matsapha United have claimed the E50 000 first round top finisher carrot after beating Hlatikhulu Tycoons 6-0 during a one-sided match played at King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium yesterday.

This follows an impressive spell as they have accumulated 28 points from 11 league games.

The NFD consists of 11 games. Second-placed Malanti Chiefs have 22 points from the same number of games.

The goals were scored by Mike Dombo, Mthobisi Mdluli, Msimisi Nwanya, Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze (Brace) and Sifiso Mdluli.

Happy

The match went to break with Matsapha leading 2-0.

Matsapha United coach Matthews 'Chakachaka' Madlazi said they were happy with winning the first round top finisher award (E50 000)

"I want to congratulate and thank the management, technical bench,

players and the supporters for this achievement. They have been there for the team and without them it was going to be impossible to achieve this."

The coach said they would work even harder in the second round.

"It was not easy maintaining the top spot until the end of the first round and I thank the players for showing courage and determination."

We are the team to beat and this makes every match difficult for us. Credit should go to the players for their hard work inside the field of play."

He said their main was to get promoted at the end of the season.

"Our main target is to win the league and gain promotion to the elite league."

It will not be easy but we will keep fighting until the end of the season."

He also thanked MTN Swaziland (sponsor) and the Premier League of Swaziland for the initiative.

"This will in many ways help improve the standard of football in the country. Teams do their best to win this award and I am glad it's ours now."

He said they would continue working hard in the second round.

Leopard have not lost hope on league title as yet

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER - MTN Premier League defending champions Royal Leopard have not lost hope on shielding the title despite trailing by 15 points to log leaders Mbabane Swallows.

Leopard head coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntubane said there was still a long way in the competition and they would continue to fight.

Leopard dropped two points as they played to a 2-all draw against Moneni Pirates at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday, surrendering the lead twice to settle for a stalemate.

"There are still 11 games to be played in the second round and we have not yet thrown in the towel

on the league title. We are taking each game as it comes and we are focusing on playing well and winning rather than the race for the glory," he said.

Pirates head coach Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini said it was very challenging building a team at this stage of the competition but things were finally coming together as he had spotted the right combinations among the players.

"The players have been playing in wrong positions and we have worked to the point that we know which role each player articulates well, things will get better from here. We still have a challenge with some departments, the team has no depth but we will bolster the



Leopard head coach Sifiso Ntubane shouting instructions while Pirates' Zenzele Dlamini looks on.

squad in the next transfer window," he said.

One department Pirates have started working on is that of the

goalkeeping as they paraded a new goalkeeper in Thabiso Mkhize, who made a couple of good saves yesterday.

2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS - AFRICA

Libya	0-1	Tunisia
Nigeria	3-1	Algeria
Cameroon	1-1	Zambia
Uganda	1-0	Congo
South Africa	2-1	Senegal
18:00 Egypt v Ghana		
19:30 Guinea v DR Congo		

2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS - EUROPE

England	3-0	Scotland
San Marino	0-8	Germany
Northern Ireland	4-0	Azerbaijan
Czech Republic	2-1	Norway
Slovakia	4-0	Lithuania
Romania	0-3	Poland
France	2-1	Sweden
Malta	0-1	Slovenia
Denmark	4-1	Kazakhstan
Armenia	3-2	Montenegro

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MBABANE SWALLOWS CHASING ELEVENTH STRAIGHT WIN...

CAN CITY SPOIL 'BIRDS' PARTY



MATSAPHA UNITED WIN E50 000 CARROT FOR FIRST ROUND FINISH - PAGE 39

BAFANA ONE STEP CLOSER TO RUSSIA WITH SENEGAL WIN

POLOKWANE - South Africa benefitted from a poor refereeing decision to edge Senegal 2-1 in a 2018 World Cup qualifier in Polokwane yesterday.

Bafana Bafana captain Thulani Hlatshwayo and Thulani Serero scored before the break, with Cheikh Ndoeye reducing the deficit in the latter stages of the Group D tie at Peter Mckaba Stadium.

Hlatshwayo's 42nd minute opener came from the spot after Ghanaian referee Joseph Lamptey incorrectly penalised the visitors for a hand-ball in the box.

The West Africans started the contest brightly, as the lively Sadio Mane powered a header high and wide nine minutes in off a delivery from the left.

At the other end, Eleazar Rodgers failed to get on the end of a Mpho Makola cross after Rivaldo Coetzee distributed the ball out nicely to the right midway through the first stan-

a shot straight down the throat of Bafana goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune, while Keagan Dolly threatened in the 40th minute as his strike was comfortably gathered by Abdoulaye Diallo.

The hosts were gifted the opener by referee Lamptey two minutes later. The Ghanaian awarded a penalty after Rodgers headed a cross by Makola against the legs of a Senegalese defender in the box. Hlatshwayo made the most of the bad decision by converting from the spot.

Serero made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time with a first-time finish following a deft touch in the box by Makola.

The Teranga Lions had a great chance to pull one back in the 57th minute but Konate directed a free header wide of the target.

Dolly also squeezed an attempt wide in the area just past the hour-mark following neat interplay by substitute Bradley Grobler, on for Rodgers, and Serero.

Mame Diouf wasted another fine



Bafana Bafana captain Thulani Hlatshwayo battling with a Senegal player. (KickOff)

opportunity as he headed over from close range before Ndoeye struck with 15 minutes to go, blasting home fol-

lowing a goalmouth scramble.

Shakes Mashaba's men held on in nervy fashion to go top of the stand-

ings, having drawn 1-1 with Burkina Faso away in their first qualifier.

KickOff